

## Submission to Old Growth Strategic Review

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the province's review of their old-growth management policies.

I live in a town on Vancouver Island that is primarily dependant on the forest industry, and many of my friends and family are employed in it. Nevertheless, I do not think that we can go on doing things the same way we always have.

Our natural ecosystems are becoming so cut up and degraded that they can no longer support their key species. The Woodland Caribou are disappearing in many places in the interior, the Spotted Owl is nearly extinct in BC, and on the coast the Marbled Murrelet numbers are presumably still in decline.

Some scientists have recommended that we need to preserve 50% of each ecosystem to ensure their continuity. It's obviously too late to do this for many ecosystems, but we should certainly aim to prevent further loss, and help restore them to at least 30% of their former area. We also need to ensure that our mature forest ecosystems are maintained in large, uninterrupted blocks, so as to protect the animals dependant on them from the intrusion of predators.

In this time of increasing climate change, mature forests are also important because they help stabilize the flow of surface water and minimize the flooding effects of our increasingly erratic precipitation patterns. As well, they sequester major amounts of carbon, and when old-growth is logged there is a lot of wastage—typically, only a small percentage of the wood actually gets used as lumber to continue sequestering the carbon. In these critical times it seems irresponsible to log these forests and release the majority of the stored carbon into the atmosphere.

I would like to see all old-growth logging stopped while an independent scientific review is done about the future of this resource.