

Old Growth Panel:

Please we have to fix what is happening in our landscapes properly. The huge, huge, aggregated clearcuts, some >90,000 ha with minimal retention are resulting in moose declines, fisher and goshawk on the candidate for further COSWIC listing. When I went out in the bush 10 years ago I used to see game. Now I don't.

Fixing will require sound science from landscape and wildlife ecologists. This means retain 50% of the range of natural variability. It means legal—not just professional reliance. It means spatial—not just on a spreadsheet where no one knows and the forest cover cant be verified. It means minimum sizes of 10 ha so “guts and feathers’ don't just become predator banquets.

Old growth is a useful carbon sink and helps mitigate climate change. We need more science on the carbon flux in old growth and to include understory and below ground carbon storage.

We have to properly regulate how spruce beetle is harvested too, so they don't just use the excuse of spread of beetle to log remaining spruce old growth without having to verify actual beetle %. This is all interlinked. So this comment is not off topic.

Thank you for listening.

Do your best. Speak from truth not political expediency.

Sincerely,

Judy Thomas, RPF