

January 13, 2020

Attention: Old Growth Review Panel

RE: OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW

As a Registered Professional Forester working in the province of British Columbia (BC), I would like to take this opportunity to provide a condense perspective of what old growth means to me.

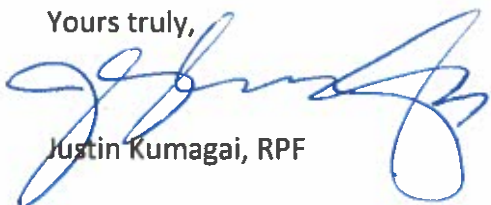
I believe that old growth trees (e.g. large trees) and forests provide economic, ecological and cultural importance to all British Columbians and Canadians. Further, I believe that BC old growth provides ecological importance on the global scale. As an active forest professional, when I think about old growth management in BC, two (2) predominant words come to mind, these are 'representation' and 'balance'.

I would like to provide my perspective on what I believe to one of the most fundamental and controversial aspects on old growth management and this deals with ecological representation. I'll use Vancouver Island in this example, I believe in adequate ecological representation of old growth trees and forests. Hence, if there is under represented trees or forests in some ecological areas of Vancouver Island (e.g. CDFmm and CWHxm1), then I believe more specific old growth management (e.g. preservation) is needed. For areas that have large existing and future ecological representation (e.g. CWHvm1 & 2) then I believe no or very nominal future defined old growth management is needed.

I understand and believe in a balance approach to the management of old growth in BC. Though as you're fully aware the concept of balance can appear as a simple objective but in this case the difficulty to achieve such an objective can be construed as the opposite of simple.

In summary, I whole hearted do not believe in the preservation of all existing old growth and believe a balance approach to their cultural, ecological and economic significance must be taken in due consideration to address this important component of British Columbia and Canada.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin Kumagai', is written over the typed name below.

Justin Kumagai, RPF