

Submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel

Hello,

I have worked in the forest industry since I graduated from UBC in 1989 in a range of positions for WFP and predecessor companies including Silviculture, Engineering, Human resources, Contract supervision, Crew supervision, Production Superintendent and currently Operations Manager. I have always been proud to work with these companies because of the values they held toward sustainable forest management.

My proudest achievement was being part of the team that brought the first CSA certification to Canada in 1999 for MacMillan Bloedel. That included a functioning public advisory group still active today. Shortly afterwards our company introduced the Forestry Project and variable retention as standard practices into our forest management system and harvest practices in response to changes in the way the public valued forest values.

Our industry has shown it can adapt to the public's and customers needs in a well thought out, professional manner using state of the art thinking and technology.

In my tenure as a Manager I have never been pressured to take shortcuts in terms of environmental values or the sustainability of the forest resource. To the contrary I have been held accountable to our environmental and sustainability values even in some desperate economic times.

During my career I have been professionally and personally involved in significant preservation of forest areas including the Tsitika, Tahsish-Kwois, Queen Charlotte, Koeye and Great Bear Rainforest. Each valley cost a few more families their livelihood which doesn't look like much at the time to someone disconnected from our industry but it has taken a massive personal and economic toll on small Vancouver Island communities and the BC economy.

I have operated on area based tenure systems my entire career and this type of long term tenure has been key to our investment in sustainable forest management and directly linked to economic investments. I previously mentioned forest certification and the variable retention but lately includes investment in LIDAR, enhancements to our practices to protect bear dens and big trees and joint ventures with First Nations.

You met our CAG in Powell River. Those are the people who represent the "quiet majority" of the population in small communities. This group represents the linkages between the community, the environment and viable business. Please heed their comments.

We know that only 30% of public coastal forests are available for harvest and since 1990 this base has decreased by the same amount due to land use decisions.

My ask is:

- Recommend to the Government that the working forest remaining to the forest industry is protected so that Forest Professionals may manage it sustainably for the benefit of local communities and the BC economy
- Remind the Government that forest products are the most sustainable building products on the planet and recommend they become strong advocates of this fact.

- Tell the Government we need old growth forest to transition the coastal industry to a sustainable supply of second growth trees for our manufacturing facilities. Our Forest Professionals have designed this transition and we are making investments to support it.
- Remind the Government there is a massive landscape of old growth forest on coastal BC. More than enough for tourist operators and people to feel good about.

Thank you for all your hard work in this process.

Sincerely,

Ken Mackenzie, RPF

Powell River

January 31, 2019