

Old Growth Strategic Review Comments:

Hello,

I am a resident in Abbotsford. I have no affiliations to disclose.

I am concerned that the old growth management policy in BC currently may not protect enough old growth forests from harvesting to allow for continuous undisturbed stretches of forest ecosystems. Old growth ecosystems are important habitat for many key species but I think one we are all particularly aware of is caribou. The Great Bear Rainforest is an impressive and amazing protected area and I think this type of model needs to be replicated in the inland northern and southern mountainous areas of BC.

When considering whether to allow timber harvesting in specific areas of Old Growth please take into account the impact it will have on rivers and water supplies in the area. Building roads and harvesting timber can significantly change the pattern of water flow and cause pollution of the water that will affect people and ecosystems downstream. I am also concerned about the increased risk of landslides in harvested areas, and not just the affect this has on people's homes but for example the impact it has on salmon producing rivers and streams.

Finally I would like to see the logging industry consider what is the most environmentally friendly method of logging in these areas; is clearcutting the right strategy to allow for healthy regrowth and continued wildlife habitation during and after harvesting? I see lots of clear cut areas when hiking, camping, fishing, etc. Yes it is an eyesore. Yes it is cheaper than other strategies for timber harvest. I also see the damage clearcutting does to the surrounding forest. Even if clear cuts are relatively small in size, the surrounding forest seems to suffer a significant amount as trees blow down along the edge of the clear cut. And I think by the time this happens, the logging company is already done harvesting and moved on to the next area, so they don't harvest the blowdowns that occurs in the surrounding forests (legally maybe they couldn't take these trees anyway since they are outside the harvest area).

I do want to see sustainable timber harvest occur and I don't think every single old growth forest has to be protected, I think there can be selected harvest of some old growth trees. I do think that old growth forests in areas that are accessible to tourism and recreation should be preserved for people's enjoyment and education.

Sincerely, from two concerned BC residents,

Lauren & Jared Lyzenga