

Dear Sirs,

Re: Old Growth Strategic Review

I write to you regarding Old Growth forests because they are something citizens living in urban areas are very curious about as many have not had the opportunities to visit a forest with the majestic old growth trees they see on the screen or in pictures and because they express agreement to me when we discuss the important issue of preserving the forested areas we have remaining in BC.

I am community volunteer and I volunteer my time in a number of areas, many to do with environmental awareness. As President and also the Education Chair of White Rock and Surrey Naturalists I spend time educating members of the public through field trips, hosting displays at nature centres and public events to raise their curiosity and knowledge regarding our environment. Our Society works to bring current information and research regarding the environment within reach of the general public and our members.

As a volunteer with opportunities to bring attention of the value of old growth trees to the general public I have observed increasing concern over our lack of action to save the last of our old growth forests as the public understanding of the beneficial environmental contributions from these ecosystems continues to grow. People do care about the loss of benefits to future generations from environmental destruction and while we are all cognizant of the economic need for jobs there is growing understanding that the current inventory of jobs will need to change as our circumstances do.

We have come to understand so much more about the intricacies of forests and their complex connections to the success of other ecosystems, all the more significant from an old growth forest. At a time when many wildlife species populations are in decline the understanding that our current practices must change is also on the rise.

Unfortunately, in our urban centres we are only able to experience some second growth forested areas saved usually through the determined efforts of concerned citizens. Those examples though do serve to educate the general public on the differences between old growth and what has been left in its' place.

I feel it is important to share with you that, from discussions of our Board members and the sentiments expressed to us by our members and the general public we engage with, there is agreement that we must endeavour to save what little old growth remains and that as a society we must work to restore, to the best of our ability, current forested ecosystems as that will result in numerous benefits including the health and well being of humans, wildlife populations, surrounding ecosystems (such as rivers and oceans) and mitigation of the impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your attention.

Naturally yours,

Liz Walker

White Rock and Surrey Naturalists

President/Education

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I'm also a volunteer with:

Green Timbers Urban Forest Public Advisory Committee; Surrey's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee; Surrey Environmental Partners; Burns Bog Conservation Society; Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust; Campbell Valley Regional Park Nature House