

## SUBMISSION TO THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW PANEL

I am a 71 yr. old retired Registered Professional Forester who lives in the Kootenays and belongs to an advocacy group called Citizens Climate Lobby. I would like to offer the following thoughts for the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel's consideration.

A lot of hard work, compromise and much of the 'best available science' went into the recommended seral stage percentages for and distribution of 'old' and 'mature plus old' in the Biodiversity Guidebook [1995]. Noteworthy is the fact that these percentages do not consider the existential threat of climate change we all know about today. Most if not all countries [Canada and BC included!] have started to address this threat but are not doing enough to meet their current greenhouse gas [i.e. mostly carbon dioxide] reduction targets. Furthermore to meet the Paris Accord goal of holding global warming to less than 2 degrees C., targets and associated GHG reduction projects must be substantially increased. This strongly suggests we currently do not have the "right" social, economic and environmental balance.

There is no silver bullet to solving the climate change threat. It will take a massive multi-pronged approach. Forest carbon stewardship is one of those prongs and conservation of 'old growth' is a key part of forest carbon stewardship

To help rebalance and to capitalize on the very large carbon storage value and carbon sink value of Old Growth, we need to substantially increase the amount of Old Growth we protect and conserve especially in coastal and interior wet belt forests [because of reduced wildfire risk]. Since the Biodiversity Guidebook is often still used as a reference in developing plans like Forest Stewardship Plans, one good way to do this may be to capitalize on past good work and use the Biodiversity Guidebook framework to create a new policy [or regulation] that increases the percentages for 'old' and 'mature plus old'.

For a more thorough and complete analysis of ways [including Old Growth] to improve our forest carbon stewardship, I found Dr. Jim Pojar's 2019 publication "Forestry and Carbon in BC" a good summary. [See <https://can-bv.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Pojar-7mythsfinal-2019-small.pdf> ].

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