

31 January 2020

Garry Merkel and Al Gorley
Old Growth Strategic Review Panel
Via e-mail: oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca

Re: Old Growth Strategic Review

Dear Panel Members:

As timberlands manager for TimberWest and Island Timberlands, Mosaic Forest Management is the steward of private forests and public tenure that contribute to nearly a third of the working forests of Coastal BC. We are a significant driver of the Coastal forest economy, employing thousands directly and supplying primary manufacturing facilities and specialty mills up and down BC's Coast.

Most of our operations are conducted on private lands that have a long history of harvesting. Through the history of our company and our predecessor companies, we have sold, traded or donated tens of thousands of hectares of high value old growth areas that are now parks. As a result, there are few true areas of old growth within our private managed forest lands; for old forest that remains, most is either part of a carbon offset project with the Province or not currently part of harvesting plans. Moreover, big trees and old forest characteristics are integral parts of our landscape planning on private forests.

Our public tenures intersect with the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) - the Great Bear Rainforest Order provides extensive, prescriptive measures for old forest management, and these values are well protected within the GBR. This approach recognizes that the GBR is a globally unique area which has a significant amount of intact forests. This approach is was not intended for areas such as Vancouver Island and most other areas of BC, which are vastly different and highly developed already.

While our business is not directly dependent on old forest harvesting, old growth fibre is a significant component of the Coastal industry timber supply as a whole and is needed by many of our First Nations partners to make their business ventures economically viable. We have long known, and recently experienced acutely, that any major disruptions to the economics or operability of the Coastal fibre base cause wide-reaching impacts to the Coastal industry overall. Further restricting the working forest land base on

NANAIMO OFFICE

Mosaic Forest Management

201-648 Terminal Ave.
Nanaimo, BC
Canada V9R 5E2

T 250.716.3700

F 250.716.3763

mosaicforests.com

BC's Coast would have cascading effects across the entire sector – impacting the economics of the entire fibre basket and imperilling renewable jobs and related facilities.

British Columbia is a global leader in sustainable forest management and has taken extensive measures to preserve major tracts of old forest and ensure sustainable management in the balance. Old forests are important ecologically, spiritually and culturally – but the amount of old forest is not the only definition of a healthy forest ecosystem. Forests are dynamic and a healthy forest is one with a range of age classes.

Old forests are not at risk in BC. Fully 19% of the forests on Vancouver Island are formally excluded from harvesting. Regulations provide for the management and conservation of wildlife habitat, red-listed plants and plant communities and unique features across the landscape. Companies like Mosaic are third-party certified for our sustainable management practices, which brings additional oversight and obligations regarding forests with exceptional conservation value and wildlife habitat objectives.

The forest land base on BC's Coast is already highly constrained, with forestry operations within the remaining working forest highly regulated and, in most cases, independently certified. The Coastal industry needs a long-term, sustainable fibre base to drive prosperity and investment. The sector needs Government's support as it completes its transition from old to second growth harvesting, recognizing that the most valuable old growth forest areas have already been preserved.

The acute challenges affecting the forest sector have underscored the critical role of the forest industry in supporting families and communities across the province, along with government revenues. We ask that Government take a balanced approach that recognizes BC's strong existing management practices, protects valuable ecosystems and unique areas, and ensures a strong, stable fibre base for the Coastal sector broadly as it transitions to full reliance on second growth fibre. Mosaic remains a willing participant in collaborative planning processes that recognize the importance of a diverse and carefully managed forest landscape.

Please contact us if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Mosaic Forest Management



Domenico Iannidinardo, RPF, RPBio, PEng
Vice President, Forest & Sustainability and Chief Forester