



North West Loggers Association

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Al Gorley and Garry Merkel
Old Growth Strategic Review Panel

Sent by email: oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr Gorley and Mr Merkel:

On behalf of the members of the North West Loggers Association I would like to take this opportunity to provide our thoughts on old growth in northwest BC.

We have lots of old growth in northwest BC, but we do not take that for granted. We want to keep old growth around as the basis and anchor for our economy, biodiversity, carbon, and culture.

In northwest BC, old growth is being reasonably well managed: we greatly exceed the 12% target achieved through the legally established Old Growth management Areas (OGMAs), we have old growth targets established in the Kalum Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP), and also have these old growth targets being applied to the Oil & Gas industry. In addition, the “patch and seral” analysis that the local forest licensees jointly conduct allows us to collectively monitor where we are with respect to old growth on a landscape level. This means that valleys that were heavily logged in the past will see recruitment of old growth going forward.

An interesting consideration when thinking about the carbon benefit of old growth versus second growth is that if we increase the constraints on old growth, the overall operating cost to the forest industry will continue to rise, and we run the risk of making wood products so expensive that people will substitute financially cheaper – but more carbon-costly - products (steel or concrete based).

Since we have lots of old growth, we are in a “good” place from a conservation and future opportunity perspective. Old growth is a critical part of our economic future, and that means having lots of old growth does not mean t that we have room to constrain the old growth land base further.

The economics in northwest BC are very challenging. Therefore we do not need additional constraints here – in fact we need more flexibility.

Yours truly,

John Nester
General Manger
North West Loggers Association