

As this panel already knows, BC's "sustained yield" forest management system is premised on liquidating "provincial forests" for their timber values. All provincial forests outside of Parks were to be logged and converted to managed second growth. The provincial forest base is divided primarily into either tree farms that have been turned over to private companies to log and manage, with the bulk of the remainder turned over to a Crown agency, BC Timber Sales, which, as their name suggests, is selling off its forests by auction for logging. These forests are publicly held. I deliberately use the word held rather than owned because they have belonged for millennia to indigenous peoples of this region until the British Crown claimed it and its colonial antecedents' have controlled it since. In any event, these are now considered public lands and forests so the public should ultimately have the say, in consultation with indigenous peoples, as to whether these forests are logged, or as an alternative, left standing for the many ecological services they provide.

I respectfully submit that a paradigm shift in management of our provincial forests must take place now to remove the presumption that our remaining old growth forests must be converted to second or third growth through sustained yield management. The original purpose of sustained yield logging was to provide forestry dependent communities with a continuous fibre supply for secondary processing, in short, to keep the local mills operating that provide stable well paying jobs to the local communities. This connection however has been broken by the removal of appurtenancy requirements brought in by previous governments. This has led to the consolidation and closure of mills throughout the province as well as a significant increase in the export of raw logs (30% of the coastal cut). The whole premise of maintaining sustained yield logging has been undermined by the removal of the requirement to process those logs within local communities. As a result, the main jobs being "sustained" are the logging jobs which comprise a much smaller component of the forest industry. The industry, as a job employer, has declined so significantly in the last 50 years that it is not justifiable to liquidate the remaining old growth for its benefit. The attached link lists major categories of employment in BC by industry produced by WorkBC. Forestry is the second lowest employer by the major categories listed at 18,600 jobs BC wide. <https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/Industry-and-Sector-Information/Industry-Profiles.aspx>

This is not to suggest that these jobs are not important, they are. However they are not more important than every other job sector or the non-economic values in this Province. More importantly, with 80% of the forestry sector being tied up in TFL's, the bulk of the industry will continue even if all of the BC Timber Sale lands are removed from the annual allowable cut.

I respectfully submit that continuing the current forest management system to support a relatively small number of additional jobs is not in the public interest when these forests have so much in ecological services to offer if they are left standing. An example of this is the logging of small watersheds serving small communities across this province. There have been many examples of conflict between local water users who have enjoyed the benefits of watershed reserves to provide clean drinking water, only to see those benefits completely lost for what amounts to a short term of employment for a logging crew. For small watersheds, two months of work for a handful of people can effectively decimate the

value of these small watersheds for drinking water supply for generations to come. Communities that enjoyed clean low cost water for the last hundred years end up with muddy water that has to be filtered and treated at great expense in order to be used for the next hundred years. It makes no financial sense to maintain logging for those jobs in these circumstances. The ecological services of these standing forests are being ignored, especially the old growth forests. In the past we have seen what happens when you log watersheds supplying drinking water. More recently, however, we have become critically aware of the carbon sequestration value of forests and with the critical juncture we are at in dealing with climate change, we cannot ignore the high carbon sequestration values of old growth and mature forests. Many people, including the federal government, talk about mass tree planting as a solution to climate change, but conifers planted today will only sequester minimal amounts for the first fifty years. In 50 years it will be too late. The rate of carbon sequestration is directly linked to the amount of green surface photosynthesizing on trees. We will have far greater success at maximizing sequestration if we stop cutting old growth and mature trees rather than just planting new ones. I am not saying shut down the forest industry by stopping all logging, I am simply pointing out that every hectare you reduce from the cut adds significantly to the sequestration values, far more than by planting that same hectare. Furthermore the common practice of slash burning, which is necessary after logging operations, releases vast amounts of carbon so if we take 20% of the forest land base out of the cut, it will greatly reduce carbon release and significantly protect carbon sequestration. These are extremely valuable ecological services in the planet wide battle against climate change. There is also the problem with the endangering of species as a result of over one hundred years of logging. The ecological services of the remaining old growth and mature forest are critically needed now to protect what is left. The extirpation of the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet should never be allowed to happen but they are happening with business as usual. We are facing a mass extinction on this planet and we are contributing to it heavily in BC by continued logging of old growth. Changing the mandate of BC Timber Sales to one of protection of the 20% of the forest base it holds will be the first serious step any government in this province has made towards protection of the remaining biodiversity.

Northern California started off being built around logging of the giant Redwoods but as it matured, its economy moved well away from needing old growth based forestry to sustain it. I respectfully suggest that BC is at that stage now and we need to move away from subsidizing logging by forcing the liquidation of our remaining old growth forests. The time has come to acknowledge the high and growing alternate values of leaving these forests standing. Logistically we are in a contractual bind with the Tree Farm Licences where the majority of logging takes place. This makes it even more important to protect the remaining provincial forest outside of TFL's that we can choose not to liquidate. This will require the immediate change of the mandate of BC Timber Sales which controls an estimated 20% of the Provincial Forest. That mandate must change from liquidating these forests to maintaining and maximizing the ecological services from these forests. There will still be 80% of the provincial forest that will continue to be logged because of the contractual requirements of the TFL's. With the urgency of dealing with climate change and species extinction, the importance of changing BC Timber Sales mandate now cannot be underestimated. The time has come to change its name from BC Timber Sales to BC Forest Reserves. Furthermore, watersheds reserved for drinking water supply should be legislatively protected to prevent logging so the valuable ecological services of providing a clean reliable

water supply to communities is not thrown away for a relatively small number of temporary jobs. Those watershed reserves, if protected from logging, will also serve as habitat for the benefit of all species around this province.

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