

Old Growth Submission

January 31, 2010

To: Mr. Al Gorley and Mr. Garry Merkel

Thank you for your time in this important task. I live in Powell River, a logging town. I am writing on behalf Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society. One of our purposes is “to protect Old Growth in a variety of settings”.

My submission is in point form.

- The government must put into place an immediate moratorium on old growth logging in the province.
- **Without a moratorium** the logging of Original Growth will continue while there is discussion and consultation about a possible new system. Timber companies will continue logging and more Original Growth will be cut down.
- Tweaking current legislation and regulations will not be sufficient. There must be legislation which directly protects Original Growth.
- The current logging of Original Growth puts timber supply and short term financial profit above social well being of our communities
- Improve (restore) the Government’s ability and resources to create and keep up-to-date maps of forest cover and ecosystems
- Use Ecosystem based Management principles to re-write Land Use Plans and Forest Stewardship Plans, (FSP).
- Oversight of logging practices must be returned to the government and taken out of the control of the logging companies
- The Government must be able to monitor logging practices and enforce best logging practices (not like the logging by BC Timber Sales in the Nahmint Valley)
- The Forest Practices Board, which does good investigations, must have power to enforce its recommendations
- The system of an Annual Allowable Cut, (AAC), must be changed – yes, it allows for social impact, but essentially the impact of lost logging industry jobs on communities. The social impact of Original Growth logging is province-wide & global, due to climate change.

- Annual Allowable Cuts must get rid of minimum timber harvest levels, must find a way to give credit for logging which is selective, in which the benefit comes from growing and preserving forests and forest ecosystems.
- Intact Original Forests are a stable buffer for climate change. They provide clean air, clean water and complex, multi-layered ecosystems for a massive variety of flora, fauna.
- The Forest and Range Practices Act must be replaced with legislation which is genuinely ecosystem based management
- Financial assistance to forestry communities should be increased, together with the Federal Government, to assist workers and communities to switch to forest restoration and preservation. This will mean shifting a long established pattern/habit of thought based on extraction, (short term profit), not preservation, (long term profit)
- Stop raw log exports – support value-added local (BC) businesses (including former logging industry workers?)

Thank you for your time. I will reiterate what I consider the most important point: the Provincial Government must immediately put in place a moratorium on logging Original Forest in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Monty Tyrwhitt-Drake

Director, Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (1992)

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