

Old Growth Strategic Review

January 6, 2020

I write this letter because of my concerns of the impacts of removing more of the working forest; yet again. I vividly remember CORE commissioner Stephen Owen's report on land use recommendations to protect 13 per cent of Vancouver Island and granting special protection to an additional 8 per cent of the land base and more recently the creation of the Great Bear Rainforest.

Protected forests on the coast have more than tripled since 1991. Of the 3.5 million hectares of old growth, 55% is protected in parks and reserves and more will never be logged due to other constraints. Over the past 15 years the AAC has decreased by 25%. Forest management of visuals and for critters (bears, birds, ungulates, amphibians, etc.) is also impacting the working forest while protecting more of the land base. My point is the working forest has been impacted and continues to decrease in size. Some decreases have been for the right reasons but an emotionally charged campaign driven initiated by professional protestors being supported from other countries appears biased.


I have no interest in quoting statistics, but I am interested in protecting the lifeblood of my community from the actions that may occur due to the rhetoric and lies of multinational environmental groups who's end goal is to stop all old growth logging.

Facts should drive the conclusion to the strategic review and the facts are there is a significant amount of protected old growth, the lands are being managed by professional and the working forest is being managed responsibly.

I want to believe those tasked with the strategic review will make a fact-based decision but must admit I am somewhat sceptical of the outcome of a review that is the result of applied pressure from professional environmental groups put on the NDP, who are propped up by the Green party. It is even more concerning when you consider the Environmental Minister was an Executive Director of the Sierra Club.

Another point I feel worth mentioning is the survey. How much value can be placed on a survey that stipulates it does not want to know your identity and what knowledge you have of the circumstances. It is simply asking for an opinion of an issue which is significantly different than knowledge of a situation. Ten minutes scanning social media is enough proof to demonstrate there are many uniformed opinions being shared.

Hopefully my concerns are unwarranted, and the management of the working forest is left to the Professional Foresters and the Government has the fortitude to withstand the pressures brought by internationally funded environmental groups and a fact based decision will be made.



Thank you for your time

Randy Boas

Logger