



Nov 19, 2019

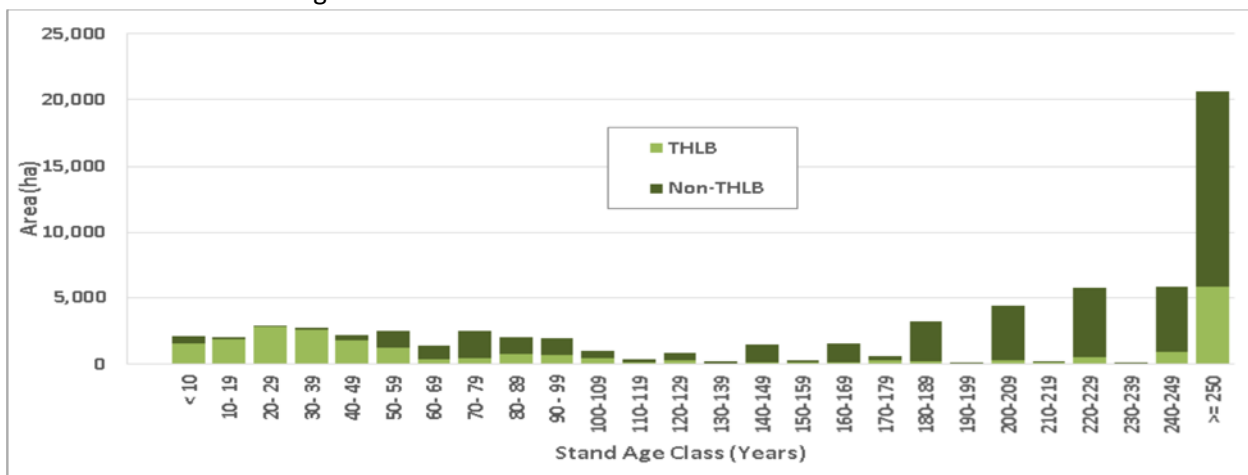
Steve Kachanoski  
 Old Growth Strategic Review Panel  
 Sent via email: oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca

On behalf of the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation (RCFC), I would like to thank Mr. Gorley, Mr. Merkel and their team for meeting with us in Revelstoke on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We are happy to participate in the provincial governments Old Growth Strategic Review by following up on our conversation with this written submission.

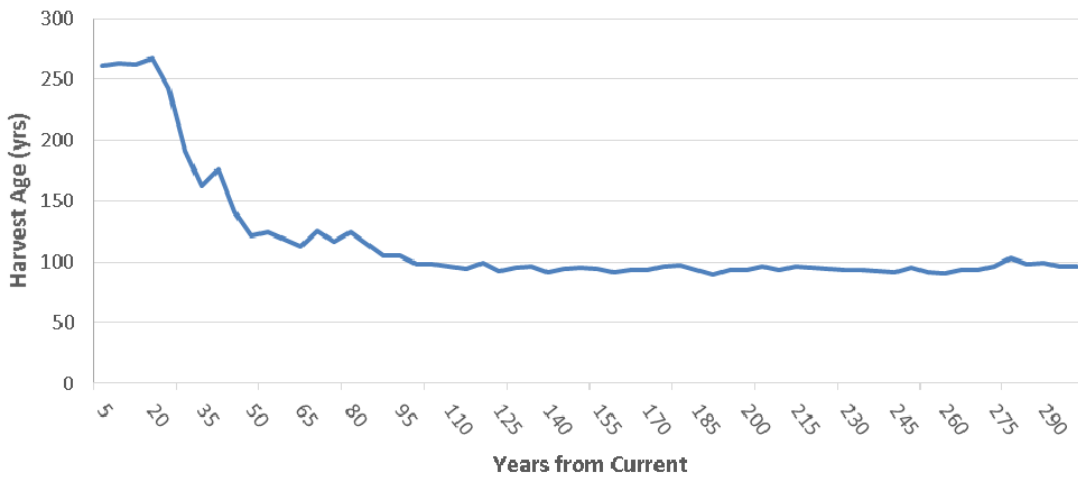
The Community of Revelstoke purchased a Tree Farm Licence in 1993 and since inception has successfully managed this landbase for the benefit of the local citizens. Some of the realized benefits are an educated community in forest land management, viable local forest manufacturing and the RCFC Legacy Fund which is currently capitalized at \$1.5million for infrastructure projects. RCFC and our community have worked through many land use issues in the last 25 years such as Revelstoke Higher Level Plan (formerly Minsters Advisor Committee Plan), transition from Forest Practices Code Act to Forest and Range Practices Act, Mountain Caribou Government Action Regulation and Timber Supply Reviews. Revelstoke is a community that is very connected to the land, from conservation (RCFC spearheaded the Caribou maternity penning project), and industrial activity (leader in alternative harvesting management) and recreation participated in establishing a Nordic Ski Lodge.

The background information provided for this review suggests a struggle balancing the economic benefits while maintaining ecological and cultural values we derive for Old Growth. RCFC believes we have been successful in this area in achieving that balance. I would like to provide you with some information specific to our TFL to provide you a better understanding of our forests.

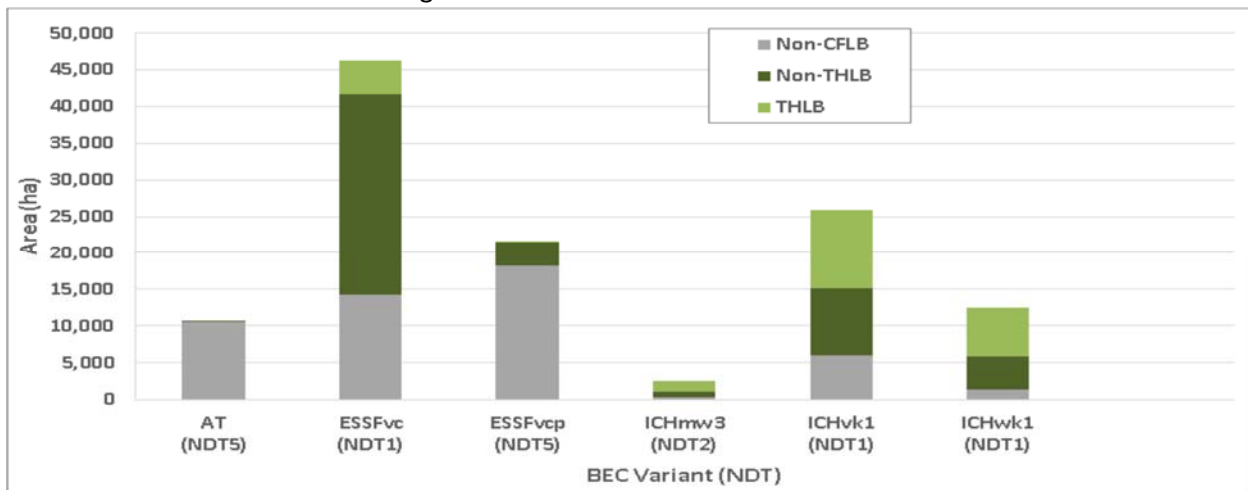
Our Crown Forest Landbase is 68,746ha and our Timber Harvesting Landbase is 23,233ha, which means 45,513ha of forests stands are reserved from forest industrial activity. I have included this chart as a visual tool to show how significant this is on the TFL.



The following graph also illustrates how important in the short term, harvesting stands greater than 250 years is to RCFC's viability.



This next chart shows how the old growth is distributed on the TFL.



As you can see a higher proportion of the area is in the ESSF, however this area is significant habitat for Mountain Caribou.

At this time the Government is embarking on many initiatives that may have an impact to the landbase. It is imperative that policy makers realize the diversity in the province and how each area can be impacted if the existing old growth strategy is changed. On TFL 56, we believe there is sufficient protection of old growth timber in quantity, quality and distribution.

There may be comments from the public that they would like to see an end to old growth logging. Unfortunately there is a large knowledge gap in people outside of the forest industry who do not understand the current management tools in place to ensure a significant portion of the land base is managed and protected for old growth. Hopefully this process will be able to highlight what good work has been done and continues to be done by the province and industry to ensure this old growth legacy exists well into the future.

If you would like any other detailed information regarding the management of TFL 56 please don't hesitate to contact myself.

Respectfully,

Michael Copperthwaite, RPF  
General Manager