

**From:** [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Old Growth Legacy Forests beyond single trees  
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**From:** Rod Burns <bpc@connected.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** December 5, 2019 12:13 PM  
**To:** FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Old Growth Legacy Forests beyond single trees

Old Growth Forests– So What?

Let's first agree to what is an Old Growth Tree / Forest

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural resources has set a number of age classes assigned to trees: 1 – 3 years: seedling; 4 – 60 years: immature trees; 60 – 125 Years: harvestable; 125- 250: mature; 250+ : ancient / old growth. Some readers will recall through the 1990's, when trees between 125 – 250 years of age were labeled as Over Mature. Those beyond 250 years were Decadent – of no Value!

Trees being cut from lands for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in B.C.'s 140 year logging history are referred to as 2<sup>nd</sup> Growth. These 2<sup>nd</sup> growth trees are deemed of market value i.e. Profitable as raw log export, timber and pulp chips at an age range of 60 – 80 years (since 2006).

To the Question: Ancients / Old Growth

What is the big deal about cutting down the remaining 5% of mature /old growth (250 years ++ ) trees on Vancouver Island? Indeed, anywhere along the coast or from interior forests?

Environmentalists will argue that 2<sup>nd</sup> growth Forests are not real forests. They prefer to use the terms “Tree Farm” “Tree Plantation” “Mono-cultured landscape”.

Further more, they argue that a “Natural Forest” is comparable to a human “community” A balanced, healthy human community has the full range of ages, with their abilities, genders, genetics, skills, knowledge and histories. The residents within the community ensure that the new generation gets well fed, well educated, well trained, aware of their social responsibilities, culture and heritage.

Structurally, in a healthy, diverse Village or Community, there are new and heritage buildings, multiple cultures, arts and sports, transportation networks, grocery stores and hospitals and etc.

In brief: It takes the whole, diverse and dynamic village to raise a child!

Post 2008: some economists say it takes the work of all villagers to raise a child of the upper 1%!

Valuing by Age-Grade Classifications:

We give 1 – 9 year old humans labels of “baby, infant, child, pre-teen.” The older “teenager group” might also be referred to as Young Adults. The community gives Teenagers to young adults being the individual person and as a group, increasing levels of independence, opportunities and responsibilities. They are allowed to take physical risks playing high impact contact sports (soccer, hockey, baseball, hockey). These engagements invariable lead to broken bones, brain concussions and occasionally death. Others experiment being singers, musicians, artists, writers, mechanics. Some like to explore life by kayak, bicycle, skiing, hiking. Others might have Part-time or summer jobs.

There are other age categories for villagers: Young Adults, Newly Weds, New Parents, Empty Nesters, Grand Parents, Great Grand Parents, Retired, Seniors, Elders.

For the most part, every society, globally, has these age categories. Cultures know that each person or category of persons contributes in their own way to the collective well being of the total Village.

Since the 2,000's AD, with the use of WIFI, cellphones, Devices, behavioural research is suggesting the historic concept of Village is showing major cracks and breakdowns. The under 20's are less empathetic. They are showing major problems in hearing, hand-eye co-ordination, patience, tolerance of others; inability to handle normal life stresses. They are also showing major health problems such as ADD, allergies and obesity.

Distopian Views of Age categories:

For this writer, 2 movies, projected Community life into the future: Carousel and Solient Green, produced in the 1970's. In common, each movie had all humans over 30 years of age get “physically” eliminated / recycled as either food pills or vaporized – sent to heaven.

Other readers might recall the movie series “Planet of the Apes”. More recently the movies Mad Max and Avatar, interpret how future community life for young to ancients might unfold.

In all of the above examples, the future depicts populations densities far greater than 2000 a.d., There is scarcity of basic food resources, a desolate, barren, denuded landscape with endless, bleak, colourless habitation complexes, health pandemics, mixed in with physical battles for survival.

In British Columbia, indeed globally, a mono-cultured Tree Plantation is 60% void of any natural animal life, disease and insect infestations abound, natural water cycles have been totally disrupted, climate changes are causing major migrations of all life forms

Forests and Communities

It can be argued, that a healthy Forest Ecosystem is similar to healthy Village / Community. The age classes given for the Trees / Forest can parallel Humans / Villagers: seedlings / child; immature forest / teens / young adults; harvestable trees / working parents; mature trees / seniors, old growth trees / grand parents.

If the comparison between a Forest Community and a Human Community holds even some positive merit, then ensuring the continued life of all age groups up to and including Mature / Old Growth trees must be kept as part of the Forest Village, just the same as human Parents, Seniors and Grand Parents are valued?

If there is no merit in the Forest / Village comparison, then the Forest / Fiber economists, those contracted to advise Corporate and Government leaders, since 2006, must continue recommending the final liquidation of the last 5% of ancients on Vancouver Island then throughout ALL of British Columbia. No less than what is happening in the Amazon and S.E. Asia. (In 2016, Chinese law prohibits any further cutting of their remaining intact forest ecosystems)

Communities and the future:

2019 and beyond, it seems will more than likely see social services, health care, public education, which make up a strong vibrant community cut. They will resurface as Privatized business services!

Individuals, groups and villagers will be valued and treated through the same economic lens as trees, forests and intact ecosystems – Liquidate them if you can't make an annual economic profit!

Feed and House the Best - Cut Down the Rest (infirm, mentally or physically injured to mature and ancients – Old Growth!

Profits \$\$\$ from privatized health care, education, transportation, like raw logs exports and automation of jobs, will be shipped to offshore bank accounts, ensuring the survival of the upper 1%'s next generation!

UNLESS !!!!! We are brave enough to shift Forestry in BC to be only 2nd growth / 3rd Growth - making Old Growth Vallies / OG Management Areas preserved as Legacy Forests Forever!

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Thoughts of

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