

January 4, 2020

To Whom it May Concern

RE: Wildlife and Habitat Response

Dear Sirs:

Regarding Old Growth Forests and wildlife, which are inextricably tied together, Old Growth Forests are sanctuaries for **all** wildlife.

Old Growth Forests also mitigate wildfires in that their canopy is thick and shady enough to hold moisture on the ground. As a faller, I have worked in the bush for many years and only fallers know that old growth trees, when the snow melts, they create a circle of frozen snow along the drip line. I have seen this doughnut glacier (my terminology) around the drip line last into the middle of August. This ice keeps melting and feeding the trees, even creating a small stream, well into the summer months. Therefore, it is my opinion that Old Growth Forests should not be "managed" - just leave them be !!

*(added via email Jan 23)*

The severe lack of Old Growth forests has impacted all our wildlife such as bear, deer, carnivores, and birds like the Gray Jay which I haven't seen for some time.

Our wildlife are starving to death due to the lack of the availability of food, especially the huckleberries.

Our Interior fir are impacted severely due to lack of water in summer months and the fir bark beetle is running rampant, thus making the trees less resilient.

BCTS knows all these things but economics and the dollar (greed) continue to run the show and call the shots.

At this point, if no one does anything to mitigate clear cut logging, we are all going to be out of jobs, out of food, out of water and our eco-systems will continue to die.

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