

Steve Trommel, RPF
6287 Fariview Way
Duncan, BC V9L 2J4
January 31, 2020

Old Growth Strategic Review submission

Dear Al Gorley and Garry Merkel,

Thank you for the important work you are doing on behalf of the province. As a representative of Teal Cedar Products Ltd., at a meeting Al attended and Garry called into in December in Mesachie Lake, both of you were open, receptive and respectful of different input brought forward. Although I have provided input to Teal Cedar Products Ltd's submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review I also feel it is important to provide my personal input on this important matter. This letter reflects my personal opinion and is not done on behalf of Teal Cedar Products Ltd. or the Association of British Columbia Professional Foresters.

As a forester, I feel that the public knowledge of forest management in British Columbia is not fully understood and is often driven by rhetoric from both sides of the spectrum. Members of the public have told me that they wanted to see old growth in the Walbran Valley before the last old growth tree was logged without acknowledging of the thousands of hectares of adjacent parkland and large old growth management areas in the valley. The idea that the end of old growth harvesting will end economic harvesting on the coast is also untrue. A planned transition period over several years should allow innovative manufacturers to create more value from second growth. A more informed public on the many benefits of forests, including ecological, cultural and economic benefits, would allow for more reasoned discussions.

I realize that you will be reviewing many submissions so I will attempt to keep this submission concise and focus on three specific points: recreation in impressive forests, managing forests at a landscape unit scale and maintaining a working forest to continue producing wood products which lead to an overall improvement in carbon storage.

Good access to forests with many large trees for recreation would be a benefit to the public. As a forest engineer, I have had the opportunity to walk through very impressive stands with many trees over four

feet in diameter. While Avatar Grove is quite accessible and includes some large cedar trees, there is certainly more impressive stands. The impressive sites I have visited are mostly very inaccessible. A review of the existing forest inventory could be done to identify sites near communities and highways to determine if impressive forests are available for accessible recreation. Satellite imagery may help in identifying areas without forest inventory, such as parks. I enjoy taking my wife and children out to experience some of the beautiful sites I have seen. It would be nice if it were easier. While opportunities for such stands are likely rare. It does seem that they may occur in areas such as along Highway 4 between Sproat Lake and Kennedy Lake.

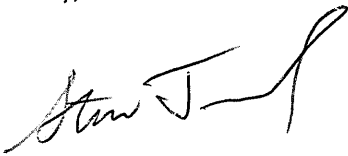
Cumulative impacts on landscapes is a significant issue over many areas of the province. During a short period practicing forestry in the interior of BC I had the experience of working with landscape unit level forest management by managing patch size and age class distribution according to ecosystem types, similar to recommendations made in the Forest Practices Code Biodiversity Guidebook (1995). Expanding the use of similar management techniques across the province could decrease negative cumulative impacts. Having smaller patch sizes than suggested in the Biodiversity Guidebook would likely lead to more positive public opinions on forestry. Managing cutblock opening sizes according to current *Forest Range and Practices Act* Regulations (maximum 40 or 60 hectare openings without many other constraints on opening size) does not protect watersheds from excessive levels of disturbance or help gain public approval.

The effects of forest management practices on climate change are frequently brought up in discussions regarding current and proposed practices. There seems to be a disconnect between the idea of using more wood products and harvesting forests. Using more wood products in place of other construction products such as steel and concrete is being encouraged for its reduced impact on climate change. Reducing harvest levels is also be encouraged to allow for more carbon storage. Research completed by Bergman et al. (The Carbon Impacts of Wood Products. 2014) published in the Forest Products Journal found that there are significant carbon emission savings when using wood rather than other non-wood alternatives. Accounting for carbon leakage resulting from deforestation and forest management on a global scale has proven to be very difficult. Most analysis on carbon leakage in relation to forest management has focused on preventing deforestation and forest degradation. In the article "Forest Carbon Leakage Quantification Methods and Their Suitability for Assessing Leakage in REDD" published in the *Forests Journal* (Henders and Ostwald, 2012), it was found that there were acceptable methods for accounting for carbon leakage within national borders but not internationally. Much of the research

regarding forest carbon leakage examines leakage through deforestation and forest degradation in locations other than the project location. There appears to be a lack of analysis of potential leakage to wood product alternatives, which may increase carbon emissions. Climate change is a global issue that is not constrained by national borders or by types of industry. If an area available for harvest in BC is conserved, will the end consumer of wood products fill their need in a less environmentally friendly way by using alternative products? Under current knowledge, I believe more focus should be put on managing forests, where the best use is for timber, for the production of longer lasting wood products where carbon storage can be maximized over a long period of time.

Thanks again for the important work you are doing. Your consideration of my input as part of your public engagement is appreciated. Forest Management issues are complicated and the public has a wide variety of values to consider. There are many other important facets in forest management to consider which I did not address in the interest of keeping this submission brief which I hope are addressed by others. I hope the process of engaging British Columbians will be rewarding to the people of the province and yourselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Trommel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Steve Trommel, RPF