

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Old Growth Strategy input/comments
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:12:30 AM
Importance: High

From: Todd Manning <etmanning@shaw.ca>
Sent: January 27, 2020 4:51 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Old Growth Strategy input/comments
Importance: High

Dear Panel Members,

First of all, it's excellent that you are making the effort to gather public input concerning the conservation and management of old growth forests in BC. And as such, I would like to offer my professional observations and opinion concerning old growth forests, particularly coastal forests and those in the south Okanagan and east Kootenay regions.

1. The majority of remaining old growth forests on the BC mainland coast are relatively well conserved and represented; this is mostly a function of the old forest representation objectives and targets defined under the "Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order", which covers the majority of this region. Other habitat objectives covered within the Order such as wildlife focal species (e.g., Marbled Murrelet, Northern Goshawk, grizzly bear) and monumental cedar, collectively also function to conserve or recruit old forest ecosystems. Similar land use and habitat/species objectives are in place for Haida Gwaii.
2. However, old growth forests, particularly those in lower elevation and/or drier biogeoclimatic coastal ecosystems, are increasingly under pressure from a variety of industrial, commercial, agricultural and urban development activities. Such pressures will likely be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, including more frequent and severe wildfire and tree species compositional shifts, in the lower elevation ecosystems.
3. Relative to point #2 above, I feel ecosystem management objectives that enable tangible old forest representation targets and spatialized products need to be developed for the drier BEC subzones (e.g., CWHxm) on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. In addition, there should be strong consideration to imposing a halt of all harvesting of old growth forest within the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone (which occurs primarily on southern Van. Island and the Gulf Islands), and which has been heavily impacted by development over the past 50 years.
4. Enhanced land use planning should be considered for the increasingly developed lower elevation zones in the S. Okanagan and E. Kootenay regions. This is particularly important for those ecosystems which contain mature and old western larch and Douglas-fir. Old stands containing these tree species are becoming less abundant and more fragmented; they also provide important habitat for ungulates and various cavity-dwelling wildlife.

Relative to the four points above, the common thread is that of "time". It simply takes centuries, not decades, for old forests to develop with the range of biodiversity, structure and function they contain; such development cannot be replicated nor recruited within the span of a typical 30-60 year harvest rotation length.

Sincerely,

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