



The Trails Society of BC.

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Old-growth Strategic Review submission

Submission sent to oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Old-growth Strategic Review panel.

The Trails Society of BC strongly encourages the Province to institute an immediate moratorium on harvesting mature and “old growth” forests to protect them. The Forest Range and Practices Act (FRPA) legislation must be updated to remove timber extraction as the primary importance in forest management.

Without protection of old growth forests and allowing mature second growth forests to mature, endangered species such as the Mountain Caribou, Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl have no place to live. Our forests need to grow longer than 60 year rotations and be allowed to mature into the great stands of forests so these endangered species have a home to live. People are flocking to the last remaining stands of old trees, so obviously people value old forests.

Forests fix and store huge amounts of carbon, and forestry is by far the biggest source of carbon emissions in BC. We need to prioritize forest practices that put recreation and conservation ahead of timber harvesting to force diversification of the BC economy, but also meet climate targets and address the forest industry’s contribution to climate change.

The mandate of Trails Society of BC is to assemble and preserve the British Columbia section of The Great Trail (formally known as the Trans Canada Trail -TCT). We also advocate for the expansion, sustainability and preservation of greenway trails in British Columbia. We are losing forests on The Great Trail and recreation values that diversify rural communities are being lost. We support the conservation of “old growth” and allowing mature forests to continue to grow in the Province to enhance as much biodiversity as we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ciel Sander".

Ciel Sander
Board President of the Trails Society of BC