

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Old Growth Strategic Review
Date: Thursday, December 26, 2019 10:30:29 PM

From: Trevor Harder <THarder@westernforest.com>
Sent: December 20, 2019 1:59 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Old Growth Strategic Review

OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW

DECEMBER 19, 2019

Dear Garry Merkel and Al Gorley,

I currently am employed by Western Forest Products (WFP) on Northern Vancouver Island as a field planner. I feel obligated to write to you because the outcome of this decision will not only directly affect me and my family but all people living in rural communities.

First off, I would like to thank both of you for allowing the public to engage in this issue. I believe it is important to understand both sides and take all things into consideration.

Forestry and British Columbia go hand in hand. Without forestry the province of BC would not be able to function. We have built our infrastructure and our economy around forestry. When the first trees were felled in BC there was little to no policy regulating where or how much could be harvested. Now the sector is heavily regulated with legislation and policy that dictate every decision that is made.

I grew up in a forestry town and still had no idea how carefully our forests are managed. Until I went to school and worked in the industry, I thought forestry was still managed the same as it was 100 years ago. The general population has very little knowledge of what happens in the forest industry especially those who didn't grow up in a logging community. Unfortunately, the public's main source of education are posts on social media from internationally funded environmental lobbyists who want nothing more than to shut down forestry. It's easy to show pictures of cathedral grove and lament that "ancient forests" going extinct. It is an easy way to get an emotional response, but that can't be further from the truth. 3.5 million (42%) of the coastal region is still old growth. Of the 3.5 million ha over 2.8 million ha (81%) will never get logged as it is either protected in a park or reserve or there are other constraints. Simply put, there is a lot more old growth than people think, and it will never go extinct.

The industry does not plan on harvesting old growth forever, plans to transition away from logging old growth were put in place over 25 years ago. Since the 1990s that harvesting of second growth has risen from 5% to approximately 50% today. This trend will continue as we adapt for the future. Coastal forestry is, and will continue to be, sustainably managed.

It is a fact that a well-managed forest can mitigate climate change. Many environmentalists call for a complete halt on all forest operations stating that it is the only way to combat climate change. Stopping logging operations would only force us to rely on steel and concrete which have a significantly larger carbon footprint than forestry. The global demand for timber products is not something that will go away. If BC stops contributing timber to the global market, other international contributors with lower environmental standards will surely pick up the slack. This would result in widespread deforestation.

Currently we are in a labor dispute and are getting a glimpse of what the future will hold if even

stricter policy's surrounding old growth are imposed. Families are hurting and businesses are closing their doors. Simply put, forestry feeds families.

But forestry doesn't just feed families, it directly funds government projects with money from stumpage and income taxes. Forestry contributes 2.1 billion in GDP and 1.4 Billion in labour income. A moratorium, on old growth harvesting would effectively cut the coastal industry in half. It is estimated that 10,000 people would lose their jobs. What will they do? Where will they go?

We are entering a time of great uncertainty, this sentiment may not be felt in Vancouver or Victoria, but it is felt in rural Island communities. All I am asking is that you look at the facts and to consider all the families that will be affected by this decision.

Sincerely,

Trevor

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Field Planner

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