

MARCH FOR THE FORESTS DOCUMENT

1. Change forest practices to maintain, protect and enhance biologically diverse forest ecosystems so that they can produce the ecological goods and services that we rely on.

- a. Eliminate clear cuts to protect soil integrity, moisture, and reduce blow down.
- b. Increase size of riparian zone to 60 meters to prevent erosion, siltation, windfall and habitat degradation. Monitor that the rules are followed.
- c. Maintain canopy to provide shade and moisture for seedlings and fish.
- d. Thin moderately and judiciously to prevent forest fires and provide fibre for mills.
- e. Implement independent oversight and absolute compliance in forest industry
- f. Reduce Allowable Cut to sustainable level to allow BC forests to regenerate.

2. Guarantee greater watershed protection thereby providing abundant clean and safe water for all British Columbians.

- a. Implement the Water Sustainability Act and all regulations and ensure that communities are given the funds and control of their community drinking water watersheds.
- b. Retain intact forests to secure snowpack and to allow rain the sink into the aquifers.
- c. Increase the number of riparian zones to protect creeks, wetlands, and rivers.
- d. Utilize landscape scale planning recognizing importance of hydrology.
- e. Stop use of toxic and ecologically harmful chemicals in watersheds.

3. Create immediate old growth forest logging moratorium

- a. Use the time to implement reasonable science-based preservation and restoration regulations.
- b. Create world heritage/legacy forests because these trees are some of the oldest living creatures on earth
- c. Restrict logging in forests surrounding old growth to prevent blow down, to preserve moisture and to allow forests to mature and increase the amount of old growth.
- d. Protect old growth ecosystems which when left intact act as giant sponges to retain water and sequester carbon.
- e. Take old growth out of the allowable annual cut.

4. Change forest practices to allow forests to mitigate climate change

- a. Maintain forests ecosystems to store massive amounts of carbon.
- b. Retain canopy, healthy seed trees and shade trees.
- c. Preserve forests to protect snowpack, retain moisture, and stabilize rain production.
- d. Better manage logging debris to avoid build-up and the resulting mega-fires; there are many possible profitable uses for this debris such as chipping to provide fibre for pulp mills or the generation of biochar for carbon sequestration and soil health.
- e. Reduce allowable cut to a limit that all parties agree upon.

5. Implement community involvement in land-use planning, management, implementation, regulation, and legislation

- a. Maintain, protect and enhance local watersheds, wetlands, and waterways.
- b. Preserve Sensitive Ecosystem polygons and species at risk.
- c. Reduce slash burning and require chipping of most logging debris.
- d. Make land use decisions on ecosystem basis.
- e. Maintain and expand parks and recreation areas.

6. Make resource extraction accountable for damage and impacts to natural ecosystems and community infrastructure.

- a. Include blow down in allowable cut.
- b. Companies must be 100% financially responsible for all costs incurred to the public as a result of flooding, erosion, landslides, culvert and road damage caused by poor forestry practices.
- c. Companies must be accountable for the repair of fish habitats caused by poor forestry practices: i.e. siltation of rivers and creeks, erosion and removal of shade.
- d. Companies must be held 100% financially accountable for the cost of water filtration systems required because of logging.

7. Manage ecosystems of BC entirely in the public interest.

- a. Eliminate raw log exports so that BC mills & manufacturers will have increased fibre supplies while reducing cut rate.
- b. Incentivize the increase of value-added production of forestry products either through taxation or subsidies.
- c. Ensure food and water security
- d. Increase jobs in forest restoration and ecoforestry which will naturally benefit farming, fishing and tourism.
- e. Maintain community assets and infrastructure.
- f. Maintain intact ecosystems thus preventing forest fires, drought and floods.

8. Restore the ecosystems which we have impacted province wide in the past 160 years

- a. Replant inadequately re forested areas increasing biodiversity to assure resiliency.
- b. Enforce best practices.
- c. Restore wetlands, creeks and rivers.
- d. Restore and protect wildlife habitat

9. Rebuild the best forest science program in the world, consult with and rely on it.

- a. Have a formal consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including ecologists and citizens to define the words sustainability and sustainable as they relate to forestry.

10. Vastly improve and guarantee protection of habitat for wildlife

- a. Maintain and restore riparian zones, wetlands and diverse multilayered forests.
- b. Protect wildlife corridors and breeding areas.
- c. Reduce annual allowable cut to maintain healthy forest ecosystems and watersheds