

SUMMER 2018



Protect BC's Endangered Ancient Forests & Ensure Sustainable Second-Growth Forestry

EAST & KLASKISH VALLEYS MEET THE PACIFIC OCEAN
VANCOUVER ISLAND

Why Protect Old-Growth Forests?

British Columbia's old-growth forests are among the most magnificent forests on Earth, second only to the California redwoods in grandeur. Millions of people from around the world have come to admire the old-growth forests in places like Cathedral Grove, Avatar Grove, Clayoquot Sound around Tofino, and the Ancient Forest Trail.

Protecting old-growth forests is critical because they:

- › Sustain wildlife, including unique species that need old-growth forests to survive, like spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and mountain caribou.
- › Counteract climate change, storing two to three times more carbon per hectare than second-growth tree plantations.
- › Are vital pillars of BC's multi-billion dollar tourism economy.
- › Provide clean drinking water for many communities, including Vancouver and Victoria, and support wild salmon.
- › Are important to First Nations cultures for food, medicines, and for the provision of old-growth cedars, which are used for canoes, totem poles, masks, and other items.

EDEN GROVE
VANCOUVER ISLAND

75%

OF THE ORIGINAL, PRODUCTIVE OLD-GROWTH FORESTS ON THE SOUTH COAST HAVE BEEN

LOGGED

INCLUDING OVER 90% OF THE VALLEY BOTTOMS WHERE THE BIGGEST TREES GROW

OLD-GROWTH LOGGING
KLANAWA VALLEY
VANCOUVER ISLAND

Old-Growth Forests are Non-Renewable and Endangered

Old-growth forests, with magnificent trees up to 2,000 years old, are a non-renewable resource under BC's system of forestry, where the ensuing second-growth tree plantations are re-logged every 50 to 100 years, never to become old-growth again.



OLD-GROWTH (1860)



OLD-GROWTH TODAY

New Provincial Government Provides Greatest Opportunity for Ancient Forest Protection

The "War in the Woods" over these ancient forests is now almost 40 years old. Today, we have an amazing opportunity to finally lay this conflict to rest!

British Columbia's new NDP government and its governing agreement with the BC Green Party presents the greatest opportunity in BC's history to protect the province's remaining endangered old-growth forests while ensuring a sustainable, value-added, second-growth forest industry.

The BC Green Party has promised to support the protection of the province's endangered old-growth forests. The NDP has promised to sustainably manage BC's old-growth forests by modernizing land-use planning in partnership with First Nations and communities, applying an evidence-based scientific approach,

and using the ecosystem-based management approach of the Great Bear Rainforest as a model. This is significant, given most of the forests in the Great Bear Rainforest were set aside from logging under the ecosystem-based management model. If taken literally, it means remaining old-growth forests will be protected in most other parts of BC, such as Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and the Inland Rainforest, where they are far scarcer and more endangered than in the Great Bear Rainforest.

So far, however, the NDP government has been slow to act and has chosen to uphold the province's destructive forestry policies. This means that thousands of British Columbians must call on the NDP government to stick to their election promises and to take action for old-growth forest protection and sustainable, second-growth forestry jobs.

BC Needs an Old-Growth Protection Act

The most important measure the BC government should take to protect old-growth forests is the creation of an "Old-Growth Forest Protection Act": a comprehensive, science-based law to protect old-growth forests, partly modeled after the ecosystem-based management approach of the Great Bear Rainforest. This law would require that enough old-growth forest be protected and/or restored in each of BC's forest types to prevent long-term biodiversity loss.

BC Must Support First Nations Economies and Land Use Plans

To achieve large-scale old-growth forest protection in BC, the provincial government must finance sustainable economic development in First Nations communities as an alternative to old-growth logging, similar to the \$120 million (including \$30 million in provincial funds) provided to First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest. This is a necessary component of the NDP's promise to apply ecosystem-based management to old-growth forests across BC. The province must also begin a dialogue with First Nations on how old-growth protection can be integrated into their land use plans, governance models, and economic initiatives, while formally supporting their land use plans, tribal parks, and protected areas.

Additional Policies the NDP Government Can Immediately Undertake

While longer-term solutions are being developed, the government must place an interim halt on logging in old-growth "hotspots" (areas of high conservation value) to ensure the largest and best stands of remaining old-growth forests are kept intact while a larger plan is developed.

Other old-growth protection policy changes that can be implemented right away include:

1. Implementing the long overdue "Big Tree Protection Order", which would protect the biggest trees on the coast with buffer zones.
2. Converting "non-legal" forest reserves, including many Old-Growth Management Areas, that exist only on paper into legally binding reserves.
3. Directing BC Timber Sales, the BC government's logging agency, to stop issuing old-growth cut blocks.
4. Creating a major "land acquisition fund" to purchase and protect endangered ecosystems on private lands.

Promoting Value-Added, Second-Growth Forestry Jobs

While most of the Western industrialized world has transitioned to second-growth forestry, the status quo of old-growth liquidation is still underway in parts of BC while raw, unprocessed logs continue to be shipped overseas. We can achieve a sustainable, second-growth forest industry in BC by strengthening forest practices regulations, slowing down the excessive rate of cut, ending raw log exports, and by introducing a system of regulations and incentives to support a value-added wood manufacturing industry based on second-growth logs. These measures would sustain and potentially increase the number of forestry jobs in the province.

For more details on the legislative and policy changes we want the new BC government to undertake, visit our website at www.ancientforestalliance.org



PORT RENFREW
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT
DAN HAGER - WALBRAN VALLEY

Your Voice is Crucial! Tell the New NDP Provincial Government You Want Action on Old-Growth Forests and Sustainable Forestry Jobs.

The BC Chamber of Commerce; the Union of BC Municipalities, representing mayors and councils across BC; and the Public and Private Workers of Canada, representing thousands of BC forestry workers, have all passed resolutions calling on the province to expand old-growth forest protection. Now it's time for the BC government to act.

Contact the NDP government and tell them you want them to:

1. Implement an Old-Growth Protection Act that will protect BC's endangered old-growth forests based on science.
2. Finance First Nations sustainable economic development as an alternative to old-growth logging.
3. Take immediate action to reduce old-growth logging by placing moratoria on old-growth forest "hotspots," implementing the Big Tree Protection Order, making "non-legal" forest reserves legally-binding, discontinuing issuance of BC Timber Sales permits in old-growth forests, and creating a provincial land acquisition fund to protect endangered ecosystems on private lands.
4. Sustain and enhance forestry jobs using regulations against raw log exports while providing financial incentives for the development of value-added, second-growth wood manufacturing facilities.

Write to all at: British Columbia Parliament Buildings
501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Include your mailing address so they know you're a real person.

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YES! Here is my donation to the Ancient Forest Alliance!

I'm proud to support the campaign to protect BC's endangered ancient forests and forestry jobs. AncientForestAlliance.org

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Note: Monthly donations can be done with your credit card or from your bank account (in which case include a void cheque and a filled-in "PAD" form from our website's monthly donation page).

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