



SPRING 2021

# BC's Ancient Forests In Crisis



Old-growth forests filled with massive, towering trees once covered large parts of BC's coast and inland rainforest. Now the last ancient giants are disappearing before our eyes.

## **The BC government must protect remaining old-growth forests 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 communities and support wild salmon.
- › Are important to First Nations cultures for food, medicines, and the provision of old-growth cedars, which are used for canoes, totem poles, masks, and other items.

**BEFORE & AFTER  
OLD-GROWTH LOGGING  
CAYCUSE VALLEY**



# 97.3%

OF BC'S ORIGINAL, HIGH PRODUCTIVITY OLD-GROWTH FORESTS WITH THE BIGGEST TREES HAVE BEEN

# LOGGED

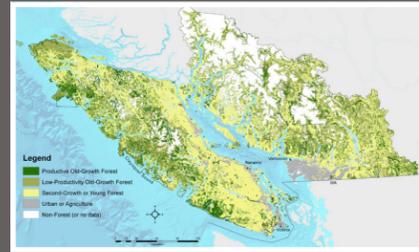
OLD-GROWTH REDCEDAR STUMP  
NAHMINT VALLEY

## 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

## Provincial Old-Growth Report Provides a Pathway to Ancient Forest Protection

For nearly 40 years, British Columbians have been fighting to protect BC's ancient forests, which are becoming increasingly endangered as each year passes. Right now, we have an exciting opportunity to finally lay this conflict to rest!

In September 2020, a report by a BC government-appointed panel was released, calling for a complete paradigm shift in the way BC's old-growth forests are managed. On the 2020 campaign trail, the BC NDP promised to implement all 14 of the panel's recommendations, finally giving us a clear path forward to protect endangered old-growth forests while ensuring a sustainable, second-growth forest industry.

By committing to implementing the panel's recommendations, the BC government has promised to work with First Nations to

quickly halt logging in the province's most endangered ancient forests, enact science-based policies and legislation to protect old-growth, and support workers and communities in transitioning away from old-growth logging.

But so far, the NDP government has been slow to act. Since the panel's report was released, the province has temporarily deferred logging in only a small fraction of productive old-growth forest, leaving hundreds of thousands of hectares of ancient, endangered forests on the chopping block. Right now, British Columbians must speak up and **demand the NDP government stick to their promise** to overhaul BC's forest regime and protect remaining old-growth stands.

## The BC Government Must Act Quickly to Protect Ancient Forests By:

### Halting Logging in Endangered Old-Growth Ecosystems

The BC government has committed to implementing all 14 of the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel's recommendations. This means they must place an immediate halt to logging in BC's most endangered old-growth forests to ensure the rarest, best stands are kept intact while a long-term plan is developed. This includes the most productive old-growth forests with the biggest trees; ancient forests over 500 years old; forest ecosystems with very little old-growth remaining; and old-growth "hotspots" of high conservation or recreational value.

An obvious place to start is for the BC government to direct BC Timber Sales - its own logging agency - to stop issuing old-growth cutblocks that meet these criteria. The panel's report also commits the BC government to enacting legislation that prioritizes ecosystem health and biodiversity over timber supply and creating new, science-based targets to protect old-growth forests across BC.

### Committing Funding to Support Ancient Forest Protection

To achieve large-scale old-growth forest protection across BC, the provincial government must commit significant funding for sustainable economic development in First Nations communities as an alternative to old-growth logging, while formally supporting Indigenous land-use plans and protected areas such as Tribal Parks. The province must also allocate funds to support workers and communities to transition away from old-growth logging and create a dedicated Natural Lands Acquisition Fund to purchase and protect old-growth forests and other endangered ecosystems on private lands.

### Protecting BC's Biggest Trees and Grandest Groves

In September 2020, the BC government introduced a new Special Tree Regulation to protect some of BC's biggest trees with buffer zones. But the regulation doesn't go far enough, protecting only the very rarest, exceptionally large trees. The regulation must be improved to capture many more of BC's monumental old-growth trees like western redcedars, Douglas-firs, and Sitka spruce by expanding buffer zones to at least two hectares and lowering the size threshold for protection. The province must also expand the regulation to encompass BC's grandest groves to ensure special places like the Central Walbran Valley are protected.

## 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 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.

**To learn more about the changes we are calling on the BC government to undertake, visit our website at [www.ancientforestalliance.org](http://www.ancientforestalliance.org)**



BEFORE & AFTER  
OLD-GROWTH LOGGING  
CAYCUSE VALLEY

# Please speak up and defend ancient forests! Tell the NDP provincial government you expect them to stick to their promise and fully fund and implement the Old Growth Panel's recommendations.

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs; 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 BC government and tell them you want them to:

1. Fully fund and implement all 14 of the Old Growth Panel's recommendations within three years.
2. Finance First Nations sustainable economic development as an alternative to old-growth logging and create a Natural Lands Acquisition Fund to protect endangered ecosystems on private lands.
3. Enact immediate logging deferrals in at-risk old-growth forests, introduce legislation to permanently protect old-growth forests based on science, and support the creation and stewardship of Indigenous Protected Areas that protect old-growth.
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

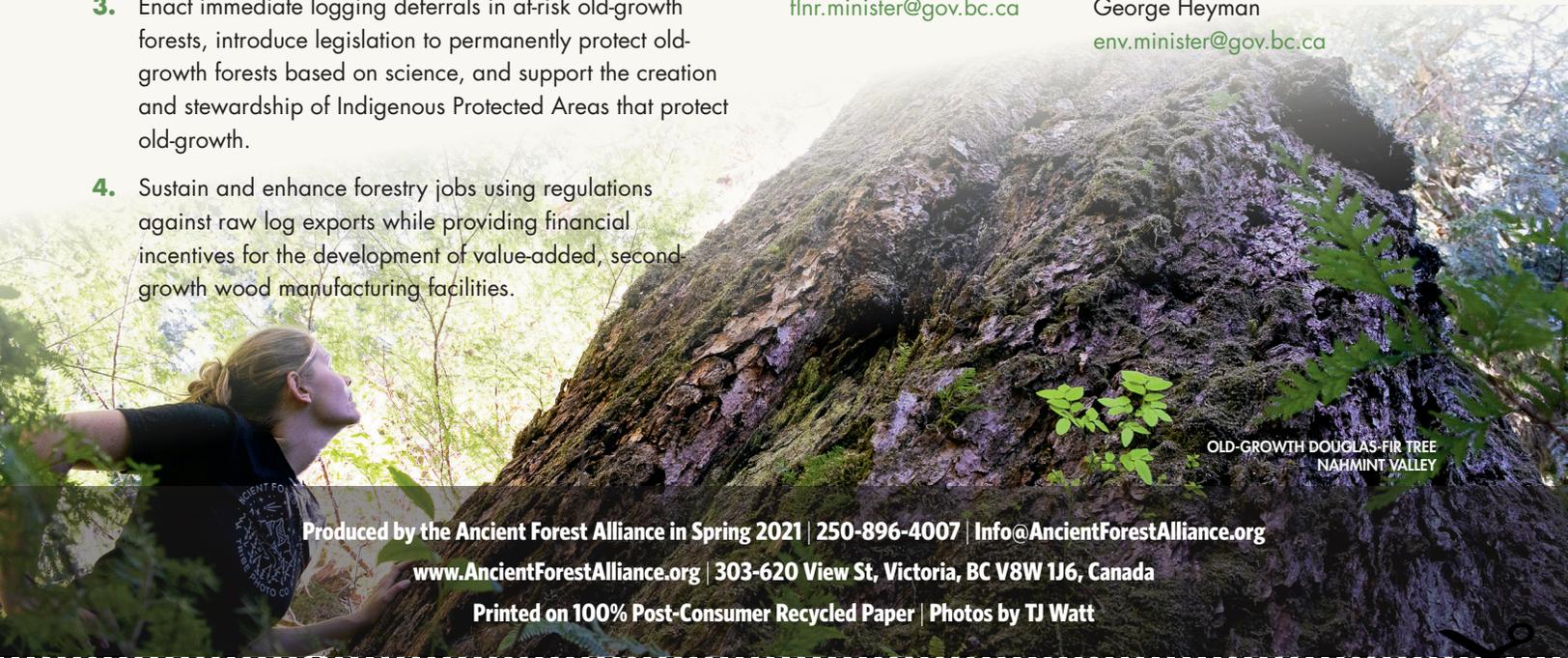
*Include your mailing address so they know you're a real person.*

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OLD-GROWTH DOUGLAS-FIR TREE  
NAHMINT VALLEY

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Over the PHONE at 250-896-4007, or ONLINE at [www.ancientforestalliance.org](http://www.ancientforestalliance.org)

**NOTE:** Monthly donations can also be made from your bank account. Please include a void cheque and sign the donation form.

The Ancient Forest Alliance is a registered BC non-profit society (# S0056367). Donations are not tax-deductible.