



SPRING 2022

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 LOGGING
KLANAWA 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

Significant Progress Towards Protecting Old-Growth Forests in BC with Critical Funding Still Missing

For nearly 50 years, British Columbians have been fighting to protect ancient forests in BC, 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 Old Growth Panel was released, calling for a complete paradigm shift in the way old-growth forests in BC are managed. The BC government promised to work with First Nations to implement all 14 of the panel's recommendations, but they have yet to allocate the total amount of funding required to bring about this change.

In November 2021, the BC NDP took an unprecedented step towards old-growth protection by accepting the analysis and

recommendation – in principle – of an independent science panel, the Technical Advisory Panel, to defer logging in 2.6 million hectares of the most at-risk, unprotected old-growth forests in BC, an area equal to about 5% of BC's forests. The province began by immediately pausing logging in 570,000 hectares of at-risk old-growth held by BC Timber Sales, the government's own logging agency. The remaining 2 million hectares of deferral recommendation require consultation with First Nations. However, without critical conservation funding to offset lost revenues for First Nations communities to transition away from old-growth logging, it will be virtually impossible to enact the full extent of those deferrals.

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

Halting Logging in Endangered Old-Growth Ecosystems

In response to public pressure and the requests of local First Nations, the BC government has issued temporary logging deferrals for some key old-growth hotspots that conservationists have long been fighting for. Examples include the Fairy Creek watershed (though not the surrounding forests), much of the Central Walbran Valley (home of the magnificent Castle Grove), McKelvie Valley near Tahsis, Clayoquot Sound, and 570,000 hectares of the best ancient forests managed by BC Timber Sales, including much of the Nahmint Valley. The BC government must ensure these important old-growth areas ultimately receive permanent legislated protection.

Committing Funding to Support Ancient Forest Protection

In the February 2022 budget, under direct pressure from Ancient Forest Alliance and others, the government committed \$185 million over three years for forestry workers and contractors, industry, communities, and First Nations to adapt and respond to the impacts of the 2.6 million hectares of recommended deferrals. Depending on how it's allocated, this funding potentially contains up to one-third of the contribution needed from the province to support First Nations communities, whose consent is needed to implement these deferrals. Conservationists have repeatedly called for the province to commit at least \$300 million to support Indigenous-led old-growth logging deferrals, land-use plans, and protected areas alone. This would include funding for Indigenous Guardians programs, offsetting the lost revenues for logging deferrals, and supporting the sustainable economic diversification of First Nations communities in lieu of old-growth logging linked to the establishment of Indigenous Protected Areas. Support for forestry workers and contractors, and legally defined compensation for major licensees, would be above and beyond this total.

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 such as Eden Grove near Port Renfrew 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.

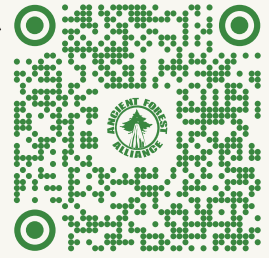
To learn more about the changes we are calling on the BC government to undertake, visit our website at www.ancientforestalliance.org



Add Your Voice!

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.

Take a photo of this QR code with your phone to send an instant message.



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

1. Commit at least \$300 million to support Indigenous-led old-growth logging deferrals, land-use plans, and protected areas. This includes funding for Indigenous Guardians programs, offsetting the lost revenues for logging deferrals, and the sustainable economic diversification of First Nations communities in lieu of old-growth logging.
2. Create a provincial land acquisition fund to purchase and protect endangered ecosystems on private lands, including at-risk old-growth forests.
3. Develop and fund a strategy to support a rapid transition to a sustainable, value-added, second-growth forestry sector.

Here's how to contact them:

1. Send an instant message: www.ancientforestalliance.org/send-a-message
 2. Make a phone call to Premier Horgan: (250) 387-1715
 3. Write to Premier Horgan: 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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Donations by MAIL at 205 - 620 View Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1J6, or by PHONE 250-896-4007, or ONLINE ancientforestalliance.org, or take a PHOTO of this QR CODE (on right) with your phone!

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

