

# PROTECT BC'S ENDANGERED OLD-GROWTH FORESTS



THE ANCIENT FOREST ALLIANCE (AFA) IS BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LEADING CONSERVATION GROUP WORKING FOR SCIENCE-BASED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT BC'S ENDANGERED OLD-GROWTH FORESTS AND TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE, SECOND-GROWTH FOREST INDUSTRY.

## Why Protect Old-Growth Forests?

Old-growth forests are important because they:

- › Support many species at risk that can't flourish in younger forests, such as the marbled murrelet, spotted owl, and mountain caribou.
- › Counteract climate change by storing two to three times more carbon per hectare than the ensuing second-growth tree plantations that they are being replaced with.
- › Provide clean water for people, wild salmon, and wildlife.
- › Are fundamental pillars of BC's multi-billion dollar tourism industry.
- › Are important parts of many First Nations cultures.

# 75%

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

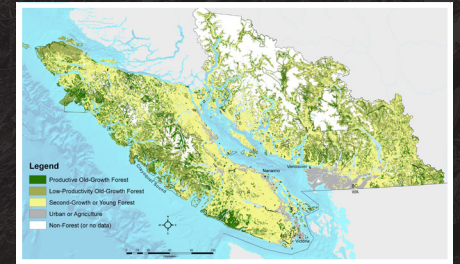


This includes over 90% of the valley bottoms where the largest trees grow. Vast expanses of low productivity ancient bog and subalpine forests with small, stunted trees of little to no commercial value also stand - which the BC government includes in its statistics to mislead the public into thinking old-growth forests are not endangered.

## OLD-GROWTH (1860)



## OLD GROWTH TODAY



## How do Old-Growth and Second-Growth Forests Differ?

While trees grow back after logging, old-growth forests never grow back under the short rotation ages and excessive rate of cut in BC. Old-growth trees on our coast are typically between 140 to 2000 years old. However, once cut, our forests are re-logged every 30 to 110 years, never to become old-growth again.

Old-growth forests are more structurally complex than the ensuing second-growth tree plantations that they are replaced with. This complexity allows old-growth forests to support more abundant, diverse, and unique flora and fauna. Old-growth forests have trees of diverse ages and heights (ie. "multi-layered canopies"), gaps in their canopies that let the sunlight through to foster luxuriant understories, more standing and fallen dead wood ("woody debris"), and more lichens, mosses, ferns, and shrubs growing on the trees' branches ("epiphytes"). In contrast, second-growth forests have trees of mainly the same age class and height (ie. "single-layered canopies"), closed canopies that block out the sunlight, fewer plants in the darker understories, less woody debris, and fewer epiphytes.



Old-Growth Forest



Second-Growth Forest

## What about Forestry Jobs?

After a century of unsustainable old-growth logging, most of BC's productive forests are now second-growth. We can sustainably harvest our second-growth stands while employing more workers in the value-added wood manufacturing sector in BC - instead of exporting the raw, unprocessed logs to the USA, China, and Japan. This would allow us to protect our last old-growth forests while sustaining forestry employment levels in BC. A full transition into only logging second-growth forests is inevitable in most of BC when the last of the unprotected old-growth forests are cut down. For the sake of future generations, we need to make the full second-growth transition BEFORE we eliminate the remaining unprotected ancient forests.

## First Nations and Old-Growth Forest Conservation

Most of BC's First Nations cultures evolved over millennia with old-growth forests. Ancient redcedars are particularly important for canoes, totems, long houses, masks, baskets, clothing, and countless culturally important items. Virtually all of BC is unceded First Nations lands, and Supreme Court rulings assert that land and resource use decisions - including the logging and/or protection of forests - requires meaningful First Nations consultation, accommodation, and shared decision-making. Many First Nations groups are declaring their own Tribal Parks and protected areas, while most are also involved in industrial logging. The Ancient Forest Alliance supports economic financing alternatives for BC's First Nations to develop conservation-based economies focused on sustainable tourism, non-timber forest products, sustainable second-growth forestry, and green businesses that allow old-growth forests to remain standing.

## Large-Scale, Broad-Based Movements are Needed

The Ancient Forest Alliance believes that an educated and active citizenry exerts the ultimate lobby pressure on governments. Therefore we work to build large-scale, broad-based movements involving First Nations, businesses, unions, faith groups, scientists, and recreationists. We undertake exploratory and research expeditions, document areas using professional photography and videography, lead public hikes, give educational presentations, undertake news and social media outreach, and organize rallies, petitions, and letter-writing campaigns.

We believe that communities need sustainable jobs and businesses in order to achieve lasting environmental progress in their regions. Thus, we work with forestry workers to ensure a sustainable, value-added, second-growth forest industry, and with tourism businesses and First Nations to protect old-growth forests to foster local green economies.

## Comprehensive, Science-Based Old-Growth Protection Legislation is Needed!

Across most of BC, our old-growth forests are endangered and lacking adequate protection. It's impossible to fight for the thousand old-growth forests slated for logging one by one. Therefore, a comprehensive, science-based Old-Growth Forest Protection Act is needed to:

1. Inventory how much old-growth forest remains in each ecosystem.
2. Undertake scientific assessments to determine the minimum necessary protection levels in each ecosystem needed to sustain its biodiversity and ecological integrity over the long run.
3. Mandate the legal protection and the restoration of old-growth and native forests to reach those minimum necessary protection targets.

## A BC "Park Acquisition Fund" is Needed

While 94% of British Columbia is comprised of public or Crown lands, in a few regions like eastern Vancouver Island private lands are extensive. Old-growth forests on private lands must be purchased if they are to be saved. Land trusts and environmental groups are often too cash-poor to buy these lands quickly enough. Therefore, it is vital that the BC government re-establish the province's land or park acquisition fund, which was cancelled in 2008, in order to purchase private lands for protection. For example, a \$40 million/year fund would only constitute 0.1% or 1/1000th of the \$40 billion/year provincial budget, yet would be vital to help save endangered ancient forests on private lands.



## Fighting for Hotspots

The Ancient Forest Alliance is working to protect specific old-growth forests as soon as possible, while highlighting the need for legislation to save all endangered old-growth forests. Some hotspots include:

**THE MOUNTAINSIDE ABOVE CATHEDRAL GROVE**, Canada's most famous old-growth forest, is slated for potential logging by Island Timberlands on Mount Horne.

**MCLAUGHLIN RIDGE**, an ancient Douglas-fir forest in Port Alberni's drinking watershed, is home to endangered species and the finest deer wintering range on Vancouver Island. Under pressure, Island Timberlands is now looking to potentially sell the land for conservation.

**THE CENTRAL WALBRAN VALLEY** near Port Renfrew includes the finest contiguous old-growth redcedar forests in Canada and is under threat by the Teal Jones Group.

**THE ENDANGERED EDINBURGH MOUNTAIN** near Port Renfrew includes one of the largest expanses of unprotected old-growth forests on southern Vancouver Island, including Canada's 2nd largest Douglas-fir tree, "Big Lonely Doug" - which is unfortunately surrounded by a recent Teal Jones clearcut.

**ECHO LAKE EAST OF MISSION** is the largest night-roosting site for bald eagles on Earth and the north side of the lake includes one of the very last unprotected lowland old-growth forests in the Vancouver region.

**THE EAST CREEK RAINFOREST** near the Brooks Peninsula was one of the last largely intact valleys left on Vancouver Island - until recently, when major logging operations by Lionsgate began.

**NOOTKA ISLAND** includes a world-class coastal hiking trail on its western side - alas, Western Forest Products is pushing through new roads and clearcutting the giant cedars on the surrounding mountainsides.

**THE MOSSY MAPLE GROVE** west of Lake Cowichan is an unprotected old-growth deciduous rainforest of giant bigleaf maples draped in hanging mosses and ferns - and filled with grazing elk.



LOUIE BAY  
NOOTKA ISLAND  
[c] TJ Watt

## The Avatar Grove Boardwalk

One of the Ancient Forest Alliance's major successes has been the protection of the Avatar Grove near Port Renfrew in 2012 with the support of the local business community. With the generous help of scores of volunteers, donors, businesses, and the Pacheedaht band, the Ancient Forest Alliance has constructed major portions of a boardwalk to protect the forest understory, enhance visitor safety, and support the local eco-tourism industry. We are working to repair the Avatar Boardwalk in 2017 from winter storm damage and are accepting donations for this.



This message is authorized by the Ancient Forest Alliance, registered sponsor under LECFA. | 250.896.4007 | Info@AncientForestAlliance.org  
Visit AFA online at www.AncientForestAlliance.org | Victoria Main PO, Box 8459, Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, Canada | Printed on 100% Recycled Paper | Photos by TJ Watt



# 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

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  Old Growth Campaign  Avatar Boardwalk  
(\$100 sponsors 1 metre)

DONATION:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$200  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS (street and/or PO Box #) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ info@ancientforestalliance.org

MONTHLY GIVING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month

Withdraw funds on the 1st  or 15th  of each month.

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).

Cash  Cheque  Visa  MC

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ \*Donations are not tax deductible in order to avoid government restrictions on our political advocacy and freedom of speech, allowing us to maximize the effectiveness of your donation.

The Ancient Forest Alliance is a Registered BC Non-Profit Society # S0056367  
✉ Victoria Main PO, Box 8459, Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, Canada (04-2017)

☎ Donations can also be made over the phone at: 250.896.4007  
🌐 As well as online at: www.AncientForestAlliance.org

♻️ Printed on Recycled Paper

