

An aerial photograph showing a lush green forest on the left, a narrow stream flowing through it, and a large, cleared, brownish area on the right. The text is overlaid on the image.

Defending primary and old growth forests in northern BC

Michelle Connolly

**CONSERVATION
NORTH**



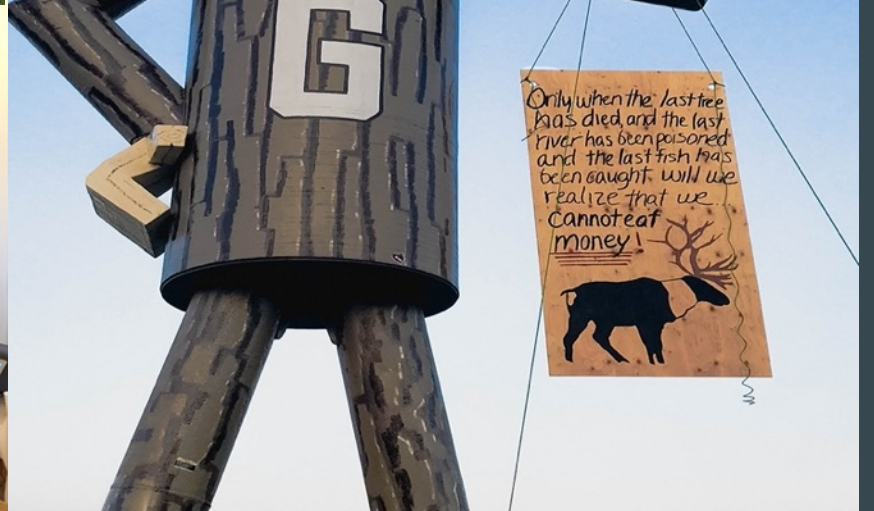
What we're about

Threats to primary and old growth forest

Contending with misinformation

**CONSERVATION
NORTH**





Primary forest is forest that has never been industrially logged.
Old growth is primary forest but not all primary forest is old growth.



- 
1. Primary forests should be left alone
 2. Industrial forestry should be restricted to areas already converted

Photo taken near the Cut-Off Forest Service Road,
45 min east of PG. Sean O'Rourke



This article is more than 2 years old

Half of Canada's monitored wildlife is in decline, major study finds

New report paints a bleak picture for wildlife in a country that is home to a quarter of the Earth's wetlands, 8,500 rivers and more than 2m lakes



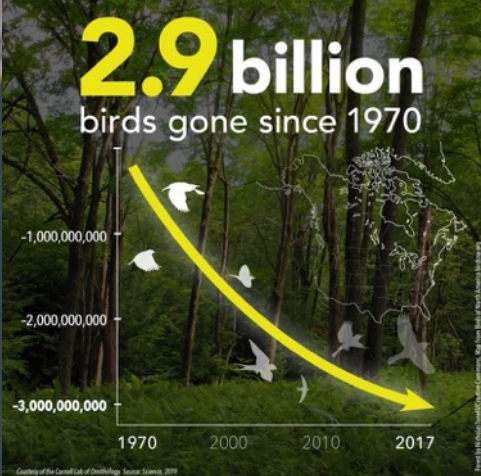
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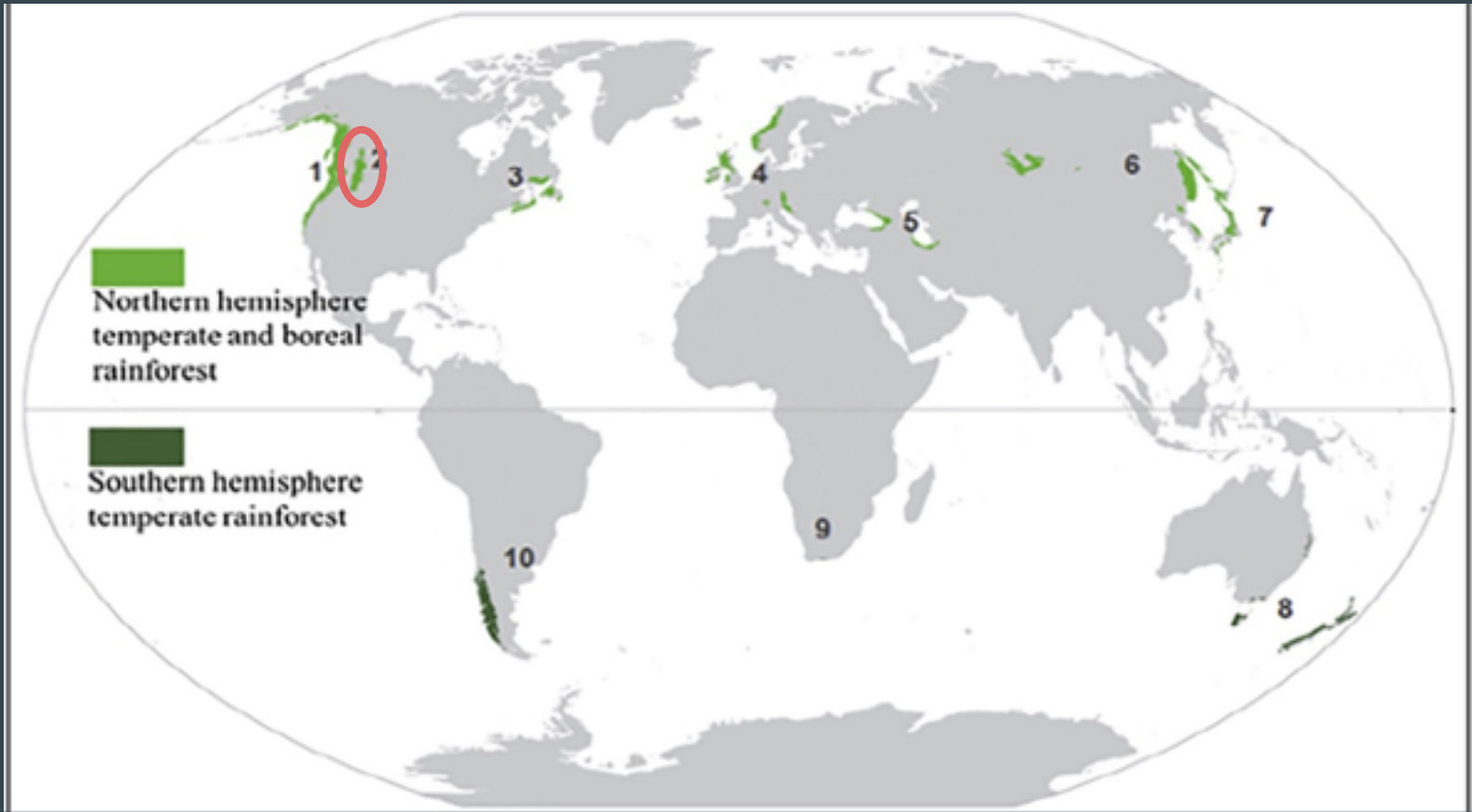
NEWS | A3

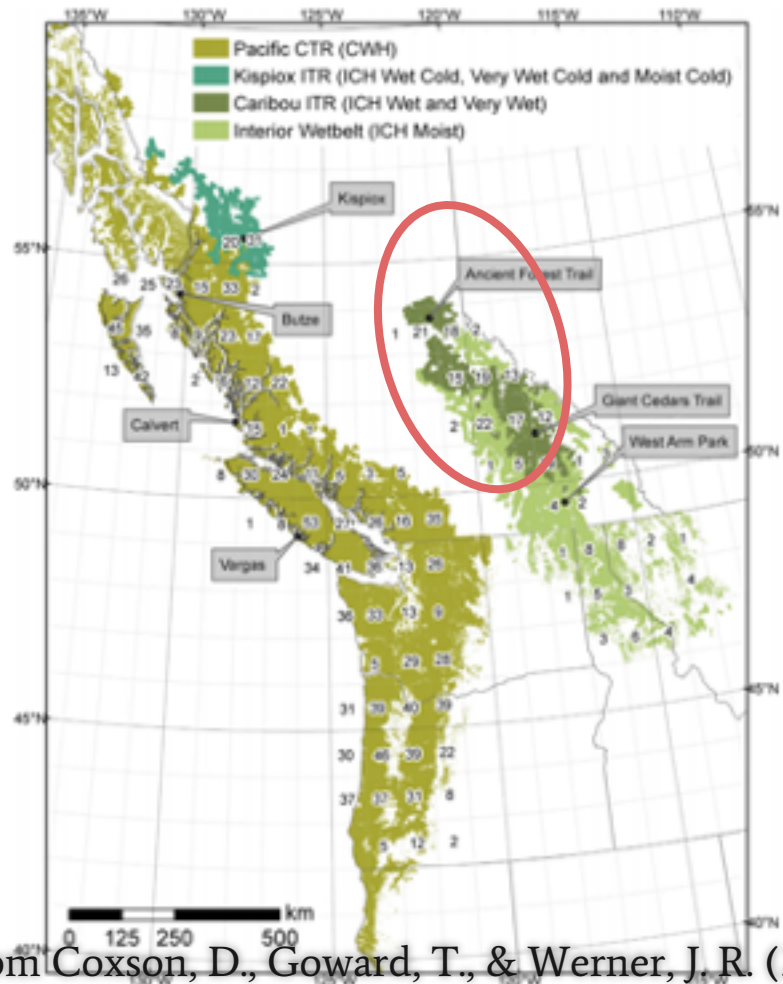
WILDLIFE POPULATIONS DROPPED 60 PER CENT IN PAST 40 YEARS: WWF

Canadian wildlife are not exempt from a "global biodiversity crisis" that is devastating worldwide animal populations, according to a stark new report by the World Wildlife Fund.

The group says in its 2018 that global wildlife populations have fallen by 60 per cent in the past four decades. The report says that 68 per cent of monitored bird populations have declined, 34 per cent of mammal populations have declined and 69 per cent of fish populations have declined.

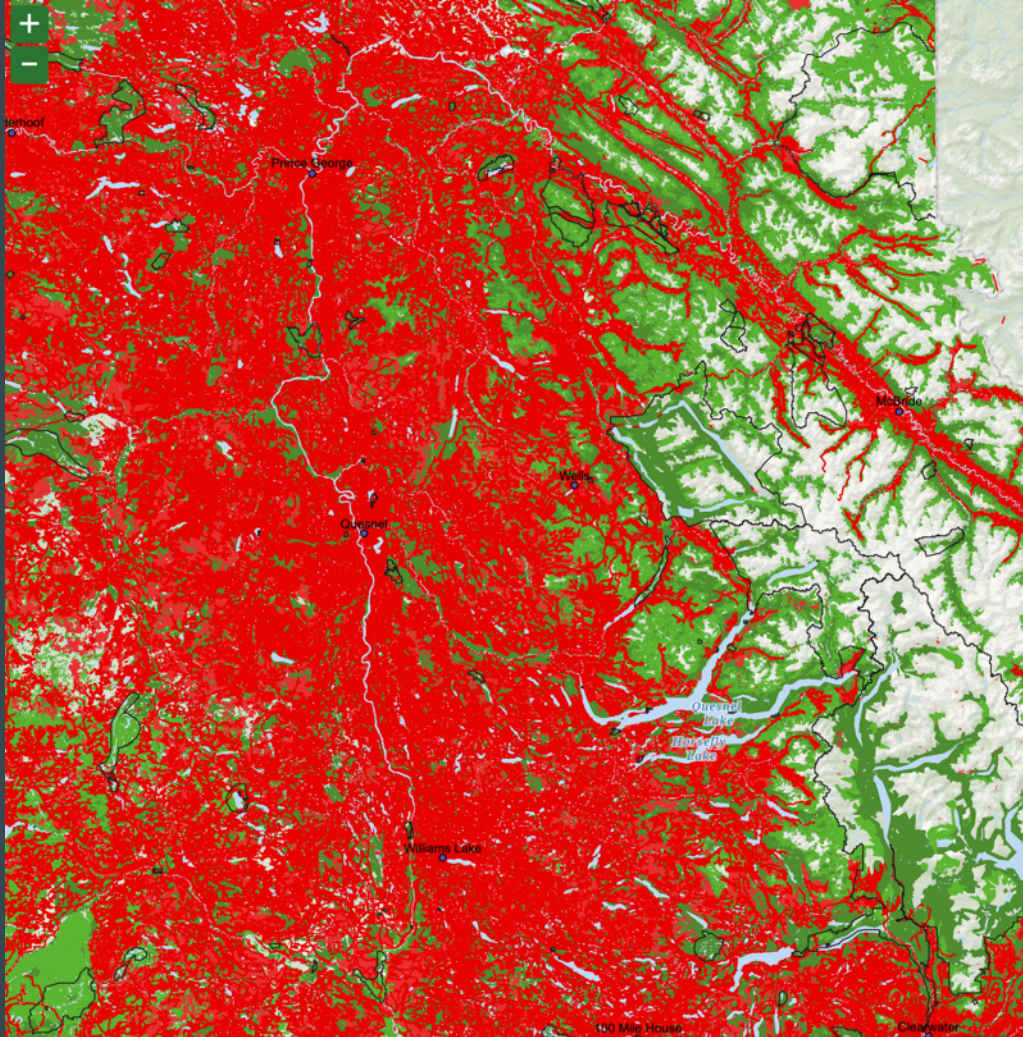






From Coxson, D., Goward, T., & Werner, J. R. (2019).





Seeing Red: BC's last primary forests

- Primary forest (higher productivity)
- Primary forest (lower productivity)
- Disturbed by industrial human activity
- Non forest (or no data)

Primary forest is natural forest of any age. Primary forest includes forest disturbed naturally, for example by wildfire, insects or wind, but excludes forest that has been degraded by logging, roads, or other industrial human activities.

Park and protected area boundaries are black.

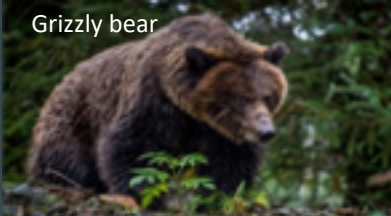
We used the Vegetation Resource Inventory data to define the forested landscape as lands having a site index of over 5. We defined lower productivity primary forest as having a site index of 5 to 10, and higher productivity primary forest as having a site index of 10 +. The industrially disturbed lands layer includes existing and approved cutblocks, roads, pipeline cutblocks, ways, major mines, transmission lines, agricultural land, and private land.

Data were downloaded in February, March and November 2020 from the BC Data Catalogue, the BC Oil and Gas Commission Centre portal, and the federal NFIS. Layers used are listed below. Provincial forest inventory data are coarse and this map may not be accurate at fine scales, or accurately depict logging prior to 1985.

Want to see how much old growth forest BC has left? [Click here](#). Visit us at conservationnorth.org to find out how you can help protect BC's remaining primary and old growth forests.



Grizzly bear



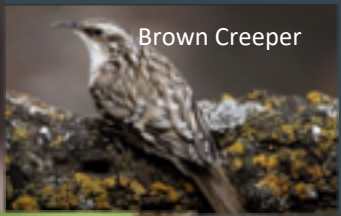
Fisher



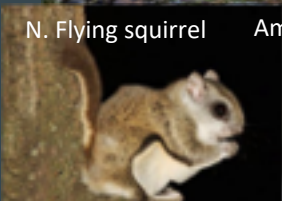
Northern Goshawk



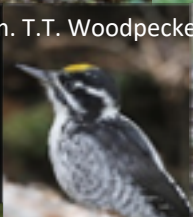
Brown Creeper



N. Flying squirrel



Am. T.T. Woodpecker



Boreal Owl



Golden-Crowned Kinglet



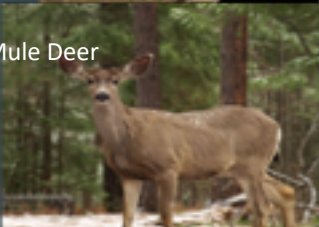
Pilated Woodpecker



Cougar



Mule Deer



Great Gray Owl



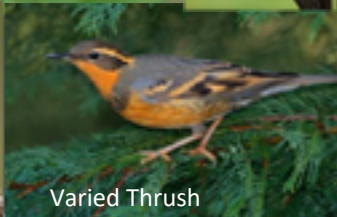
Hermit Thrush



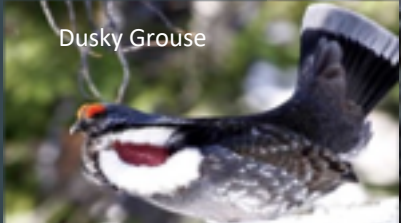
Coeur d'Alene salamander



Varied Thrush



Dusky Grouse



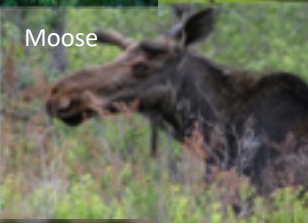
Canada Lynx



vaux's swift



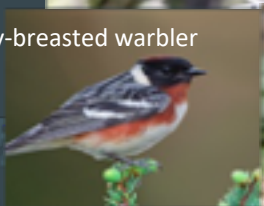
Moose



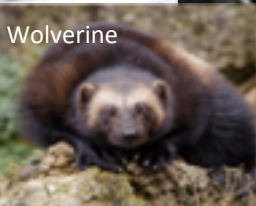
Black bear



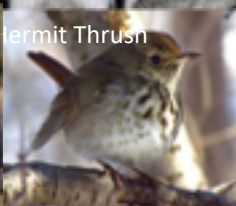
Bay-breasted warbler



Wolverine



Hermit Thrush



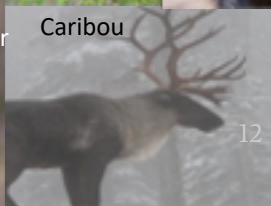
Pine marten



Hammond's Flycatcher



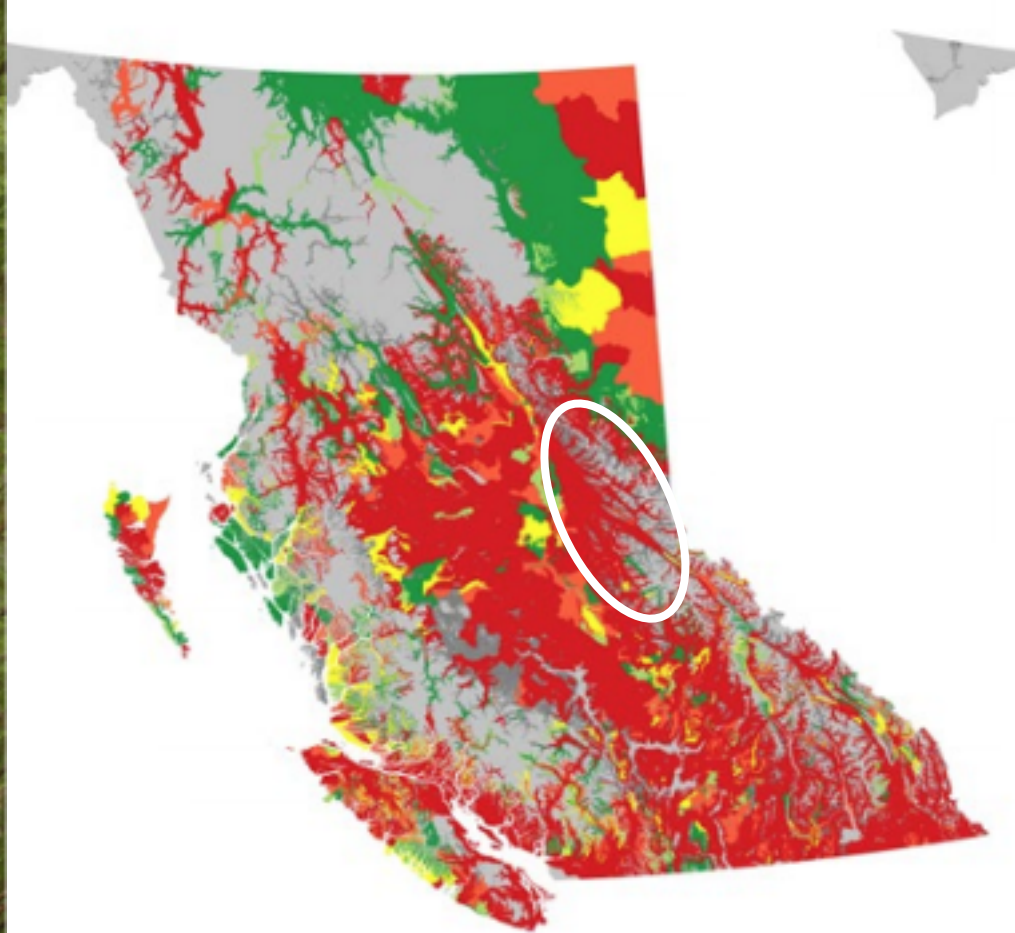
Caribou



BC's Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand for Biodiversity

April 2020

Karen Price, Ph.D., Rachel F. Holt, Ph.D., R.P.Bio
and Dave Daust R.P.F., M.Sc.



SI >15



Taylor Roades photo

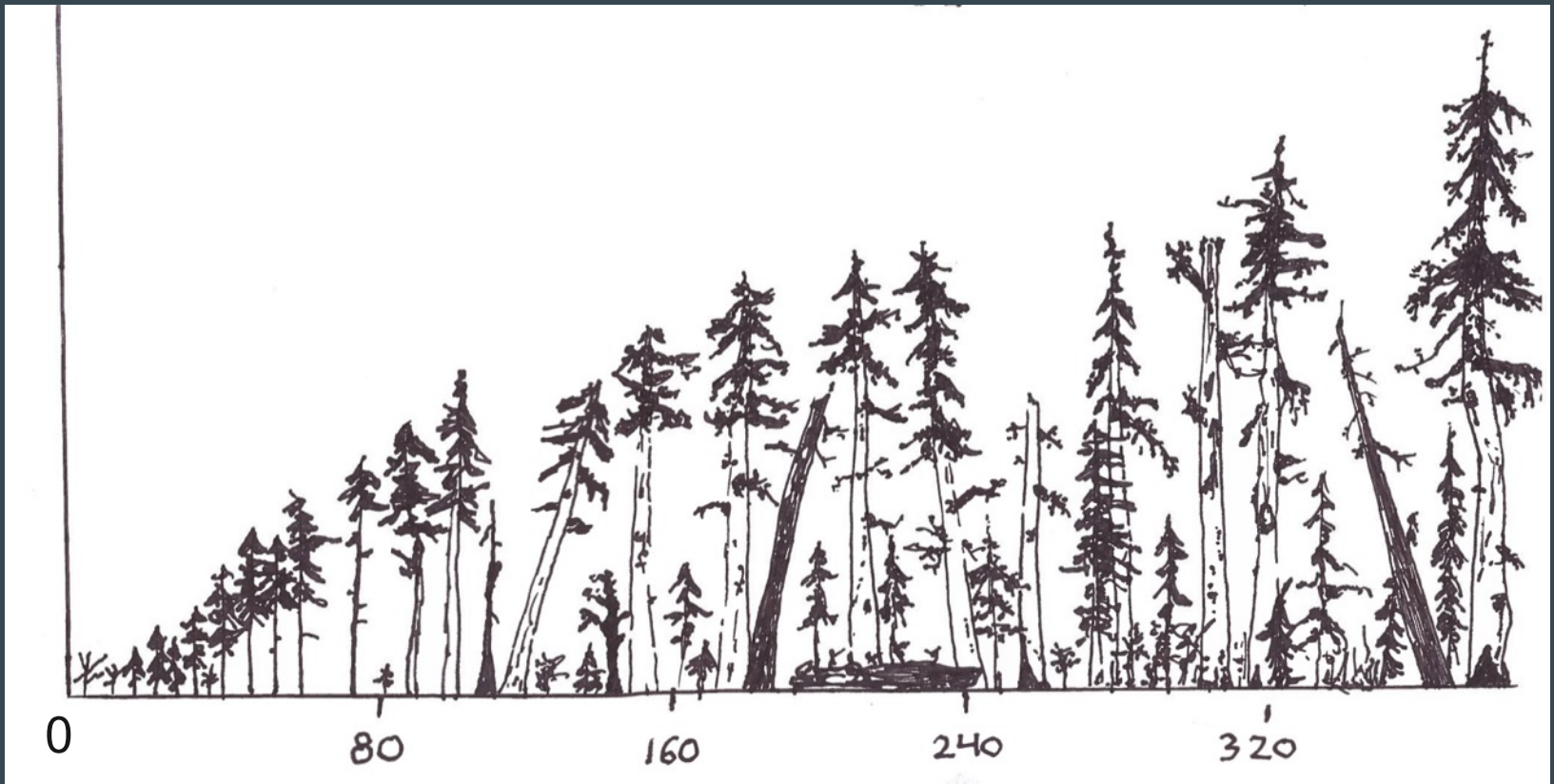


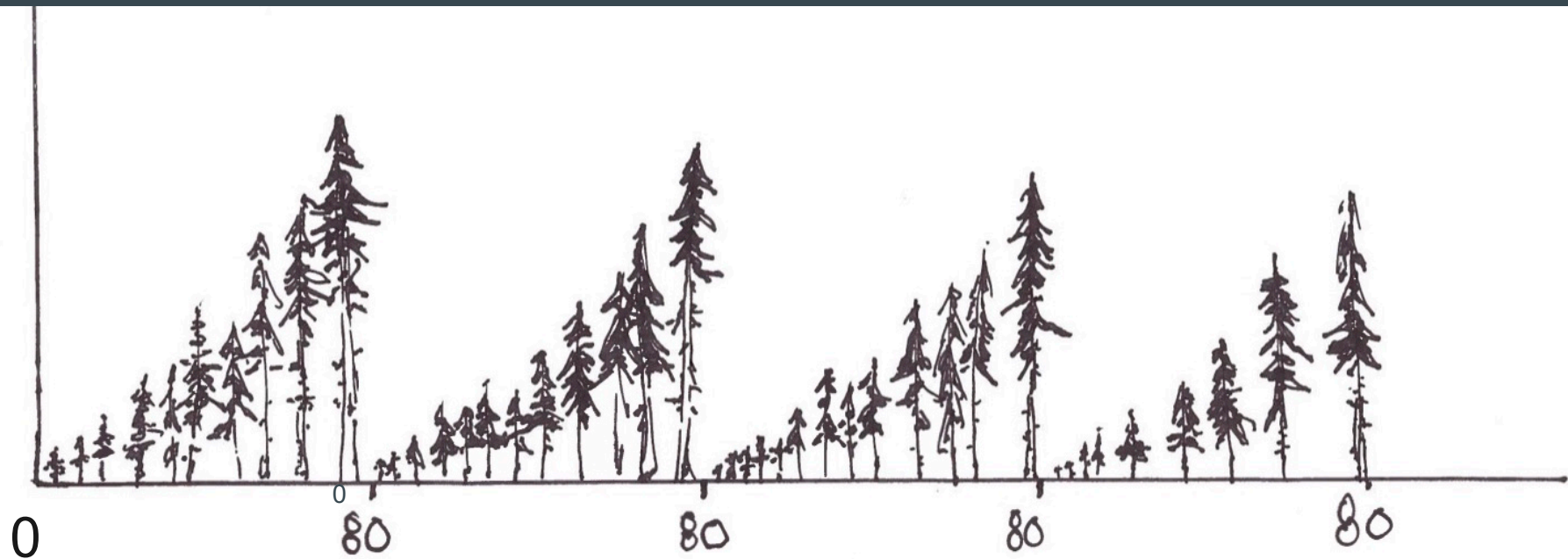
Boreal rainforest

Photo by Taylor Rodes



Inland rainforest

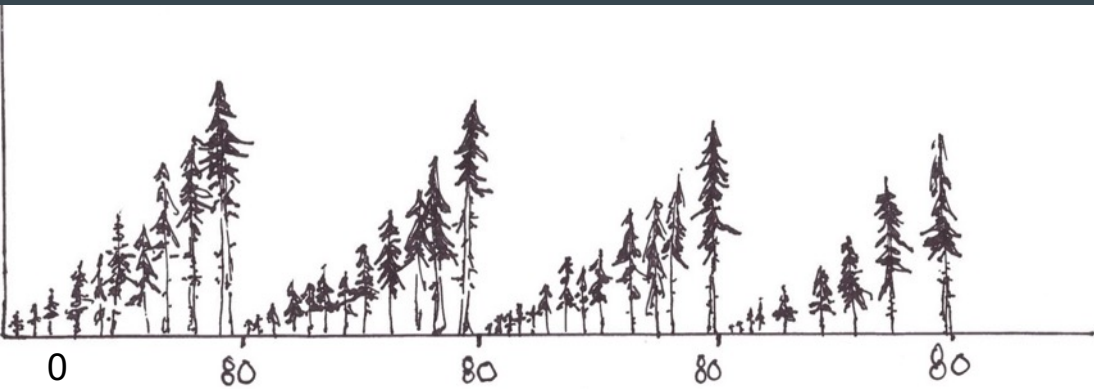
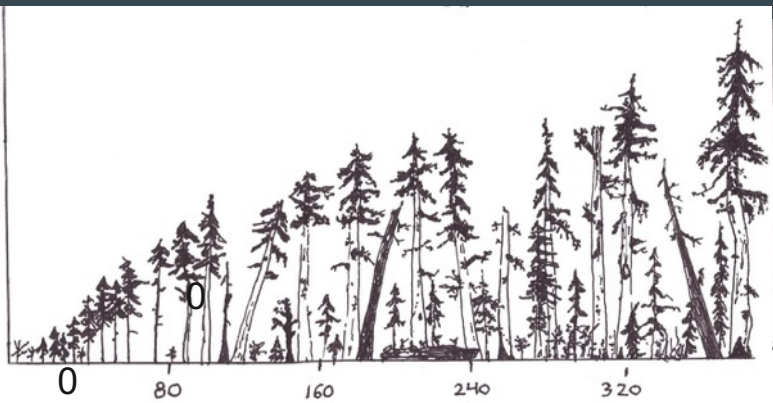






Artificial forest.







BC

Forest PROFESSIONAL

MARCH - APRIL 2016

Land-Application of Bioenergy Ashes in Northern BC

Is Digital Aerial Photogrammetry
LIDAR's Biggest Competitor?

Maximizing Use of the Land Base With Berry Planting

FREP: What is it and How
You Can Take Advantage

Bioenergy and Wood Ash: Creating Value From Waste



VIEWPOINT
Leadership Through Research

A stylized illustration of a forest scene using a stained glass technique. The trees are composed of various shades of green and brown, with black outlines separating the different sections. The background is a light, hazy forest scene. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and subtitle.

A NEW FUTURE FOR OLD FORESTS

A Strategic Review of How
British Columbia Manages
for Old Forests Within its
Ancient Ecosystems

Home > Forests > Mapping of old-growth deferral areas confirms forests ministry deception

Mapping of old-growth deferral areas confirms forests ministry deception

By David Broadland
Tuesday at 10:26 AM



The ministry of forests provided few details about the areas of old-growth forest on which it claimed it was before the provincial election. FOCUS has obtained mapping that confirms the ministry greatly overstated hectares."

Opinion / Op-Ed



Opinion: B.C.'s new old-growth strategy needs improvement

Opinion: The Old Growth Panel's top recommendation was to "declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority." This declaration would be paradigm-shifting, new and holistic.

Karen Price • Rachel Holt and Dave Daust
Oct 09, 2020 • October 9, 2020 • 3 minute read • [Join the conversation](#)



Old-growth forests are biodiversity hubs and carbon repositories and climate change refugia.
PHOTO BY DEBRA BRASH /Victoria Times Colonist



Defoliated by the western hemlock looper 20 yrs ago



Spruce beetle



Fire

The background of the slide is a stained glass illustration of a forest. The trees are depicted with various shades of green for the foliage and brown for the trunks, all separated by black outlines. The style is reminiscent of traditional stained glass art.

A NEW FUTURE FOR OLD FORESTS

A Strategic Review of How
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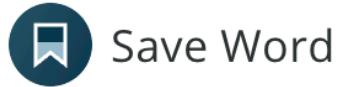
Recommendation #2 is to
prioritize “Ecosystem health”
(page 49).

The term “ecosystem health” is
used 22 times .

It is defined nowhere.

What does it mean?

euphemism noun



eu·phe·mism | \ 'yü-fə-,mi-zəm  \

Definition of *euphemism*

: the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant

also : the expression so substituted

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/forest-health>

A vertical illustration of a forest scene rendered in a stained glass style. The trees have thick black outlines and are filled with various shades of green and brown. The background is a light, hazy forest scene. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

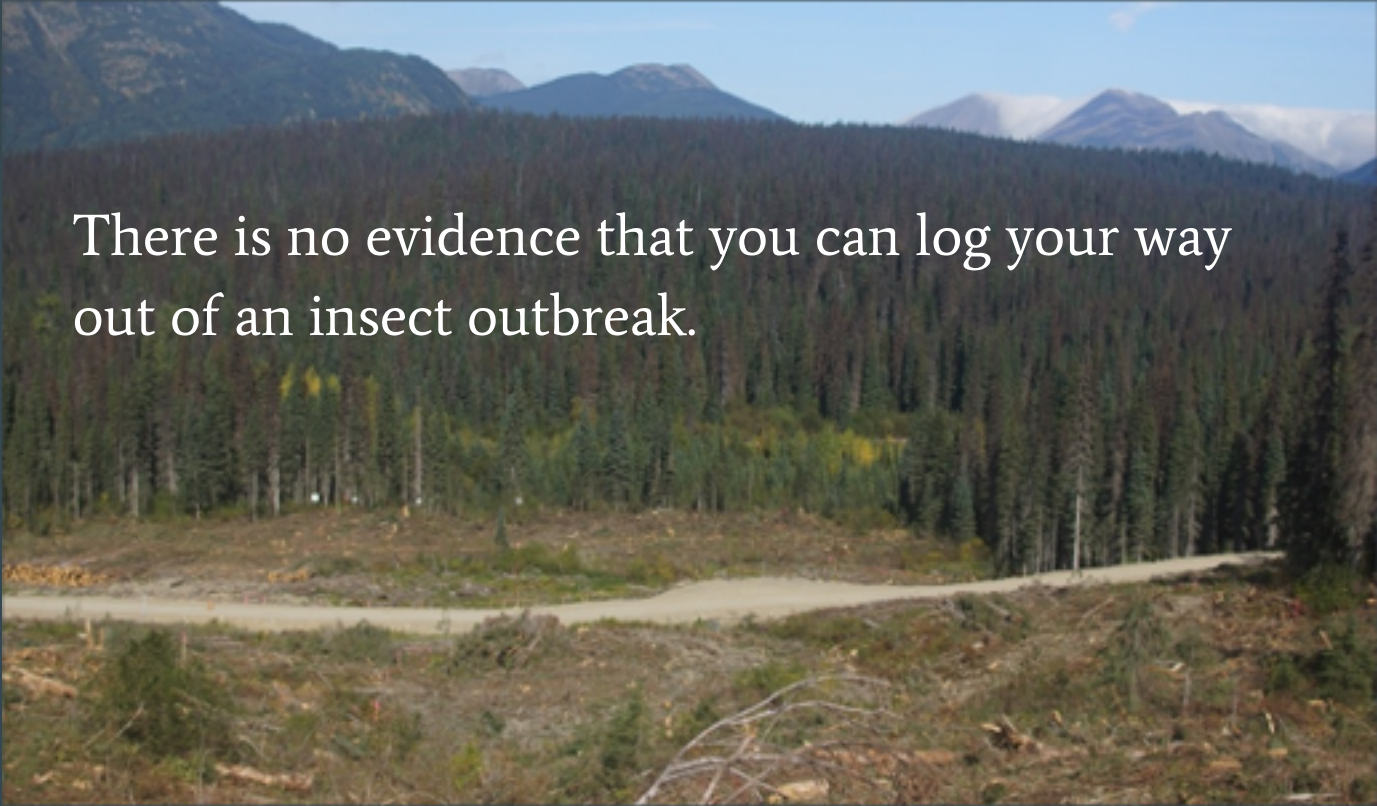
A NEW FUTURE FOR OLD FORESTS

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Ancient Ecosystems

Page 51:

“..there may be some management activities...to maintain **ecosystem health** and manage risk from fire, disease or insects.”

“we have forests that are protected for ecosystem biodiversity reasons but are promoting landscape **ecosystem health** problems because of our no-touch policy.”



There is no evidence that you can log your way
out of an insect outbreak.



FEATURES

'Healthy dollop' of Nathan Fillion: Alberta group snags actor as host of virtual forest tour



By Allison Bench · Global News

Posted January 18, 2021 10:36 am · Updated January 18, 2021 1:26 pm



The Alberta Forest Products Association has launched an online forest tour narrated by Nathan Fillion, to add some humour along with education. AFPA president Jason Krips said the agency wanted a way to make the virtual tours stand out.

forests...to
lthy, productive
cal role in
nities and the
d to natural

"If you leave those trees too long, they become the hazards for forest fire and pests, which then actually emulate and expand carbon. So it's important to actually harvest at the right time," Krips said.





”Hemlock supplemental forest license A93518”



”Hemlock supplemental forest license A93518”

A photograph of a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, with a thick canopy of green leaves. The forest floor is covered in a thick layer of green moss. A large tree trunk is prominent in the foreground on the left. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

”Hemlock supplemental forest license A93518”



”Hemlock supplemental forest license A93518”



”Hemlock supplemental forest license A93518”



Area logged by Pinnacle pellet company (approx. 2017)



stela drying technology

STELA Lashuber GmbH | Lashuberplatz 1 | D-84322 M
Tel. +49 8724 / 899-0 | E-Mail: sales@stela.de | www.st

Features > Pellets

Diane Nicholls: Pellets a good news story for BC's forests

December 9, 2020

By WPAC

Topics

Pellets



Diane Nicholls
Chief Forester
British Columbia

British Columbia's Chief Forester Diane Nicholls believes that the province has one of the best sustainable forest management regimes in the world and that pellets are a critical piece of forest health and the future of the bioeconomy.

From
<https://www.canadianbiomassmagazine.ca/diane-nicholls-pellets-a-good-news-story-for-bcs-forests/>

BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS,
NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Prince George Timber Supply Area

Rationale for Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) Determination

Effective October 11, 2017

Diane Nicholls, RPF
Chief Forester

current practice.

- *western hemlock leading stands*

Western hemlock is at the northern extent of its range in the Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) biogeoclimatic zone within the Prince George TSA and experiences extensive rot when mature. Western hemlock-leading stands make up 32 544 hectares of the CFMLB. In 2016 a **bioenergy** opportunity was offered as a 10-year non-replaceable forest licence (NRFL) for 25 000 cubic metres per year in this stand profile. Ministry staff report that to date no harvest has occurred on this licence and to date no forest stewardship plan has been submitted for approval. In the base case western hemlock-leading stands were removed from the THLB.

I accept that current practice is that western hemlock-leading stands have marginal utilization within the Prince George TSA and were appropriately removed from the THLB. I note that removal of these stands from the THLB does not preclude future development of opportunities within these stands. If, in future TSRs, harvest performance is demonstrated in these stands the chief forester will consider whether or not they should contribute to the THLB at that time.

- *bioenergy*

As a result of the impact of MPB on mature timber in the Prince George TSA, alternative opportunities for fibre utilization have been identified. A significant opportunity is the use of fibre for the production of **bioenergy** including electricity production, fueling of hot water-based heating systems, and manufacture of fuel pellets. The previous AAC determination included a contribution of 1.5 million cubic metres per year from bioenergy stands; however, the rationale did not provide a clear definition of the characteristics of bioenergy stands.

All bioenergy licences awarded and contemplated in the Prince George TSA have included a definition of eligible stands. These licences apply to stands below sawlog specifications to ensure protection of current commitments to sawlog licensees. Ministry staff indicate that to date, minimal harvesting has occurred



“There’s additional wood out there that we don’t currently utilize. That’s where the opportunity is for the bioeconomy. The only way to access that wood is through a concerted effort on changing how we harvest and pull it in from the woods.”

Chief Forester Diane Nicholls,
June 25, 2020



“Low-value”

“Damaged”

“Waste”

”Hemlock supplemental forest license A93518”

“Low carbon”?

“Clean energy”?

“Green energy”?

”Hemlock supplemental forest license A93518”

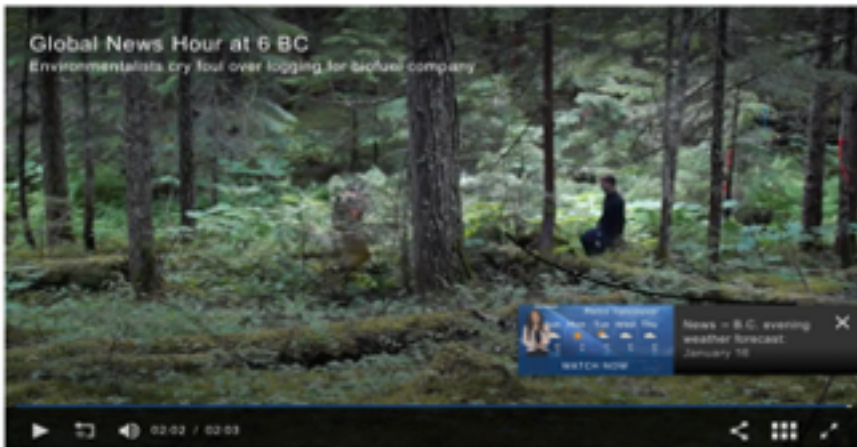


This isn't about doing right by the climate.
It's about finding new ways to revive a dying sector.



Global News Hour at 6 BC

Environmentalists cry foul over logging for biofuel company



News = B.C. evening
weather forecast
January 16

WATCH NOW

02:02 / 02:03

Environmentalists cry foul over logging for biofuel company

Environmentalists are raising red flags about proposed logging near Prince George that they say is going to a company that's supposed to use wood waste. Paul Johnson reports.

YouTube CA Search



0:48 / 4:22

Pellets for power: liquidating rainforests for the grid

The Narwhal

BECOME A NARWHAL



NEWS

B.C. gives Pacific BioEnergy green light to log rare inland rainforest for wood pellets

Prince George plant will grind ancient cedar and hemlock into pellets to be burned for fuel overseas, destroying forest that's home to endangered caribou and vast stores of carbon

Paul Simons, Local Journalism Initiative reporter • Oct 5, 2020

0 0 min read

Related
Environmentalists threaten to sue over logging plan in British Columbia as a threat of B.C. to create regional parkland, which is not to be logged for pellets, the writer says. [Open in new window](#)

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, moss-covered trees and a lush green undergrowth. The trees are tall and thin, with thick trunks. The ground is covered in moss and ferns. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a forest interior.

“Natural resource management has been an effort to create order and predictability out of complex natural systems for short-term economic benefit”

Command and Control and the Pathology of Natural Resource Management, C.S. Holling

A photograph showing a person wearing a blue shirt, dark pants, and a high-visibility vest sitting on a large, weathered log. The log is part of a large pile of cut timber. The background is a cleared forest area with many stumps and scattered wood debris. In the distance, there are green mountains under a cloudy sky. A line of standing evergreen trees is visible on the right side of the image.

The threat to BC's last primary forests is intensifying.

Area adjacent to the pellet license

A landscape photograph of a mountain valley. The foreground is dominated by a dense, dark green forest of evergreen trees. Beyond the forest, there are rolling hills and valleys covered in a mix of green grass and patches of brownish, possibly burnt or cleared land. In the background, several mountain ranges are visible, with the highest peaks partially obscured by a layer of grey, overcast clouds. The overall scene is a vast, natural landscape.

To date there is no real long-term protection of the most at risk old growth in BC.

An aerial photograph showing a landscape with a mix of green forest and cleared, brownish areas. A winding road or path is visible, along with some scattered trees in the cleared areas. The text is overlaid on the image.

Forestry should be restricted to areas already converted

Primary forests should be left alone

No such thing as 'sustainable' logging of primary forest anymore

A photograph of a forest stream with mossy rocks and fallen trees. The water is clear and flows over the rocks. The surrounding forest is dense with tall trees and green foliage. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

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