

Walbran Wednesday Sample Script – Wednesday, October 5th

**We can't predict exactly how your conversation will go, but this script can help guide your call and provide you with sample responses to possible scenarios with the staff at John Horgan's office(s). Depending on the staff's response, you may not have the opportunity to express all the points you want to make during the call. But at the very least, be sure that they note your call and register your opposition to logging in the Central Walbran Valley. When you are speaking to staff, please remember to be respectful.*

Hi, my name is _____, and I'm calling to urge John Horgan to formally oppose cutblock 4424 and the other planned cutblocks in the endangered Central Walbran Valley on southern Vancouver Island.

I am concerned that I have not heard or read about Mr. Horgan opposing the logging destruction in the Walbran Valley. When will he take a public stand on this very important issue?

If they allow you to proceed with voicing your concerns, or transfer you to someone else who will take your call:

I'm very concerned about logging in the Central Walbran Valley, because this area contains some of the last intact tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest left on southern Vancouver Island. Over 90 per cent of low-elevation old-growth on the Island has been removed, and there simply aren't enough of these monumental forests left to continue to log. A recent research published by Sierra Club BC shows that the current rate of old-growth logging will lead to ecosystem extinction if continued.

Old-growth forests provide habitat for endangered species, purify water, and store more carbon than younger forests, which we need to reduce the impacts of climate change. Intact forests with extremely large and old trees are also irreplaceable resources for culture and tourism.

I have a personal connection to the Central Walbran because... *(use your own words and explain your own personal reasons for wanting to protect this area – be yourself!)*

This is an opportunity for Mr. Horgan to show leadership by listening to the thousands of people speaking up about this issue who want this very special area of ancient forest protected from being logged.

If they say that members of Mr. Horgan's caucus have met with ENGO's on this issue:

I know, but the Opposition has not issued a statement on the Walbran or clarified its position on the issue.

If the staff says that Mr. Horgan has to ensure that any forest policy decisions don't negatively affect jobs or the local economy:

The area we are asking to protect in the Central Walbran Valley is just 486 hectares, which is a very small fraction of Teal Jones' licence area in TFL 46. *(You may refer them to the Wilderness Committee's map of the area, which was shared with the company months ago and is available at*

WildernessCommittee.org/walbran) Additionally, motions against old-growth logging in areas like the Walbran Valley have been passed by the Union of BC Municipalities and by the BC Chamber of Commerce, who cited the importance of intact old-growth to local economies.

If/when they try to end the call:

Please formally oppose all planned cutblocks in the Central Walbran Valley, north of the Walbran River. The Opposition's job is to oppose bad ideas, and I urge Mr. Horgan to stand with citizens, municipalities and local businesses on this important issue. Thank you.

If they ask if they can take your contact information and have someone call you back:

It's up to you – you can either give them an opportunity to return your call, or use some of the points in this script to write an email to Mr. Horgan.

Other helpful points, facts and statistics:

- Some of the biggest trees in the world are within Teal Jones' cutblocks – including 1,000-year old trees, some with circumferences as big as a living room. Forests with trees like this are living monuments, and should be treated as such.
- More than 90 per cent of low-elevation old-growth on Vancouver Island has already been logged.
- More than 8,000 people – in addition to [the Union of BC Municipalities](#) and [the BC Chamber of Commerce](#) – have written to the Minister of Forests and asked him to rescind the permit for Teal Jones' cutblock 4424 and stop old-growth logging in the Walbran Valley