

Where is the Walbran Valley?

The Walbran Valley lies just a few hours outside of Victoria, BC on southwestern Vancouver Island. Accessible by logging road from both Port Renfrew and Lake Cowichan, the Walbran is within the unceded territory of the Pacheedaht First Nation, who have stewarded this forest for thousands of years.

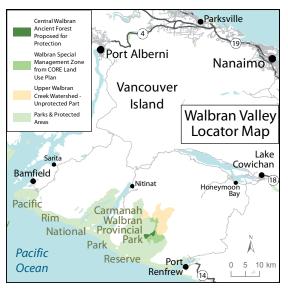
Why does it matter?

The Walbran is home to one of the most spectacular intact tracts of old-growth rainforest left in BC.

1,000-year-old trees with trunks as large as a living room tower above a forest ecosystem that hasn't been

disturbed since the last ice age. The lush undergrowth and crystal clear waters of the Walbran River provide habitat for countless wildlife species – many of which can only thrive in old-growth environments.

In a changing climate, the Walbran Valley is of unparalleled importance. Old-growth forests store more climate-changing carbon than younger forests, and leaving these giant trees standing is a key step to fight climate change in BC.



What's going on in the Walbran?

Somehow, much of this incredible rainforest is still unprotected from logging and is at risk of being destroyed forever.

Part of the Walbran Valley was protected in the early 1990s after an extensive public campaign by the Wilderness Committee and other activists. But some of the most important old-growth rainforest was left open to logging and is still being cut.

In 2015, the Wilderness Committee learned that logging company Teal Jones was targeting the Central Walbran Valley – the last intact area of old-growth of its size on southern Vancouver Island.



The Wilderness Committee launched an extensive campaign to prevent the company from pursuing these plans, and to urge the BC government to deny any cutting permits in this sensitive ecosystem.

Teal Jones has refused to alter its course, and the BC government has shown no leadership on the issue – despite an escalating situation in the Valley.

We're calling on the Government of BC to rescind logging permits in the Central Walbran Valley and protect the intact ancient rainforest in a way that works for the local First Nation and the ecosystem.

Teal Jones is currently cutting 1,000-year-old trees – moving closer to the heart of the Walbran Valley every day.

We need YOUR help to save this place, before it's too late.



What can you do?

✓ **Write** our elected leaders + demand they rescind logging permits for cutblocks in the Central Walbran Valley. wildernesscommittee.org/walbran

✓ **Volunteer** with us + help build the movement to protect one of the west coast's most spectacular rainforests! email: emily@wildernesscommittee.org

✓ **Donate** to our campaign to save the valley! <u>wildernesscommittee.org/donations</u>

✓ Get to the Walbran

to explore, take photos, help with trail work + experience the magic for yourself!

Photos: Shane Johnson, Ty Jones, TJ Watt and WC Files.

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