

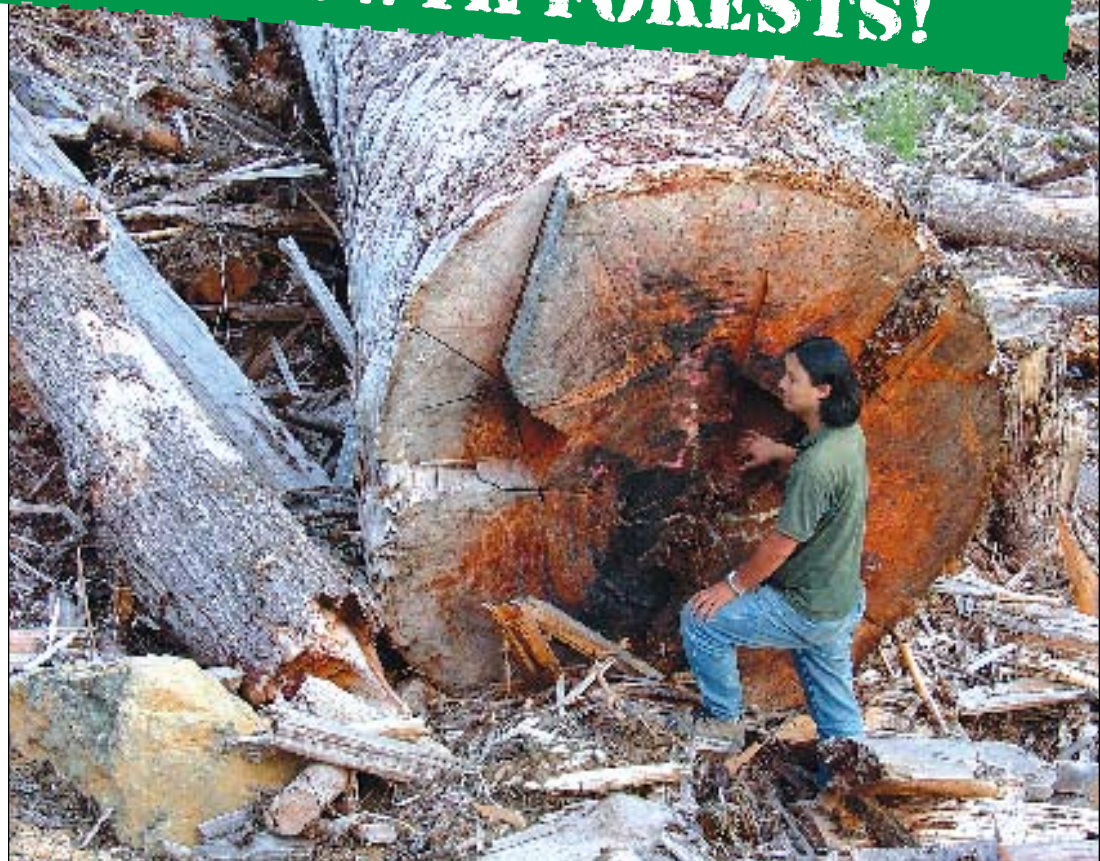


VANCOUVER ISLAND

# Protecting Paradise

MAPS INSIDE

**SAVE VANCOUVER ISLAND'S REMAINING OLD-GROWTH FORESTS!**



90% of the valley-bottom ancient forests on Vancouver Island have already been logged-off. Both of these photos are in the endangered Upper Walbran Valley. On the left is the spectacular "Mordor Tree", a giant redcedar with a fortress-like top. Photo: TJ Watt. On the right is a giant ancient Douglas-fir snag cut down. Photo: Jeremy Sean Williams.

## It's Time to End Old-Growth Logging on Vancouver Island

**H**ave you been fortunate enough to visit Vancouver Island's famed old-growth forests in Cathedral Grove? The West Coast Trail? Carmanah Valley? Clayoquot Sound? Meares Island? Pacific Rim Park? Walbran Valley? Juan de Fuca Trail? Sombrio Beach? China Beach? Goldstream? Cape Scott?

If you've experienced even just a few of these special places, then you know that the old-growth forests of Vancouver Island are among the most spectacular landscapes to be found anywhere on Earth. Monumental trees reach heights rivaling a 30 story office tower and can live to be 1,800 years old!

The Island's forests are home to wolves, cougars, black bears, elk, five species of salmon in its streams, and at-risk, old-growth associated wildlife like marbled murrelets (a seabird that nests high in the treetops), Queen Charlotte goshawks, Vaux's swifts, Keen's and Townsend's long-eared bats, and numerous smaller critters unique to old-growth forest canopies.

People come from around the world to marvel at the huge trees with their moss-draped branches, making old-growth forests a fundamental pillar of Vancouver Island's tourism economy. The old-growth forests are also of great cultural and spiritual importance to First Nations who have been sustained by them for millennia.

However, if you've flown over Vancouver Island or driven its backwoods roads, you know that much of the old-growth forests have been laid low by more than a century of clearcut logging. Recent satellite photos show that at least 73% of Vancouver Island's ancient forests have already been cut down, including 90% of the valley bottom ancient forests where the biggest trees grow and the greatest variety of living things are found. Unfortunately, only 6% of Vancouver Island's productive forests are protected in parks.

**This gorgeous canyon in the Nahmint Valley is a great place to swim. Old-growth forests conserve water in the spongy, rotten wood of giant logs. They produce clean water for young salmon and steelhead. The Nahmint contains BC's most extensive stand of old-growth coastal Douglas-firs in Gracie's Grove.**

Old-growth forests outside of parks are being rapidly logged-off, eliminating critical habitat for many of the Island's endangered plants and animals.

Recently the BC government set a timetable of targets for reducing our province's greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat climate change. That's good news! However, old-growth forests are far better at sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than

the seedlings and second-growth tree plantations that they are being replaced with after they are cut down.

It's time for the BC government to set a timetable to phase-out the logging of Vancouver Island's remaining old-growth forests to protect our climate and biodiversity.

The Wilderness Committee is calling on BC's government to immediately ban logging of the Island's most endangered old-growth forest types, and to quickly phase-out logging of the rest of Vancouver Island's old-growth forests by 2015.

This will require the timber industry to make a complete transition into logging of second-growth forests, ideally at a slower, more sustainable rate of cut.

Other jurisdictions like New Zealand and southwestern Australia have completely banned old-growth logging in recent years.

Fortunately BC is in a position to feasibly do the same on Vancouver Island because we have an extensive supply of mature second-growth forests to log. Almost two-thirds of the logging taking place on Vancouver Island is in second-growth forests. Timber industry analysts say that the industry must continue this transition to more second-growth logging in order to remain profitable. The full transition into a second-growth logging industry is inevitable when the last of the unprotected old-growth forests have been logged-out. However, we believe the BC government must mandate that the logging industry complete this transition BEFORE it has finished off the last of our unprotected old-growth forests!

By banning raw log exports to provide for a greater wood supply to BC mills and assisting the development of manufacturing facilities of "value-added" wood products, the BC government can legislate protection for the remaining old-growth forests on Vancouver Island, while maintaining forestry employment levels. Vancouver Island's First Nations, wildlife, tourism industry, fishing industry, timber workers, recreationists and the people of Canada will all greatly benefit. It's a win-win solution that we can't afford to pass up.

**Save the Old-Growth.  
Value Add Second-Growth.  
Ban Raw Log Exports.**



# Maps reveal how little old-growth forest remains



The maps here contrast the extent of Vancouver Island's old-growth forests as they existed in 1860 and in 2004, the latest year that our researchers have Landsat satellite photos for Vancouver Island. Researchers have found that old-growth forests show up in darker green shades in satellite photos while second-growth forests show up as lighter green. This has proven to be quite an accurate way to map where old-growth and younger forests are located today.

## Not all Old-Growth Forests are the Same

**Low productivity old-growth forests** (BROWN on the maps) refer to old-growth forests with very slow growth rates. These include coastal bog forests, scrubby forests on rocky sites, and snow forests (ie. the Mountain Hemlock zone) found near the tops of mountains. Low productivity old-growth forests are usually unprofitable to log and they regenerate very slowly and poorly if they are logged. Unfortunately snow forests are increasingly being logged in recent times for their ancient giant yellow-cedars, which can live to be over 18 centuries old!

**Productive old-growth forests** (GREEN on the maps), also called "ancient" forests, are where moderate to fast growth rates result in massive trees and lush undergrowth. Old-growth Sitka spruce and Douglas-fir trees can approach 90 meters in height while old-growth redcedars can reach 18 meters in circumference! Productive old-growth forests have been targeted for cutting ever since industrial logging commenced on Vancouver Island in the 1860s.

**Second-growth forests** (YELLOW on the maps, which also includes cities and farmland) are where the timber industry has previously logged the old-growth forests. Most second-growth forests are on productive sites.

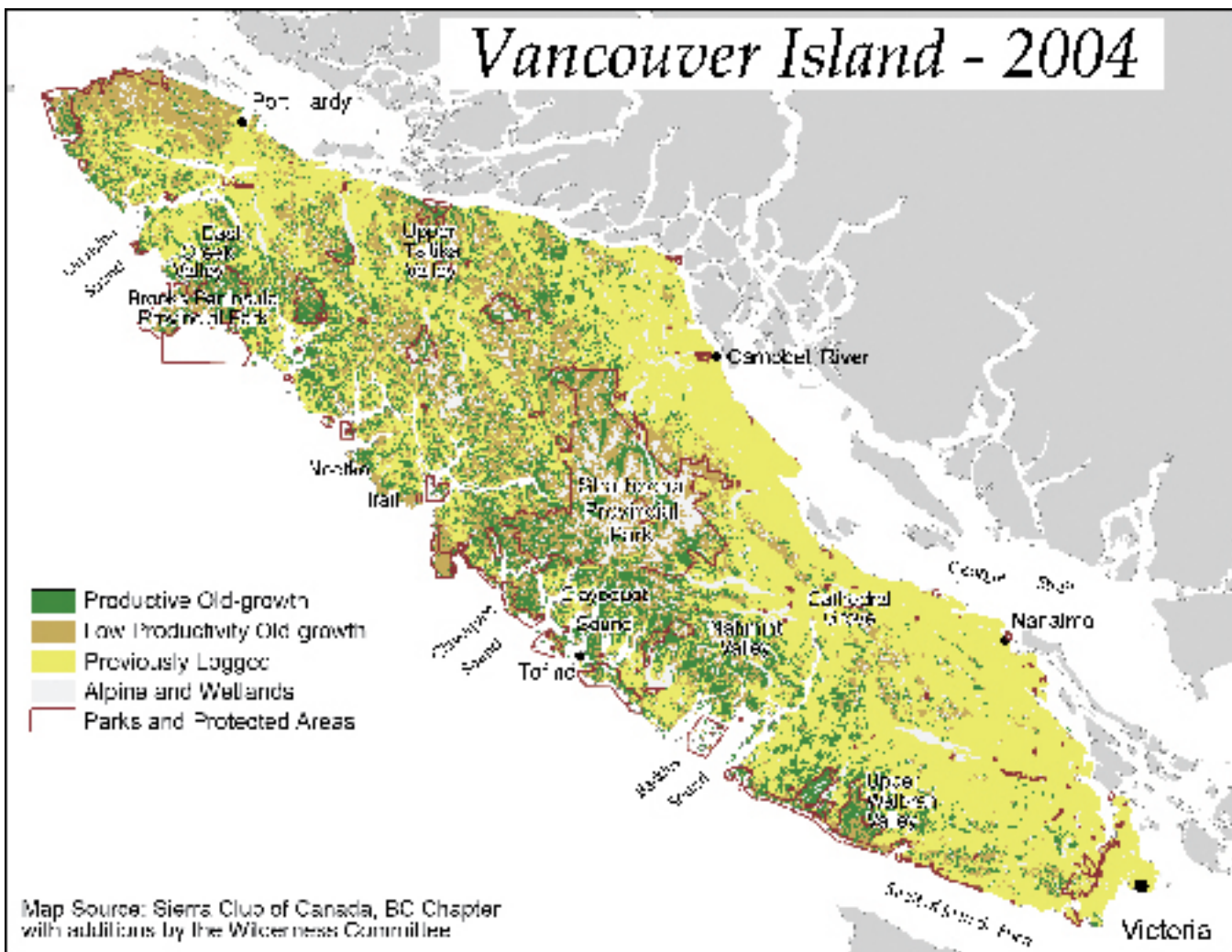
## Keeping score on Vancouver Island

### How much remains on Vancouver Island:

- 73% of its original productive old-growth forests have already been logged.
- 90% of the productive old-growth forests on low, flat terrain (ie. less than 300 meters above sea level, with slopes less than 17%), such as valley bottoms where the biggest trees typically grow, have been logged.
- 99% of the old-growth forests in the Coastal Douglas-fir zone on the east side of Vancouver Island have been logged.
- 87% of the productive old-growth forests on the South Island (south of Barkley Sound/Horne Lake) have been logged.

### How much of Vancouver Island is protected in parks:

- 13% of its total land area is protected in parks.
- 6% of its productive forests (old-growth and second-growth) are protected in parks.
- Less than 1% of its original old-growth Coastal Douglas-fir forest is protected in parks.
- Within its parks, 65% of the land consists of alpine tundra, low productivity forests (bogs, scrub forests and high altitude forests), and previously logged forests.
- 35% of land within its parks are productive old-growth forests.



Left: A gorgeous emerald pool in the Upper Walbran Valley, filled with young trout.

Below: Old-growth deciduous rainforests, including this moss-draped broadleaf maple near Cowichan Lake, are found largely on private lands. Many are in grave danger of being logged. The BC Government must set-up a province-wide fund to purchase private forest lands for protection.



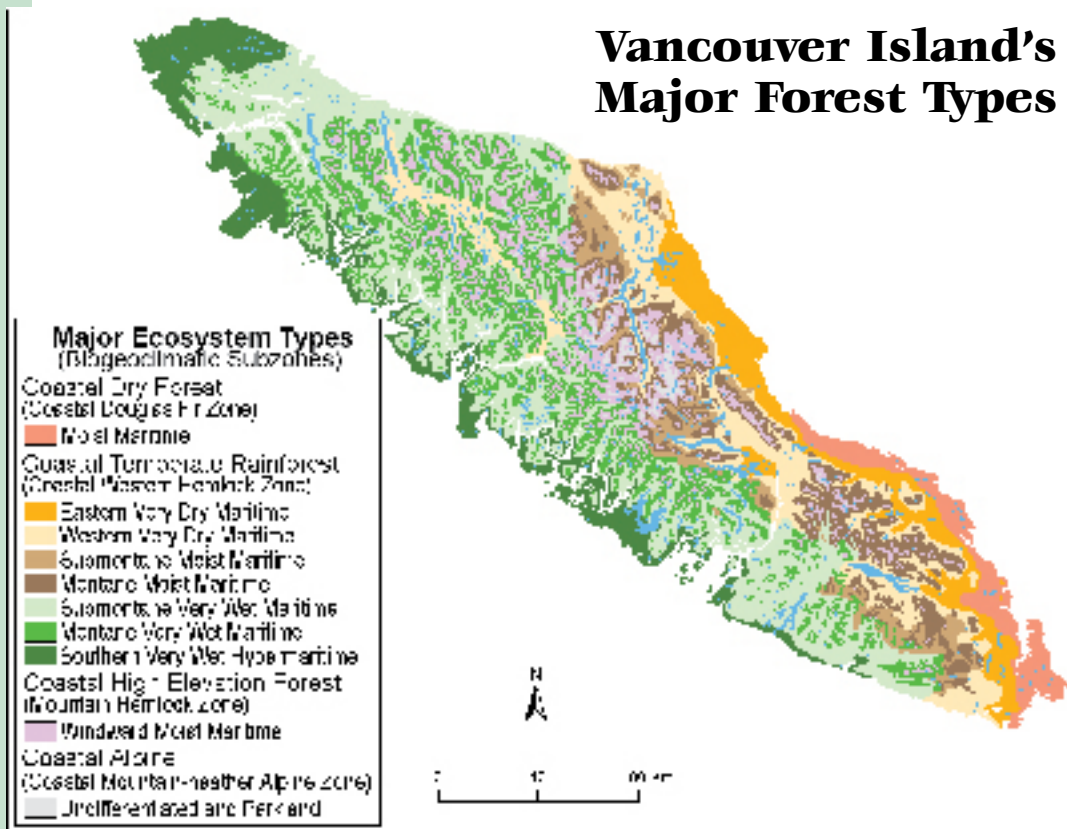
# Protecting Vancouver Island's old-growth forests and community jobs

## Ten steps towards success

### The BC government must...

1. Enact immediate closures on old-growth logging in the most endangered forest types. These include old-growth forests on the eastern side of Vancouver Island (ie. Coastal Douglas-fir and Very Dry Coastal Western Hemlock forests); on low, flat terrain, including valley bottoms; on the South Island (south of Barkley Sound/Horne Lake); and in the Mountain Hemlock snow forests where growth rates are very slow.
2. Enact old-growth logging closures over the rest of Vancouver Island by 2015 with a transition to second-growth logging at a reduced pace.
3. Ban raw log exports from Crown and private lands.
4. Establish regional log markets to create a guaranteed log supply for local mills and value-added manufacturers where logs will be made available through an open-bidding process.
5. Establish a new land-use plan for Vancouver Island to expand protected areas in all ecosystems, including in old-growth and second-growth forests. A new Vancouver Island land-use plan should be based on conservation biology science, open public input, and First Nations-devised land-use plans.
6. Ensure that all land-use and resource allocation changes by the BC government undergo meaningful consultation and accommodation of First Nations title interests.
7. Expand Community Forestry Tenures, First Nations' tenures, and Woodlot Licenses in second-growth Crown forests.
8. Shift taxes and use Forest Investment funds to assist in the development of a value-added wood industry and aid in the development of second-growth mills.
9. Establish strong forest practices regulations based on Ecosystem-Based Management principles that entail a slower, more sustainable rate of cut in second-growth forests.
10. Establish small old-growth logging reserves in certain forest types (ie. Very Wet Montane Maritime and Hypermaritime forests) on western Vancouver Island where the old-growth is more extensive. These old-growth logging reserves will supply a small quantity of logs for the high-end, value-added wood manufacturing sector (eg. furniture manufacturers) and only allow single-tree selection logging, with a rate of cut less than the annual growth rate of their productive forests. In total, these old-growth logging reserves should cover less than 5% of the remaining productive old-growth in those forest types.

## Vancouver Island's Major Forest Types



Below left: The "Grandma Betty" Douglas-fir in the Upper Walbran Valley is 3 meters wide. 99% of old-growth Douglas-firs have been cut down. Right: The "Castle Giant" redcedar in the Upper Walbran Valley. Redcedar is particularly important to First Nations cultures.



## First Nations' Cultures Rooted in Old-Growth Forests

As in Clayoquot Sound, one of the keys to protecting Vancouver Island's remaining old-growth forests is to support enacting First Nations' land-use planning initiatives into law.

For example, the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group representing over 6,200 members from six aboriginal groups on southeastern Vancouver Island has developed a land-use plan that calls for the protection of the remaining old-growth forests in their territories. Similarly, the Hupacasath First Nation, one of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth tribes, has a land-use plan that includes increased protection for old-growth redcedars, yellow-cedars and the ecosystems they support.

An end to industrial logging of Vancouver Island's old-growth forests will help guarantee a supply of ancient red cedars and other old-growth trees for First Nations' cultural uses.

The Wilderness Committee believes that the BC government must establish a new Vancouver Island-wide land-use plan (the last one was in 1994) that incorporates all of the Island's various First Nations land-use plans. First Nations' rights to cut down individual old-growth trees for canoes and for cultural uses should be protected in areas closed to industrial logging. In addition, the Wilderness Committee supports First Nations' management and co-management of protected old-growth forests.

## Clayoquot Sound: Leading the Way

The largest remaining tracts of old-growth forests on Vancouver Island are in Clayoquot Sound, a 260,000 hectare region surrounding the west coast village of Tofino. Because of its rugged terrain and remoteness the logging industry was slow to get a foothold here. Consequently over 70% of its old-growth forests are still intact.

The aboriginal owners of the territory are the Clayoquot tribes of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. They, in cooperation with environmental groups, have worked hard over the years to resist clearcutting in special areas like Meares Island.

In early 1993, some 12,000 people led by the Friends of Clayoquot Sound took part in protests to oppose MacMillan Bloedel's logging operations in the area. Almost 900 people were arrested for peacefully blocking the way of the logging trucks, which made it the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history.

MacMillan Bloedel eventually abandoned its plans to log Clayoquot Sound's pristine valleys and went on to give over the company's logging rights to the Nuu-chah-nulth controlled logging company, Lisaak Forest Resources.

In 1998, the Clayoquot Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Nuu-chah-nulth's Clayoquot Chiefs, Lisaak Forest Resources, and 4 environmental groups – Greenpeace, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Wilderness Committee. The agreement declared that all of Clayoquot Sound's remaining pristine valleys and islands are *eehmis* (Nuu-chah-nulth for *very special places*) which are to be off-limits to logging. Lisaak's logging, it was agreed, would occur in already fragmented areas, eventually transitioning away from logging old-growth to logging second-growth forests.

Clayoquot Sound continues to be at the forefront of old-growth forest conservation efforts on Vancouver Island. To keep Clayoquot Sound moving towards sustainability the BC government needs to legislate protection for the Nuu-chah-nulth's *eehmis* areas by enshrining First Nations land-use planning outcomes in law and provide economic development funds – as the provincial government recently did in the Great Bear Rainforest on BC's mainland coast. This will help the Nuu-chah-nulth people develop forest-friendly businesses and local employment opportunities.

It's worth noting that since the signing of the MOU by the First Nations and environmental groups back in 1998, Clayoquot Sound has been designated a UN Biosphere Reserve and has become one of Canada's premier eco-tourism destinations, generating an estimated \$100 million in tourism revenues each year.

Sydney Inlet and Pretty Girl Valley in Clayoquot Sound north of Tofino is an old-growth paradise. Many of Clayoquot's intact valleys and islands still require legislated protection. Photo: Adrian Dorst



# Big Stumps and Tree-Plantations are not the Solution



Top left: Until 1999 when it was logged, the Klaskish Valley was one of 7 remaining intact, primary valleys on Vancouver Island out of an original 89 such valleys. The adjacent East Creek was the sixth intact valley until 2003, when logging commenced there, too. Today there are only five intact, primary valleys on the Island. Photo: Joe Foy. Top right: Second-growth tree plantations lack the old-growth dependent species, water conservation qualities, recreational attributes, and effectiveness at sequestering carbon dioxide to combat global warming.



Since 2001, almost 25 million cubic meters of raw logs have left BC for foreign mills – and with them, thousands of BC timber industry jobs. Conservationists and timber workers, such as those with the Save Our Valley Alliance in Port Alberni, are working together to ban raw log exports. Photo: Ken Wu.

## TAKE ACTION!

The BC government will protect Vancouver Island's old-growth forests and BC milling jobs when enough citizens know, care, and speak up! An educated and active citizenry cannot be ignored by any government for long. It's VITAL that YOU let the politicians know how strongly you feel about ending old-growth logging on Vancouver Island and banning raw log exports.

### 1. Write & Phone

**Premier Gordon Campbell**  
Legislative Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Email: premier@gov.bc.ca  
Phone: (250) 387-1715  
Fax: (250) 387-0087

### 2. Contact

Your BC Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), the BC Liberal or NDP provincial political representative. To find her or him call Enquiry BC at **387-6121 in Victoria** **(604) 660-2421 in Vancouver** **1-800-663-7867 elsewhere in BC**

### 3. Help Petition

This is a very important grassroots way for you to help us reach tens of thousands more people. Sign online and download copies to circulate, or call us for copies. Return completed petitions to us.

[www.viforest.org](http://www.viforest.org)

Get involved in our Vancouver Island Old-growth Campaign – Call Us!

Check our website for campaign updates. Visit us at:

[www.wcwc victoria.org](http://www.wcwc victoria.org)

**Wilderness Committee - Victoria Office**

651 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 1M7  
Tel: (250) 388-9292  
Email: [wc2vic@island.net](mailto:wc2vic@island.net)

# YES!

I support the protection of the remaining old-growth forests on Vancouver Island.



**Clip**

And return to the:

Wilderness Committee Victoria Office  
651 Johnson St, Victoria, BC V8M 1M7

Here's my tax-deductible contribution to your campaign.

Enclosed is:  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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