

Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

OLD-GROWTH EDITION

APRIL 2021



Logging ban a chance for owls

In February, your support led to some exciting news. **The governments of Canada, BC and Spó'zēm First Nation agreed to a one year logging ban in the old-growth forest habitat of the last three wild spotted owls in Canada.** The owls live on Spó'zēm Nation territory, in the Fraser Canyon area of BC. Many of us have been fighting to protect this habitat since 1993, alongside lawyers at Ecojustice.

The logging ban gives the governments time to hammer out a plan that permanently protects enough habitat to sustain a population of 250 spotted owls. This habitat is essential to recover the species. BC has the world's only spotted owl captive breeding facility and the government has promised to begin releasing some of their 29 caged owls back into the wild once a habitat plan is completed later this year.

Our goal is to see all remaining old-growth forest in southwest BC protected — and you and I will keep fighting until it is. For more on this story be sure to check out our recent newspaper *Spotted Owls – Spirit of the Ancient Forest*.

BC Government Old-growth Report Card

Date: March 11, 2021
Premier: John Horgan

SUBJECT	PROGRESS	GRADE
IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR AT-RISK FOREST DEFERRALS WITHIN 6 MONTHS	■■■■■	D
THREE YEAR WORKPLAN WITH MILESTONE DATES	■■■■■	F
FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION, FIRST NATION AND FORESTRY TRANSITION	■■■■■	F
CHANGE COURSE AND PRIORITIZE ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY AND BIODIVERSITY	■■■■■	F
TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION	■■■■■	F

N - NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Action steps up pressure

You might remember last fall's issue of *Wild Impact* highlighted the BC government's report on its old-growth strategic review. Together we optimistically celebrated their commitment to the "paradigm shift" called for by the panel's experts and to the fourteen recommendations made. **Your support makes it possible to keep pressure on the government to live up to this commitment.**

In March, we worked with partner organizations to grade the government and issued a "report card." **Spoiler alert: the grades are not good and highlight just how far off they are from the promises made by the premier in last year's election.** The report card garnered substantial media attention, was shared on social media thousands of times and earned coverage in over a hundred news outlets. **Your impact reached hundreds of thousands!**

You weren't done yet. As part of a "Big Tree Tuesday" phone blitz hundreds of you added your voice with a phone call to key decision makers to protect old-growth. Thank you for keeping the pressure on!



Fairy Creek: showdown in the woods

Since early August, grassroots activists have organized half a dozen different protection camps and watch stations around the Fairy Creek watershed, Gordon River and the iconic Walbran Valley (Kaxi:ks) on southwest Vancouver Island — all on unceded traditional territory of the Pacheedaht First Nation.

On the chopping block are iconic old-growth forests — the same stands you have long called to protect.

While we're not organizing these camps, we've been engaged since day one — we visit regularly, do mapping and expeditions into the forests, and amplify this story to the public.

On April 1, logging company Teal Jones obtained an injunction that makes obstructing logging and road building illegal and also increases the threat to these forests. **Thanks to donors and activists like you, we were on the ground when the injunction was served.** And we'll continue to bear witness so you and I can intensify your message to the provincial government to step in, protect old-growth forests and end this conflict.



Donor divests for old-growth

In a recent call to thank and update a donor who gave a gift of assets last year to ancient forests, she and her husband asked if we'd like to run an advertisement in Victoria's Times Colonist to call attention to activists on trial for defending old-growth forests in Fairy Creek.

We jumped into action: we negotiated the largest ad possible with the paper, our graphic design folks squeezed the ad into their production schedule and the donor divested the equivalent amount in securities. The ad was published within days. It asked readers to call BC's premier and stop old-growth logging in one of the most pristine old-growth valleys — coincidentally in his own riding. **And call you did — enough times that the premier mentioned the ad in his CBC radio interview!**

Our public gratitude to these donors is profound. **Thank you for caring deeply about ancient forests and the land defenders who put their bodies, time and freedom on the line.** When a donor's passion and ideas match our own strategy, we accomplish great things together!



Michelle Johnson,
Donor Relations Manager

Your commitment to protect nature and ensure a wild Canada drives each of our campaigns. Since the Wilderness Committee is funded almost entirely by individual donors like you, your gifts have a huge impact.

Thank you

P.S. Talk to me! Would you share the gift of your story with me?

Share your passion for wilderness and wildlife. Why do you choose the Wilderness Committee? Call or write me:

Phone: 1-800-661-9453

Email: michelle@wildernesscommittee.org

Wild Impact is a quarterly update about the Wilderness Committee and our work you make possible. For more information on any of our campaigns please visit [WildernessCommittee.org](https://www.wildernesscommittee.org)