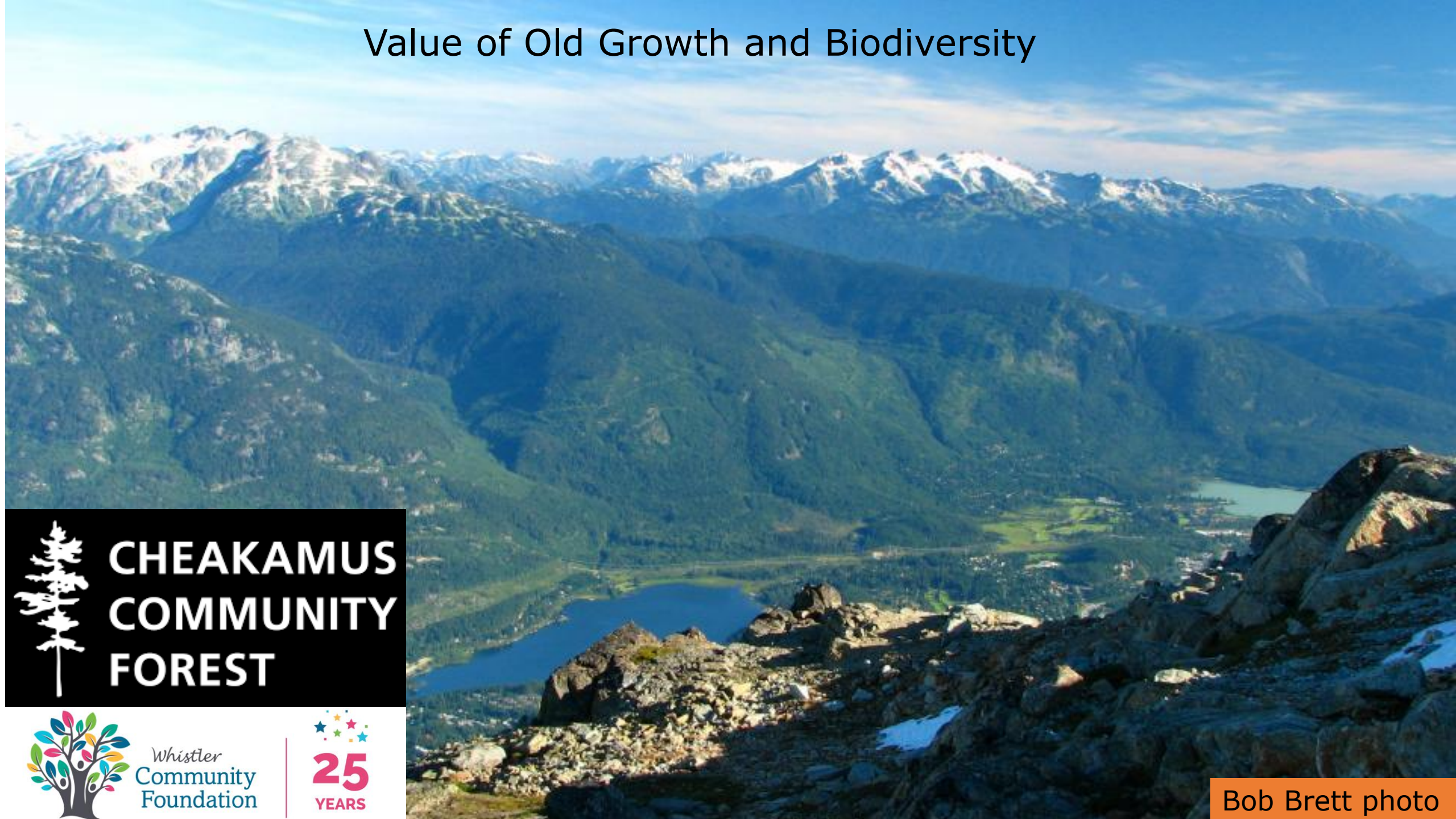


Value of Old Growth and Biodiversity



Bob Brett photo

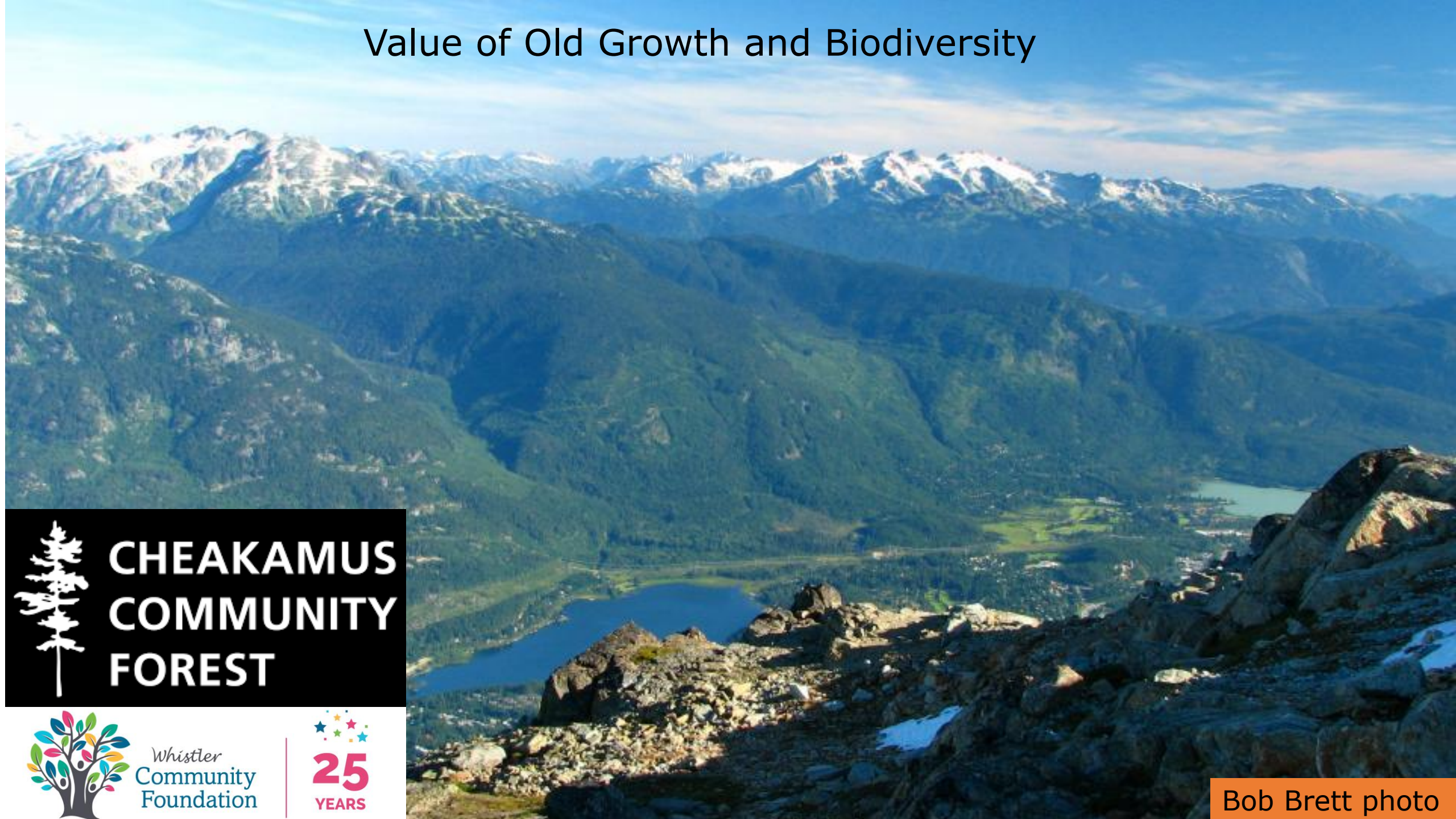


**'Big Trees'
Nature Walk**
Saturday April 20th
10am
register at Eventbrite



**Led by renowned forest
ecologist Andy
Mackinnon, join us to
visit nearby old 'vets'
and learn more about
the importance of big
trees and old growth
ecosystems**

Value of Old Growth and Biodiversity



Bob Brett photo

A vertical illustration on the left side of the page, styled like stained glass. It features large, rounded shapes in various shades of green and red, representing foliage and tree trunks. The background is white, and the overall effect is a colorful, abstract representation of a forest.

A NEW FUTURE FOR OLD FORESTS

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

submitted to Doug Donaldson, BC Minister of Forests,
Lands and Natural Resource Operations, April 2020



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“Eighty-eight species of oribatid mites were identified from the study area. Eighteen of the 53 species observed in suspended soils were unique to the canopy.”



Lindo, Z. and N.N. Winchester. 2006. A comparison of microarthropod assemblages with emphasis on oribatid mites in canopy suspended soils and forest floors associated with ancient western redcedar trees. *Pedobiologia* 50 (1): 31-41.

Table 1. Estimates of abundance and diversity of several types of soil organisms.

Taxon	Abundance	Diversity
bacteria & archaea	4–20 billion /cm ³	100–9,000 /cm ³
AM hyphae	20–111 m /cm ³	10–20 /m ²
ECM hyphae	1.75 km /cm ³	100–400 /ha
protists	10,000–10 million /m ²	600–4800 /g
nematodes	2–90 million /m ²	10–100 /m ²
enchytraeids	12,000–311,000 /m ²	1–15 /ha
collembola	100,000–500,000 /m ²	20 /m ²
oribatid mites	100,000–1 million /m ²	100–150 /m ²
isopods	10 /m ²	10–100 /m ²
diplopods	110 /m ²	10–2500 /m ²
earthworms	300 /m ²	10–15 /ha

From: Prescott, C.E. and S.J. Grayston. 2023. TAMM review: Continuous root forestry—Living roots sustain the belowground ecosystem and soil carbon in managed forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 532.

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We investigated somatic mutation rates in ... Sitka spruce ... by analyzing ... nuclear DNA from the tops and bottoms of 20 old-growth trees averaging 76 m in height. We estimate a somatic base substitution rate of 2.7×10^{-8} per base pair within a generation. To date, this is one of the highest estimated per-generation rates of mutation among eukaryotes ... although somatic mutations raise genetic load in conifers, they generate important genetic variation and enable selection both among cell lineages within individual trees and among offspring.



Hanlon, V.C.T, S.P. Otto, and S.N. Aitken. 2019. Somatic mutations substantially increase the per-generation mutation rate in the conifer *Picea sitchensis*. *Evolution Letters* 3 (4): 348–358.

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Much of the forests in coastal B.C. have been logged over the last century. Now younger second-growth forests dominate the landscape, and they are not nearly as fire resistant.

“[They] have very different forest structures,” said [UBC professor of forestry and conservation science at the University of British Columbia Lori] Daniels. “The tree sizes and woody debris on the floor is not large, and therefore absorbs and releases water a lot more rapidly. It takes a shorter period of time to dry out the logs in a second-growth forest.”

Wei, B. 2019. Changing Climate, Vanishing Old Growth Bring Increased Fire Risk for Coastal Forests. *The Tyee*.

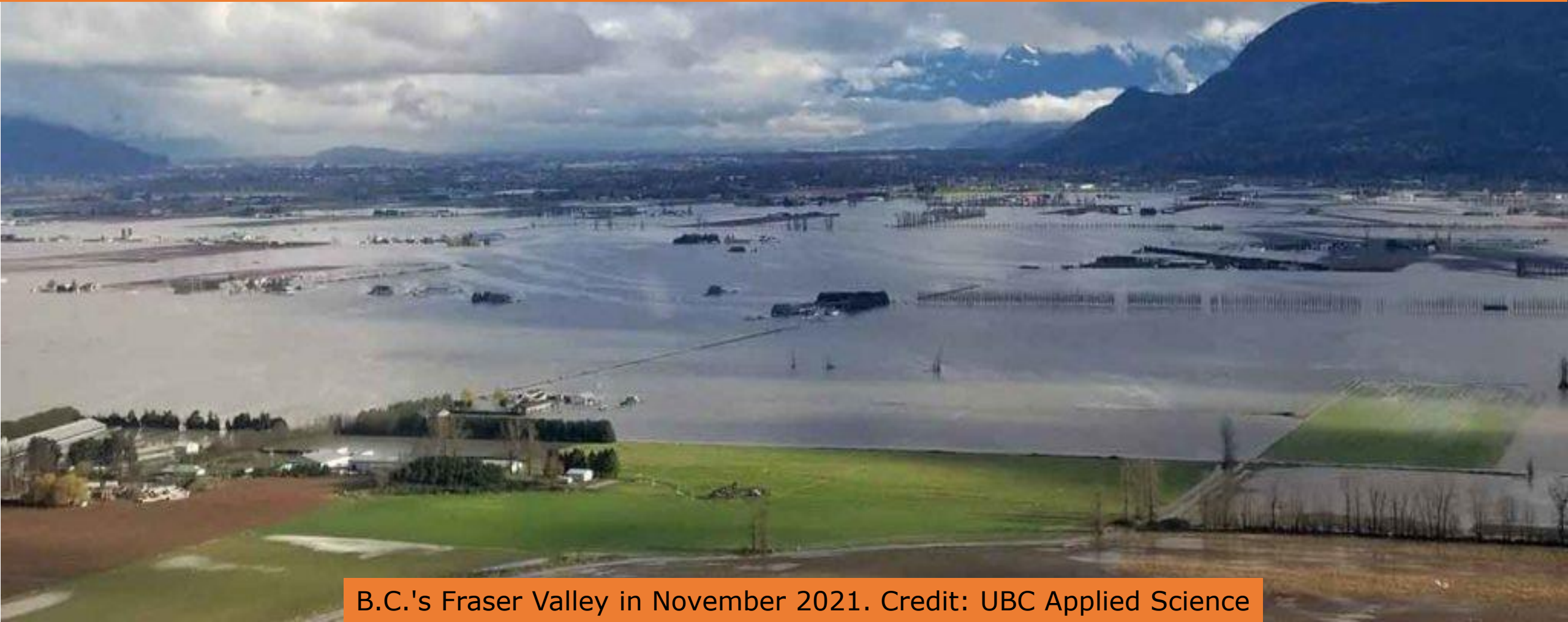
2015 wildfire in Upper Elaho Valley. Photo via the BC Wildfire Service.

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In B.C. alone, the flood risk is escalating as we continue to lose forest cover due to ongoing large-scale logging and wildfires. If we want to mitigate the costs of disasters like the 2021 flooding in the Fraser Valley or the 2018 flooding in Grand Forks, we need to change the way we manage our forest cover. Regenerative practices such as selective logging, small patch cutting, and other alternatives to clear-cutting are an important way forward.

Dr. Younes Alila, hydrologist and professor in the UBC Faculty of Forestry

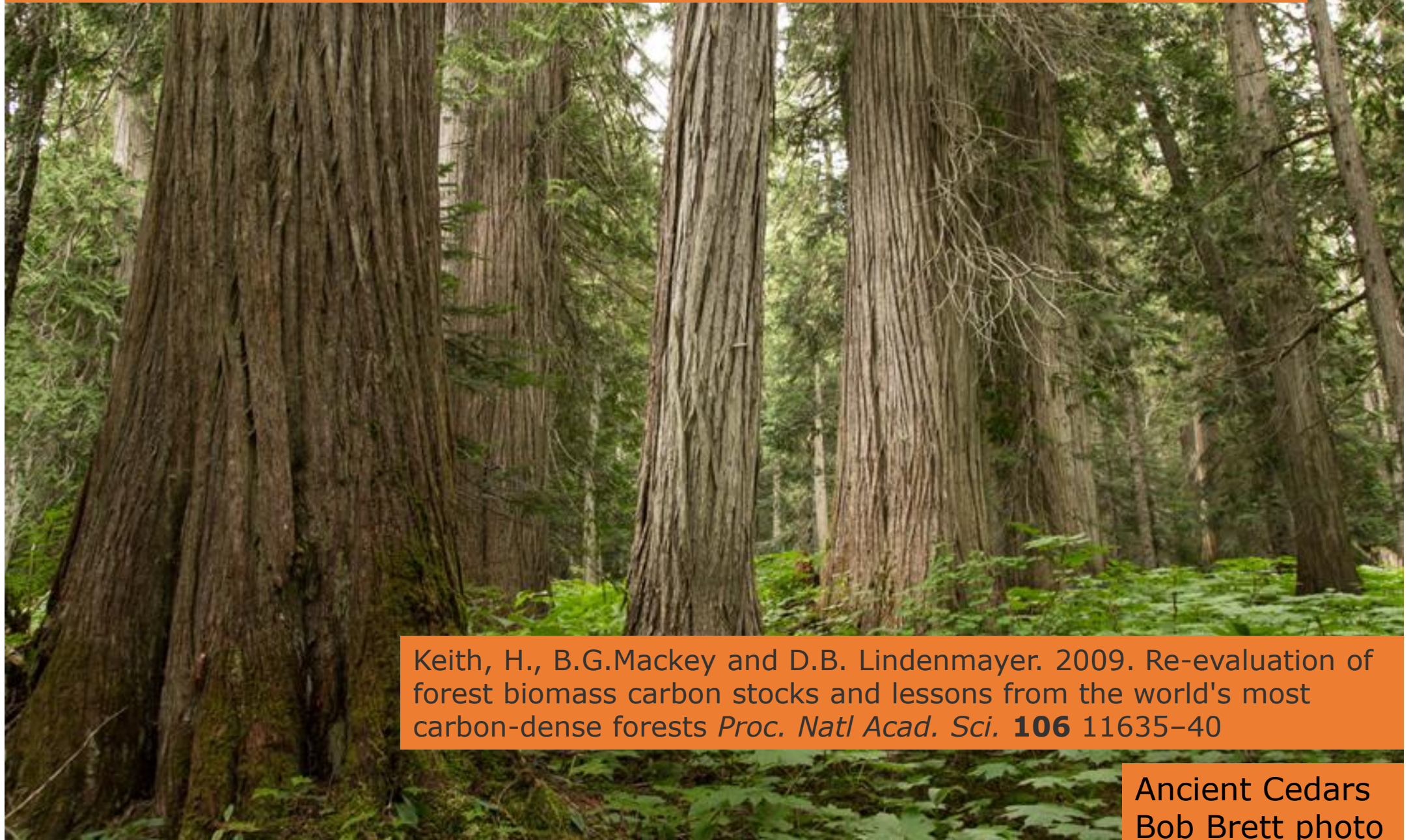


B.C.'s Fraser Valley in November 2021. Credit: UBC Applied Science

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Globally, temperate rainforests contain the highest density aboveground forest C stocks (up to 1500 Mg ha⁻¹).



Keith, H., B.G.Mackey and D.B. Lindenmayer. 2009. Re-evaluation of forest biomass carbon stocks and lessons from the world's most carbon-dense forests *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci.* **106** 11635–40

Ancient Cedars
Bob Brett photo

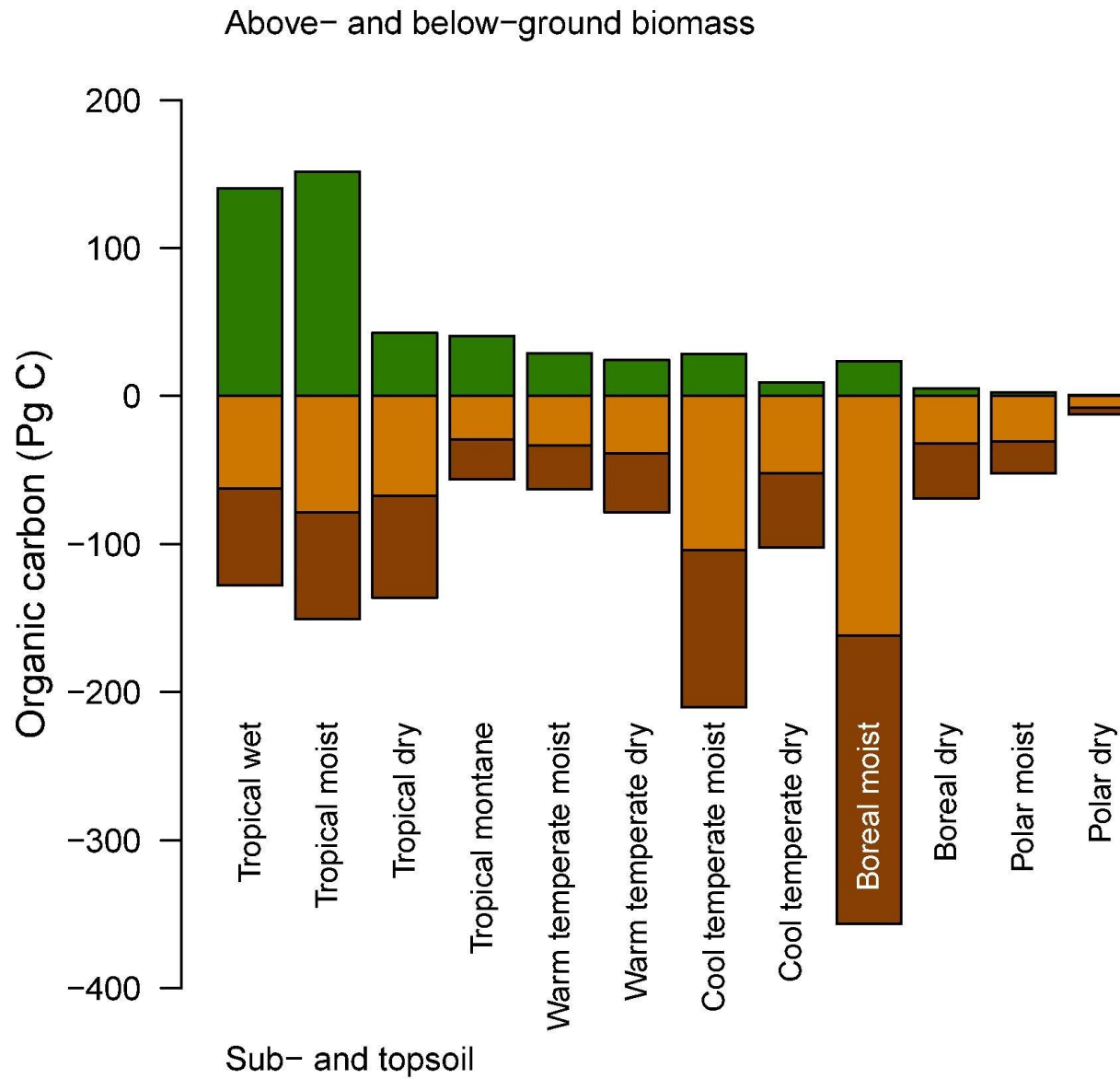
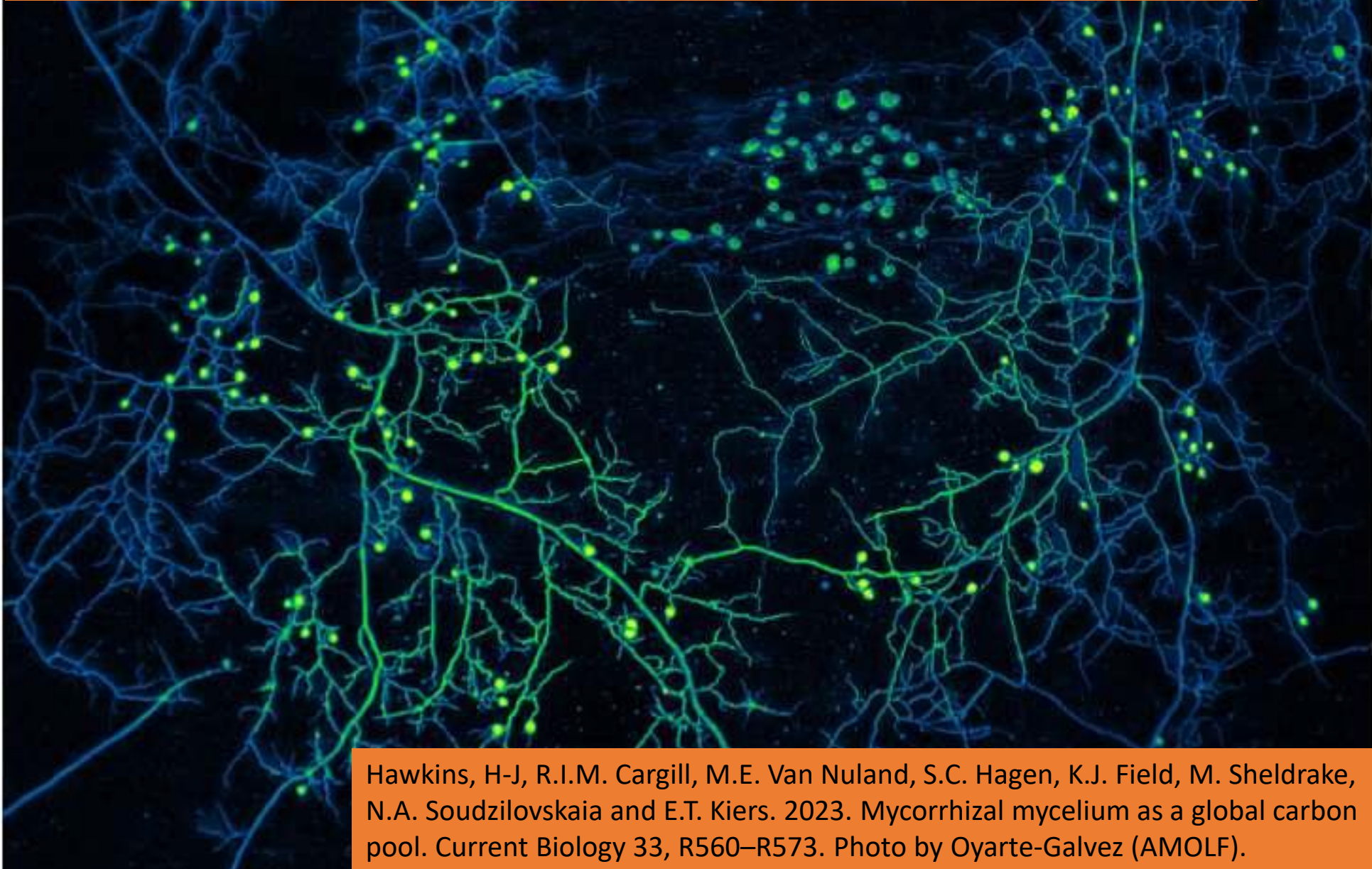


Fig. 1. Organic carbon stocks in subsoil (brown) and topsoil (orange), and in aboveground and belowground phytomass (green). From: Mayer et al. 2020. Tamm review: influence of forest management on soil organic stocks: A knowledge synthesis. Forest Ecology and Management 466.

- as much as 13.12 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) fixed by terrestrial plants is allocated to mycorrhizal fungi annually
- roughly equivalent to 36% of yearly global fossil fuel emissions.



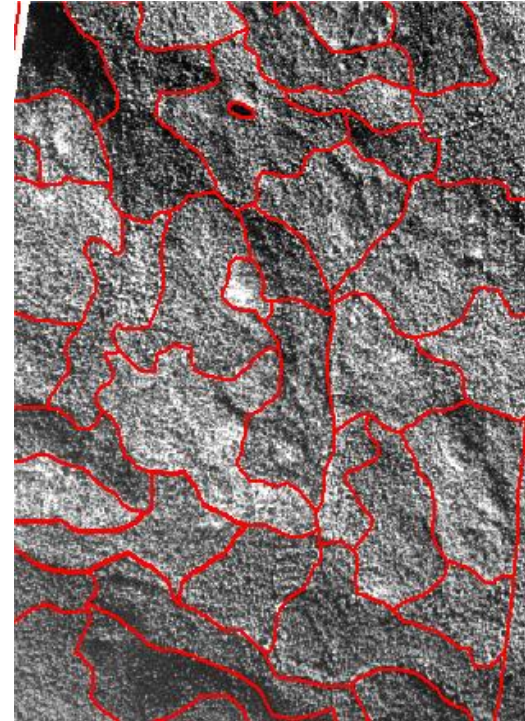
Hawkins, H-J, R.I.M. Cargill, M.E. Van Nuland, S.C. Hagen, K.J. Field, M. Sheldrake, N.A. Soudzilovskaia and E.T. Kiers. 2023. Mycorrhizal mycelium as a global carbon pool. *Current Biology* 33, R560–R573. Photo by Oyarte-Galvez (AMOLF).

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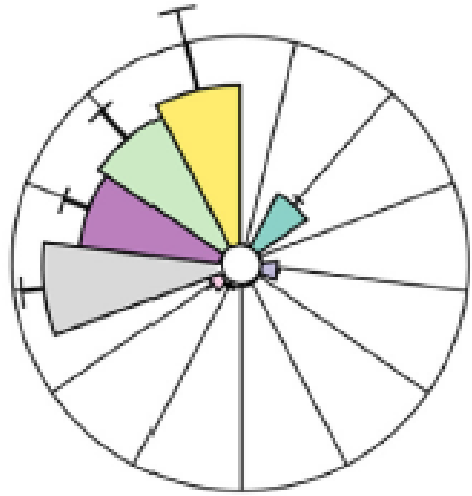
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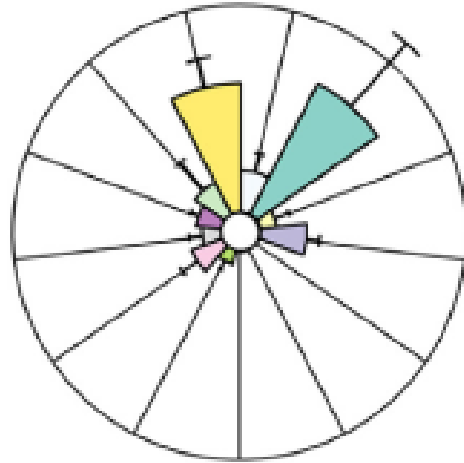
1937-38 air photos
1:15,000 scale



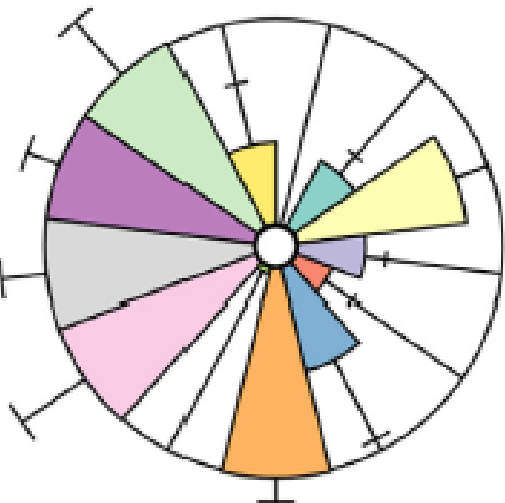
Second-growth upland forest



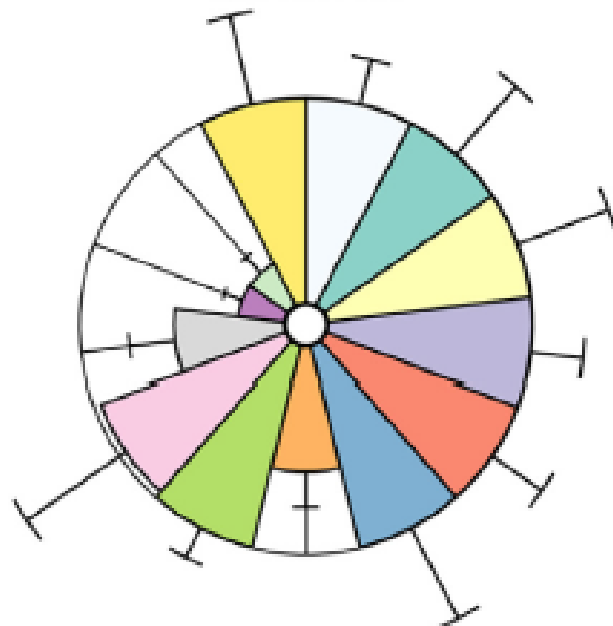
Second-growth riparian forest






Old-growth upland forest



Old-growth riparian forest






Habitat services:

-  Instream woody debris volume
-  Coarse woody debris biomass
-  Dead tree biomass







Regulating services:

-  Carbon storage

Cultural services:

-  Marbled murrelet nesting platforms
-  Large cedar
-  Cedar for bark stripping

Provisioning services:

-  Wood volume of redcedar
-  Wood volume of non-redcedar
-  Merchantable salal greenery
-  Salal edible berries
-  Vaccinium sp. edible berries
-  Rubus sp. edible berries

Sutherland, I.J., S.E. Gergel, and E.M. Bennett. 2016. Seeing the forest for its multiple ecosystem services: Indicators for cultural services in heterogeneous forests. *Ecological Indicators* 71: 123–133.

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Artificial dens could lure black bears to watershed

A Victoria wildlife consultant is building new homes for black bears in the Jordan River watershed.

Sandra Mcculloch

Jul 26, 2014 10:17 PM

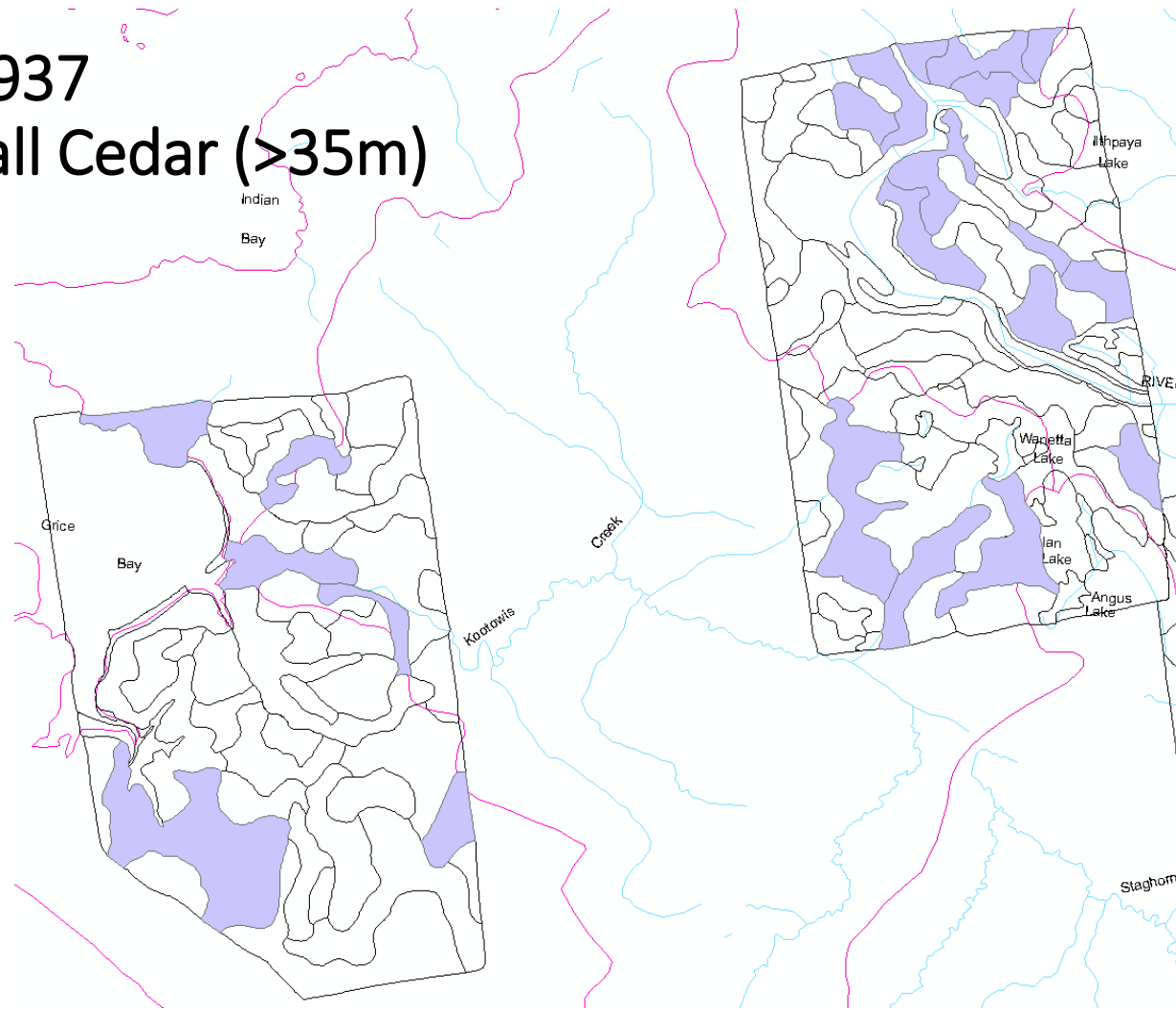


Helen Davis in the entrance of a culvert den.

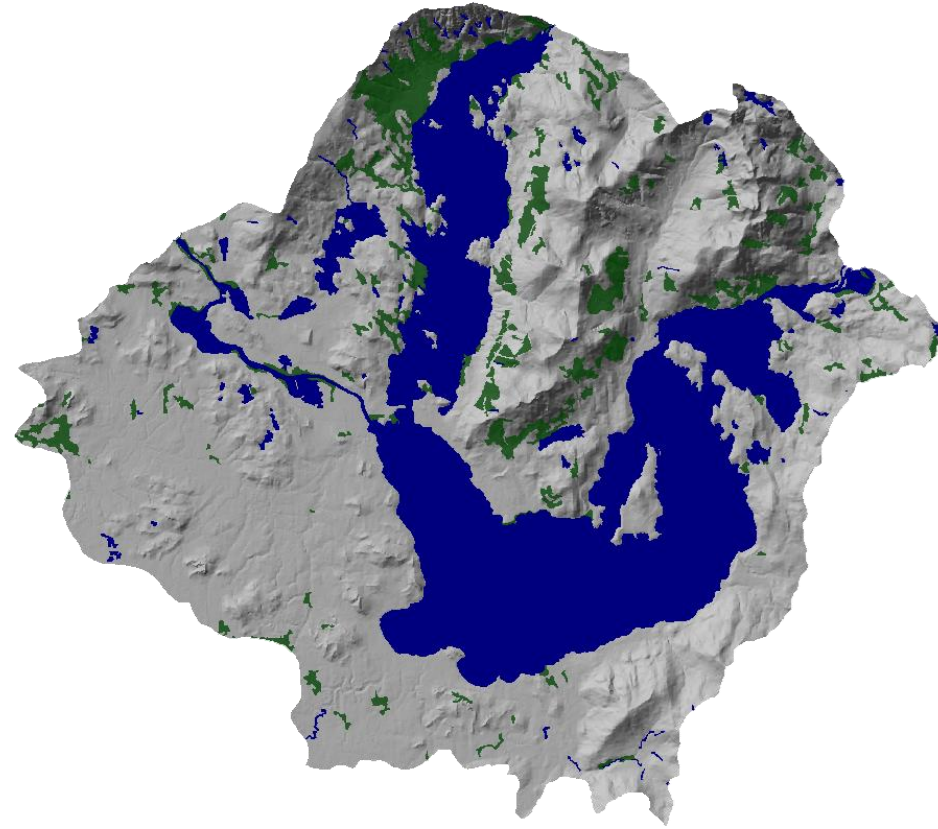
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1937 Tall Cedar (>35m)



2016
Tall Cedar (>35m)



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Speikúmtn Community Forest



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Option, bequest and existence





Clayoquot
Summer of 1993





Old growth forest stewardship

January 8, 2024

In December 2023, the Department of Agriculture published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement to amend all 128 forest land management plans. This significant action demonstrates how committed we are to stewarding and conserving old growth forest conditions, knowing the actions of today have implications for future generations.

As I mentioned in our recent national call, this amendment is intended to create a consistent approach to how we manage for old growth forest conditions. It will ensure old growth forests have sufficient distribution, abundance and ecological integrity that can persist over the long term. Increased effects from changing climates require us to act with intention to meet the Forest Service mission—to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.



Chief Randy Moore

An Old Growth Strategy for British Columbia



634
.92
F6

A vertical illustration on the left side of the page, styled like stained glass. It features large, rounded shapes in various shades of green and yellow, representing foliage. Dark, branching lines in black and brown represent tree trunks and limbs. The background is a mix of light and dark green, suggesting a forest scene. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the top left of this illustration, containing white text.

A NEW FUTURE FOR OLD FORESTS

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

submitted to Doug Donaldson, BC Minister of Forests,
Lands and Natural Resource Operations, April 2020



Almost three decades ago, over a hundred people from various walks of life, including government, worked for 18 months to find consensus on An Old Growth Strategy for British Columbia (B.C. Ministry of Forests, May 1992): In that report the development team said:

*"Members of the public, public interest groups, professional resource managers and representatives of industry have expressed increasing concern about management of old growth forests in British Columbia. Not only does the forest industry depend heavily on old growth for its current wood supply, but many new demands are being placed on the remaining old growth to satisfy a broad range of forest values. **In parts of the province, meanwhile, opportunities to reserve representative samples of old growth are dwindling rapidly** (emphasis added). These pressures are leading to increased instances of conflict among supporters of competing land uses."*

Although many subsequent measures were taken under the auspices of land-use planning and the forest practices code (some of which carried forward to the current legislation), many critical aspects of the strategy laid out in that report were either discarded or only partly implemented. Had that strategy been fully implemented, we would likely not be facing the challenges around old growth to the extent we are today:

- High risk to loss of biodiversity in many ecosystems.
- Risk to potential economic benefits due to uncertainty and conflict.
- Widespread lack of confidence in the system of managing forests.





“Sustainable” forestry claims are false and misleading: citizen complaint

VANCOUVER/UNCEDD x^wməθk^wəy[’]əm (MUSQUEAM), S_kwx_wú7mesh (SQUAMISH) AND səlilwətał (TSLEIL-WAUTUTH) TERRITORIES – As forestry companies continue to log endangered old-growth forests in British Columbia, six Canadians today requested the federal Competition Bureau to investigate the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) for promoting its forestry certification standard as an assurance of sustainability.

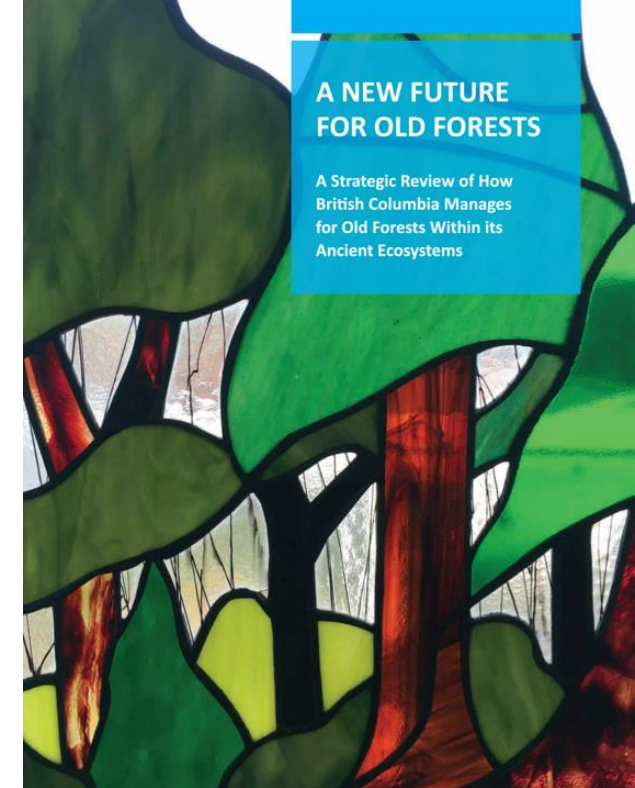
- Anthony Britneff, RPF (Ret)
- Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
- Vicky Husband
- Dr Andy MacKinnon
- Ben Geselbracht
- Natasha Baert

The “Sustainable Forest Management” standard (CSA SFM) certifies and promotes wood products from logging operations – including in BC’s old-growth forests – as sustainable, which the citizens call patently false and misleading.

Recommendations

On conditions required for change:

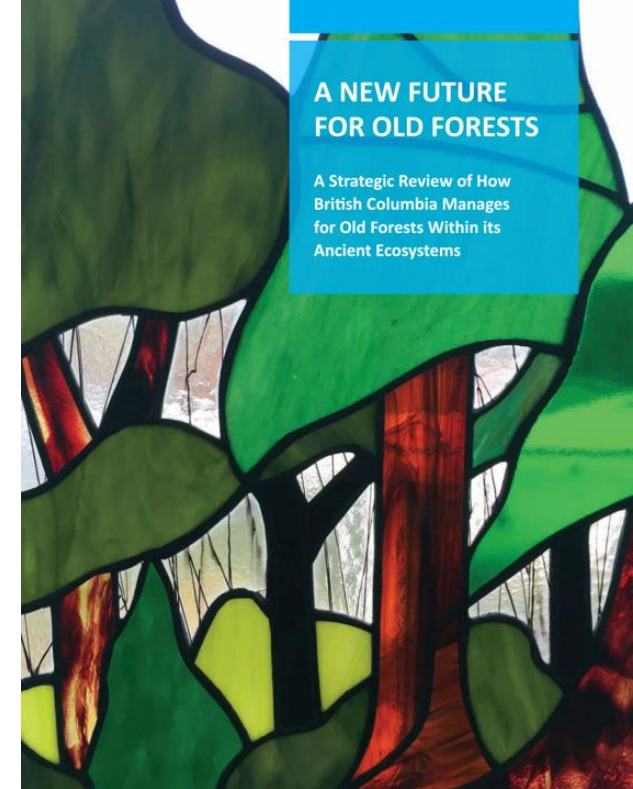
1. Engage the full involvement of Indigenous leaders and organizations to review this report and any subsequent policy or strategy development and implementation.
2. Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.
3. Adopt a three-zone forest management framework to guide forest planning and decision-making.
4. Adopt a more inclusive and stable governance model that gives local communities and stakeholders a greater role in forest management decisions that affect them.
5. Provide the public with timely and objective information about forest conditions and trends.



Recommendations

For immediate response:

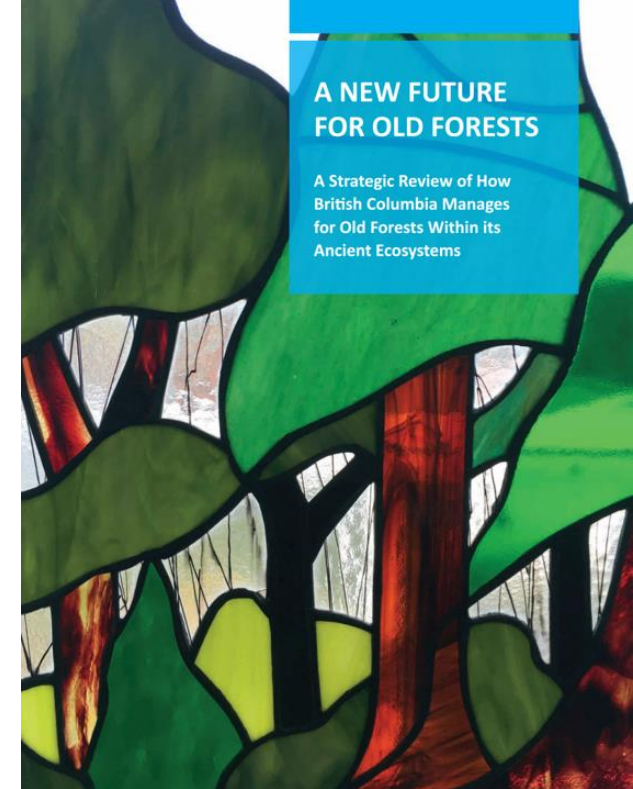
- 6. Until a new strategy is implemented, defer development in old forests where ecosystems are at very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss.***
7. Bring management of old forests into compliance with existing provincial targets and guidelines for maintaining biological diversity.



Recommendations

For improving management:

8. Establish and fund a more robust monitoring and evaluation system for updating management of old forests.
9. Establish a standardized system and guidance that integrates provincial goals and priorities to local objectives and targets.
10. Update the targets for retention and management of old and ancient forest.
11. Improve the mapping and classification of old forests to recognize multiple values.
12. Create a silviculture innovation program aimed at developing harvesting alternatives to clearcutting that maintain old forest values.





June 2021

BC government appoints Old Growth Technical Advisory Panel

“This new technical panel will ensure we’re using the best science and data available to identify at-risk old growth ecosystems and prioritize areas for deferral,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Gary Merkel, Rachel Holt, Lisa Matthaus, Karen Price, Dave Daust



How Much Old Growth Remains? (million hectares)

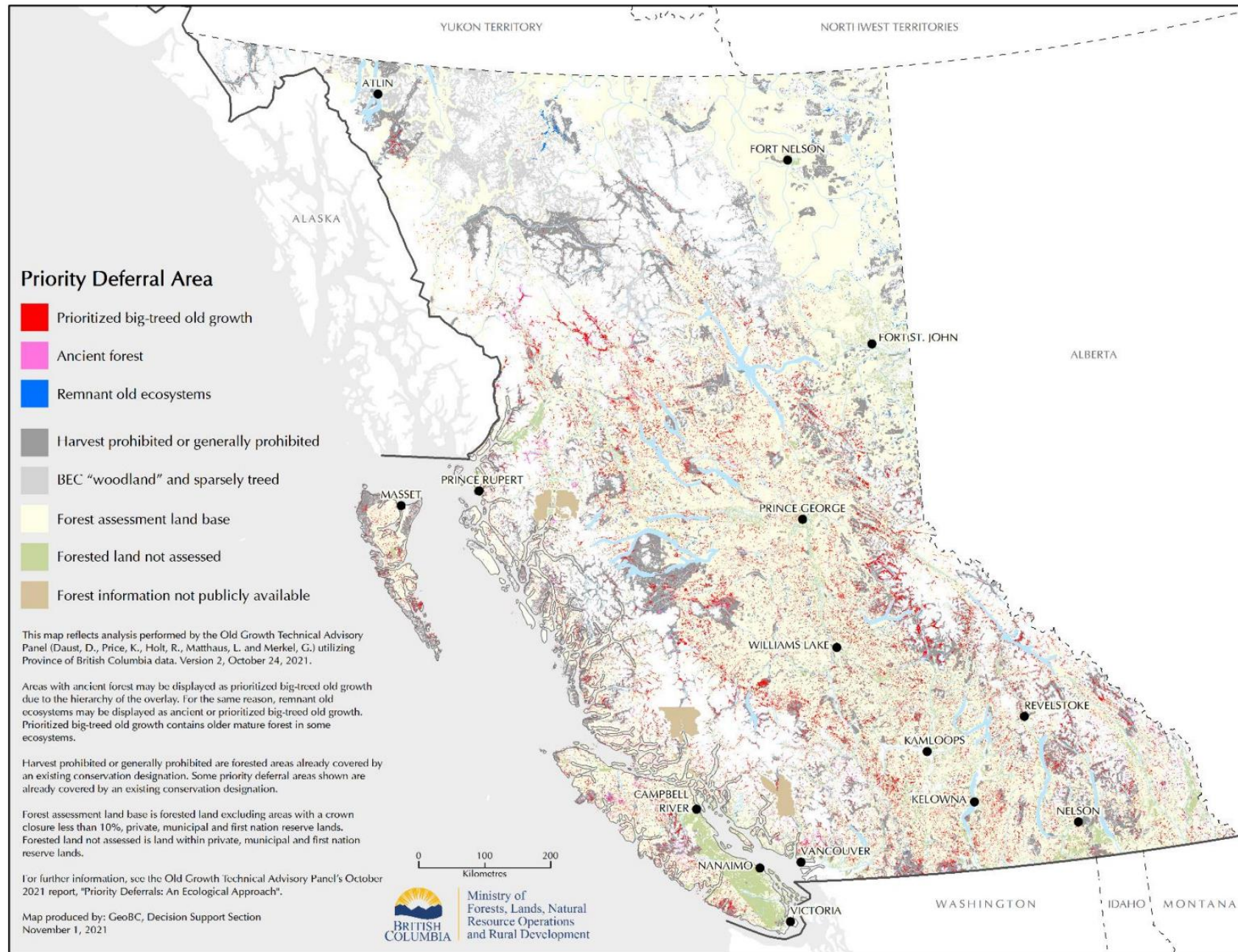
- Historic old growth (approximately) 25
- Remaining old growth 11.1
- Unprotected old growth 7.6
- Unprotected, at-risk old growth 5.0
- **Priority at-risk old growth, for deferral 2.6**

Type of old growth	Total area (Million ha)	Unprotected area* (Million ha)	Overlap with active and pending cut-blocks (ha)
All forest	56.2	44.0	400,319
All old growth	11.1	7.6	87,059
At-risk old growth			
Big-treed old growth	6.2	4.1	
Ancient forest	0.6	0.4	
Remnant old ecosystems	0.8	0.5	
Intact watersheds	Not analysed	Not analysed	
Total at-risk old growth	7.6	5.0	68,798**
Priority at-risk old growth			
Big-treed old growth	2.6	1.7	
Ancient forest	0.6	0.4	
Remnant old ecosystems	0.8	0.5	
Intact watersheds	Not analysed	Not analysed	
Total priority at-risk old growth	4.0	2.6	48,095
Total recruitment	0.4	0.3	4,859

*We excluded woodland and sparsely forested ecosystems during prioritization.

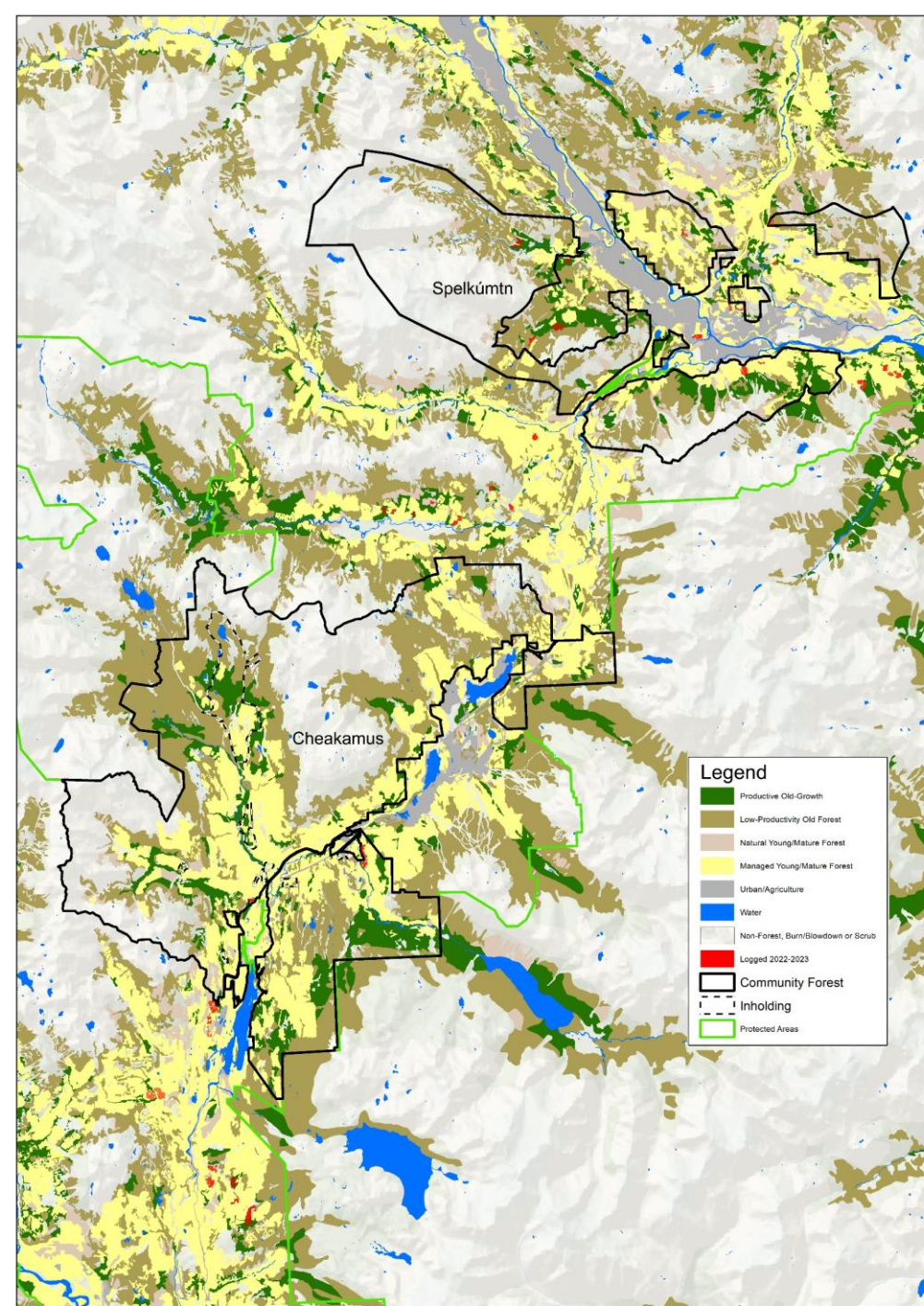
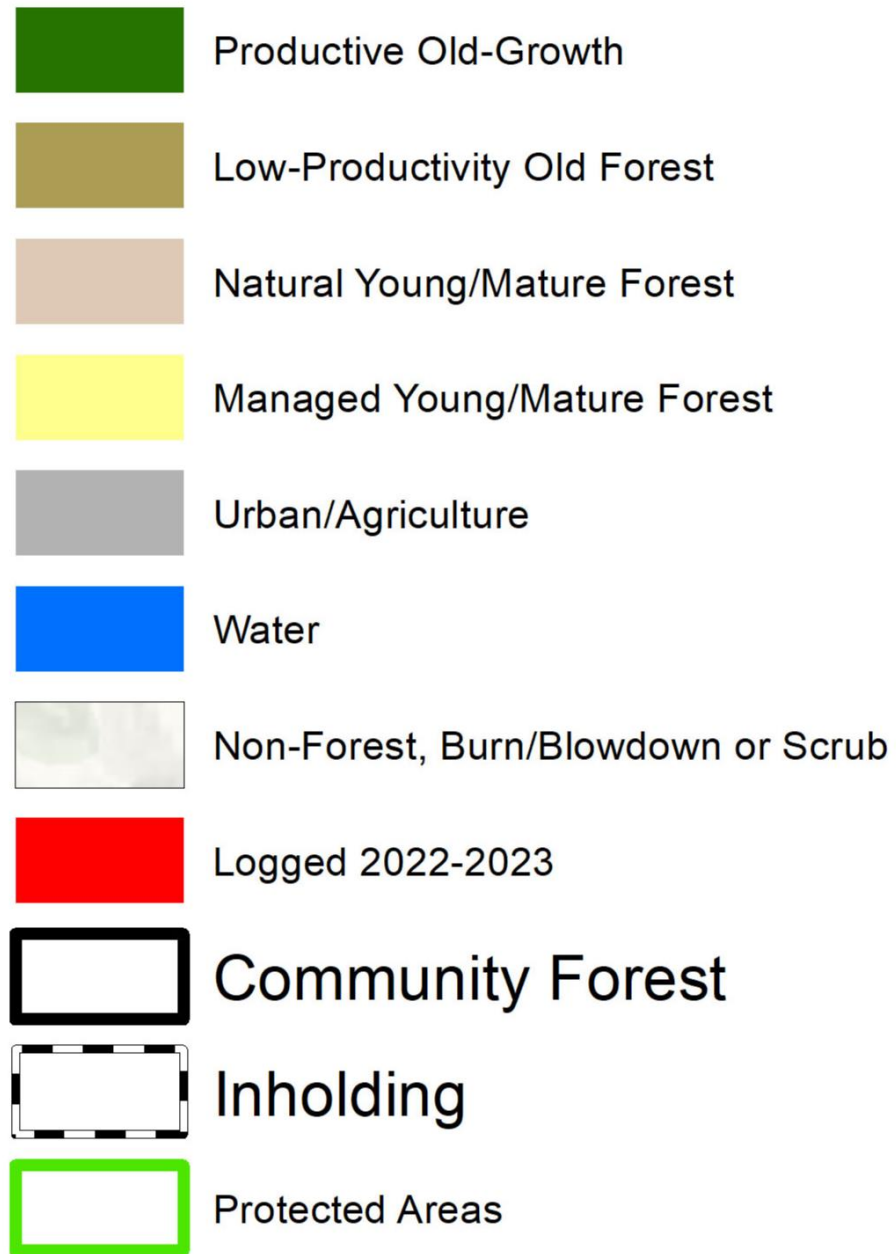
**Threatened at-risk old growth

Map 1: Priority Deferral Map





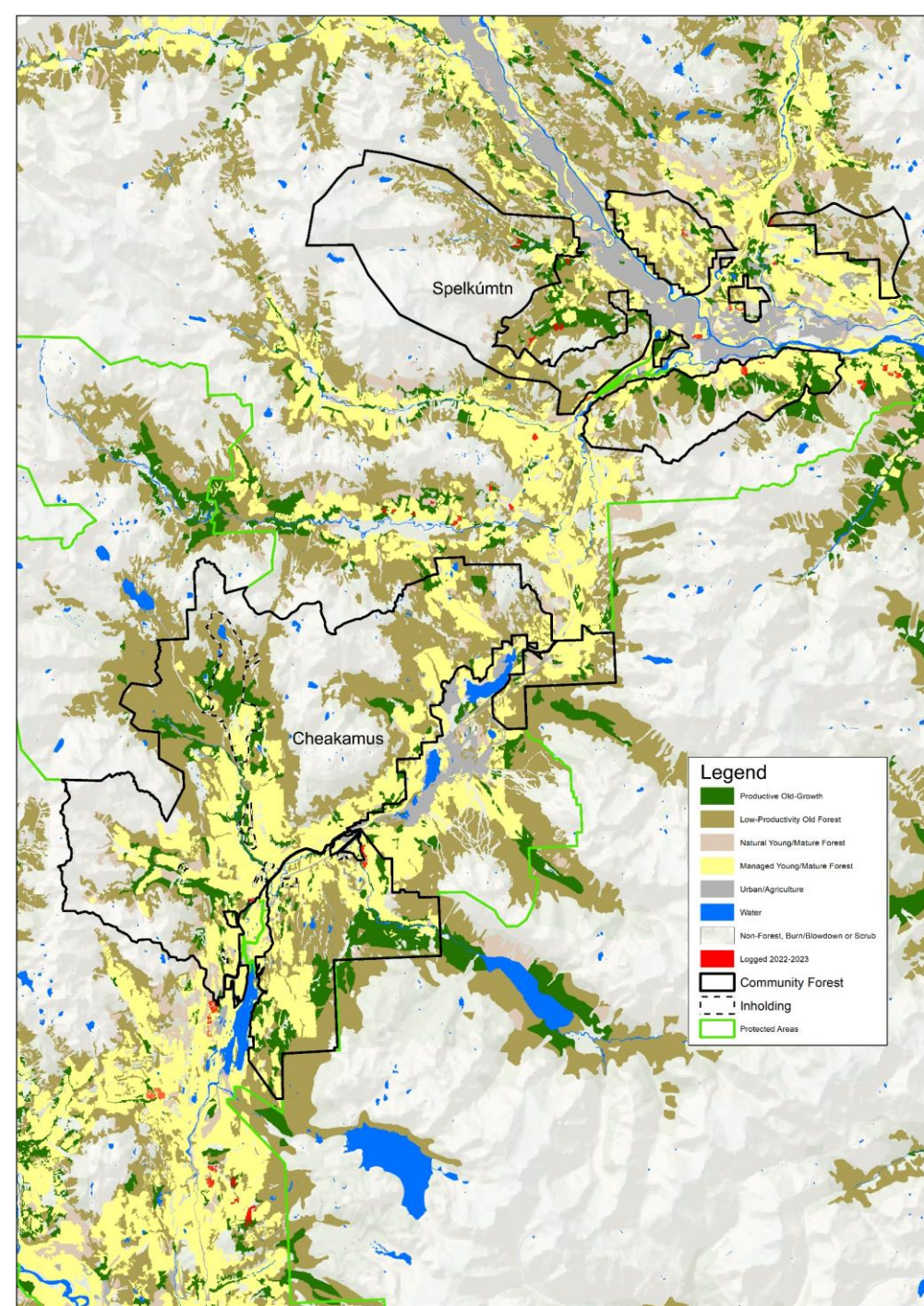
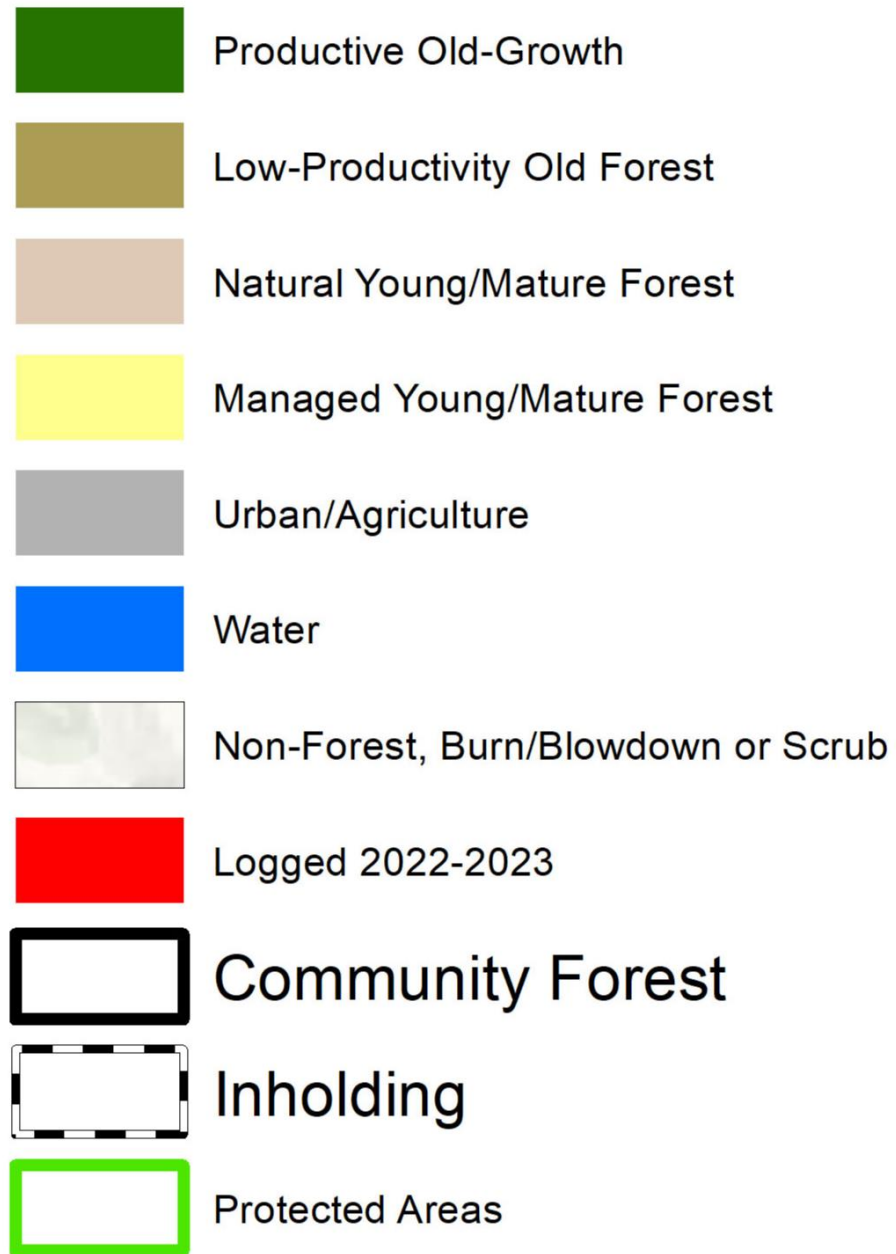
Legend



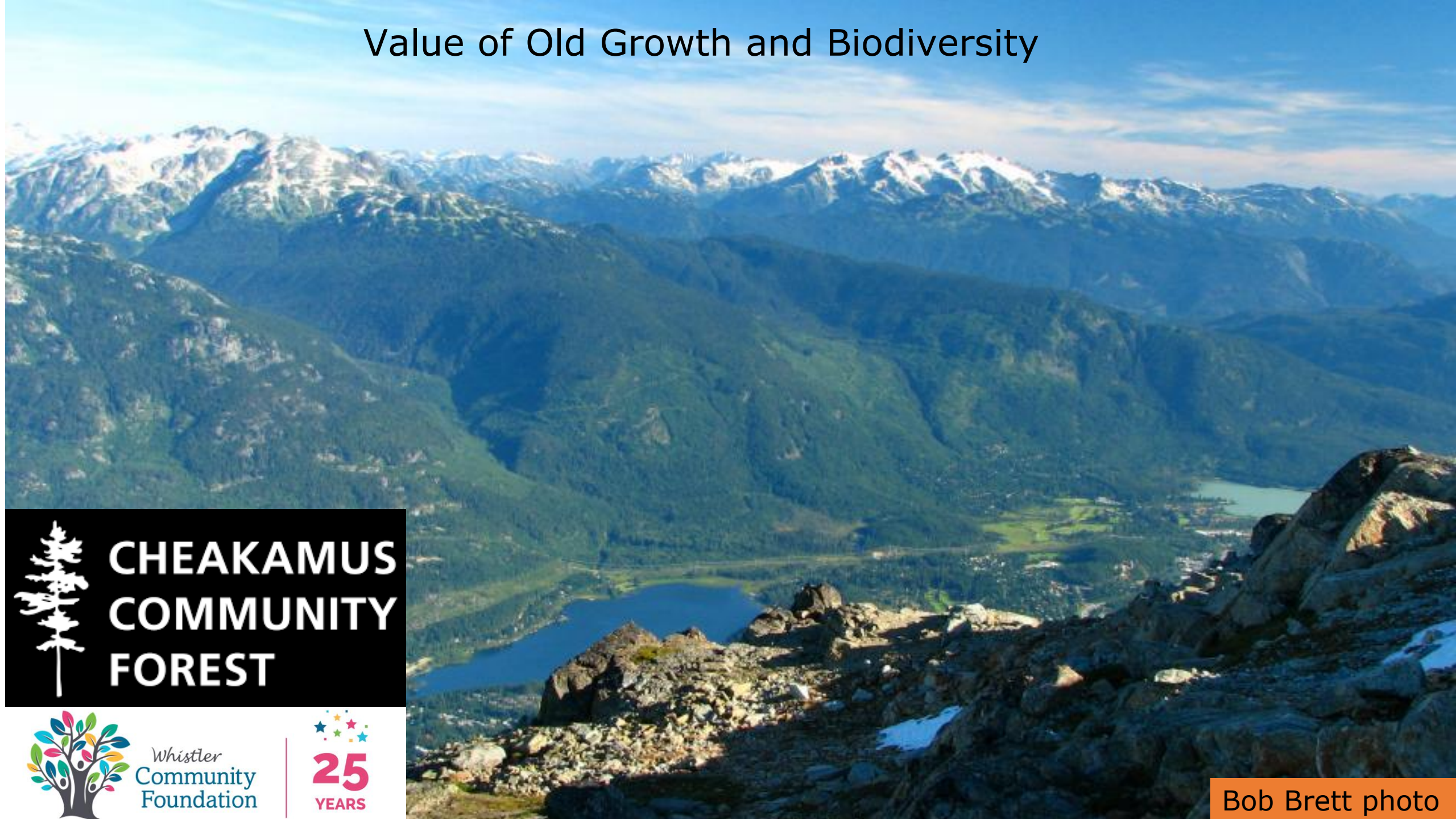


Bob Brett photo

Legend



Value of Old Growth and Biodiversity



Bob Brett photo

Operating Community Forests - 61 operating CFAs; 48 operating BCCFA Members - noted in blue; 13 operating non BCCFA members

Licensee	Natural Resource District	Licence #	AAC (m3)	Area (Ha)	Legal effective date
100 Mile Development Corporation	100 Mile House	K2W	22,500	18,571	2009-12-01
Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation	South Island	K2D	18,156	3,230	2009-11-02
Babine Lake Community Forest Society	Nadina	K4D	11,000	8,939	2011-08-18
Bamfield Huu-Ay-Aht Community Forest Society	South Island Natural Resource	K1E	860	361	2011-09-20
Barkley Community Forest Limited Partnership	South Island	K3S	27,000	6,757	2015-06-09
Bella Coola Resource Society	North Island - Central Coast	K3K	30,000	127,248	2011-03-30
Burns Lake Community Forest Ltd.	Nadina	K1A	194,226	84,886	2000-07-07
Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest General Partner Corp.	Chilliwack	K3J	44,255	26,086	2011-12-14
Cheakamus Community Forest Limited Partnership	Sea to Sky	K3V	21,000	33,018	2009-04-09
Cherry Ridge Management Committee	Okanagan Shuswap	K3T	1,500	1,081	2009-01-01
Cheslatta Carrier Nation	Nadina	K1M	73,397	35,729	2002-10-02
Chinook Comfor Limited	Nadina	K4R	65,000	90,658	2016-02-12
Clinton & District Community Forest Of Bc Limited	100 Mile House	K4F	20,000	62,374	2014-01-01
Cortes Forestry General Partnership	Sunshine Coast	K4G	13,600	3,776	2013-08-22
Creston Valley Forest Corporation	Selkirk	K3D	25,000	21,329	2008-10-15
District Of Fort St. James	Stuart Nechako	K1D	33,115	22,779	2001-03-07
District Of Vanderhoof	Stuart Nechako	K5P	30,000	23,181	2016-03-31
Dungate Community Forest Limited Partnership	Nadina	K2L	29,000	15,569	2008-02-15
Dunster Community Forest	Prince George	K3O	15,000	20,009	2009-12-31
Eniyud Community Forests Limited Partnership	Cariboo-Chilcotin	K2Z	40,000	114,571	2010-01-01
Esk'etemc	Cariboo-Chilcotin	K1C	22,000	21,906	2001-04-01
Fnfn/Nrrm Community Forest General Partner Corporation	Fort Nelson	K3X	185,000	184,682	2021-04-01
Harrop-Procter Community	Selkirk	K1B	10,000	10,932	2000-08-01
Hfn Forestry Limited Partnership	South Island	K3N	16,992	2,345	2010-12-17
Kaslo And District Communityforest Society	Selkirk	K3C	25,000	32,510	2010-01-01
Khowutzun Forest Services Limited Partnership	South Island	K1K	10,000	1,786	2013-11-25
Klahoose Forestry Limited Partnership	Sunshine Coast	K4C	115,146	160,122	2009-10-06
Likely Xats'ull Community Forest Ltd.	Cariboo-Chilcotin	K1L	25,000	11,963	2003-04-01
Little Prairie Community Forest Inc.	Peace	K2N	20,000	12,579	2012-01-01
Logan Lake Community Forest Corporation	Thompson Rivers	K2E	24,000	16,627	2007-12-28
Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society	Thompson Rivers	K1Z	20,800	8,254	2010-08-01
Lower Similkameen Community Forests Limited Partnership	Okanagan Shuswap	K2U	20,000	26,804	2009-02-01
Mcbride Community Forest Corporation	Prince George	K1H	50,000	62,406	2002-08-15
McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Limited Partnership	Mackenzie	K2M	38,500	24,193	2009-09-01
Monashee Community Forest Llp	Okanagan Shuswap	K2X	21,595	7,405	2013-01-01
Nakusp & Area Community Forest (2013) Inc.	Selkirk	K2S	20,000	9,149	2008-03-01
North Island Community Forest Limited Partnership	North Island - Central Coast	K3Z	10,400	2,392	2011-05-17
Nupqu Resource Corporation	Rocky Mountain	K1W	10,600	20,234	2004-10-01
Nuxalk Forestry Limited Partnership	North Island - Central Coast	K3H	20,000	48,461	2011-12-01
Powell River Community Forest Ltd.	Sunshine Coast	K3G	35,000	7,109	2011-07-07
Qala:Yit Forestry Limited Partnership	South Island	K5U	24,202	7,981	2018-07-16
Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative	Selkirk	K2R	16,300	15,981	2007-12-11
Spelkumtn Community Forest Limited Partnership	Sea to Sky	K5X	11,000	17,727	2020-09-15
Squamish Community Forest Limited Partnership	Sea to Sky	K5Y	20,000	11,303	2022-12-22
Sunshine Coast Community Forest Ltd.	Sunshine Coast	K3F	20,000	10,790	2011-05-30
Tanizul Timber Ltd.	Stuart Nechako	K4B	154,112	49,111	2009-11-01
Tano T'enneh Limited Partnership	Prince George	K1N	28,000	13,069	2010-06-01
Terrace Community Forest Limited Partnership	Coast Mountains	K1X	57,160	25,165	2007-06-01
Tla'amin Timber Products Ltd.	Sunshine Coast	K3P	81,900	12,681	2012-12-04
Tumbler Ridge Community Forest Corp.	Peace	K2Q	43,490	39,096	2011-01-01
Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd.	Prince George	K2T	48,706	71,722	2007-12-28
Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd.	Prince George	K5Q	46,700	71,720	2016-03-01
Vermilion Forks Community Forest Corporation	Cascades	K2Y	14,800	12,950	2010-01-01
Village of Fraser Lake	Stuart Nechako	K5E	85,930	21,039	2017-08-01
Wells Gray Community Forest Corp	Thompson Rivers	K2A	33,000	13,148	2011-07-03
Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Ltd.	Quesnel	K3R	5,000	4,527	2014-09-01
West Boundary Community Forest Inc	Selkirk	K4E	23,000	19,964	2014-01-01
Westbank First Nation	Okanagan Shuswap	K1P	54,207	46,560	2004-08-01
Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation	Skeena Stikine	K2P	30,304	32,897	2007-07-01
Williams Lake Community Forest Limited Partnership	Cariboo-Chilcotin	K3A	40,000	28,828	2014-01-01
Xaxli'p Community Forest Corporation	Cascades	K3L	4,900	23,182	2011-02-01
Total			#####	1,941,455	

Cheakamus Community Forest Limited Partnership	21,000
Cherry Ridge Management Committee	1,500
Cheslatta Carrier Nation	73,397
Chinook Comfor Limited	65,000
Clinton & District Community Forest Of Bc Limited	20,000
Cortes Forestry General Partnership	13,600
Creston Valley Forest Corporation	25,000
District Of Fort St. James	33,115
District Of Vanderhoof	30,000
Dungate Community Forest Limited Partnership	29,000
Dunster Community Forest	15,000
Eniyud Community Forests Limited Partnership	40,000
Esk'etemc	22,000
Fnfn/Nrrm Community Forest General Partner Corporation	185,000
Harrop-Procter Community	10,000
Hfn Forestry Limited Partnership	16,992
Kaslo And District Communityforest Society	25,000
Khowutzun Forest Services Limited Partnership	10,000
Klahoose Forestry Limited Partnership	115,146
Likely Xats'ull Community Forest Ltd.	25,000
Little Prairie Community Forest Inc.	20,000
Logan Lake Community Forest Corporation	24,000
Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society	20,800
Lower Similkameen Community Forests Limited Partnership	20,000
Mcbride Community Forest Corporation	50,000
McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Limited Partnership	38,500
Monashee Community Forest Llp	21,595
Nakusp & Area Community Forest (2013) Inc.	20,000
North Island Community Forest Limited Partnership	10,400
Nupqu Resource Corporation	10,600
Nuxalk Forestry Limited Partnership	20,000
Powell River Community Forest Ltd.	35,000
Qala:Yit Forestry Limited Partnership	24,202
Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative	16,300
Spelkumtn Community Forest Limited Partnership	11,000