



***Presentation to the BC Community
Forest Association (BCCFA)***

**Old Growth Technical Advisory
Panel Mapping Review**

October 21, 2021

Path to Implement Old Growth Recommendations

The recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review fall into three categories. Immediate measures that are needed now, elements that are needed to support the change and lastly the components that will make up a Modern Old Growth Strategy for BC. Government has committed to a timeline for starting the work for each of these three phases.



Technical Advisory Panel Assignment

Since June, a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) has been working to complete their 2-part assignment:

1. Maps, analysis, and detailed status of old growth ecosystems in British Columbia to improve public information (across the full land base),
2. Recommendations on priority areas for implementation of deferrals (focused on the Timber Harvest Land Base).

Benefits of this work:

- Independence but coordinated data and understood methodologies
- More fulsome analysis to inform Indigenous and Provincial governments.

TAP Members:

Garry Merkel: OGSR
report co-author

Rachel Holt: *Ecologist*

Karen Price: *Ecologist*

Dave Daust: *RPF*

Lisa Matthaus:
Organizing for Change

TAP Process

- Confirmed data sources, test assumptions
- Worked with ministry technical staff to assemble data and discuss methodologies.
- Ministry staff have been working to replicate the results.
- Adhere to intent of recommendation #6.
- Decision making on any deferrals come as recommendations to governments, but are not part of the public record.
- Connecting unresolved data, methodology or inventory questions to work under other recommendations (e.g. recommendation 11 on inventory).

TAP Methodology

Recommendation 6 criteria	TAP approach
BEC variant with less than 10% old forests	BEC variants with less than 10% by ecosystem and combination with landscape unit.
BEC / LU combination less than 10%	
Ancient forests >500 years on coast and wet ICH and >300 years in higher disturbance	>400 years for ecosystems with rare stand-replacing disturbance) and >250 years for ecosystems with higher disturbance rates. [BC Land Management Handbook 25].
High potential for ecosystem resilience	Intact watersheds.
Areas with SI >20m	Big tree assessment using threshold of either largest 10% of the forested area, or 30% of the naturally expected amount of old.

Socio-Economic Analysis

- TAP data is ecologically based, so provides one lens on how to approach deferrals.
- Economic impact analysis is underway with considerations for:
 - Area and volume impacts under different scenarios
 - Known planned and permits in place or submitted
 - Annual expected harvest for each criteria
 - Forest sector jobs and employment related information for volumes
 - Impacts on communities including annual incomes
 - Analysis by District, Community
 - Potential mill impacts
 - Community and worker support programs
 - Indigenous economic impacts

Indigenous Engagement – Key Steps

- Overview briefings –information sessions to introduce the TAP work and results.
- Sharing of map products.
- Setting engagement approaches suited to each Nation:
 - Government-to-government focused on deferrals and old growth
 - Through existing engagement forums and mechanisms already in place
 - Following established protocols such as those in treaty agreements
 - As part of broader forestry discussions and interests
- Once agreements between province and Nation(s) in place, discussion of approaches with licensees.

Next Steps

- TAP refining work but largely complete
- Information and maps to be shared with Indigenous Nations
- Deferral considerations ongoing
- Discussions with industry on approaches and strategies
- Ongoing Indigenous engagement
- Quickly move to addressing the remaining recommendations