

## Private Managed Forest Land Program Review July 2019

All the private land owner needs to do to avoid the exit fee is to cut down the trees for 16 years or more when there is no fee applicable. This is a loophole to log and flog. BC Government has the power and the responsibility to regulate private forest land in the public interest.

It would be a greater public good to give incentives for forest corporations to leave enough trees standing that could give support rather than diminish vital ecosystem services that are recommended by scientists to be essential to climate adaptation in our future. As private forest land owners find it costing more to access forests further afield that are older than 45-60 years old I fear they will take land out of the program waiting for an opportunity to sell to the developers waiting in the wings.

Communities are experiencing impacts from the deregulated forest practices that the provincial government administration brought into effect starting approximately around year 2004.

Locally, we witness a myriad of impacts from poor forest management on private managed forest land. including low flows in rivers and streams, diminishing ground water supply and aquifer recharge, increased flood events, drying of wetlands that feed salmon streams and rivers, and loss of recreational opportunities.

Key public environmental values will only be realized when we have regulations rooted in ecosystem based management. A sustainable forest industry can really only be achieved through watershed management based on future climate extremes and oversight from public servants not private enterprise.

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