

We asked licensees to explain the impact in their own words. Here are some of their voices.



Skeena – Mark Adamson, WL 1506A

Approximately 40% of our Smithers Woodlot is affected by the Old Growth Panel recommendations. The entire Woodlot area was logged (1948). I sampled two random “old growth” sites and the ages were 145 & 130 years. The largest trees (11” & 10” DBH) in each plot were sampled. In addition, this area shares a common border with Babine Mountains Provincial Park (already preserved).

This is not old growth and this is not science. It is clearly a preservation effort. In a nutshell, if we lose 40% of WL 1506A our Woodlot is no longer economically viable.

Cariboo - Rod Blake, WL 0071

Not having a formal academic background in forestry I remember 20 or 30 years ago trying to get my head wrapped around terms like “culmination age”, “over mature”, “faller select”, etc, as they were the buzz words used in that era’s good forest practices.

Next it was terms like “coarse woody debris”, “wildlife trees/snags”, “mycorrhizal fungi”, now the latest is “fuel loading”, “fuel mitigation”, “carbon sequestering”, but please someone tell me how Old Growth in the interior squares with all these terms...?

Kootenay-Boundary - Stu Deverney, WL 0403

The woodlot model of sustainability is harvesting the older forests as the younger stands grow to maturity. If the older forests are now ‘off limits’ the only alternative is to harvest young forests that haven’t had time to grow to their maximum potential and reach maturity.

Such an approach is contrary to the sustainable management practices the Sahlstrom’s have been employing for nearly 100 years and threatens the economic viability of Woodlot 0403.

South Coast Region - Kevin Webber, FVWA President

The Priority Deferrals were released with no information about how to manage immediate operations. Licensees who had approved Cutting Permits and set to get started were stressed and looking for answers. The maps showed recruitment areas which heavily overlap most of our Woodlots in the Fraser Valley.

The lack of quality data and methodology for stand verification is an issue. Everyone is in “wait and see” mode. Our members are quite pessimistic about the future of forest management.

North Coast Region - John Marlow, WL 1611

Management and retention of older age class forests is recognized as an extremely important aspect of forest management on Quadra Island and specifically within the Woodlot Licence Program. Retention of existing older age forests and recruitment of a suitable percentage of old forest for future generations is practised at the Island wide landscape level, the woodlot level, and the block level.

If you have questions about ‘old growth’ and woodlot licences, please contact us or engage your local MLA in a conversation about the importance of woodlot licences to local communities.

BC’s Woodlot Program Supports Education through Scholarships. Congratulations to this year’s recipients!



Jared, son of Paul Frasca, W1563, Columbia Woodlot Association, is attending Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. He has gained considerable summer experience working in firefighting, forest inventories, forest health assessments and silviculture field work. He is the recipient of the \$2000 scholarship from the FBCWA and is completing his Bachelor of Natural Resource Science this summer, then continuing his studies to become a Registered Professional Forester.



Olivia, daughter of Mike Gash, W1808, Cariboo Woodlot Association, has helped with silviculture surveys, beetle probing, GPSing and tree planting

on the family woodlot. She is the recipient of the \$1000 scholarship and is beginning her academic journey at McGill University in Montreal. Having achieved her dual Dogwood as a French Immersion student at Lake City Secondary School in Williams Lake, she’s working towards her Bachelor of Arts with the hopes of eventually working in education.



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