

**AT RISK**



# CATHEDRAL GROVE AND OLD-GROWTH FORESTS ON CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND

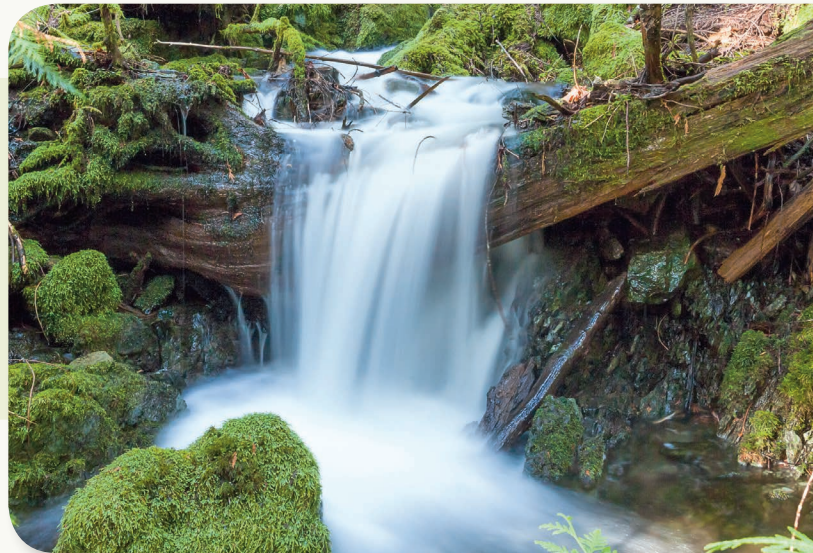
Cathedral Grove on Vancouver Island is Canada's most famous old-growth forest. Millions of people from around the world have come to marvel at its awe-inspiring, 800 year old Douglas-fir trees, located within MacMillan Provincial Park near Port Alberni.

However, few people know that right now Cathedral Grove is under major threat, as Island Timberlands has built a road onto the mountainside above the park on Mount Horne in preparation for logging.

The logging would threaten Cathedral Grove's ecological integrity by increasing erosion and siltation from the new cutblock above the grove; destroying critical wildlife habitat and the endangered old-growth Douglas-fir forest on the slope that is contiguous with Cathedral Grove; and degrading the area's recreational opportunities by ruining parts of the Mount Horne Loop Trail, a popular hiking and mushroom picking trail that is accessed from the Cathedral Grove parking lot. **Find more info at [SaveCathedralGrove.com](http://SaveCathedralGrove.com)**

Island Timberlands is also building roads and/or logging in other endangered old-growth forests on central Vancouver Island, including at McLaughlin Ridge in Port Alberni's drinking watershed; the Cameron Valley Firebreak upstream from Cathedral Grove; Katlum Creek near Courtenay; and other areas on their corporate private lands.

A total of 2400 hectares of these areas were originally intended for protection by the BC government, upon recommendation by their biologists, as Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR) to safeguard deer and/or elk wintering habitat, or as Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) for the endangered Queen Charlotte goshawk. However, the company's logging in recent years has reduced these remaining forests now to perhaps one-third of their original extent.



**Top** - Cathedral Grove's world-famous old-growth Douglas-firs are on the flats in the foreground, while Mount Horne, the mountainside above the park, is threatened with logging by Island Timberlands on its currently intact slope.  
**Inset** - Streams like this one flowing off of Mount Horne towards Cathedral Grove are often heavily impacted by siltation from nearby logging.

Jane Morden, leader of the Port Alberni Watershed-Forest Alliance, stands by a massive swath of ancient forest clearcut by Island Timberlands through the heart of McLaughlin Ridge in the summer of 2014.



## BC Liberal government's environmental deregulation jeopardizes old-growth forests

In 2004 the BC Liberal government changed course and allowed the removal of 78,000 hectares of land owned by Weyerhaeuser, subsequently bought by Island Timberlands, from their regulatory designation known as “Tree Farm Licence 44.” This resulted in the removal of most of the environmental regulations and policies on those lands that were designed to protect wildlife habitat, old-growth forests, endangered species, scenery, riparian forests that sustain water quality and fish habitat, and that prohibited raw log exports. In its place now are the extremely weak regulations of the Private Managed Forest Lands Act that are allowing logging to run rampant across the high conservation value areas.

After deregulating the land, the BC government and Island Timberlands then dropped the ball on follow-up negotiations that were supposed to have resulted in the formal protection of the 2400 hectares of ancient forest, in exchange for the company no longer having to face the more stringent environmental regulations everywhere else. However, the negotiations faltered and were dropped altogether. With no protections in place for these lands, Island Timberlands began clearcutting these ancient forests about 5 years ago and continues to log the last remnants today. Time is of essence now for a conservation solution before these last stands fall.



## Why are old-growth forests important?

Old-growth forests are vital to support endangered species (many of which can't flourish in second-growth forests), tourism, climate stability, clean water, wild salmon, and many First Nations cultures, including the Hupacasath, Tseshah, and K'omoks whose unceded lands these are. In the mountainous regions of BC's coast, old-growth forests provide critical food and shelter for many elk and deer populations at higher elevations during severe winters.

75% of the original, productive old-growth forests have already been logged on BC's southern coast, including over 90% of the valley-bottom ancient forests where the largest trees grow, and 99% of the old-growth Douglas-fir trees.

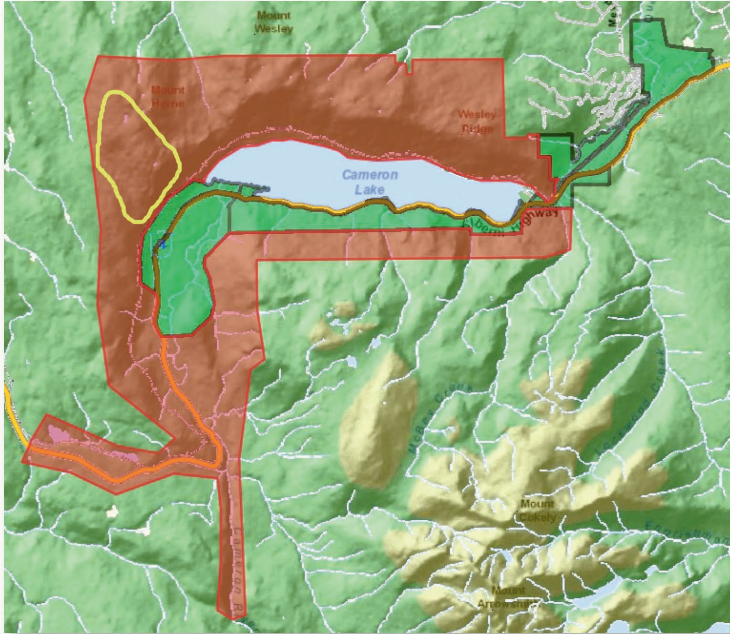
## Safeguard Cathedral Grove by protecting key adjacent areas

Conservationists are calling on the BC government to expand protection around MacMillan Provincial Park to fully encompass the forests above and adjacent to the world-famous Cathedral Grove.

The preliminary conservation vision would be a “common-sense” expansion to safeguard areas that are fundamental to the scenery and ecological integrity of the Cathedral Grove corridor: the mountainsides above Cathedral Grove (including the endangered Mount Horne); the forests surrounding magnificent Cameron Lake, that millions of

tourists drive alongside on the way to Cathedral Grove; a scenic highway buffer to protect the forests along Highway 4 up to the Port Alberni Summit (nick-named “The Hump”); and the spectacular Cathedral Grove Canyon along the Cameron River a few kilometres upstream from the park.

To do this, the BC government must undertake the appropriate consultations and negotiations to protect the Crown lands and help fund the purchase of the private lands.



**Preliminary vision for expanding protection around Cathedral Grove:**  
**Red** = Proposed Protected Areas Expansion    **Dark Green** = Existing Provincial Parks    **Yellow** = Mount Home area

## The Battle for McLaughlin Ridge: Port Alberni’s drinking watershed and critical old-growth wildlife habitat under attack!

In the summer of 2014, conservationists were greatly alarmed to discover that Island Timberlands had logged a 100 metre wide or greater swath of ancient trees out of the heart of McLaughlin Ridge, across its formerly intact section. Centuries-old ancient Douglas-fir trees draped in lichens were felled in an area recognized by the province’s own biologists as one of the most important habitats for wintering deer, endangered Queen Charlotte goshawks, and threatened marbled murrelets. McLaughlin Ridge is also a central part of the China Creek drinking watershed of Port Alberni and major logging there will increase the risk to the town’s water quality. By all measures, McLaughlin Ridge is of the highest conservation priority and the BC government must make good on the protection of its last few hundred hectares of standing ancient forest before it’s too late.



The Ancient Forest Alliance’s Ken Wu by one of the largest old-growth Douglas-firs on McLaughlin Ridge, of which 99% have already been logged on BC’s coast.

## Time for the BC Liberal government to take responsibility and show conservation leadership!

The BC Liberal government must own up to their responsibility for the environmental deregulation fiasco that has exposed the mountainside above Cathedral Grove, Port Alberni’s drinking watershed at McLaughlin Ridge, and thousands of hectares of other endangered old-growth forests to logging. Before it’s too late, they must commit to helping purchase and protect the endangered old-growth forests on Island Timberland’s private forest lands, with the help of land trusts – or else re-regulate these lands back to public land standards.

Island Timberlands must also immediately cease and desist from logging these critically endangered old-growth forests until a conservation solution can be implemented.



Jane Morden of the Port Alberni Watershed-Forest Alliance surveys recent destruction from old-growth logging on McLaughlin Ridge.

**Let the BC Liberal government know you want them to:**

1. **Take responsibility and show leadership** by helping to fund the protection of endangered old-growth forests at Horne Mountain above Cathedral Grove, McLaughlin Ridge, the Cameron Valley Firebreak, Katlum Creek, and the areas that were supposed to be protected as Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR's) and Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA's) on Island Timberlands' lands. They must also upgrade environmental standards on Private Managed Forest Lands.
2. **Create a dedicated BC Park Acquisition Fund** to purchase and protect endangered ecosystems on private lands across BC.
3. **Undertake a science-based Provincial Old-Growth Plan** to protect endangered old-growth forests on public lands across BC, ensure a sustainable, second-growth forest industry, and end the export of raw logs to foreign mills in order to protect BC jobs.



[SaveCathedralGrove.com](http://SaveCathedralGrove.com)  
or **WRITE to:**

- Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia at: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)
  - Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations at: [FLNR.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.minister@gov.bc.ca)
- Both at: Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Produced by the Ancient Forest Alliance in October 2014. Photos by TJ Watt. Visit AFA online at [www.AncientForestAlliance.org](http://www.AncientForestAlliance.org)  
Victoria Main PO, Box 8459, Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, Canada | 250.896.4007 | [Info@AncientForestAlliance.org](mailto:Info@AncientForestAlliance.org)



**YES!** Here is my donation to the Ancient Forest Alliance!

*I'm proud to support the campaign to protect BC's endangered ancient forests and forestry jobs.* AncientForestAlliance.org

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION AMOUNT (one time) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS (street and/or PO Box #) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL [info@ancientforestalliance.org](mailto:info@ancientforestalliance.org)

MONTHLY GIVING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month

Withdraw funds on the 1st  or 15th  of each month.

Ancient Forest Friend - \$20   
Ancient Forest Guardian - \$50

\*Note: For monthly donations from your bank account instead of CC, please include a void cheque and the necessary "PAD" form from our website's monthly donation page.

Ancient Forest Defender - \$100   
Ancient Forest Protector - \$200

Cash     Cheque     Visa     MC

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ \*Donations are not tax deductible in order to avoid government restrictions on our political advocacy and freedom of speech, allowing us to maximize the effectiveness of your donation.

The Ancient Forest Alliance is a Registered BC Non-Profit Society # S0056367  
✉ Victoria Main PO, Box 8459, Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, Canada

☎ Donations can also be made over the phone at: 250.896.4007  
🌐 As well as online at: [www.AncientForestAlliance.org](http://www.AncientForestAlliance.org)

