



huu ayah

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

BACKGROUND

OLD GROWTH REPORT COMPARISON

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Reports on the status of old growth forests in BC vary widely. An April 2020 report claimed that “only a tiny proportion of BC’s remaining old forests (3%) supports large trees”¹. This report was critiqued by some for using data that substantially under-estimates site productivity in old forests. A subsequent report released in October 2021 found that 29.3% of BC’s remaining old forests support large trees². Yet another report, also released in October 2021 didn’t introduce new statistics but provided a commentary on the state of the old growth debate in BC³.

This table provides a comparison of the information provided in these three reports.

	A Last Stand for Biodiversity¹	Status of BC’s Old Forests²	Reality Recovered – The Facts on Old Growth³
Forested area in BC	~50 million ha	55.4 million ha	Not stated
Area of old forest in BC	13.2 million ha	11.4 million ha	Not stated
Area of protected forest in BC	Not stated	Not stated	16.8 million ha
Area within OGMA in BC	Not stated	Not stated	3.1 million ha
Area of old forest with/capable of growing large trees	415,000 ha	3.34 million ha*	Not stated
Percentage of old forest with/capable of growing large trees	3%	29.3%*	Not stated

¹ Price, K., Holt, R.F. & Daust, D. (2020). *BC’s Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand for Biodiversity*. <https://veridianecological.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/bcs-old-growth-forest-report-web.pdf>

² Brown, C. (2021). *Status of BC’s Old Forests*. ForSite Forest Management Specialists. https://www.cofi.org/wp-content/uploads/BC_OldGrowth_2021Status-Report_Oct21-2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0LMiN-nvZW2k-CsiKVqAsAXkJDTmSWTwsYMN9bIf0YluU1WwMZSO-RZ-g

³ Muir, S. (2021). *Reality Recovered – The Facts on Old Growth*. Green Growth BC. <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/73ee8532-b1d4-4c99-ba53-3d3e8e164221/Reality%20Recovered%20-%20The%20Facts%20on%20Old%20Growth-co.pdf>