

# Ancient Forest Alliance

2020 ACTIVITY REPORT & FINANCIALS





Founded in 2010

# MISSION STATEMENT

**The Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA)** is a registered non-profit organization working to protect BC's endangered old-growth forests and to ensure a sustainable, second-growth forest industry.

We are BC's main organization working to secure science-based, province-wide legislation to protect old-growth forests for the sake of wild species, freshwater, the climate, tourism, Indigenous cultures, and communities.





# Your Support Helped Us Reach New Heights In 2020!

## **To our dedicated supporters,**

Because of you, 2020 was a momentous year for the AFA and the campaign to protect BC's endangered old-growth forests.

When the pandemic hit, we weren't sure what the year was going to look like or how the campaign would be affected. We didn't know if we'd be able to keep up our work at full capacity, carry out important projects, or meet our campaign goals. But thanks to your tremendous support and generosity, we were able to do all of this and more!

Whether you donated, shared our striking photos, flooded decision makers' inboxes and social media profiles, signed a resolution, purchased AFA gear, attended our first online webinar, or encouraged your peers to speak up for old-growth, you helped keep the old-growth forests we all love in the spotlight.

Thank you for having hope, for your unwavering support, and for your passion for protecting BC's spectacular ancient forests.

## *Most gratefully,*

**TJ Watt, Andrea Inness, Joan Varley, Tiara Dhenin, Dave Cuddy, and Rachel Ablack**





# Year at a Glance

Here's what you helped make happen in 2020!

## PUBLIC PRESSURE



# 11,000

Over 11,000 messages sent to provincial decision makers via our digital campaign tools

# 2,000

Over 2,000 British Columbians submitted feedback to the independent Old Growth Review Panel using our online tool

# 2,000

Gained 2,000 more online petition signatures

# 1,400

Over 1,400 British Columbians sent our template letter to political party leaders during election 2020 calling for action on old-growth



Submitted 60 trees to the BC Big Tree Registry

## Out in the field



Explored and documented unprotected old-growth forests and horrific clearcuts on Vancouver Island:

Caycuse Watershed and Klanawa Valley, Ditiidaht territory

Taylor River and Nahmint Valley, Hupacasath and Tseshaht territory

Fairy Creek Watershed, Pacheedaht territory

Mt. Horne, mountainside above Cathedral Grove, Territory of the K'ómoks and Tseshaht First Nations and the Te'mexw Treaty Association



Climbed and measured ancient cedars in a newly identified section of Eden Grove in Pacheedaht territory

## BEHIND THE SCENES


- Lobbied the provincial government on old-growth policy changes
- Provided a formal submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review & met with the panel members
- Raised \$675,000





# 2020 marked 10 years of the Ancient Forest Alliance!





On February 24th, we celebrated a decade of growth and accomplishments here at the AFA! What started as a team of just two passionate conservationists with a vision for a better future for old-growth forests has transformed into a thriving organization, powered by six full-time staff and a community of over 25,000 engaged, dedicated, and generous supporters!

**Here are some of the milestones we've achieved in our 10 years:**

- Located & successfully campaigned to protect the Avatar Grove near Port Renfrew in Pacheedaht territory (2010-2012).
- Secured protection of 60% of Echo Lake near Mission in Sts'ailes territory (2013).
- Defeated the BC government's proposal to expand Tree Farm Licences across the province (2013/2014).
- Built a boardwalk for Avatar Grove with the help of hard-working volunteers (2013-2017).
- Averted logging so far in ancient forest hotspots, like the Central Walbran Valley in Pacheedaht territory.
- Built alliances with non-traditional allies, which has resulted in numerous resolutions being passed in support of old-growth forest protection, including by the BC Chamber of Commerce in 2016 and the Public and Private Workers of Canada millworkers' union in 2017.
- Organized many public rallies and info nights and toured thousands of people on educational old-growth hikes.
- Explored and documented the beauty and destruction of BC's ancient forests with professional photos & videos that have been viewed millions of times.
- Brought attention to BC's ancient forests on local, national, and international levels.

**And most importantly:**

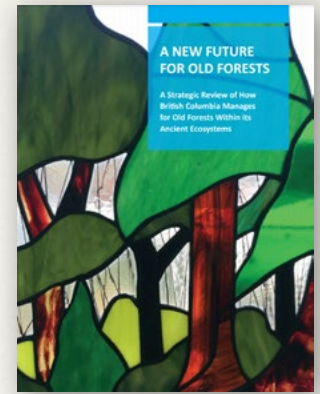
- Pressured the BC NDP government to take steps toward greater old-growth protection for the first time in decades, including convening a BC Old Growth Strategic Review Panel to gather public input on old-growth management, introducing a regulation to protect some of BC's biggest old-growth trees, and committing to the full implementation of the Old Growth Panel's recommendations (2019/2020).

*The work is far from done but these achievements remind us change is possible and we can't give up! We won't stop fighting until BC's magnificent ancient forests finally get the protection they deserve.*



A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE CAMPAIGN

# The Old Growth Panel Recommendations



Thanks to the tens of thousands of people who have spoken up on behalf of ancient forests over the past several years, in the fall of 2019, the BC government formed an independent panel to review how old-growth is managed in the province. Here's a breakdown of what happened, how we capitalized on this rare opportunity, and what the outcomes mean for old-growth.

## In 2019 and 2020:

- We mobilized British Columbians to have their say in this critical process
- 2,000 people sent submissions to the panel using our online tool
- We provided our own detailed submission and met with the panel members to outline opportunities for the BC government to protect old-growth while supporting a sustainable, second-growth forest industry
- The panel submitted its final report to Premier Horgan and Cabinet in April 2020
- The report was released to the public on Sept. 11, 2020

## What's in the report?

The report is a total game changer for ancient forests. The panel calls for a complete overhaul of BC's outdated forestry management regime and provides 14 strong, comprehensive recommendations including immediate logging deferrals in all at-risk old-growth forests; establishing new, science-based, targets for old-growth forest protection; enacting legislation that enshrines ecosystem health and biodiversity as an overarching priority in forest management; and supporting forestry workers and communities as they transition away from old-growth logging – all important changes that we have worked toward for many years. Read the complete report [here](#).

## What was the government's response?

In September, the BC NDP announced a Special Tree Regulation to protect some of BC's biggest, most iconic trees and logging deferrals in nine areas including the McKelvie Valley, Clayoquot Sound and the Skagit Valley Donut Hole. However, only 1% of the deferred areas consist of previously unprotected, productive old-growth, leaving the vast majority of BC's most endangered old-growth ecosystems at risk.

In October, on the election campaign trail, Premier John Horgan bent to mounting public pressure and promised to implement the Old Growth Panel's recommendations "in their totality." So far, the BC NDP's actions have fallen short of their promises. We now need to work harder than ever to hold them accountable and ensure the recommendations are implemented within the panel's recommended three-year timeline.





# Exploring and Documenting BC's Ancient Forests

Exploring and documenting the beauty and destruction of BC's ancient forests through photography and video is a vital aspect of our work that helps us raise awareness, mobilize action, and pressure the BC government to protect old-growth.

In 2020 we visited and highlighted unprotected old-growth forests in the Taylor River, Nahmint, Klanawa and Fairy Creek Valleys; located an epic stand of ancient giants in Eden Grove; witnessed the clearcutting of an old-growth forest on Mt. Horne, above the world-famous Cathedral Grove; and exposed the destruction of ancient giants in the Caycuse River watershed.



## FAIRY CREEK

Canada's ninth-widest known yellow cedar located in the Fairy Creek watershed, Pacheedaht territory, located by AFA's TJ Watt. Fairy Creek is the last unlogged old-growth valley on southern Vancouver Island (outside of parks) under threat from logging company Teal Jones Group. It's also the site of the longest standing blockade in BC history, which was established by independent protestors in August.



## TAYLOR RIVER

An unprotected grove of old-growth forest in the Taylor River Valley near Port Alberni in Hupacasath and Tseshaht territory that's been flagged for logging by BC Timber Sales (the government's own logging agency). This gorgeous stand of old-growth boasts rare ancient Douglas-fir trees and old-growth redcedars; a beautiful, fern-laden understory; and is important habitat for black bears and other wildlife.



## EDEN GROVE

On an expedition to further explore Eden Grove, we located an epic stand of ancient redcedars and thanks to our friends at Expedition Old Growth, we were able to climb the biggest of the bunch. This massive, burly red cedar came in at 175 feet tall and nearly 14 feet wide! We also submitted this ancient giant and 59 others to the BC Big Tree Registry in 2020.





# Caycuse Before & After Photos Go Viral

In November, we [released](#) our most shocking photo series to date: [before-and-after images](#) of ancient redcedars cut down by Teal Jones in the Caycuse River watershed, Ditidaht territory. While this was not a series our Campaigner and Photographer TJ Watt ever wished to complete, the destruction of this stunning and unique ancient forest provides a shocking example of what continues to be lost while the BC government delays action for old-growth.

The photos garnered [international news coverage](#) and spurred thousands to flood Premier Horgan's inbox and social media profiles.







*Thank you to everyone who shared these photos and sent messages to the BC government. We will continue to expose the beauty and destruction of old-growth forests until meaningful action to protect them is put in place.*





# Engaging Government and Ramping Up Pressure

Whether it was lobbying the government, building and engaging allies, or scaling up outside pressure, in 2020 we took every opportunity to build momentum for old-growth forest protection and a sustainable, second-growth forest industry.



## Old Growth Panel Feedback

In January we contributed a formal submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel tasked with gathering feedback from British Columbians on how BC manages old-growth forests. We also had the chance to meet with the panel members to present our recommendations.

## Budget 2021

In June we mobilized British Columbians to participate in the BC NDP's 2021 budget consultation, a critical opportunity to call for funding for the protection of old-growth forests. Our key asks included allocating funding for a provincial Natural Lands Acquisition Fund for the purchase and protection of endangered ecosystems on private lands; conservation financing for the sustainable economic development of First Nations economies in lieu of old-growth logging; and Indigenous-led land use planning and protected areas to maintain the significant cultural values of ancient forests while supporting First Nations' communities and wellbeing. We also provided our own formal submission to the budget committee.

## Forest March BC

In September, we stood in solidarity with many British Columbians across the province as part of Forest March BC, a grassroots-led movement to overhaul BC's forest management regime made up of concerned citizens.

## Election Mobilization

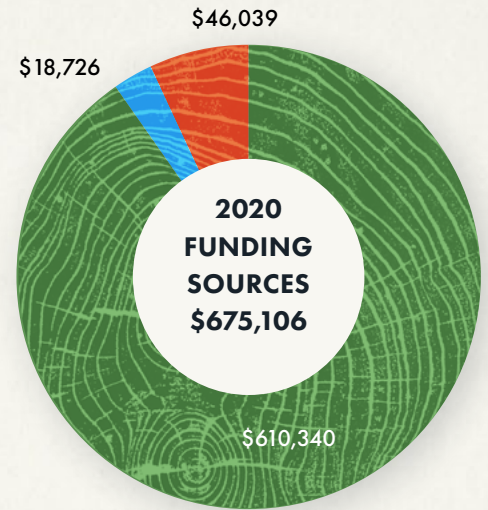
In October, we produced a [short video](#) and [webpage](#) to show British Columbians where the major political parties stood on old-growth logging and related issues. We also mobilized 1,400 people to send messages to party leaders calling for the next government to make ancient forests a top priority. Thanks in part to our efforts, old-growth logging became a top election issue in 2020!



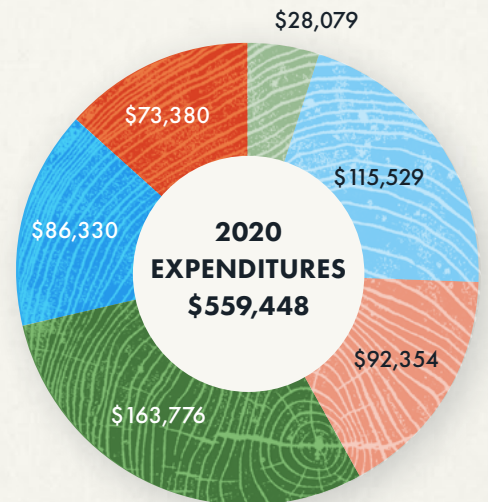
# Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2020

<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	610,340	
Grants	18,726	
Sales	46,039	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>675,106</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Cost of Goods	28,079	
<b>CAMPAIGNS</b>		
Campaigners	115,529	
Research & Campaign Development	92,354	
Public Education & Engagement	163,776	
<b>OPERATIONS</b>		
Administration	86,330	
Public Outreach	73,380	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>559,448</b>
<i>Net Surplus: designated for special campaign projects</i>		<b>115,658</b>



- Donations
- Grants
- Sales



- Cost of Goods
- Campaigners
- Research & Campaign Development
- Public Education & Engagement
- Administration
- Public Outreach



# What's next in 2021

## Our top priorities include:

1. Ensuring the BC NDP follows through on its promise to commence implementation of all 14 of the Old Growth Panel's recommendations within three years
2. Finalizing an economic analysis of standing old-growth forests near Port Renfrew
3. Supporting an academic study on the economic value of recreation in old-growth forests near Port Renfrew
4. Continuing to build and strengthen relationships with key non-traditional allies
5. Producing community spotlight videos that elevate the voices of local citizens calling for old-growth forest protection.

## Key asks of the BC government:

- Work with Indigenous governments to immediately halt logging in BC's most at-risk old-growth forests, as recommended by the independent panel.
- Implement all of the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel's recommendations within the proposed three-year timeline.
- Allocate funding to support Indigenous-led protected areas, land-use planning, and economic alternatives to old-growth logging.
- Allocate funding for a provincial Natural Lands Acquisition Fund to purchase and protect endangered ecosystems on private lands.
- Develop a strategy to support the transition to a sustainable, value-added, second-growth forest sector.
- Enact legislation that places ecosystem integrity, biodiversity, and ecosystem services over timber values.





**Thank you for your  
continued support  
and for caring about  
BC's ancient forests!**

## **Get in touch!**

Phone: (250) 896-4007

Email: [info@ancientforestalliance.org](mailto:info@ancientforestalliance.org)

303-620 View St,  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1J6, Canada

[ancientforestalliance.org](http://ancientforestalliance.org)



We'd like to extend a huge thank you to our amazing volunteer graphic designer, Jeffrey Bates, who helped us bring this report to life!