



## **"West Coast Trail Worries" or Musings on the Destruction of Pachena Grove (23 May 2005 to 21 September 2006)**

**Alberni Forums** <http://www.alberni.ca/forums/showthread.php?t=2399>  
**Edited by Dr. Karen Wonders, 29 January 2009**

23 May 2005

Reported in *The Province* newspaper on 19 May 2005: "Native logging planned at the entrance to the West Coast Trail will destroy a pristine river and scare off tourists" says Jim Levis, Bamfield director of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. "We get thousands of people hiking the West Coast Trail. To have a clearcut at the edge of town makes absolutely no sense." Levis also warns that silt from the logging operation will wipe out fish habitat. "To log that area will probably destroy the Pachena River forever."

The 100 hectare area to be clearcut is private land owned by the logging company Weyerhaeuser. Under the proposal, the Huu-ay-aht band would log the area for Weyerhaeuser, then buy the land. The company and band maintain that the cutting won't damage fisheries, the views or the area's history. "We would log it according to the instructions that we would receive from the Bamfield Community" said Robert Dennis, the band's chief councillor. Logging would take place two kilometres from the start of the West Coast Trail, an extremely popular trek along Vancouver Island's coastline between Bamfield and Port Renfrew. The operation will not involve clearcutting but will be "variable retention" that preserves some trees, Dennis said. But Levis said variable retention is "just a modern word for clearcut, leaving a couple of trees standing in the middle of it. "The first time a storm comes along, it blows them down."

Logging plans haven't been finalized, so what the cutting will look like is impossible to know yet, said Stan Coleman, a timber manager for Weyerhaeuser. The company, working with the Huu-ay-aht, will study impacts on fisheries, the view, and cultural and historical values. Because the cutblock is flat land, it will be easy to design a logging plan that won't affect the view, Coleman said, "It's definitely not going to impact the West Coast Trail." But hikers on the trail can already see clearcuts on the drive to the head of the West Coast Trail and along the trek.

23 May 2005

Shame on the logging companies and the province which took all the good timber first and have been profiting off Native land for well over a century. Like getting a donut with all the filling sucked out. Those stuck on the Anacla Indian Reserve have second class rights and education.

23 May 2005

In ten years the trees will be back and the vast majority of the hikers don't recognize old growth. Trees grow and are harvested, learn to live with it. Trees are BC's largest renewable resource no matter what Ingmar Lee [activist founder of the Friends of Cathedral Grove] states.

May 24 2005

The proposed cutblock of the Pachena forest is about two minutes from my house. It won't effect the West Coast Trail as it is on the Bamfield Road before you even get to the Trailhead. The Huu-ay-aht have a successful hatchery which they would not jeopardise. The Pachena forest is being called old growth. Give me a break, it's been picked over two or three times already. No chance of old growth timber being found at sea level, within 25 ft of a road. The only reason the director of the Bamfield Community Forest cares is because he has to go through all the hoops to harvest. He's annoyed that the Natives are getting a go ahead at the speed of light when the Community has to sit and wait for all the red tape to clear before harvesting their public land wood lot. The cutblock is private land . . . and the owners chose the Hua-ay-aht Logging Company to harvest it for them.

24 May 2005

Finally the truth comes out, thanks for a Bamfield Community view on this.

28 December 2005

Three years ago a deal was signed: the quiet process to clearcut the Pachena Grove had begun. MacMillan Bloedel was bought by Weyerhaeuser in 1999. It had plotted to log the last unprotected spruce grove on south Vancouver Island. While logging the Grove will not destroy the West Coast Trail, it is the last piece of old growth forest left on the Bamfield Road. Already five landslides have damaged the beginning of the Trail, caused by questionable clearcut logging. Weyerhaeuser claims it will not be clearcut. Instead "Variable Retention" will be employed, but this is just another term for clearcutting. So far we have convinced Weyerhaeuser to leave a buffer. Earlier we complained about the lack of a proper buffer at the Sarita cutblock: this caused so much blowdown that Bamfield had 23 power outages.

As for cultural and historical values, the area is full of culturally modified trees (CMTs). An archaeological overview was done and it was shown the area is rich in cultural evidence predating 1846. According to federal laws, a "site alteration permit" is required before logging CMTs.

The Weyerhaeuser boys came to Bamfield last month. We asked "as this is the last old growth spruce on southern Vancouver Island, where will you get your next spruce timber supply from?" Surprisingly their reply was the Carmanah [British Columbia Provincial Park]. Weyerhaeuser started with Cathedral Grove and I believe it will move to the Carmanah. My chief claims: "they will be trying to log the parks next." The Weyerhaeuser boys claimed that the spruce will be sold overseas because it is worth nothing here. But check the prices at Windsor Plywood. Finished cedar is \$7 per board ft. Spruce is a whooping \$25 per board ft. So one tree with 10,000 board ft is equivalent to \$250,000. People kill for less.

The Bamfield Community Forest logged some trees, but Weyerhaeuser and the Ohiat [Huu-ay-aht] logged the majority. Weyerhaeuser pays nothing for the cedar. One log lying on the Keeshan Road was six ft in diameter and 45 ft long, obviously clear old growth. Shortly after it disappeared an addition to a lodge was built shortly using 3,000 ft of clear cedar for which the owner paid \$5 per board ft. As for the Community Forest, over 50 percent is going for treaty land and the Huu-ay-aht Logging Company is going to log the rest. The Company's forest manager was appointed to the Bamfield Community Forest board. To correct the previous posting: the Pachena Spruce Grove is old growth forest and the forest against the ocean has not been logged for 50 years.

28 December 2005

I forgot about the anti environmental movement, how they play by different rules. I am quite

used to threats and know when to pull back. I live near the Pachena Grove flood plain and know it is the last unprotected spruce flood plain on Vancouver Island. Yet it will be removed just like the old growth forest was removed from the Cathedral Grove fir flood plain.

30 December 2005

If that's what you call near the ocean, then I have run the saw a few times myself closer than that. Anyway, I think in a round-a-bout way, we agree on the whole subject.

31 December 2005

Are you ok with the clearcutting of my backyard, the last unprotected spruce grove on south Vancouver Island? How can you say it's not old growth. If a German tourist comes to see a tree that is 10 ft in diameter and instead sees a tree that is 10 ft high, don't you think he will be able to tell the difference? As for renewable resource, old growth forest produce tight grain, second growth forests have no forest canopy, so therefore cannot produce tight grain wood. How can you say renewable resource when you do not renew the tight grain wood? My chief said that our council and Weyerhaeuser are trying to put us and Bamfield against each other.

I'm not in favour of cutting the old growth spruce along the Pachena River as you approach the entrance to the West Coast Trail. It is perhaps the biggest tourism attraction around Bamfield. Cutting this area will create bad feeling among the visitors and you can be sure it will have an economic impact on the community. That being said, I do not think it is the last spruce grove on southern Vancouver Island. What about the old growth spruce along the fringe of the West Coast Trail that is protected in the Pacific Rim National Park. Also there is the Carmanah Provincial Park, south of Bamfield, which was established to protect the largest Sitka Spruce in Canada, as well as all the groves along the Carmanah River. The most that could be said about the Bamfield area is that it is some of the most accessible old growth spruce on southern Vancouver Island.

31 December 2005

Nothing to worry about. . . . Natives are the caretakers of the environment, they would never stoop to making a quick buck at the expense of the local fauna like the white man would.

31 December 2005

Is the issue a) that old growth is being cut, or b) who is cutting the old growth?"

31 December 2005

The issue is the old growth Pachena forest. Yes it's a Huu-ay-aht company logging it, but it's run by a white guy. Only one fifth of the Huu-ay-aht want it logged and none live there. It is a shady land deal between some band members and Weyerhaeuser. It's Weyerhaeuser's land. Weyerhaeuser wants it logged and who better to log it than the First Nation? The hereditary chief was asked how he feels when he hears the trees fall and he replied "It's killing me." The logging is really about a subdivision to be located between here and Bamfield.

I encourage anyone with a view to join the discussion. Log the last spruce grove or not? Post your view. If you timber fallers think you will be cutting down old growth trees forever, remember the 40 year rotations; feller bunchers; secondary industry; \$25 per board ft; and raw log export.

7 January 2006

Is this going to hurt the West Coast Trail? The answer is a flat out no. Will it hurt the Bamfield economy? No. As for the white guy running the Huu-ay-aht Logging Company, you guys hired him. The chief saying, "It's killing me." Stop it, now you are killing me. The subdivision you speak of: it on Native Land, or is there another one I don't know about?

8 January 2006

This is a classic example of finger pointing, which really causes no effect on anything other

than our egos. Why the Hell would any Native or Non-Native want to destroy these irreplaceable forests. Go have a look at Klanawa Valley; Hayes Forest Company had about five grapple yarders going steady there. Go look at Carmanah, same thing. Go look at Walbran, same thing. I don't think the blame should be directed at a particular skin colour, but rather our provincial government for selling us out for a quick buck. I guess the old adage "Out of sight, outta mind" is closer to the truth than I thought. Think about this when you are voting later this month, although I doubt we are capable of electing a party that won't put us over a barrel.

8 January 2006

Sugsaw Creek is the source of the water you drink, stored in the big green barrel on the hill. According to the map, the subdivision is going partly on private land, owned by Weyerhaeuser, partly on Community Forest land and partly on Indian Reserve land. Once the Pachena Grove has been logged by Weyerhaeuser, then the HUU-ay-aht can buy the land for \$1.26 million, which will be made from the logging. They cannot buy the land until it is logged.

Once the land is turned over, the subdivision and industrial park will go in on the land north of Pachena Grove, up on the flats close to Bamfield. The big question: what does the elected HUU-ay-aht council know that we do not know? Why do we need such a big subdivision when there is lots of land up on the flats? I thought the Community Forest was putting in an industrial site. According to the proposal, 21 house lots are on the Community Forest land. This is a big cutblock. 11 house sites are on the private land west of Bamfield Road.

The industrial site is part of the buffer zone that was demanded by the Bamfield people against the Bamfield Road when MacMillan Bloedel clearcut the forest years ago. It is made up of seven big lots, basically all the left behind buffer. The concern was that the trees create a visual barrier against the clearcut. MacMillan Bloedel assured us that the buffer was engineered "so as not to fall over our power lines." It makes you wonder why the Sarita River cutblock was so poorly engineered, as to have 25 power outages the following winter.

Part of the proposed subdivision are 24 house lots on the northwest corner of the Anacla Indian Reserve. This is the only piece of old growth left on the Reserve. The HUU-ay-aht have been in the process of moving to this corner for years. Taking half of the Community Forest in the land claim settlement; buying the land; surrounding the Bamfield Road; and putting in an industrial park will hurt the Bamfield economy. As the land claim seems to be stalled again, until the deal goes through, it's connected. Logging the Pachena Grove will negatively effect Bamfield businesses dependent on West Coast Trail tourists.

11 January 2006

Re: "The company and band maintain that the cutting won't damage fisheries, the views or the area's history." The Pachena River has already been destroyed by logging, and this is just the last step in its destruction. As for the view, "it is like driving through Cathedral Grove." If you clearcut the Grove, it would effect the view. The logging of CMTs is the removal of heritage objects, an act that will damage the history of the land. Don't they need a site alteration permit to remove heritage objects? What does the HUU-ay-aht chief councillor mean with his statement: "We would log it according to the instructions that we would receive from the Bamfield Community"?

15 January 2006

I am wondering why only one of these laws is enforced while the others are business as usual. It is against the law to prevent logging trucks from accessing a cutblock. It is against the law to remove an heritage object without a permit. It is against the law to kill a red listed species. It is against the law to log against a salmon bearing stream. As Bamfield is in the Port Alberni Regional District, I imagine it is ok to post a picture of a frog from the old growth forest on the Pachena River. The red legged frog is on the red list because the species cannot survive in the second growth forests. How many frogs will die? The Pachena Grove is full of red legged frogs, it is also a Marbled Murrelet nesting site. How many nests will go?

27 January 2006

If a culturally modified tree (CMT) is found in the Pachena cutblock, who gives the Huu-ay-aht Logging Company the right to take the tree? How do they know that it's not the Makah tribe in Neah Bay stripping the bark, or the Nitinat? Francis Drake might even have stopped in Pachena Bay while warring with the Spanish. As a heritage object, a CMT is protected. If it's older than 1846 an archaeological impact assessment is required. The Pachena Grove should be classified a heritage site. Weyerhaeuser, the owners of the land, would need to be paid by the BC government. Granted Weyerhaeuser would not get \$25 per board ft, but, it's better then killing all the red listed species that are in the Pachena Grove and replacing it with a subdivision.

6 February 2006

A photo was taken at the entrance to the West Coast Trail of a hoe chucker logging second growth trees which are, according to foresters, a "renewable" resource. Loggers eliminated the original forest, at over 1000 cubic meters per hectare. They sold the wood for big dollars, because it is clear old growth wood. Once it the forest is completely gone, it will be replaced with a new forest which is logged at 40 year rotations. The finished product will be construction lumber that is sold for a maximum of 90 cents a board ft. If you get 250 trees per hectare, that is only about 250 cubic meters per hectare. This is not renewing the old growth forest because the second growth trees have no tight grain or clear wood in them.

Making money from tourists seeking big trees has been done in the US for over a hundred years. The Sequoia big tree called "General Sherman" in California's Sierra Nevadas was protected in 1890. Now it's nearly 40 ft in diameter and a major tourist attraction. The Romans had trees this big: they knocked them down and made boarded ships and giant dug outs. Think about it, a 40 ft wide Roman rowing vessel capable of sailing the world, yet the vessels never went to America.

7 February 2006

You may know trees, but I know tourism. I make my living from it, and I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt, if you were to rely on old growth trees to attract enough tourists to feed your family, you better get used to the taste of Kraft dinner and rice. I bet this park you speak of in the US is connected to the rest of the world by a nice paved highway, not 80 km of the poorest maintained gravel road in the western hemisphere.

10 February 2006

As a forester, I can tell you that 250 trees per hectare for second growth is really low. Cutblocks must be planted to around 1,200 stems per hectare and there are many 'volunteers' that grow along with the planted stand. Most of the second growth stands around Sarita River that I've personally seen have around 600-700 cubic meters per hectare when they are logged, but this is dependant on age. Still not the volume of old growth forest but at the same time the amount of defect and breakage occurring in these stands is way lower.

There is a lot of doom and gloom about the value of second growth versus the value of the old growth timber, but a long term outlook must be taken. Second growth timber, if harvested three times in 240 years, versus one time in 240 years, is of similar value in the long run. All that said, I agree that more of our old growth should be protected and more of areas that have already been harvested receive more silviculture to increase growth and yield on this portion of the productive land base.

11 February 2006

I'm sure the forester would know, but these facts give you only 1/2 a cubic meter per tree, with the waste and the quarter inch rule. You won't get many 2x10s and no 2x12s. You will only get lots of knotty course grain hemlock 2x4s. As that is all the forests around Sarita River are. How much money do you get for knotty hemlock 2x4s, finished product? Compare that to \$25 per foot. The old growth, which is worth lots will become extinct.

As for defects and damage. You are dealing with young trees in the second growth forests. Old trees, say 12 ft in diameter, have a lot of valuable wood, but like old people they have defects.

It's like the 5/50's. Pachena Grove is in an ice age refugium area. All around the Pachena River are small streams with trout. Not ordinary trout. These are 5/50s, as the old timers called them. They are prehistoric trout, 5 inches long and 50 years old. How do I know? In 1987 a MacMillan Bloedel operation resulted in the first cutblock to damage one of the creeks in this refugium. The Bamfield Marine Center studied the trout and found them to be prehistoric. MacMillan Bloedel was fined \$8,000 for logging over the creek. Then the logging company clearcut the entire habitat of the fish between the creek and Bamfield. When these forests turn to dead zones, they will cut off the sun and the endangered trout will be gone forever.

You wrote: "harvested three times in 240 years." This is scary. A friend's grandfather was a forester in Sweden. He said that the forests are dying because of this very thing, Three rotations of dead zones, leaving a lack of nutrients. Trees need to eat too. We could go the way of the English and poof: the ancient forests gone forever. The US was smart enough to protect the giant Sequoias. I personally think they should selectively log the old growth and the second growth to get old growth attributes. Unfortunately this is not the way of Man. For the long term we are just mimicking the Europeans and look at the state of their forests.

11 February 2006

First of all, a 50 cm diameter, 35 meter tall tree, which I feel is a good representative size for the second growth timber in that area that is ready to be harvested, has just over 2 cubic meters per tree. You're probably going to get more than 1/2 a cube of viable lumber out of that. The forests around Sarita River are not just hemlock, there is a significant amount of second growth fir and cedar there as well. I agree though, probably no more 2X10s or 2X12s.

As to forestry in Sweden, our practices are significantly different. Plantation forestry is practiced where trees are grown in perfect rows and tended by machines, even branches are picked up off the ground and used for pulp. Rotation ages are shorter than 80 years. Vegetation is severely suppressed and very little organics make it back into the soil. Our forests grow under very little supervision. Once they reach free growing they are not looked at again until harvest time. Nutrients are returned to the soil through deciduous leaf litter (alder leaves are very heavy in nitrogen as one example). When I mentioned silviculture I was leaning more towards fertilization and pruning of these stands to increase growth and quality.

I agree. . . more effort should definitely be made to explore different harvesting techniques that suit the environments in question, not just here but all over the province. I certainly don't agree with many of the practices currently in place by some of the licensee companies in this area. In my opinion practices here are dictated more by the almighty buck than anything else. Some of us are trying to change things from the inside of the industry however, incorporating the things we learned in school about ecology and holistic approaches to management.

11 February 2006

You are getting me confused. If you have 1,200 trees per hectare and you get 600 meters per hectare. How do you get two meters per tree? Very confusing. When I went to school one plus one equalled two. The rotation used here in BC is now 40 years. When no sun enters the forest these deciduous trees do not grow - go for a walk in a second growth forest near Sarita River: dead zones as far as the eyes can see. Besides does silviculture not get rid of the competing alders? It's good to hear you are trying to change the industry. As for the Cathedral Grove protesters, I believe they left because it's not worth losing their lives over. I am a little fed-up with the Weyerhaeuser attitude to historical sites. If you had 300 trees per hectare and you got two meters per tree, you would get 1,200 meters per hectare.

11 February 2006

I take my career very seriously as what I do can effect the environment for decades to come. I

have six years education in this field (a diploma from BCIT in forestry and a degree from UNBC in resource management) and six years in the field and I assure you the numbers I have quoted are reasonably accurate. You seem to have a strong opinion about environmental matters, just wondering what these opinions are founded upon; education, experience, etc?

12 February 2006

I could go back in the thread and find the joke, but it went something like this; the big tourist attraction: "Come to Bamfield and see the last spruce trees before they are gone." As for tourism, it's too bad, you can't see beyond the fish. Just look at Cathedral Grove, it's such an attraction that the government plans to build a big parking lot for the tourists. As for the Sequoia called General Sherman, he became famous when there was only a gravel road to him.

12 February 2006

As far as the parking lot at Cathedral Grove, that's because there is a major highway running through the middle of the park! The General Sherman Sequoia might have become famous before a paved highway existed but that doesn't mean people were flocking to see it. The pyramids are famous, how many people do you know that have seen them? My point is, very few people are going to drive the Bamfield Road specifically to see the big trees of the Pachena Grove. If you think they will, then, my friend, I have a bridge I would like to sell.

13 February 2006

The director for the Bamfield HUU-ay-aht Community Forest told me that anyone is welcome to the annual general meeting in Bamfield on Monday 13 February 2006. It's just a coincidence that the guy who runs the HUU-ay-aht Logging Company which is logging the Pachena Grove for the Ohiaht [HUU-ay-aht] is a director on the board. You can bet that the next clearcut will be the Community Forest. Since it started in 1997, the Bamfield Community Forest has not provided any timber to local mills, including timber from the road it built into the Keeshan Reserve. Two days notice for a meeting that is a year late and still no wood is available. This is about the screwing of the people of Bamfield.

"We would log it according to the instructions that we would receive from the Bamfield community" said Robert Dennis, the HUU-ay-aht band's chief councillor. Well, the Pachena Grove is going fast. What a ignorant thing to do. They should be called on for their actions. I see the big tree has hit the ground. Time to get the after picture. . . . A tree that sprouted shortly after the time when Christ was a child. It stood for thousands of years. For over one thousand years man enjoyed its beauty. It was a culturally modified red cedar. What about the sacred Sulphur Springs in the legends that was found in the Pachena Grove by Walter Hegstrom. This is about the desecration of a heritage site. I think that the Indians who are reading this should know it sets a precedent where culturally modified trees are no longer protected.

14 February 2006

I found a fir log that floated in Barkley Sound from the Pacific Rim National Park. It is a butt piece, solid and clear; it is five ft at the butt and 4.6 ft at the top and 17 ft long. It still has some bark and is sound. If I bucked the ends of it I would have a 16 ft piece. How much wood would be in it, and what would it be worth as a raw log if I sold it? It's very tight grain.

14 February 2006

The log you have is roughly eight cubic meters. As for the value, I'm not sure, try the harbour salvage guy, he can probably turn you on to who would buy single logs. You might need a salvage license to sell it, but again not too sure. Make sure that the log hasn't been attacked by teredoes. These insect pests attack wood that has been in saltwater for a while and can make a seemingly valuable log worthless.

17 February 2006

The Bamfield Huu-ah-aht Community Forest's annual general meeting went without a hitch. The meeting was not advertised so the only people who showed up were the directors. One director did quit, let's call him Bob. Last time they tried to have the meeting he said "we have been had." This time he said "it's not worth being on the board if you can't trust your partner. They have taken half the forest and will log it, under land claims. Something the elected chief promised would not happen." He had spent nearly ten years of his time on it, only to get screwed in the end. It's amazing how your own people are so willing to screw you and your neighbours - all for the big dollar. The Community Forest was supposed to be for the communities of Bamfield and Anacla. The Huu-ah-aht Logging Company has taken control. The board members have decided not to fill the vacant board members, giving full control of Bamfield's forest with the Huu-ay-aht board members. . . . the very ones who clearcut the Pachena Spruce Grove, losing the respect of the people of Bamfield.

With all the logging they do now, they offer Bamfield residents only one job, cutting shake blocks. Unfortunately they are just following the footsteps of their boss. As for the Pachena Grove clearcuts, the trees are coming down fast, and heritage has been thrown out the window. I have made the statement how the logging in the area has been knowingly desecrating heritage sites and objects. This has been going on for 20 years. It's a good thing they have never found Clovis type tools here. Bringing the Kennewick Man here could harm the land claim. The Ohiaht have already set a precedent toward their heritage. The archaeological digs in the Broken Islands done years ago found Clovis type tools, leading to the question of who created the Solstice Caves?

19 February 2006

I think it's important that people understand why its important to keep the old growth attributes in the forest. It's all about quality, the stuff we have built our economy with. It's actually quite simple. To grow the valuable old growth wood, the seed's that are released yearly fall to the forest floor. They grow under the protection of the forest canopy, they grow slow. After about four to five hundred years the tree will grow very slow on one side. The rings will become 23 rings per centimeter. A Pachena Grove cedar can grow for over 1,000 years until Mother Nature falls it. Selective logging is simple, you leave the forest canopy. To get what we thought were super trees, genetically modified to grow fast, clearcut the forest and replace it with seedlings grown under optimum circumstances. The trees grow under no canopy, they get maximum exposure to the elements of nature and grow like weeds. The wood is all course grain and knots. The trees cut off the sun and create dead zones.

19 February 2006

People need to realize that you have no education in forestry and very minimal experience in forestry issues. I'm sorry that someone is cutting the forest close to where you live, but that is the nature of forestry and without it many of us would be out of work. Your ideas about selective cut are one-sided also. You fail to mention the soil degradation caused by the need for machines to create trails through the forest. You fail to take into account the massive job loss and resulting social problems that would arise from changing to a 500 year selective rotation.

As for the statement about knotty wood. Everyday on my trip down the canal I see the second growth they are currently cutting, nice knot free Douglas fir. Hardly the doom and gloom you predict. As for the dead zones, read up on early seral stages in coastal British Columbia's forests. The current stage is quite natural and similar to a post fire scenario. The trees will continue to self prune and self thin until a more natural climax state is reached. When we cut second growth we are simply cutting before it reaches the climax. There are some great stand density diagrams available online at the BC Ministry of Forestry, if you are interested. You also seem to forget that a large portion of this province is protected, no logging will occur there, and to say it one day will is foolishness, the people of this province wouldn't stand for it, myself included.

20 February 2006

I went down the canal from Port Alberni to Bamfield last week and saw no second growth logging. If you drive down the Bamfield Road you will see the second growth logging. As for this



statement. "Everyday on my trip down the canal I see the second growth they are currently cutting, nice knot free Douglas fir. You must be talking about the logs in the log booms." Ask any one who runs a sawmill and they will tell you "in old growth fir, you do not get clear till the tree hits about three ft in diameter. You cannot get tight grain clear wood from a course grain second growth tree. It's just not possible. Looking at a tree does not let you see what is inside: knots.

20 February 2006

There are at least three blocks being harvested or have recently been felled. All face down the canal. Waiting for trees to reach three ft in diameter before they are harvested so that they are tight grained is not going to happen. The industry simply can't afford to wait that long before harvest. Tight grained perfectly clear wood will be a thing of the past due to industry demands for volume. Try reading up on AAC [Annual Average Cut] calculations for the province of BC. Knots exist inside a tree of any size, however the knots found in our second growth Douglas fir are very small and tight, perfectly acceptable for our milling needs.

21 February 2006

If you are talking about the blocks above the Bamfield Road that you can see from the canal, that is old growth. A tree needs to reach three ft diameter before you get any volume of clear wood. This means clear wood will be a thing of the past. You sum it up well. You can stop raw log exports, but if you continue to support the big business clearcut method of logging and believe that second growth trees are valuable and the answer the end result will be "no forests for the future."

The blocks I mentioned are second growth. The ones being heli logged are old growth. The second growth being harvested there is close to three feet in diameter, about 80 cm at the butt. Very few surface knots can be seen. The quality is excellent. It is not old growth, but they knew that when they planned to harvest.

Here's something to think about. . . If we were to go to a selective cut system at a 500 year rotation like you suggested, what would you suggest the province does to reimburse the stumpage dollars that come from the wood we harvest? I think this province would quickly head to bankruptcy. Again, look at the Average Annual Cut [AAC] calculations: the conversion to second growth has been considered.

22 February 2006

Re: "The second growth being harvested there is close to three ft in diameter, about 80 cm at the butt in fact. Very few surface knots can be seen. The quality is excellent". If some surface knots are seen then there would be knots inside. As for excellent quality, with 1/4 to half inch rings, good quality is not possible. In towns where the mills are shutting down, from Tahsis to Gordon River, did they not consider the conversion to second growth. Back then, the second growth trees were super genetic fast growing trees. The geneticists just took credit for a natural event that follows a forest clearing event. Pretty simple actually.

23 February 2006

For construction purposes second growth will never pass the grade. As stated above, the rings are no way near as 'tight' as old growth, creating a very inferior and weak product. Second growth maybe good for siding but certainly it is not good enough to use in any engineered structure as a stand alone product.

26 February 2006

You are a forest engineer so you may know about the cutblock engineered for the HUU-ay-aht on Sarita River. The block was cut so that all the trees fall over the power lines. Such "accidental blowdowns" could lead to the removal of all tree buffers. I guess this would be classified as good engineering to some. A few trees blew down this winter and that was all it took for the logging company crew, who has been waiting for two years, to take down the buffer.

For ten years the Natives held the Kennewick Man up in court to establish land claims. The local tribes wanted to claim him and bury him. As it turns out they lost the court case over and over again. Kennewick Man is a 9,200 year old skeleton that does not resemble Indians. It could prove that the white race explored and possibly lived in North America 10,000 years ago. This sets a precedence and could lead to a investigation into the Clovis evidence from Barkley Sound.

When I was a kid, Chief Louie told me about a story about a gold mine and crater his people used to go to. In 1985 we found it. Then in 1986 we found the solstice caves related to it. The next year, in 1987, MacMillan Bloedel found us. Company employees buried the Russian mine we had found and then they destroyed the ceremonial site. This was just the start of the knowing desecration of heritage sites that still goes on. Today logging and mining companies use the First Nations to do it, but if it is proven others were here like the Kennewick Man, they may loose the right to destroy the archaeological heritage of Barkley Sound.

27 February 2006

I drove by the Pachena Grove cutblock, at the head of the West Coast Trail. If the buffer zone where left as is and not thinned of merchandisable trees, you would not see all the clearcuts behind it and it would be big enough, not to blow down. Of course this will not happen, Once they selectively log the merchandisable trees, there will be basically nothing left. Buffer zones for visual impact on main roads is a thing of the past. It appears clearcuts visible from the main roads is what they want. Just drive in to Port Alberni where they are currently logging them all around port. they even logged the trees blocking the view of twin city, looks good if you like billboards, auto wreckers and clearcuts. If you tell the public "we don't clearcut" then you should not display it so proudly.

It is sad to drive through Cathedral Grove and be reminded of what we have lost. Port Alberni has Cathedral Grove; Victoria has Goldstream; also Uclulet and Tofino have big tree groves. But Bamfield's Pachena Grove is now gone. Thank you Port Alberni - Weyerhaeuser. Thank you Ohiat.

I drove by the Sarita River buffer zone. I know Weyerhaeuser has been waiting for two years to log it and just got permission. I see the loggers started to fall it, but it appears they stopped. It looks like they logged the back of the buffer leaving a 50 ft buffer instead of a 100 ft one. This makes the buffer more prone to blowdown then before. There were some 30 power outages in one winter due to insufficient buffers that were too close to Sarita River. Companies that log buffer zones like this reinforce the the destructive practice which is in violation of the Fisheries Act.

In 1988 we found the old Indian lodge pole pine tree trail leading to the bathing pools, the sacred site and the artesian spring. In 1990 MacMillan Bloedel followed us and started to eliminate the trail with clearcuts, breaking into this virgin and sacred watershed. It started at the beginning of the West Coast Trail and was the path the Russians used to colonise Black Lake.

27 February 2006

I've been here for quite some time. The logging blocks you speak of are a lot bigger than I originally thought. Yes, it is sad to see such logging in your own back yard. But will it effect the West Coast Trail attendance? I still say no.

28 February 2006

As for the trailer, I heard it is for the clam diggers who work for the Ohiat [Huu-ay-aht]. I have been careful not to go off topic with this discussion thread, "West Coast Trail Worries." It is about more then just the West Coast Trail. Other issues are: fisheries, the Bamfield Community, variable retention, and blowdown. In addition cultural, historical and esthetic values must be considered. Huu-ay-aht council chief Robert Dennis promised the community that the operation would not be clearcutting but rather variable retention and therefore preserve some trees. In reality, the first time that a Pacific storm comes along, it will blow the unprotected trees down.

28 February 2006

Huu-ay-aht elected chief Robert Dennis also stated "It's definitely not going to impact the West

Coast Trail." Hikers on the trail can already see clearcuts on the drive to the trailhead and along the trek. I'm afraid, as I've said repeatedly, I have to agree with your chief on this one. Do I agree with the logging? Not really, but for different reasons than you. Do I agree with the way your band is handling the sale of the timber? No.

I have always made an honest effort to stay out of the Bamfield politics, ie: the Community Forest Committee, because I feel there are people a lot more articulate than I to speak on my behalf. When I see something like this happen, it drives the point home that in this world there are agendas in place and no matter how much "talking" one does, plans go ahead. I see this in Fisheries all the time. If you are that upset with the way your Chief is handling things, speak up. It is my understanding that he is an elected chief, so somebody voted for him. The same thing happens in the white electoral system.

Don't take this to mean that I just roll over and take it up the A\$\$, but sometimes it takes more than a sit down over a cup of coffee, and polite conversation to get these things straightened out. That's more my style. It is obvious that you are very passionate about the logging around your home, but like I said before, out of site, out of mind. I never saw any discussions when they were logging around Black Lake, but then again, you don't drive past it on your way home every trip to Bamfield. They are logging a huge area outside of town, not a pretty site, but will it actually stop tourists from visiting our area? I doubt it, and in all honesty if it did stop a few from coming, I'm not sure I would want their business anyway.

You said to me "Too bad you can't see beyond the fish." What else is there in this area that will provide a viable income on which one could support a family? Trees? Please! If you could line up 150 plus trips every summer to view the local fauna, at \$1500.00 + per day, I'm all for it. I'm reminded of the original owner of Imperial Eagle Lodge who wanted to diversify and talked about the potential of clam digging and storm watching as a viable alternative to charter fishing. It will not happen!

28 February 2006

Storm watching is big business in Tofino and clam digging has turned into a big industry in Bamfield. As for Black Lake, it is sacred land and any logging in that watershed is the desecration of religious lands. In 1995 Willy Sport, the speaker for the hereditary chief, told the Ohiaht archaeology crew and I. J. that the land is sacred. Yet the desecration continues. Personally I believe the man, Willy Sport spoke of in the cave/mine/spring was the Kennewick Man. I think he was stolen from his grave and tossed in the river. As the trail to this sacred site starts on Pachena Beach, it's not off topic.

28 February 2006

Tofino has a paved highway, we don't. Period. It is not a "huge" industry in Tofino, it is a small opportunity for a few select lodges on the ocean waterfront to fall back on in the winter. And who is partaking in the so called "big industry" of clam digging in Bamfield? A very few commercial diggers. Where is the tourism in that? Bamfield as a whole will never be able to compete with towns like Tofino, and Ucluelet as long as tourists have to drive 80 km of gravel road to get here. That's a fact. To even stay afloat, we have to offer the same services at a cheaper rate, and our season is about two months shorter. Don't believe me? Drive in to Tofino in late May and see how busy it is. Storm watching, and clam digging? A joke.

1 March 2006

You are right, actually it would appear someone is trying to kill the town. I remember someone bragging about it: the airport shut down, Ostroms shut down, the bar and coffee shops are closed. You say "It is my understanding that he is an elected chief, so somebody voted for him." The same thing happens in the white electoral system. If it were not for a bus load of supporters who never got picked up for the election in Nanaimo, there would be a new chief. Just wait until the second and third phase of cutblocks. They will log between the West Coast Trail road and the Anacla Reserve road. You will be able to see the houses from the main Bamfield Road. They will also log between the Reserve road and the bridge. Third phase will be the logging of all merchandisable trees in the buffer

zone. It's going to look way bigger than what you see now. As far as tourism, I feel history is our biggest potential. If not for the required leases, clam digging could have taken off.

3 March 2006

After Huu-ay-aht Elder Willy Sport showed the archaeology crew the sacred bathing pools in 1996, Weyerhaeuser put a road to the Sacred Spring behind the Pachena Lighthouse and logged all the culturally modified trees around it. Then they blew it up. Why? This was the knowing desecration of a sacred site.

3 March 2006

I am not up to speed on what Weyerhaeuser has done in the past but I don't doubt it one bit. I don't agree with a lot of the Weyerhaeuser logging practices. If what you say is true, then it is a real tragedy. One thing I will say, and I'm not trying to stir the pot, but I think that the companies would be hard pressed to log any area without one of the local Indian bands coming down on them, since the Native land claims to date encompass over 115 percent of the province.

4 March 2006

And who is partaking in the so called "big industry" of clam digging in Bamfield? Surely you know how many people are in the shell fish industry. Lots, and the Ohiaht are seeding more and more beaches all the time. It could turn into a big industry if it is kept local. But the way the Community Forest is going, it's not going local. And the band started its own logging company thus becoming a pawn in the pocket Weyerhaeuser, the main company.

7 March 2006

When I hint of the possibility that the Indians were not the first to colonise Barkley Sound, this comes from the hereditary chief's speaker, Willy Sport. I am starting to wonder how far the big logging companies will go to protect their interests. Just look at Cathedral Grove. After the accidental death of two people from a falling tree, the push was on to remove more trees from Cathedral Grove.

7 March 2006

My wife and I made two trips to Bamfield one Saturday a few years ago. It was our first and last and only trip. I refuse to ruin my vehicle just to visit tourist traps. If the Bamfielders want a tourist based industry they better start working on a real road. Nothing against Bamfield but I really think the roads are what are killing any chance of the town getting fully into the tourism business. It ain't the forestry practices (good or bad) that's hurting the place.

8 March 2006

The area they speak of in Cathedral Grove is a dead zone, thinning it out with a well designed parking lot could actually help in the saving of the park in the long run. I would even advise to thin the dead zone near where the road to the Ingmar Lee forest rights movement is. Get rid of the dead zones. I saw a raven flying in this dead zone once. Interesting that it is unknown where they nest.

It would be a shame to see them log Cathedral Grove. Without the people willing to stand up for the park's rights, we will lose it. It's pathetic how Weyerhaeuser logged the blowdown patch near the Grove. Clearly the company has no idea how to manage old growth forests. They took the merchandisable trees, leaving the plants and small trees that make up the forest floor. This was cleared with an excavator and then burned. Next grass and nursery trees were planted. These crappy trees replaced the tight grain trees that were left standing by Mother Nature's wind and may cause the trees to rot more quickly, resulting in more blowdowns. Wouldn't it be funny if Ingmar Lee joined the blockade on the Hump [Alberni Highway]?

9 March 2006

I'm one hundred percent in favour of saving what's left of Cathedral Grove but I don't like the

Gestapo tactics that your hero Ingmar Lee employs. I think Lee is as off base as most enviro tree hugger types. If an enviro doesn't like something then it is emphatically wrong. Science is forgotten in favour of voodoo and mystical magic shows. The leaches in Cathedral Grove are just that: leaches. I watched Lee et al up close and personal a couple of times at other protests in BC and all he wants to do is get his picture in the paper. You are the one living in an unreal world. I was informed by people with a lot more savvy than Ingmar Lee about what is and isn't true about the Grove but tree huggers refuse to believe the truth - they only believe their truth.

11 March 2006

The blowdown problem is exemplified by the rot in Cathedral Grove. And if what you say about Ingmar Lee is the truth, then give the old ladies derringers, end of topic. A question to scientists about the clearcutting of the last unprotected spruce grove on Vancouver Island: how much carbon was released into the hemisphere from the 100 hectare clearcut in the Pachena Watershed? Additional environmental impact was caused by the evaporation of the water held by the big trees. And what will the big Roosevelt Elk bulls who used to come to Pachena Grove during the rut do?

12 March 2006

I went to check some culturally modified trees to see if the loggers logged them. What I found really shows the arrogance of the logging company. For those who know the old West Coast Trail: if you leave the big 500 ton cement Pachena bridge and follow the trail to the Anacla Indian Reserve for about 200 ft further, you hit a small bridge. A faller took it upon himself to leave the cutblock and to trespass about 40 ft over the line. He chose an old dead tree, also called a snag or a wildlife tree, and he fell it away from the block, something called "directional falling." The tree hit a white culturally modified tree and the bridge. The tree then landed in the salmon bearing creek and broke off into the Pachena River. The undercut was on the riverside of the tree, so it was done on purpose. What a prick thing to do. It's a trivial thing, but the perpetuator of this act should be questioned, especially as it might have been illegal.

14 March 2006

It was good to see my hereditary chief make it to the meeting, despite his obvious pain. And those who live in the Pachena Grove made an appearance as well. Robert and council were too busy to pay respect for one of their own. Pachena Grove shows you who really cares. Both the Huu-ay-aht band and Bamfield community should separate from the greedy clutches of Port Alberni. The chief elect lost respect by not showing up.

15 March 2006

Maybe you would like to know who put him here? It's no secret who his partner worked with. As for who was behind him buying the town so he could shut it down, I asked his manager "How does Macmillan Bloedel fit into Purdyville?" He replied "It's simple, when you get in the board room, MacMillan Bloedel sits at the top." We all know he was a director for pure gold resources, till his vacation down south. And he made some nice corporate retreats for someone, swap houses etc.

It's no secret that MacMillan Bloedel has been claim jumping prospectors for decades. They just wait until a prospector makes a find, then they send their prospectors to snoop. If they find something, they work with the government to shift their logging to the prospector's claim and use their roads to trench. They did it behind Black Lake. They even went as far as to put working mines up there. Think about it. A 500 ton bridge between their mine and Bamfield, the town they bought.

15 March 2006

After much consideration, I have decided to enter this discussion thread to provide some information to the participants, and hopefully clear up some of the misinformation I have noticed. For background, I am a professional forester with many years of experience working in the areas described in this forum. Much of what has been said in this thread so far is valuable.

Clarification #1. The spruce grove on the edge of Bamfield is not the last remaining unprotected spruce grove on Vancouver Island. There are still many large groves of old growth Sitka spruce on Vancouver Island that are not within parks. My favourite spruce grove is on the west side of Hadikin Lake in TFL 44 [Tree Farm Licence 44]. This contains some of the best examples of old growth spruce you can find anywhere. Is anyone familiar with the House of Hoo-ay-aht in Bamfield (the large long house that was built around 1999)? If you are, the three huge logs that serve as the roof support beams are massive Sitka spruce logs which came from beside Hadikin Lake. I have visited other spruce groves in Clayoquot Sound, and the San Juan valley near Port Renfrew.

Of course, there are many great examples of Sitka spruce in west coast parks. The most famous may be the Carmanah Grove containing the Carmanah Giant along Carmanah Creek (Carmanah Provincial Park), but I have also seen spruce groves along Walbran Creek and Logan Creek, among others. There is a great walking tour along Long Beach that includes a beautiful spruce grove. If you know where to look, you can even find spruce on the east side of Vancouver Island – check out the Little Qualicum Valley and Piper's Lagoon in Nanaimo has a delightful little stand of spruce. There are many examples of old growth spruce left on Vancouver Island, both within parks, and within areas managed as Timber Supply Areas [TSA].

Clarification #2. Very little carbon is released into the atmosphere from a clear cut. By and large, clear cuts are good for our planet's atmospheric carbon balance. I will explain. Scientists can look at all processes and classify them as: 1) carbon sink (takes carbon out of the atmosphere), 2) carbon source (puts carbon into the atmosphere), or 3) carbon neutral. Trees are carbon sinks because they take carbon out of the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and turn it into wood (cellulose). However, different kinds of trees and forests have different effects on the atmospheric carbon balance.

Old growth forests are generally carbon neutral. In most cases, old growth forests are not growing very much and the amount of wood in them is fairly stable (or slightly declining). Since they aren't growing much wood, they aren't really taking any carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. There are always some dead and dying trees in old growth forests. As this wood decomposes, carbon dioxide is produced as a by-product. This carbon is released into the atmosphere as a source. It is probably safe to say that the amount carbon released by the decomposition within an old growth forest is comparable to the amount removed (sink) from the atmosphere by the small amount of new wood growth that is occurring in that same forest. This does not mean old growth forests are bad for atmospheric carbon levels. Old growth forests are valuable for carbon sequestering. This means they have taken lots of carbon out of the atmosphere and have stored it as wood over many years. Wood, in general, is a great place to store carbon. Carbon will stay in the wood (and out of the atmosphere) until that wood decomposes or is burned.

Young, growing forests are the best for removing atmospheric carbon and are valuable carbon sinks. Healthy young forests are taking the most carbon out of the atmosphere because they are trying to grow as much wood as quickly as possible. The highest growth rates in trees occur in the early stages of their life cycles. So – the net effect of clearcutting is actually positive when you are looking at it from the point of view of atmospheric carbon levels.

The old growth trees are removed and turned into lumber and wood products. This is sequestered carbon that will not be released into the atmosphere for hopefully many years. A new young forest will be planted on the site and will be taking large amounts of carbon out of the atmosphere as it grows. Many people believe that one way to reduce global carbon levels in our atmosphere is to ensure that the fastest growing trees are growing in as many places as possible as often as possible. This favours shorter rotations in managed forests to ensure maximizing the amount of wood that is grown.

Hopefully, some of this clarification has helped the participants of this thread. I think that it is great that forestry concerns and issues can be raised on this forum and discussed by the public. Public feedback on forestry issues are important to let forest managers and policy makers (politicians) know what continues to be important.

16 March 2006

Well now the cat is out of the bag and I see that MacMillan Bloedel is going to have to try defend their actions in and around Bamfield during the past 20 years. I finally get some discussion, or shall I say some propaganda. With that said, it is good to see there is still some old growth spruce left to log. But eventually these trees will be gone too. You say "I am a professional forester" which I guess this means that what you say is the final written word.

This topic is about the clearcut logging of the last unprotected spruce grove on southern Vancouver Island. My questions are directed to those who are educated in biology, not forestry. To scientists who study how much moisture is released into the hemisphere. For example, from the 100 hectares clearcut logged in the Pachena Watershed, what happens to the moisture? If you dry out all the moisture in the North American forests, will this increase global warming?

As for carbon, old growth is called "a carbon sink" because it keeps carbon out of the atmosphere. Clearcut the forests of the world and you will release the carbon eventually. You write: "By and large, clearcuts are good for our planet's atmospheric carbon balance." I read this out and had a good laugh. Think volume: if you have 1,000 cubic meters per hectare old growth and you replace it with 250 cubic meters per hectare new growth, it would seem that there is less carbon being stored. With this said, where is it going?

You write: "Clearcutting mimics the Earth's natural ability to take carbon out of the air." What comes after a clearcut? Not a young forest but barren ground. Think about it. . . If you work for MacMillan Bloedel, one question: Why do you guys want to destroy Bamfield and Anacla? Are you planning a goldmine or large placer mine under Pachena Grove or do you just hate us? What was the faller doing with the tree he cut down into Pachena River? I believe Bamfield should break free from the clutches of Port Alberni. MacMillan Bloedel has property in the town of Bamfield. Give MacMillan Bloedel \$1 per acre plus interest and take it back. The Pachena Grove is down, so defend your propaganda that it is "not a clearcut."

18 March 2006

For the biologists, how much carbon will a 10 ft high, 5 inch diameter tree store? Does it store the same amount as a 10 ft diameter tree that is 150 ft high? How much carbon is stored in a five year old forest? Let's say it has one cubic meter of wood per hectare. It should be easy to figure out how much carbon is in 300 board ft of wood. How much carbon was in the 1500 cubic meters of wood in the one hectare of old growth forest before it was removed?

21 March 2006

It's "Crunch and Munch" time for the Pachena River clearcut. When grapples are used to move timber, the sawmill gives 60 percent less for it because of the crunch marks. Each piece of timber that is picked up by the grapples ends up with big gouges; it's called "Crunch and Munch" timber." The sawmills must lose a lot of good wood because of the grapple machines. Another question: what happens to the carbon in the wood that you burn after you log?

24 March 2006

Pachena update: I was trying to see the carbon sink, through the fog of a second growth clearcut. Because I can't see it, does that mean that it's not there? I see that Weyerhaeuser/Robert has no respect for fisheries now that they have clearcut logged the Sarita River buffer zone 70 ft from the river. Unfortunately it is Reserve land and he can do what he wants. What he does not own are the power lines. I think the public should know about the buffer they left just outside Bamfield and its connection to the Sarita River cutblock.

Weyerhaeuser/Robert came to Bamfield to tell Bamfielders they were going to log the forest between Bamfield and the Anacla Reserve. They wanted to log the buffer zone and their reason was: "the trees we leave will just blow down." But Bamfielders made a stink and said "we'll take our chances." Weyerhaeuser left a buffer and guaranteed that it would not fall over. Robert did not like this, but said "we have engineers who make sure the buffers do not blow over." They said they will

thin it out of the leaning trees and even had someone train for this job. What is pathetic is that they logged the Sarita River cutblock in such a way that it would fall over.

Weyerhaeuser engineered the cutblock on the Sarita Reserve for Robert, the self-elected "king" of his people. The cutblock was next to the power lines, an example of a well organized crime: the loggers left a buffer of trees which they knew was going to fall over the power lines. It was payback for the Bamfielders who tried to use the Forest Practice Code requirement of visual buffers. But after 25 power outages, it was clear that the trees had to come down. It is like the Cathedral Grove accident: two park visitors dead and the BC government says a new parking lot is needed.

It is obvious when you look at the roads in and out of Port Alberni that the clearcutting is well planned in advance. The buffer that was left at Pachena Grove almost conceals the clearcut and if a couple of trees were removed, we would have no power outages. But organised crime does not work that way: they can wait and in the end will swack down the buffers. Like the Pachena Grove cutblock and the Sarita River cutblock. The logging company owners deny that they clearcut. I think that they should be called on for the crimes they have committed over the last 20 years. And the Pachena Grove buffer should be left so that we can not see the clearcut.

24 March 2006

Too bad some cannot see the 'forest for the trees' and that others will keep repeating lies until everyone believes them to be truths. Trees grow, trees die and lumber mills make them into boards. Live with it.

25 March 2006

People commit crimes when many people are involved. It can only take one person to spoil it for the rest. Robert may not have even known what the greater plan was. Hence another innocent victim.

31 March 2006

Judging by the size of the boulder that smashed into my windshield on the Bamfield Road, I can see that I must have pissed off some people. The Pachena Grove clearcut pissed off some Bamfielders as well, but it's over now and its time to move on. I believe the site that was logged is part of Sir Francis Drake's Bay and was the historical Spanish town of Nova Albion. It's clear the Ohiaht [Huu-ay-aht] do not care about heritage, so why bother with the Indian history, let's concentrate on other history.

A well known lodge is starting a new year round tour in Bamfield called "the hidden history of Barkley Sound." I will be the guide and I am looking for pictures of Spanish artefacts. There is one important historical site that was raided near the Broken Islands. A Spanish mining party made up of 12 soldiers was attacked by the Indians about 500 years ago. They were killed and thrown into a cave where they rested until about 20 years ago when someone stole the swords, armour and other stuff. These artefacts proved it is not exclusively an Indian burial cave.

4 April 2006

The tree huggers you put down could have averted the knowing desecration of the Pachena River estuary. The last old growth block next to the West Coast Trail is down and if a tree hugger was to have stood in the way, the estuary may have been saved from destruction, saving also the company from a future lawsuit. I think Jim Levis was right when he said. "To log that area would probably destroy the Pachena River forever."

Right now, there is a 200 ft high wall of trees that has only one clearcut protecting it from the strong southeast storm winds. These 200 ft high trees are standing in beach sand and have always had trees protecting them. Next winter the trees will fall into the estuary and this will cause so much change in the sands that it will shift its path. The winds will also cause a domino effect and blow the trees across the Pachena River and cause trees to fall over the road and power lines. It will be another potential Cathedral Grove "accident." Think about all the old growth forests that have



disappeared in the last ten years. I can hear the environmentalists singing "you don't know what you got till its gone" and saying "I told you so."

14 April 2006

Al Porter was probably the most talented carver there was. He lived closer to the Pachena Grove than anyone else in Bamfield. Although I have known him for many years, in the last few months I got to know him on a personal level and I realized we had something in common: a respect for the old growth forest. Recently I went to his carving shed where he spends most of his days. I learned something I never knew about him. He loved the big trees and knew how important the old growth forest was to the health of the planet. Al was disgusted by the clearcutting of Pachena Grove and was terrified that the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest which surrounds his home would soon be Ohiaht [Huu-ay-aht] private land. He saw what happened to Pachena Grove and feared the same fate for the forest that surrounds his home. He heard the giant spruce trees as they crashed to the ground and he claimed that as they fell they screamed. Al's unique carvings are all over the world, he used different types of wood in his carvings and he loved and respected wood. I could see the pain in Al when we spoke about the Pachena Grove and his dismay in the loss of the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest. The last unprotected spruce grove on southern Vancouver Island is gone and so is Al. Al took his own life last week and I will miss him. God bless you Al.

24 May 2006

The buffer zone (Phase 3) is down. The loggers left some trees, but they did not log it as promised. No machines were to be used in the buffer but of course the logging company used machines. These were furthermore driven around the surviving trees, killing off the young forest. The loggers do not know how an old growth forest works and they are absolutely clueless about what tight grain wood is. Next to the Pachena Grove is the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest. It is getting clearcut logged now. This Community Forest should be called the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Parksville Community forest. Three years ago the Community Forest directors contracted the logging to a company from Parksville, Mo Creek. That a non local company was used pissed off the road builders and loggers. And the clearcutting pissed off the locals. I think it's safe to say that the two communities will get ripped off again. Just look at who is getting rich from the Ohiaht Band [Huu-ay-aht]: it's not the locals. It's the Parksville boys or elected band council. The wood is going to go to the dry land sort. Last time this happened, we lost the wood. Heritage does not matter and ecology does not matter. Maybe we need the raw log blockaders at the Port Alberni Highway "Hump" to stop logs from leaving the Bamfield Community. With nine sawmills located in Bamfield and Anacla, we could use the wood. The problem is, we will not get it. Oh yeah, I see the mining company Emerald Fields Corporation has staked the Pachena Grove in mining claims. What a surprise.

25 May 2006

I made a trip on my motorcycle to see the clearcut first hand. It is a clearcut. No matter what the foresters call it, it is a clearcut - in a very sensitive area. And you're right about the equipment driving over the remaining seedlings. What a waste of an ecosystem. Problem with the average person in this neck of the woods is that they are too concerned about their plasma tvs and the ridiculous Hockeyville bs that hundreds of people come out and "rally" for. Meanwhile they turn a blind eye to the real worries of our world. There is no longer a generation of younger people to stand up for the environment and do things that matter. We shamed them and ran them out of places like the Carmanah and Walbran Valleys, of Clayoquot Sound and Cathedral Grove. When we need them for our cause, they are no longer there. I wished I had the answers and solutions for the plight of this country and province. Unfortunately even our own governments turn a blind eye to the environment, they back out of deals like Kyoto and continue to destroy this planet for the almighty petrol dollar. I can only promise to vote with my conscience and do my part. What will others do?

25 May 2006

Nine woodless sawmills in the Bamfield area? The reason there are no locals logging the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest is because it is too small. The same company that logged the clearcut you speak of didn't even bother to bid because it wasn't worth the time to move the equipment back into the area to log the Community Forest - and it is based not far away, in Port Alberni. If these are portable local sawmills, I know of only two, and they could not handle 80 percent of the wood from the area.

25 May 2006

You make it sound as if people choose between attending a Hockeyville rally and an environmental rally. What a bunch of nonsense. Kyoto was a joke. I know what I will do, and it won't be to fall for misinformed opinion or to blindly follow a bunch of environmentalists who usually end up being the biggest hypocrites in their consumption of resources, and leave garbage behind as they leave their rallies in their SUV's.

25 May 2006

There is a simple explanation as to where these innocent youth went. Big boys, big toys, big bucks, big drugs, big thugs. Turn right when you leave south Bamfield Road and Jack Purdy has two mills set up. Purdy is planning on buying Bamfield Community Forest wood for his mill. Other mills in Anacla and Bamfield are Mobile Dimensional Saws [portable sawmills].

25 May 2006

Do you think he cares if he gets any Bamfield Community Forest wood? Jack Purdy's mills don't count either because if he ever did get an opportunity to cut Community wood, he would screw it like every other thing he touches. I see the wood mizer [portable sawmill] at the Anacla Reserve but it is a long cry from nine mills in town looking for work.

28 May 2006

Did you notice how they prepared the buffer for logging? Very sneaky. The Weyerhaeuser guy who came to Bamfield promised us they would not take grappler machines into the buffer zone when they logged it. But they took in the machines and cleared the biodiversity from the forest floor killing all the trees that are not merchandisable. Bamfield has a lot of Phds. Does Weyerhaeuser think Bamfielders are stupid? What can you expect from Weyerhaeuser.

Bamfield has had a huge influx of bears. Now that their homes at Pachena Grove are gone, the bears must move to look for food. They are not going into the dead zone, the second growth forest, so they move to Bamfield. It's like colonial times; the treaties are all about compensating the people who lived in the land during colonialism. We are compensating the bears by shooting them. I am not against that because I have been watching an aggressive bear charging dog in Bamfield. Deal with the bears if you destroy their homes. Those who logged the Pachena Grove should go down to Bamfield and shoot the half dozen bears from the Pachena cutblock who are terrorizing the town. The local bears are fine as they are used to people.

1 June 2006

From what I hear, the elected chief is now against the logging of private land. I guess he just looked at the selective logging operation at Pachena Grove and said to himself "lied to again." His words were "direct action" and "no more logging on private land." Obviously he was lied to. When he was told the forest "will be selectively logged." Before colonialism, indigenous people engaged in single tree harvest. This is why there was still an intact old growth forest during the time of colonialism. Weyerhaeuser selected the Pachena Grove and clearcut it. Weyerhaeuser lied to us and they lied to Bamfield. Now the ecosystem is gone. Should they not be held accountable?

2 June 2006

I just got off the West Coast Trail yesterday, hiking from Port Renfrew to Bamfield. When I

crossed the Darling and Michigan Rivers they were flooded almost to my waist. The cable cars on the Trail have been allowed to disintegrate since they were built back in the 70's. Sure, it rained a bit the other day, but I have never seen the flash flooding of every river from Tahsis to the Trailhead in Pachena Bay during my 30 years of hiking the Trail. Behind the Pachena Lighthouse and to the end of the Trail is evidence of heavy logging and blowdowns. That forest will be gone in twenty years. Shame!

3 June 2006

I could not believe the so called selective logging they did behind the West Coast Trail. I drove back there in the fall: there are no forests left between the Klanawa and the Darling Rivers. Black Lake and Michigan Lake were pounded as well. You must have noticed the Pachena cutblock buffer: what a mess. The elect chief says "no more logging of private land" yet he is logging every speck of that private land. The violations committed in the forests are mind boggling.

8 June 2006

Complaint form: <http://www.pmflc.ca/forms/inquiry-complaint.html>

11 June 2006

"Logging plans haven't been finalized, so what the cutting will look like is impossible to know yet" said Stan Coleman, a timber manager for Weyerhaeuser. Coleman said that the company, working with the Huu-ay-aht, would study impacts on fisheries, the view, and cultural and historical values. Because the cutblock is flat land, Coleman promised that it will be easy to design a logging plan that won't affect the view. He should be called on for this bullshit statement.

The fisheries, the cultural and historical values and the views have been all been effected, if not destroyed. The Communities of Bamfield and Anacla were lied to. Without changing the plan on paper, Weyerhaeuser changed the plan in the forest. The company should be charged for its crimes including the destruction of the fisheries and cultural heritage.

Weyerhaeuser promised the town of Bamfield a buffer zone would be left between the Pachena cutblock and the Bamfield Road. This was so that tourists would not see the devastation of the last unprotected spruce grove on southern Vancouver Island. Weyerhaeuser took part of the Community Forest yet the town was not even notified about the clearcutting: that's against the BC treaty process. Before when tourists came to this town we were proud to have the last intact old growth forest on the Bamfield Road. Pachena Grove was a magical site, like Cathedral Grove. Now its just another clearcut. The Bamfield HUU-AY-AHT Community Forest has a HUU-AY-AHT manager on its board and now it is logging the same way. It is being clearcut as we speak. Filing a complaint that we were lied to will not effect the loggers, whom I have nothing against. As for the Brascan Corporation [2005 successor to Weyerhaeuser], what is a small fine compared to the money they made from the clearcutting? They must be so proud.

According to the logging plan all non merchandisable trees in the buffer were to be left. Instead the crew marked only a few large trees. Where are the trees that range from between 100 and one year in age? An excavator clearcut the non merchandisable trees. The young trees and the ecology could have been protected while single tree harvesting the merchandisable trees and removing selected valuable trees. Instead nothing was left as a buffer. The HUU-AY-AHT Logging Company manager was asked why. He replied that "there were no small trees, we just cleared all the underbrush to make it safer for the fallers." The logging was against the law and should be brought to public attention. Bamfield is a university town, not a stupid town.

14 June 2006

As predicted, now that all small trees are gone, the order was given to take down the buffer. What a surprise.

15 June 2006

What a disgrace they left you folks with. I have not seen it yet and am not looking forward to

seeing it. Thankfully there are protestors who protect what they can from the logging outfits. Not the loggers who are directed where to cut: the logging outfits use them as their propaganda tools. We need a public funded law system to protect us from the corruption of our legal system and government. If you or I cut trees illegally we would be in front of their judge not our judge.

16 June 2006

The Pachena Grove buffer is being completely logged. Bamfield was lied to. It will be discussed during the Bamfield Community Affairs meeting. All are invited to the meeting at the Community Hall at 7 pm. See for yourself what Weyerhaeuser calls "not a clearcut" and "leaving a buffer."

5 August 2006

I see the last spruce is being loaded on the big ship at Port Alberni. It may be the last ship full of raw old growth spruce logs, I hope they charged accordingly for that treasure. I see they logged the Pachena Grove buffer, the way they had planned in 2001: clearcut right to the Bamfield Road.

5 August 2006

It appears the only reason the logging company knocked down the Pachena cutblock buffer was to hide the fisheries violation. I hear that logging will begin in Clayoquot Sound soon. Another Native logging operation.

5 August 2006

According to an interview I saw, no one contacted the Natives in that area with regards to the planned logging. Seems that the BC government and the logging outfit are the ones with the plans.

7 August 2006

It now appears that "Weyerhaeuser did not want to log the Pachena Grove." It was the Ohiat [Huu-ay-aht] who made the plans. They never told us in Bamfield about this. When we found out, they lied to us, then went for it. I see they are hiding two major fisheries violations: one is the buffer trees that have fallen over the road, beside the cement bridge. The other are the machines that are blocking the road. If you question this violation, just walk past the machine; keep right and walk to the end of the road. From there walk to the creek which follows the cutblock to the east. This is certainly a major fisheries violation. The logging companies will do the same to Clayoquot Sound. They don't care and they think they are above the law.

Take the archaeological dig on Diana Island; the top 500 years were scraped off before they started to dig. This is a Spanish site predating 1846 and such an action is the deliberate desecration of a heritage site. As far as the Ohiat [Huu-ay-aht] go, the dig proves their claim to the land. They don't care about the time span between when the Ohiat left Barkley Sound, c. 1522, to when they joined other bands and took the Sound back from those who occupied it. Who knows, if the Spanish who occupied the Sound during this time they may have had a treaty with the Indians.

7 August 2006

Should not the authorities be notified of the 'infraction' ? I should think that they would be interested in a law that has been broken.

9 September 2006

For 20 years I have been telling the BC government that the Spanish were mining and logging and lived in Barkley Sound over 300 years ago. For 20 years they and the Ohiat [Huu-ay-aht] heritage protectors have been telling me that I am nuts. I spent the summer gathering proof with a metal detector. The government wants what I found so they can hide the history of this land. It turns out the Pachena River has a lot of the Spanish logging stumps. These are heritage objects which are not supposed to be controlled by the Natives. Yet the BC government gave them the permit to

destroy them. This was against the law. Giving the land to the Natives may endanger its history. When the Ohiaht got a grapple yarder they worked it until it went tumbling down the mountain.

15 September 2006

About heritage stumps. If you have been by the Pachena Grove cutblock lately, you will notice some yellow ribbons in the cutblock. Have a closer look and you will see they mark heritage sites. The spot across from the Pachena Road marks a culturally modified tree [CMT] that was fallen into the block. The problem is, they felled it out of the road allowance. Not only did they log the buffer, but they also logged the road allowance. The CMT was the property of the highways so this is more evidence that they think they are above the law .

As for fish violations, I met with the fisheries biologist for the Ohiaht - we will call him Brad Rush. He came down when the water was at its lowest and asked me "how old are the trees, 500 years old?" I replied "try 1,500 years old." He tried to tell me the forest was not here before the oldest tree. Brad Rush does not realize that every year new trees are started and every year trees die; this is the cycle of a forest. He seemed quite content with the clearcut. It does not surprise me that there have been no fisheries violations recorded. I am not a fisheries biologist yet I can see the violations. Brad Rush is clearly in the pocket of the logging company, just like the archaeologist who did the archaeology impact assessment.

21 September 2006

Winter has not yet started and we have had two power outages so far. Both outages were from trees that fell out of the buffer near the bridge. As I said before, the logging company took their excavator and cleared around the trees in the Pachena cutblock buffer. This loosened the soil around the trees and is causing them to fall over the power lines. When they logged the buffer near the Sarita River, we had a record 25 power outages. This winter we may beat the old record. It's obvious that the Sarita forest buffer was engineered in such a way as to have the trees fall over the power lines. The logging companies got away with it then and they will get away with it now.

21 September 2006

With half of the Bamfield Community Forest now belonging to the Maa-nulth First Nations private land, there will soon be two more selective clearcuts next to the Pacific Rim National Park. West Coast Trail worries all over again.