



Cathedral Grove Canyon
(see inside for details)

Koksilah Ancient Forest – This exceptional tract of monumental Douglas-firs along the Koksilah River near Shawnigan Lake is in the endangered Dry Maritime zone. It stands today because of two far-sighted loggers who refused to log here in the 1980's. Tourists from around the world come to marvel at this still-unprotected grove. The BC Investment Management Corporation (BC IMC) and the federal Public Sector Investment Management Board (PSIMB) bought the lands from TimberWest in 2011. Contact Warrick and Jan Whitehead at: 250-748-1374

ALL PHOTOS BY TJ WATT

Mossy Maple Grove or "Fangorn Forest" – This grove near Cowichan Lake of enormous old-growth bigleaf maple trees – some over 2.3 meters (7 feet) wide in trunk diameter – is completely draped in hanging gardens of mosses and ferns. Unlike other contentious old-growth forests that have all been "coniferous", this is a very unique old-growth "deciduous" or broad-leaf forest, home to elk, bears, and cougars. The First Nations land use plan of the local Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group calls for the protection of the remaining old-growth forests in their territories. The BC IMC and PSIMB bought the lands from TimberWest in 2011. Contact the Ancient Forest Alliance at: info@ancientforestalliance.org

A provincial fund of at least \$40 million per year is needed to purchase BC's most endangered ecosystems on private lands to sustain wildlife, clean water, recreation and tourism.

Across British Columbia many of our most endangered ecosystems are found on private lands. These include the Coastal Douglas-fir and Dry Maritime forests on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, with their Mediterranean-like climates, twisted arbutus trees on rocky outcrops, and extremely scarce ancient groves; dry ecosystems of BC's southern interior, including the fragrant Ponderosa Pine forests, sage-filled grasslands, and semi-arid "pocket desert"; waterfowl-filled wetlands and rich deciduous forests in the Fraser Valley and along our largest rivers; and other magnificent but endangered ecosystems threatened by encroaching developments.

These private lands are jam-packed with endangered species. They are also usually found closest to BC's main population centers, making them highly accessible locations for environmental education and nature tourism. As such, they have the potential to be the highest-value additions to BC's world-class parks and protected areas system. Funding from the BC government for the purchase of endangered private lands is vital for their timely rescue!



McLaughlin Ridge
(see inside for details)

What can I Do to Help Establish a BC PARK ACQUISITION FUND?

1. WRITE to PREMIER CHRISTY CLARK and OPPOSITION LEADER ADRIAN DIX (both at the Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 or email premier@gov.bc.ca and Adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca):

Let them know:

- You want the BC Liberal government and NDP opposition to commit to establishing a BC Park Acquisition Fund, similar to that of many Regional Districts, of \$40 million per year to buy private lands for protection.
- You want them to develop a new BC Old-Growth Strategy to protect BC's endangered old-growth forests on public and private lands, as old-growth forests are vital for wildlife, tourism, clean water, wild salmon, the climate, and many First Nations cultures.
- You expect them to commit to these new policies before the next BC election in May, 2013.

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2. SIGN and CIRCULATE our PETITION at:

www.BCParkFund.com

3. SUPPORT the ANCIENT FOREST ALLIANCE (AFA)!

Please DONATE

We are a young but highly effective conservation organization working to ensure the protection of our endangered old-growth forests and sustainable forestry jobs in BC. We greatly need funding to grow the strength of our campaigns! Please donate:

- Online: www.AncientForestAlliance.org
- By Phone with your VISA or MasterCard: 250-896-4007
- By Mail (cheques payable to "Ancient Forest Alliance") Ancient Forest Alliance, Box 8459, 706 Yates St., Victoria, BC, V8W 3S1

The Ancient Forest Alliance is a registered BC non-profit society (# S0056367). Donations are not tax-deductible.

Private Lands must be Purchased

On public (Crown) lands, the BC government can often establish protected areas for free and can readily regulate land-use activities. However, to fully protect private lands, these areas must ultimately be bought. While local zoning bylaws, conservation covenants, and other tools exist to restrict certain types of developments on some private lands, it's in BC's parks, ecological reserves, and provincial conservancies where the highest environmental protection standards exist with the greatest long-term certainty.

A minimum \$40 million/year BC Park Acquisition Fund is GREATLY needed!

While private land trusts are vital for conservation, they simply don't have the capacity to quickly raise the tens of millions of dollars needed each year to save all the significant private lands, given the often short timelines they have to exist. Only governments have such funds.

Conservationists are calling on the BC Liberal government to establish a dedicated BC Park Acquisition Fund of at least \$40 million each year, raising \$400 million over 10 years, to purchase old-growth forests and other endangered ecosystems on private lands. In years past, the BC government has designated funds for new park acquisition in the provincial budget; however, the funds have been inconsistent and simply too small.

It's important to remember that the BC government's annual budget is \$40 billion/year. This means that a \$40 million park acquisition fund constitutes only 0.1 % or 1/1000th of the provincial budget. Surely we can afford allocating 0.1% of all of our public funds to invest in protecting BC's endangered biodiversity and the province's scenic and recreational assets!

Previous studies have shown that for every \$1 spent by the BC government on our parks system, another \$9 in tourism revenues is generated in the provincial economy.

Many Regional Districts already have Park Acquisition Funds

A provincial park acquisition fund would be similar to the park acquisition funds that already exist among various Regional Districts. For example, in the Victoria region the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Land Acquisition Fund has spent over \$34 million dollars to purchase over 4500 hectares since its establishment in the year 2000. The fund amounts to about \$3 million per year and has been pivotal for protecting lands of high environmental and recreational values at Jordan River, the Sooke Hills, the Sooke Potholes, Thetis Lake, Mount Work, and Mount Maxwell on Salt Spring Island.

Now the BC government must do its part. With a provincial election coming up in May, 2013, it's time both the BC Liberal government and the NDP opposition commit to a \$40 million/year BC park acquisition fund. A major, secure fund to protect Beautiful British Columbia would be a win-win for everyone!

Old-Growth Forests Imminently Endangered on Private Lands!

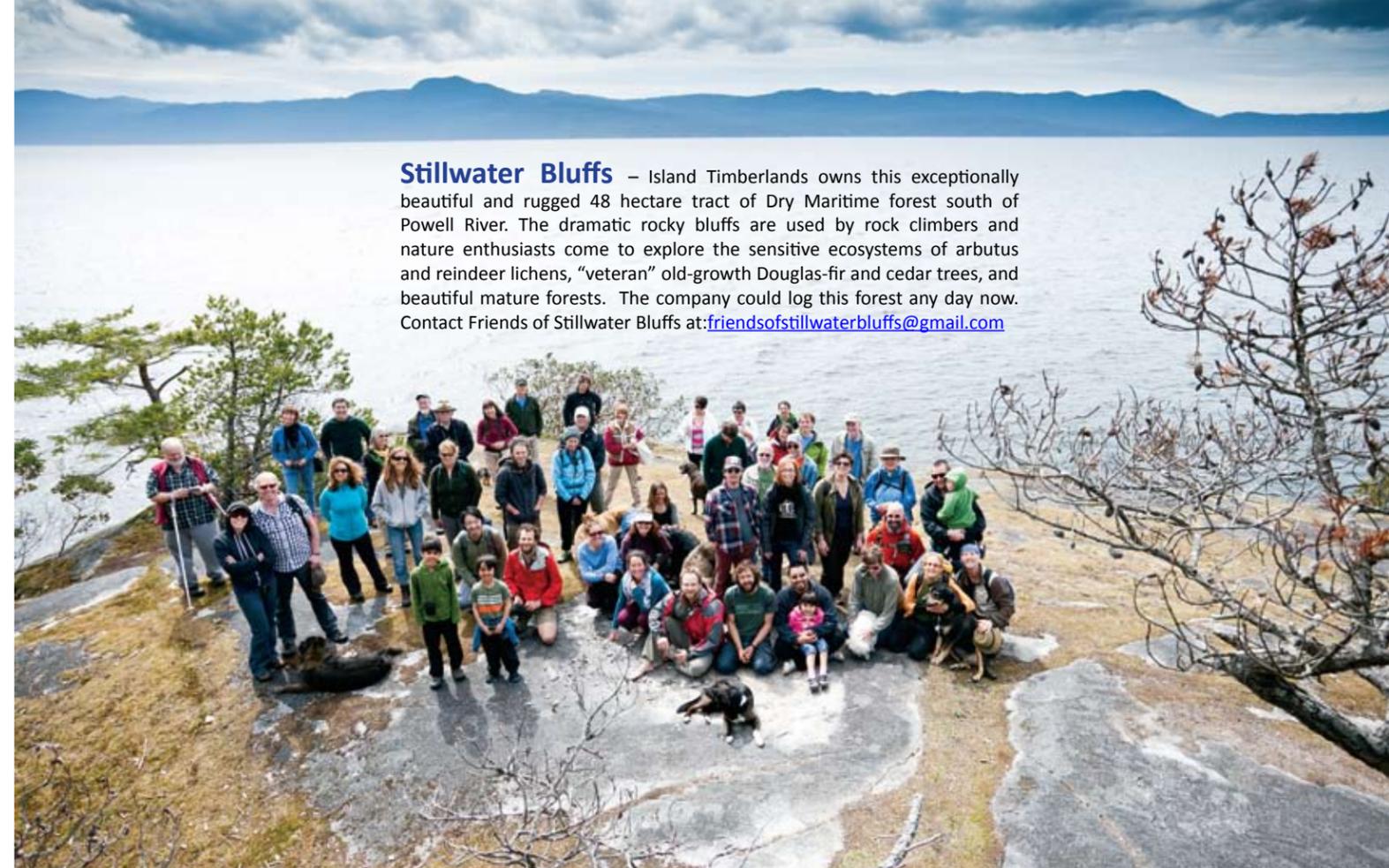
Several of the most endangered old-growth forests on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast survive on the hundreds of thousands of hectares of corporate private lands owned by Island Timberlands and until recently, TimberWest, who sold their BC lands in 2011 to two public sector pension funds.

Old-growth forests are vital for supporting endangered species, tourism, the climate, clean water and salmon, and many First Nations cultures. Time is of essence, as logging threatens to reduce many of these highly significant endangered forests into a sea of giant stumps very soon.

Island Timberlands in particular is aggressively moving to log many of its lands with the highest conservation and recreational values in 2012. Conservationists are calling on the company to back off from such plans, while at the same time calling on the BC government to help purchase the companies' contentious private lands.

Some endangered forests on private lands include:

Cortes Island – Island Timberlands owns about 1000 hectares here including the Children's Forests, Whaletown Commons, and extremely rare old-growth Dry Maritime forests at Basil Creek and the Green Valley. The company plans to start logging as soon as this September, 2012. Contact Wildstands at: wildstands.press@gmail.com



Stillwater Bluffs – Island Timberlands owns this exceptionally beautiful and rugged 48 hectare tract of Dry Maritime forest south of Powell River. The dramatic rocky bluffs are used by rock climbers and nature enthusiasts come to explore the sensitive ecosystems of arbutus and reindeer lichens, "veteran" old-growth Douglas-fir and cedar trees, and beautiful mature forests. The company could log this forest any day now. Contact Friends of Stillwater Bluffs at: friendsofstillwaterbluffs@gmail.com

McLaughlin Ridge: SEE FRONT PAGE

Island Timberlands owns about 500 hectares of critical old-growth habitat (100 hectares of which they've recently logged) for wintering deer and for the endangered Queen Charlotte Goshawk in this part of the China Creek drinking watershed of Port Alberni. The land was previously classified as a Wildlife Habitat Area and Old-Growth Management Area until the BC Liberal government deregulated the land by removing it from the company's Tree Farm License in 2004.

Contact the Watershed-Forest Alliance at: watershedforestalliance@gmail.com

Day Road Forest: Island Timberlands is planning to log in this stand of mature and old-growth veteran Douglas-firs and cedars near Roberts Creek on the Lower Sunshine Coast, to the chagrin of local citizens. A gorgeous waterfall and box canyon are highlights in this area that is heavily used by recreationists and for children's environmental education. Contact Elphinstone Logging Focus at loggingfocus@gmail.com



Cathedral Grove and Canyon: SEE FRONT PAGE

Island Timberlands owns hundreds of hectares of old-growth and second-growth forests near the famed Cathedral Grove in MacMillan Provincial Park by Port Alberni, including the spectacular Cathedral Grove Canyon a few kilometres upstream along the Cameron River Valley. This incredible canyon should be a national treasure. Scattered ancient Douglas-firs and redcedars stand. Contact the Mid-Island Wilderness Committee at: wccqb@shaw.ca

Cameron Valley Firebreak: This 150 hectare section of rare valley-bottom-to-mountain-top old-growth forest is near Port Alberni. In April, 2012, Island Timberlands began logging some of its old-growth coastal Douglas-firs, of which only 1% remain in BC. Numerous First Nations' culturally-modified cedars stand here. It was protected as an Ungulate Winter Range for Roosevelt Elk and black-tailed deer until the BC Liberal government removed the lands from the company's Tree Farm License in 2004. Contact the Watershed-Forest Alliance at: watershedforestalliance@gmail.com

