



July 7th, 2015

Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations
Rm. 248, Parliament Buildings, 501 Belleville St.
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Thomson:

RE: Teal Jones logging in the Walbran

We are very concerned about Teal Jones Group application for logging cut block 4424, and its preliminary blocks 4401, 4403, 4405, 4409, 4410 and 4412 in the internationally significant Walbran Valley. Block 4424 is of particular concern due to its location on a steep slope with potential karst geology above the Walbran Creek and vital ungulate winter habitat.

Teal Jones has disregarded widespread public opposition to logging in one of Vancouver Island's last low-elevation old growth forests and ignored the environmental concerns inherent in unsustainable logging practices.

As forest fires burn across Canada and Vancouver Island we are reminded that A) intact forest ecosystems are one of the key reasons why global warming is not already much worse; B) forests can turn from carbon storage and sequestration banks to major carbon emitters if logged; and C) that any global plan to stabilize the climate will require keeping and restoring forests as carbon sinks.

We are asking that you deny Teal Jones permits to log the Walbran and work towards permanent protection for the Central Walbran wilderness. With less than 10% of low-elevation old growth remaining on Vancouver Island, your ministry needs to create an emergency plan to address this situation.

Sincerely,

Bob Peart
Executive Director
Sierra Club BC

CC: Hon. Christy Clark
Premier, Government of B.C.

Hon. Mary Polak
Minister of Environment, Government of B.C.

Tim Sheldan
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations,
Government of B.C.

Wes Shoemaker
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Government of B.C.

John Horgan
MLA, Juan de Fuca

Harry Bains
MLA, Surrey-Newton

Spencer Chandra-Herbert
MLA, Vancouver-West End

Scott Fraser
MLA, Alberni-Pacific Rim

Andrew Weaver
MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head