

# Old Forest Management at Woodlot Licence 1611

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Management and retention of older age class forests is recognized as an extremely important aspect of forest management on Quadra Island and specifically within the Woodlot Licence Program.

Retention of existing older age forests and recruitment of a suitable percentage of old forest for future generations is practised at the Island wide landscape level, the woodlot level, and at the block/microsite level.

Island wide, there is approximately 15,000 hectares of public land on Quadra Island. ***Of that, approximately 5000 hectares, or 33% of the island, is under some sort of protection; primarily provincial and regional parks, as well as some 'forest service reserve'.***

This provides for long-term retention of old forests including existing old age classes and recruitment forest, which is generally comprised of 100-year-old second growth forest.

A secondary 'landscape level' objective, aimed at retention of old forests, comes from the informal "Quadra Plan" developed in the 90's by a now-defunct 'Quadra Island Forest Resource Committee (QIFRC)'.

The 'Quadra Plan' included a requirement to exclude old forests (minimum 250 years old) and/or individual trees from future harvest. *Although not a legally binding document, many Woodlot Licensees have committed to complying with the Quadra Plan in their Woodlot Licence Plan, thereby making the Old Growth retention commitment legal.*

***As the majority of Quadra forests are a result of forest fires in the 1920s and 1930s there is little old forest remaining on the island and therefore the community strongly values the older trees and older forest types remaining.***

At the Woodlot level, old forest retention is also managed both at the landscape and site level.

On our 400 hectare Woodlot Licence, there is approximately 60 hectares of productive forest in permanent long-term reserve area, and another 30 hectares of lands classified as non-productive sites which are generally rocky lodgepole pine sites.

The 60 hectares of productive forest land is primarily located in enhanced Riparian

Management Areas along fish-bearing streams and contains some of the best sites in the Woodlot Licence

This equates to 22.5% of the Woodlot Licence included in permanent reserve lands. Approximately 10 hectares of the reserve lands are genuine older forests with Douglas Fir tree diameters in excess of 2.0 metres.

***At the site level, in most cases some level of retention is maintained for long-term biodiversity value.***

This ranges from 2-3 large trees per hectare maintained for future individual older trees, to irregular shelterwood silviculture systems where upwards of 100 stems per hectare of mature trees are maintained.

***These retention systems are most prevalent in high-use areas, along public roads and popular hiking routes, and are avoided in areas with forest health challenges (root disease) or areas highly susceptible to wind damage.***

***There does appear to be a looming conflict with these silviculture systems and the recent 'Big Tree Policy' where the intent of several rotations of forest management will be halted once the retained trees reach the big-tree diameter limit and a 1 ha reserve is required around each tree.***

*Over the years we have conducted many field tours with local industry, the local college and high school, as well as the local Woodlot Association. In September of this year, we also hosted members of the Forest Practices Board as part of their workshop on innovative forest management activities happening on the coast.*

*We welcome visitors from industry, education and government to survey our woodlot and learn about our practices. ♦*

## 2019: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister FLNRORD

"Congratulations to the Adamsons on receiving this award. Over the years, they have shown significant commitment to reforestation and forest health, leadership in protecting caribou habitat, dedication to the local community and have educated local youth on the importance of personal responsibility in taking care of our forests."