

 **Pender Harbour and  
District Wildlife Society**

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**Feb 22nd, 2026**

**To:** The Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests Government of British Columbia

**Re: Opposition to Cutting Permit for Cutblock 8027 (FOM 2887) – Protection of Fairy Creek Old-Growth Forest**

Dear Minister Parmar,

On behalf of the Pender Harbour Wildlife Society, we write to express our strong opposition to the proposed cutting permit for cutblock 8027 within the Fairy Creek watershed on southern Vancouver Island.

We understand that Teal-Jones Group is seeking approval to log approximately seven hectares of ancient yellow cedar forest, including the construction of new road access. This area lies within 30 metres of the Fairy Creek ridgeline and forms part of the largest remaining unprotected high-productivity old-growth forest complex on southern Vancouver Island.

Cutblock 8027 qualifies as ancient forest—originating more than 400 years ago, and likely undisturbed for much longer. These rare yellow cedar stands are of exceptional ecological value, particularly as yellow cedar faces widespread decline due to climate change. The preservation of intact ancient stands represents the species' best opportunity for long-term resilience.

The proposed cutblock also contains one of British Columbia's largest documented populations of Old Growth Specklebelly Lichen and provides critical nesting habitat for the endangered Marbled Murrelet. Logging in this area would fragment a contiguous old-growth ecosystem and create edge effects—including windthrow and increased predation—that would directly impact adjacent deferred areas. Approving this permit would contradict the management intent of the federal Species at Risk Act and undermine ongoing consideration of expanded wildlife habitat protections in the region.

Only 54 percent of this 1,910-hectare old-growth forest complex is currently protected under the Fairy Creek deferral. Logging cutblock 8027 would further fragment and diminish what remains of this irreplaceable ecosystem. Ancient forests of this scale and ecological continuity are among the rarest landscapes in British Columbia and are vital to biodiversity conservation, climate stability, and long-term forest health.

In addition to its ecological significance, Fairy Creek holds profound cultural, social, and economic value. The forests are internationally recognized and contribute to British Columbia's global reputation for natural beauty. They are also major carbon sinks, storing significant amounts of carbon per hectare and playing an essential role in climate mitigation.

Rather than approving further fragmentation, we urge the Ministry of Forests to prioritize the permanent protection of the entire Fairy Creek old-growth complex, including the Braden and Renfrew Creek watersheds. Protecting this ancient forest would demonstrate a meaningful commitment to biodiversity, climate responsibility, and reconciliation with communities who value these lands.

We respectfully request that the Ministry deny the cutting permit for cutblock 8027 and move instead toward comprehensive, science-based protection of the remaining ancient forest in the Fairy Creek watershed.

Sincerely,

Carole Logtenberg

President, Pender Harbour Wildlife Society