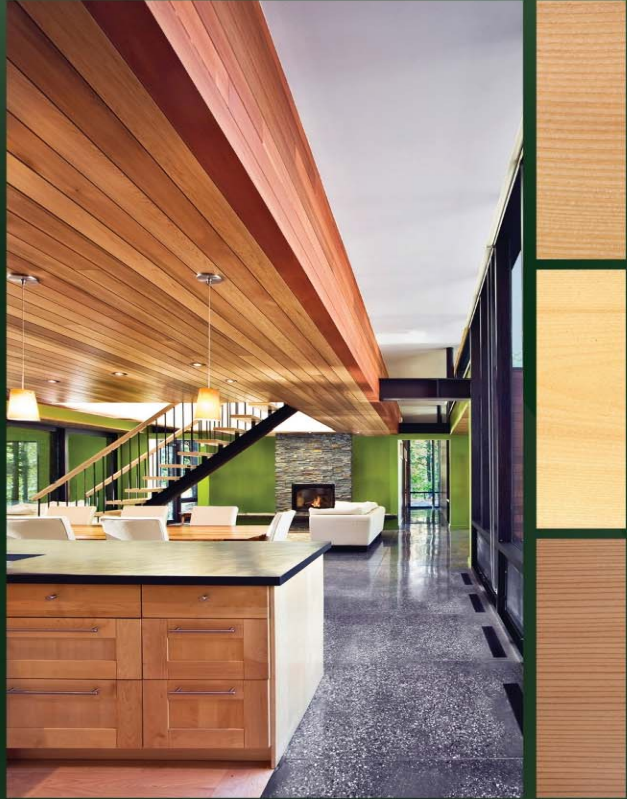


# OLD GROWTH UPDATE

November 12, 2020



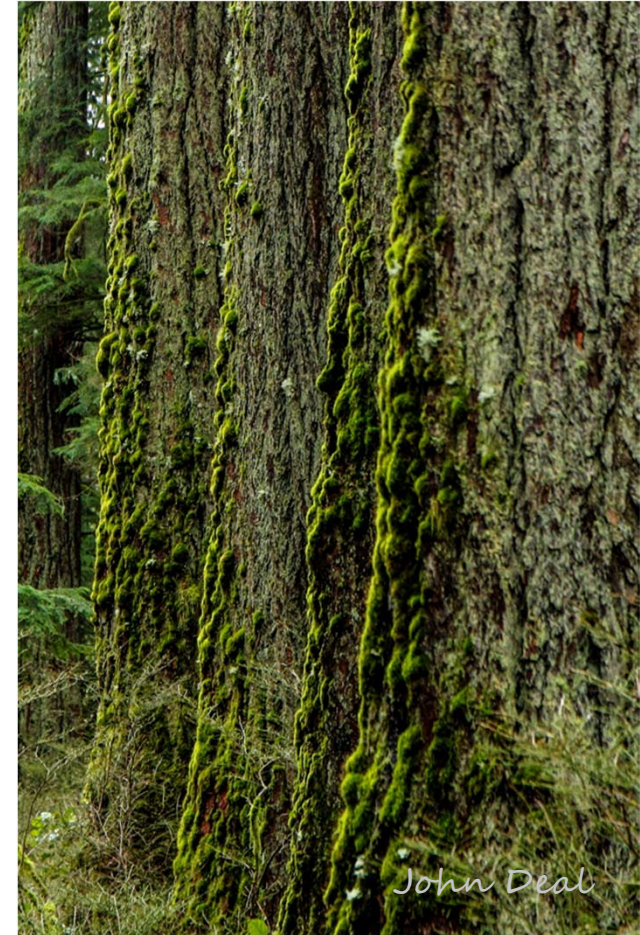
Western Forest Products Inc.  
DEFINING A HIGHER STANDARD™





## Outline

- September 11 Announcements
- Western's Big Tree Standard



## Old Growth Strategic Review - Background

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- July 17, 2019 – BC announced an Old Growth Strategic Review
- Conducted by Garry Merkel and Al Gorely
- Engaged the public to hear perspectives of old growth trees and forests
- Engaged through:
  - Community Visits
    - Western met with them twice
  - Online questionnaire
  - Written comments
  - E-mail

## September 11, 2020 Government Announcements

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- Release of Old Growth Strategic Review Reports
  - Summary of comments
  - Situation description and recommendations to government
- Forest Act Part 13 Deferrals
  - 9 of 10 areas deferred effective immediately for two years
    - Only applies to forest  $\geq 215$  years old
    - 3,300 ha of Western tenure affected (near Tahsis and Sayward)
  - No deferral areas to date on the DFA
- Special Tree Protection Regulation
  - Under Forest and Range Practices Act
  - “up to 1,500 trees”
- Extensive upcoming engagement with First Nations and stakeholders

## Old Growth Strategic Review Recommendations

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### Themes

1. Indigenous Involvement
2. Prioritizing Ecosystem Health
3. A Formal Three Zone Forest Management Framework
4. A More Inclusive and Stabilizing Approach to Governance
5. Public Information
6. Immediate Response to Ecosystem at Very High Risk
7. Compliance with Existing Requirements
8. Monitoring and Evaluation

## Old Growth Strategic Review Recommendations

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### Themes

9. Setting and Managing Objectives and Targets
10. Update Biodiversity Targets and Guidance
11. Inventory and Old Forest Classification
12. Innovative Silvicultural Systems
13. Transition Planning at Provincial and Local Levels
14. Transition Support for Communities

### Next steps for government

- Full First Nations Involvement
- Address gaps
- Later engage other stakeholders



## Special Tree Protection Regulation

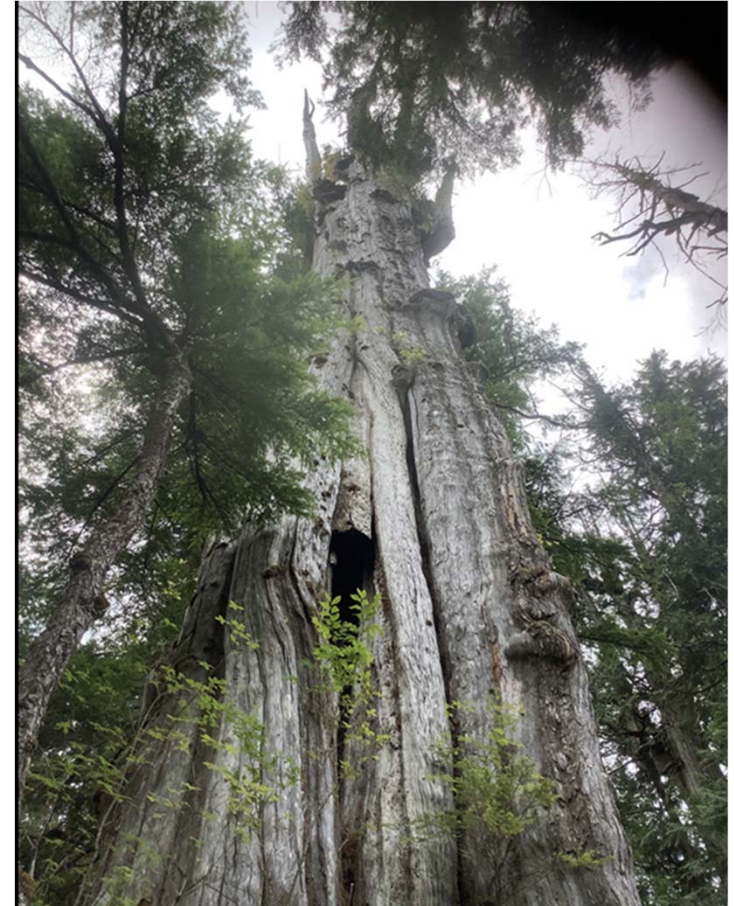
- Regulation applies immediately.
- Specified Trees – live and dead trees meeting the species and dbh criteria (11 species + 3 varieties).
- Supporting Trees – live and dead trees within a 56 m of a Specified Tree
- Specified and Supporting trees are protected (Section 3(2)).
  - Specified Trees cannot be cut, damaged or destroyed (includes pruning and topping)
  - Supporting Trees cannot be felled, topped or destroyed. They can be pruned
- Max penalty for contravening S.3(2) is **\$100K**
- Proactively search ~50 m outside block for additional specified trees.



## Special Tree Protection Regulation

*Table 1: Specified Tree minimum dbh by tree species.*

Species	Minimum dbh
Arbutus	164 cm (5.4')
Bigleaf maple	198 cm (6.5')
Black cottonwood	268 cm (8.8')
Coastal Douglas-fir	270 cm (8.9')
Garry oak	136 cm (4.5')
Grand fir	146 cm (4.8')
Pacific yew	63 cm (2.0')
Sitka spruce	283 cm (9.3')
Western redcedar	385 cm (12.6')
Yellow-cedar	265 cm (8.7')





## Specified Trees on DFA

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- 11 Specified Trees reported to date on the DFA
  - 2 Douglas-fir (largest 318 cm)
  - 6 Sitka Spruce (largest 316 cm)
  - 3 Western redcedar (largest 450 cm)

## Concluding Remarks

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- As a leader in implementing sustainable forest practices, we appreciate the time and effort that was taken to engage with communities, industry and stakeholders on this important topic.
- In lead-up to the announcement, government officials noted Western's progressive management practices.
- We are encouraged that government is taking steps to implement practices Western has in place with their announcement of a new Special Tree Protection Regulation.



# Questions







# Big Tree Standard



## Big Tree Standard

- What is a Big Tree?:
  1. Part 13 tree (2019)
  2. Specified Tree – live or dead tree meeting the following diameter at 1.3m

*Table 1: Specified Tree minimum dbh by tree species.*

Species	Minimum dbh
Arbutus	164 cm (5.4')
Bigleaf maple	198 cm (6.5')
Black cottonwood	268 cm (8.8')
Coastal Douglas-fir	270 cm (8.9')
Garry oak	136 cm (4.5')
Grand fir	146 cm (4.8')
Pacific yew	63 cm (2.0')
Sitka spruce	283 cm (9.3')
Western redcedar	385 cm (12.6')
<u>Yellow-cedar</u>	265 cm (8.7')



## Big Tree Standard

3. Western Big Tree – a standing live tree
  - a) with a diameter at breast height (dbh) range in Table 2; or
  - b) that is  $\geq 80$  m tall with a dbh  $<$  Table 1; or
  - c) with a dbh  $\geq$  Table 1 and located on a Managed Forest

*Table 2: Western Big Tree dbh range by tree species.*

Species	dbh Range
Coastal Douglas-fir	210 cm (6.9') to 269.9 cm (8.9')
Sitka spruce	220 cm (7.2') to 282.9 cm (9.5')
Western redcedar	300 cm (9.8') to 384.9 cm (12.6')
Western white pine	$\geq 125$ cm (4.1')
<u>Yellow-cedar</u>	210 cm (6.9') to 264.9 cm (8.7')

4. BC Big Tree Registry Tree

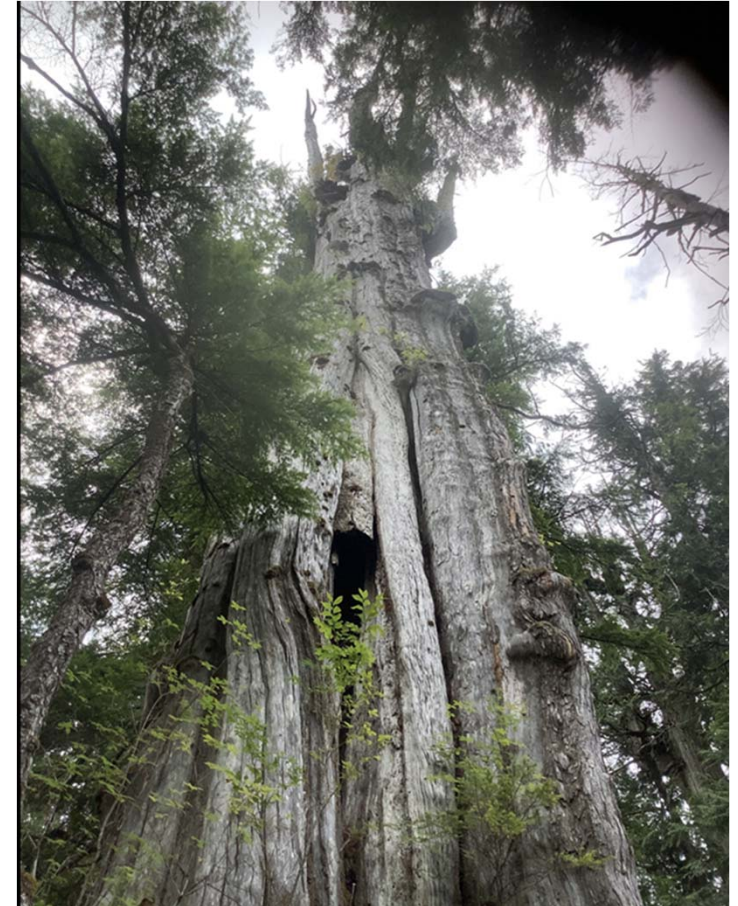




## Big Tree Standard

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1. **Part 13 Trees:** Retain all trees centered within a 56 m radius (horizontal distance) forested patch.
2. **Specified and Supporting Trees:**
  - Meet all requirements of the [Special Tree Protection Regulation](#).
  - Review exemption applications with the Manager, Forest Stewardship and Wildlife prior to submission except for removal of dangerous Supporting Trees



## Big Tree Standard

- **Western Big Trees and BC Big Tree Registry Trees not captured under Part 13 Trees or Specified and Supporting Trees (Standard 1 or 2):**
  - Retain all trees with a  $\geq 20$  m (slope distance) buffer from the harvested edge either:
    - in a contiguous forested area;
    - in forested patches  $\geq 2.0$  ha if the objective is to amend the retained area into a new Old Growth Management Area (OGMA); or
    - in windfirm retention patches  $\geq 0.25$  ha.
  - Contact the Manager, Forest Stewardship and Wildlife with a rationale for approval in the following situations:
    - a documented danger tree where a safe work zone is not feasible;
    - a tree is requested by a First Nation for cultural purposes; or
    - a tree is located on a critical control point for road access or harvesting.





# Questions

