



## Tla'amin Request Regarding the BC Old Forest Review and Reaching Consensus with Western

On April 9, Tla'amin Nation requested that the Government of British Columbia immediately put into action the 14 Recommendations of the BC Old Forest Review, with particular focus on Recommendations 1 and 6. Recommendation 1 is meaningful discussions with First Nations communities and Recommendation 6 is immediate harvest deferrals to protect BCs old growth ecosystems at very high risk of "irreversible biodiversity loss," pending completion of work to implement all 14 Recommendations.

At the time the Tla'amin request to government was made, Western had two old forests blocks (>250 years) planned and underway in Block 1, totaling approximately 35 hectares or 22,000 m3. The blocks were planned in accordance with a 250-year Management Plan and consistent with the Company's sustainability metrics and rare ecosystem retention guidelines. Information sharing on the blocks was completed with the local First Nations, including Tla'amin, prior to April 2021.

Tla'amin and Western are now discussing how they can jointly implement Recommendation 6 of the BC Old Forest Review and are working to achieve a values and science-based consensus on their recommendations for harvest deferrals over the coming months. While these discussions take place, Western will pause falling in the two old forest blocks and will not initiate new harvesting in Block 1 stands classified as old (> 250 years). Yarding and hauling of previously felled trees may continue in these areas.

Tla'amin and Western agree that the implementation of the BC Old Forest Review needs to be put into a regionally specific context and requires balance with socio-economic objectives. Tla'amin and Western are taking an approach that will support local jobs and coastal sawmilling, given Western's pre-existing long-term sustainable forest management plan for the region.

For more information please contact:

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