

An aerial photograph of a forest. In the center, a large, dark brown tree stump with a jagged top stands out against the surrounding green trees. The text "OLD-GROWTH OLD LIES" is overlaid on the top half of the image.

**OLD-GROWTH
OLD LIES**

Resisting the Corporate Logging Narrative

WILDFIRES, LOGGING AND THE MYTHS WE'RE SOLD



TIMESCOLONIST.COM

**Canada's logging industry is seeking a
wildfire 'hero' narrative**

Logging Industry Narrative

Old forests fuel fires, are unhealthy and more susceptible to pests and disease

“Over-protection” of forests leads to fuel/biomass build-up and more fires

More commercial logging is the solution to forest fires

Disaster Capitalism: FPAC (Forest Products Association of Canada: lobby group): goal is to take advantage of the public’s legitimate wildfire concerns, and lack of knowledge about forest management to spread misinformation to gain more access to profit off of public forests

The Cutting

Despite What the Logging Industry Says, Cutting Down Trees Isn't Stopping Catastrophic Wildfires

Have western USA fire suppression and megafire active management approaches become a contemporary Sisyphus?

Dominick A. DellaSala ^a, Bryant C. Baker ^{b c}, Chad T. Hanson ^d, Luke Ruediger ^{e f}, William Baker ^g [Show more](#) 

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Metrics

Highlights

- Massive fire suppression and “active management” are damaging to fire-adapted forests.
- Environmental laws and protected areas are at risk from expansive logging.
- Federal agencies pour billions of dollars annually into command-and-control tactics.
- A growing divide exists between biodiversity and many “fuel reduction”

Article preview

Abstract

Section snippets

References (109)

 FEEDBACK

[Comment](#) | Published: 05 May 2020

Recent Australian wildfires made worse by logging and associated forest management

[David B. Lindenmayer](#) , [Robert M. Kooyman](#), [Chris Taylor](#), [Michelle Ward](#) & [James E. M. Watson](#)

[Nature Ecology & Evolution](#) **4**, 898–900 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

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5529 Accesses | 115 Citations | 1166 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

The recent fires in southern Australia were unprecedented in scale and severity. Much commentary has rightly focused on the role of climate change in exacerbating the risk of fire. Here, we contend that policy makers must recognize that historical and contemporary logging of forests has had profound effects on these fires’ severity and frequency.

Forest management has increased susceptibility to fire by:

- ☐ Removing deciduous species (extensive herbicides) to try to increase timber supply
- ☐ By 'normalizing' a naturally more mixed forest mosaic – creating large swathes of similar aged forest that is highly susceptible to fire
- ☐ By clearcutting that dries the ground and increases the immediate effects of climate change

The relative effects obviously differ in the vastly different forested ecosystems, but all these strategies lead to simplified and less resilient ecosystems.

Science on old growth

- ☐ No evidence that old growth burns more often than other ages of forest^{1, 2}
- ☐ IS evidence that old growth is less likely to ignite than 'managed' forest².
- ☐ No evidence that 'protected' forests burn more³
- ☐ If a stand has survived 200, or 400, or 1000 fire seasons then it likely will continue to do so ...

1: Burton 2023. Frey SJ, Hadley AS, Johnson SL, Schulze M, Jones JA, Betts MG 2016 Spatial models reveal the microclimatic buffering capacity of old-growth forests *Science advances* 2 e1501392

2: Frey et al. 2006. Microclimate buffering of old growth. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.1501392>

3: Bradley et al. 2016. Does increased forest protection correspond to higher fire severity in frequent fire forests of western US? <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ecs2.1492>

science is on Old growth there is no

Clearing The Forest Floor

wtfcanada.substack.com



Moist, slow to ignite, low risk. A critical part of a healthy ecosystem.

Natural Coarse Woody Debris



Dry, highly oxygenated, primed to ignite. Left behind by commercial harvesting.

Industrial Slash

Case Study: The 2020 Hog Fire in California saw logging slash cause extreme fire behavior, burning straight through established fuel breaks.

The Hard Data: Post-fire logging significantly increases fine surface fuels (Donato et al., Science, 2006). A 10-year reassessment found these elevated fine fuels persist in logged stands for roughly 20 years (Peterson et al.).

Science on fires

- ❑ Intense fuel management only reduces fire risk in intermediate weather conditions¹
- ❑ Even intense management only reduced modeled burn probability slightly
- ❑ Primary forests (including old growth) do better in drought conditions (think of all the root systems, the diversity, the shrub layers etc.)²
- ❑ Intense plantation forestry, characterised by young forests and spatially homogenized fuels were significant drivers of wildfire severity³

1: Beverly, J. L., Leverkus, S. E., Cameron, H., & Schroeder, D. 2020. Stand-level fuel reduction treatments and fire behaviour in Canadian boreal conifer forests. *Fire*, 3(3), 35.

2: Julika Wolf¹ ❑, Johanna Asch¹, Feng Tian², Katerina Georgiou³ and Anders Ahlström. Canopy responses of Swedish primary and secondary forests to the 2018 drought.

3: Zald and Dunn 2018. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.1710>

Disturbance history affects lightning fire initiation in the mixedwood boreal forest: Observations and simulations

Meg A. Krawchuk ^a  , Steve G. Cumming ^b [Show more](#) ✓

Our analyses illustrated that forest harvesting and burning had opposite effects on subsequent fire initiation, so harvest was not a surrogate for fire. Fire initiation increased in landscapes with more area harvested and decreased with area recently burned.

Our data suggested that increased fire initiation was most pronounced in harvested stands up to a decade old, and there was some evidence that the effect might last as long as 30 years.

Solutions

- ☐ Modify fire suppression policies
- ☐ Retain and restore old growth – it slows fires, and maintains ecosystem resilience.
- ☐ Do not clearcut – it simplifies the forest, destroys ecosystem health, and dries out the forest further.
- ☐ Do not clearcut – leads to single aged stands that are vulnerable.
- ☐ Move away from timber priority that has promoted removal of deciduous species.



BC Is Burning! The film and the missing elephant in the room

FOREST FIRE FILM

Eli Pivnick - Jul 8, 2025 / 11:00 am

An old-growth management area near Stewart Lake on Vancouver Island was logged after it was removed from protected status. Many in the logging industry suggest protecting Canada from wildfires will require more harvesting. TJ Watt



BC IS BURNING: An Investigative Report on What's Missing from the Narrative

A new documentary called BC is Burning is making the rounds in British Columbia town halls. It's a masterpiece in social engineering.



WTF CANADA

MAY 26, 2026



Grooming forests could be making fires worse, researchers warn

Glyphosate sprayed on forests kills slow-burning trees, leaving more flammable species vulnerable



[Jill English](#) · CBC News · Posted: Nov 24, 2019 4:00 AM EST | Last Updated: November 24, 2019

<https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/publications/old-growth-old-lies>

<https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/our-work/glyphosate>

<https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/our-work/ontario-old-growth>

<https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/take-action/tell-ontario-stop-toxic-spray-forests>

Dr. Rachel Holt on BC is Burning: <https://www.instagram.com/reels/DY4e7W8lw0c/>

Dr. Rachel Holt Wildfires and Old Growth Fact and Fiction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPX2rWk8xc>

Canada State of the Forest Report: Seeing Through the Spin: <https://stateoftheforest.ca/>