

stockholder of MacMillan Bloedel, the largest timber company on Vancouver Island. The company was cited 83 times between 1971 and 1995 for violations such as illegal dumping and logging protected lands, but has paid less than \$500,000 in fines. Other companies have been caught cutting timber in prohibited areas, but have been permitted to keep their timber and pay minimal fines. As a result, there is little incentive for the province to curtail logging.⁵³ Critics charge that the provincial government parcels out public lands to the timber industry

with no regard for the natural and cultural values they embody, nor for the rights of their indigenous inhabitants.... Having already wrought havoc on the province's most accessible forests, the timber barons and their bureaucratic servants would prefer to keep these lesser-known places hidden from view. Absent massive public protests, they will be able to invade B.C.'s last remaining unlogged watersheds, get out the cut, and leave.⁵⁴

Labor groups are also particularly critical of provincial logging policies that allow unprocessed logs to be exported, rather than keeping logs in the province to be milled and processed in other value-adding industries. One estimate is that some 3,000 jobs could be created if processing occurred in the province to the unprocessed logs that are exported.⁵⁵ BC Wilds was created in 1986 by the Earthlife Canada Foundation, and includes international and grassroots environmental groups, the fishing industry, and labor unions. It has given assistance to grassroots groups, contracted with experts for reports on relevant issues, conducted public symposiums, and published reports.⁵⁶ BC Wild also attacked the results of the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan, arguing that the annual allowable cut was more than two times the long-term sustainable rate.⁵⁷

The Southeast Wildlands Alliance, made up of environmental and recreation groups, advocates wilderness preservation, protection of old-growth forests, and wetlands. It has been critical of the government's goal of setting aside 12 percent of the province as insufficient to protect the great biodiversity of British Columbia. Old-growth forests contain trees that reach 1,800 years of age and are home to eight species of reptiles and amphibians, 41 bird species, and 31 mammal species whose habitats are limited to old-growth forests; 24 species are vulnerable to extinction. The alliance targeted several areas for protection, including the Stoltmann wilderness, a 15 km stretch of forests in the Lillooet Valley where logging has damaged the balance of the 185 km-long valley; the Mehatl Valley, home to spotted owls, wolf, grizzly, and cougars; and Natatlach Lakes, home of pristine waters and beaches.⁵⁸

BC Wild and the mainstream environmental groups have pledged to work with the government to limit the size of parks to 13 percent of the Lower Mainland. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee calls for 35 to 40 percent as the minimum necessary to protect wildlife habitat. One area they have singled out, for example, is the Stoltmann Wilderness, 260,000 hectares that make up over half of all the large unlogged valleys (over 5,000 hectares) in the Lower Mainland region. The area contains, according to government estimates, eight grizzlies, 700 black bears, 55 moose, 240 mountain goats, eight wolves, and