

Petition to Increase British Columbia's Parks and Protected Areas

To the Governments of British Columbia and all BC First Nations:

WHEREAS British Columbia has over 1,800 known species at risk and is losing biodiversity faster than the rest of Canada; and WHEREAS British Columbia has many valuable but threatened ecosystems, including carbon-rich old-growth forests harboring many threatened species, and WHEREAS the best available science predicts that 50% of Earth's terrestrial ecosystems must be protected to maintain the biodiversity that is necessary to sustain a habitable planet;

The undersigned urgently request your immediate attention to scientists from many parts of the world who have declared a planetary emergency due to climate change and species loss. They say that humans have destroyed and polluted too much of the planet's natural ecosystems, and in so doing we have threatened our own survival. Recently 11,000 scientists stated that governments must "quickly curtail habitat and biodiversity loss, protecting the remaining primary and intact forest ..." in order to save the planet from climate crisis.

We, the undersigned, declare that the Provincial and First Nation governments of British Columbia should immediately protect BC's remaining intact natural areas by increasing Class A parks and legislated Tribal Parks to 30% of the provincial landbase. An additional 20% of the provincial landbase should be protected in conservation areas legislated for the maintenance of carbon sequestration and storage, and for the preservation of biodiversity.

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