New Forest Act Training Workshop Recording Transcript
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Presented by Jennifer Houghton and Dave Weaver

that point about nothing changes unless it's in the law and and just to give you the context of how it works in
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6 seconds
BC and how our forest acts are um you can pass policy you can have guidelines like the government's proposing now and
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the great uh the great uh example of this is is right now we're heading into election everything's on frozen
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everyone's they call it uh minding the shelves in Victoria and you just sort of look at the shelf you don't do anything you don't send out any emails you don't
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respond nothing happens happens because the government may change. So what they propose in the new working force landscape model is a guideline. It's
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it's a policy. It's not in law. So if we get say we get the same NDP government in or we even get conservatives that could evaporate just like that. It's
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gone. It disappears. If it was in the law, if it was in an act, it's still there. It would be legal obligations.
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There's accountability. there's people who are um responsible for that. So that's why it should be in law if if you really want systematic change.
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Okay. So the first thing I want everybody to leave here understanding is what we're actually asking government to do. So we're not asking for another
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forestry program. We're not asking government to take a few ideas from the new forest act and add them to the existing system. We are asking
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government to replace the legal framework governing the forestry system.
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Why? Because the existing laws organize forest management around timber supply and extraction. And as long as those
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laws remain in place, any new programs, planning processes, and terminology are still operating inside the same system.
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The new forest act changes what the system is legally required to do. So ecological integrity comes first.
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Communities have decision-making power and forestry is structured to support stable local and regional economies.
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That is our legislative ask. So the proposal calls for the replacement of the forest act, forest and range
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practices act, PMFLA, and the ministry of forests act.
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Now, if you strip the New Forest Act down to its basic structure, this is it.
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At the top are the three things we want established in law. Ecological integrity, community decision-making, and stable regional economies.
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Protect, restore, harvest determines what happens on the land. And then nature-directed stewardship determines how forestry is carried out.
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The governance structure changes who participates in decisions and who provides oversight.
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Those pieces all belong together. They can't be cherrypicked and pulled out and put into the existing system. Um protect
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restore harvest by itself is not the new forest act. Changing harvesting practices by themselves is not the new forest act. Creating a local forest
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board by itself is not the new forest act. The new forest act is a replacement system.
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So the proposal establishes nature directed stewardship NDS as the foundation PR as its spatial application
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and governance through the local forest boards and those are supported by science and indigenous knowledge panels ranger stations and the office of a
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forester general which will report on the application of the system.

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Now, this may be the most important conceptual difference to understand the um the difference between the current
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system and the NFA under the new forest act. We don't begin by deciding how much timber we want. We begin with the land.
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What does this wershed require? What needs to remain intact?
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What has already been damaged and needs to recover? And after those questions have been answered, we look at where
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harvesting can occur without degrading ecological function. And only then do we determine how much timber can be harvested.
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So remember this sentence, you don't pick a harvest number first and then arrange the landscape to produce it.
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Under the NFA, allowable harvest is an outcome of ecological limits.
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And this isn't a a proposal to shut forestry down. The NFA proposes an orderly transition of 1 to 5 years.
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Existing harvest harvesting rights conclude as they come up for renewal rather than government buying the 10
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years back. Harvesting will continue, but where and how harvesting happens will change.
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The economic model changes as well.
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5 minutes
Instead of depending on continually high volumes, the objective is greater value from the timber that can actually be harvested within ecological limits.
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And there's an increase in jobs in restoration, in monitoring, planning, local processing, and value added manufacturing.
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So this is not simply a conservation proposal. It's a restructuring of the forestry system.
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Now because government just started talking about three zones uh it can be confusing
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and that is what they do. They hear our language and they apply it to the existing system.
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But the fact that both systems contain three categories doesn't make them versions of the same thing. So on the left there, government's proposed
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working forest landscape model has a working forest zone that prioritizes commercial timber production. It also
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has a multipleuse zone where forestry continues apparently where ecosystem functions are restored. Don't ask me how
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that would happen. Uh and they have a conservation and a protection zone as well. Whereas protect, restore, harvest
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6 minutes, 13 seconds
under the new forest act uh starts somewhere completely different.
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Protect means primary forests are protected from logging. Restore means secondary forests are um
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allowed or assisted to recover. So it's not another timber production zone.
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Harvest occurs only on previously disturbed lands using either selectionbased or another type of appropriate forestry and only where ecological thresholds allow.
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So, don't get caught up by the number three or the word zones. The government's approach changes the labels
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on the map. The new forest act changes the rules. And lately, uh, just a couple
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of days ago or yesterday, the government put out this exciting video about how it's talking about how they're going to protect 30%.
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But the question here and and if you get into a conversation with government about this or anybody about this, the question is will that 30% be land that
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wouldn't have been logged anyways? What are they actually protecting? Are they taking 30% out of the timber harvesting
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land base? Is it land that's already too rocky, too sparss, too far away, or not economically viable? Is that what they're going to protect? That's the question that has to be asked.
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And here's a big part of why I'm not buying that there will be that much actual protection. The government's
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working forest landscape model is being developed alongside an objective of harvesting 45 million cubic meters annually.
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But recent actual harvests have been substantially below that. In both 2023 and 2024, total harvest was about 38.9
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million cubic meters. The reported harvest in 2025 was about 32 million and the government's own 2026 budget
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assumption for crown harvest is 29 million cubic meters annually.
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So the new forest act asks a very basic question. Why would we begin with 45 million?
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Under the new forest act, we don't we don't begin with a number at all. We we determine what the land can support first.
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the allowable harvest comes out the other end. So this is a fundamentally different way of making the decision.
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You and you can find the details of this in the um the handout. I put the the um
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information about the the the harvest level differences.
9:00
9 minutes
Okay, now we're ready for Dave. Dave is going to share a little bit about uh protect, restore, harvest on the
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ground and then we'll I'll talk about the um new forest act very quickly a little bit after that and then we'll get
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into questions and answers. Dave, do you want to share your screen?
9:22
9 minutes, 22 seconds
Yeah. Okay. Um I'll just start that. Hopefully it shows up. Is it on?

9:35
9 minutes, 35 seconds
Great. You're on.
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9 minutes, 36 seconds
And can everyone hear me? Okay. Give a thumbs up.
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9 minutes, 40 seconds
Great. Welcome everyone and thanks so much for showing up.
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Um I'm going to talk about uh new forest act and what that really looks like on the ground or what it looks like in practice and I'll touch on a few points.
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9 minutes, 57 seconds
Um I'm definitely going to look at the PR the protect restore harvest and what that would look like uh in different
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aspects from above uh from a bird's eye view and from a ground view. So to start
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off I'm going to look at an example watershed that I recently assessed in 2025. the Trent River
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wershed about 8,000 hectares about the size of of a community forest on the community forest tenure system right now
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existing in the forest act that's in place and furpa um I did the cumulative
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effects assessment on the wershed and you can see that the majority of this wershed has been logged actually twice
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um once in the 30s and 40s and started again in the 90s and 2000s and
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there's not much left. So if we apply the those zones where we start with the primary
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11 minutes
protection and looking at what is left over and then decide on what second growth has been logged or third growth
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that's existing in the restore category and we see what's left over for harvesting as Jennifer says that that's
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the final outcome. is not set prior. And this represents the landscape the the um management unit that we've envisioned to
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be used is at the watershed scale. And you can see here the different colors. I got to get my image out of the way here.
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Uh I'll shrink it right away. There we go. I don't want I have to look at myself. It's covering up my screen. The you can see uh
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I'll just move that out of the way. You can see the brown which is the protect zone and that's basically little chunks
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of old growth that is left or primary growth in this wershed is next to nothing. It's basically the riparian
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protected zones along stream sides and some of the very steep areas that were along and some high elevation
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12 minutes, 2 seconds
um mountain hemlock low value. So this watershed has very little old growth and sometimes the protection zone will
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include uh um ecosystem corridors or travel corridors and I have this connection within this wershed from
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ocean to mountain top and ecological zones in somewhat intact. And so that's that's the starting point. The second
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one is the restoration zone which is basically all the yellow and that's the second and or mostly third growth I
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should say uh that's in been over logged completely the um equivalent clearcut area for this area was very high and if
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anything under the new forest act it would probably have no logging at all because uh it needs to recover it it's hydraologically and aquatic ecosystems
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are have a high potential of dysfunction And the last zone was to be the harvest zone. And these are just that small band
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13 minutes
that is pretty steep ground that the second growth hasn't been logged. And there is a little bit of crown land.
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13 minutes, 5 seconds

This is all public land I should or sorry this is all private land on the east side of Vancouver Island with a
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little strip of public land i.e. crown land closer to Royston down below. So that's where u nature directed
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stewardship would happen and and modified harvesting would happen. So if we look at uh the three different zones,
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we'll just start with protect and I just have some images here to give you the visual image of what's in the protection zone. So the moment that this act would
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be in passed in parliament in the legislature, all old growth or primary growth within
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the all of the management units in BC would be protected. So the top right hand of the protected zone that's uh old
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growth or old forest in the coastal situation on the right hand side is what we would call primary
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forest meaning that it has never been uh disturbed by humans but it has subsequently had a fire maybe 80 to 100
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years ago. So that's a lodgepole pine stand uniform and that represents a primary growth that would be protected.
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Now, the restore zone is where restoration of uh degraded landscapes would start to be altered and put on a
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trajectory of recovery over a long period of time. And as Jennifer outlines, there's no harvesting really going on. The image under restore on the
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14 minutes, 29 seconds
right hand side is a recent restoration, a rehabilitation of an intensively managed, very dense uh stand. You can
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14 minutes, 37 seconds
see on the control on the left hand side of that image and where the variable density thinning has been taken taken
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place and increasing coarse woody debris on the ground and letting more light in.
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14 minutes, 49 seconds

The image in the middle is u is a treatment where encouraging deciduous growth not conifer as these landscapes
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are been targeted for primarily uh to allow for fire resistance and uh
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15 minutes, 4 seconds
landscape fire breaks would using deciduous on the land base that could happen in restoration zone. And the image on the far right in restoration
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would be um getting rid of uh extreme disturbance, the extensive road network,
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unbuilding roads and deactivating roads within the watershed. So let's just look at the harvest zone and what would that
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would look like on the ground and look at both levels, the landscape level and the stand level. So from the bird's eye
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view or from a a viewpoint, this is potentially what harvesting might look like under the new forest act. Now it's
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pretty hard to find an image. I had a challenge to find an image that looked like it had a a very lower footprint.
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15 minutes, 48 seconds
Basically, that's what that foot means on the left hand side is the result will be a much lighter footprint on the landscape. There's some clear cuts as
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15 minutes, 57 seconds
you can see in this image from Quadra Island, but there's a lot of very very small cuts that you can't really see and
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the retention is quite high of stems. So the forest cover loss would go down extremely quite a bit quite quickly
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under the new forest act. Obviously um there's not that continuous clearcuts.
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The size of any opening if it's suitable under nature-directed stewardship would be very very small in the neighborhood
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of less than five hectares three hectares of an opening something that and the whole idea under nature directed stewardship is any disturbance that is
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imp implemented on the land in order to harvest if there's that opportunity will mimic natural disturbance patterns. If
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we look at the stand level and there's an image on the left hand side from the BC forest service showing basically second growth
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stands. These are the only stands that the harvest would be allowed in previously logged stands where we're protecting all of the old growth stands
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or old forests. So there would be uh potential either selection or individual tree selection if that is silver
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culturally suitable. If there's uh shade tolerant species that can regenerate underneath either naturally or potentially planting or if if the area
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is subject uh naturally to have small openings say disease centers or blowdown which are their naturally occurrence
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disturbances then it may be a partial cut where it's small patch cuts. So the whole goal is leaving a functional
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forest after any form of moderate harvesting happens. And the change in philosophy under the whole act is this.
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Obviously timber is not number one. It's ecosystem integrity is number one. The decision is not what you take but what you leave. And what you leave should be
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a functioning forest. So that's all I have right now. A quick snapshot and uh we'll head back to uh Jennifer. Thanks.
18:04
18 minutes, 4 seconds
And I have to stop sharing. Is that right?
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18 minutes, 7 seconds
Yeah, you have to click stop share and then it'll come back to me. Okay, awesome. Thanks for that, Dave. Uh, I'm going to pull up the outline.
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18 minutes, 15 seconds
Make sure we're on track here. We're going through this pretty quickly. I'm assuming most people already are familiar with the um New Forest Act. If
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you want to see a a deeper dive, uh, you can look on our YouTube channel. I'll send you guys out some links. Uh there's a deeper dive into PR in the Kettle

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River uh watershed and then there's also a a more extensive explanation on video of the New Forest Act or you can just
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read it yourself. Okay. So Dave has um talked about what PR means on the ground. I'm going to jump into private
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managed forest land and then we're going to talk about the questions that government is actually asking. Okay. So
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just briefly about the private managed forest lands might be of particular concern to people on Vancouver Island.
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19 minutes, 5 seconds
So the new forest act proposes repealing the private managed forest land act PMLA and bringing those lands under enforcable new forest act standards.
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That does not mean expropriating private land. Ownership remains private and harvesting can continue. What changes are the rules?
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19 minutes, 27 seconds
So, private managed forest land would be subject to ecological thresholds, watershed protections, compliance
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requirements, enforcement, and public reporting.
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And this is really important where forestry on private land affects community drinking water, hydrarology, slopes, or the cumulative condition of a watershed.
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The basic principle is public interest standards do not stop at a property in line. The PMFLA would be repealed and
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NFA standards would become enforcable rather than advisory. Okay. So that's the NFA in a nutshell.
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Now let's talk about the questions that we get uh when we talk to government. Uh and you guys can uh ask us more about
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this at the end as well. Uh when we presented the new forest act to minister Parmar and Minister Neil on September
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9th uh there was also about 10 other government government staff present. Uh and the questions that they asked focused on implementation.
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They wanted to know how the restore zone would work. They were very interested in restore. They wanted to know how ecological limits would be determined.
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Who would make the decisions? how First Nations would be involved and what happens to workers. And uh Parmar asked what the proposal means for fire.
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20 minutes, 56 seconds
And those are all reasonable questions and they are the six questions in your handout. I'm going to give you the short answers now. You don't need to memorize
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21 minutes, 5 seconds
the technical details. Um I'm hoping that you will understand the framework well enough to be able to explain it accurately. That's our goal here tonight.
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21 minutes, 17 seconds
Okay, so the first question, what actually happens in the restore zone? Um Dave and I have already, you know, covered that tonight and the the full
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21 minutes, 25 seconds
answer is in the hand and handout, so just be prepared for that one because that's really of interest to people in government. Second question, who determines ecological limits?
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The NFA starts with what the land and water can sustain rather than a predetermined harvest target. Already went over that. So and those limits are
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based on what the conditions are in the actual place and that'll be different for each local each region in BC. So what's the
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hydraology? What are the soils? What are the slopes the habitat? What is the road density? What is the cumulative
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disturbance and what is the particular forest structure there?
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uh the science and the science panels and the indigenous knowledge panels will both help inform the process and they'll
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help the local forest boards to make decisions. The exact thresholds would be established through the legislation.
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They'd be put into regulations and uh regional planning would be involved in that as well. And again, the protect and restore requirements come first.

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Allowable harvest comes afterwards.
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Okay. Okay, the third question uh who decides and who sits on the boards?
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The proposal establishes community or local forest boards which are made up of local people and local indigenous peoples who are affected by the decisions about the land.
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They would have real decision-making responsibilities that are carried on carried out within
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provincial ecological rules. So, one question that came up um was uh it came
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up in the during the tour, what if the local forest board wants to clear cut
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500 hectares? No, not allowed. The provincial rules are going to stop them from being able to do that. So, provincial rules are going to guide the
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local forest boards. Oh, and I just want to say Dave, if you wanna for these questions, these answers, if you want to dive in, if you want to elaborate on anything, go right ahead.
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23 minutes, 35 seconds
Fourth uh question that comes up a lot is what is the role of First Nations?
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Indigenous participation is part of the proposed governance structure. It's not something that's added at the end. It's not a consultation process that happens after decisions have already been made.
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23 minutes, 54 seconds
The NFA includes indigenous participation on local forest boards. Uh it includes regional indigenous representation
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as well as indigenous knowledge panels which will help advise the local boards.
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The framework would not replace the crown's legal obligations to individ individual first nations.
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Uh detailed arrangements would have to be developed with each of the nations involved. It's complicated. It's already complicated.
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24 minutes, 27 seconds
Okay. Fifth common question. What happens to jobs, tenurs, and timber supply?
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So, the NFA is a phase transition, not an overnight shutdown. Existing harvesting rights conclude at renewal
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and that would happen over approximately 1 to 5 years without buybacks.
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and logging would continue according to the rules I already discussed. But the economic objective shifts towards more
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24 minutes, 55 seconds
value from the available timber with regional log markets or log sort yards. There'd be more local manufacturing.
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There'd be jobs in restoration, monitoring, watershed work and planning.
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25 minutes, 8 seconds
And that doesn't mean that every existing job remains unchanged. It means building an economy around the timber
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supply that the land can sustain. And then a big question comes up as well.
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25 minutes, 22 seconds
Who pays for this? Well, I think the better question is who's paying for the current system? Hundreds of millions of dollars are subsidizing the current
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forestry system and uh that would be shifted to restoration and costs would go down as well. Costs to communities
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25 minutes, 37 seconds
and regions would go down. um hundreds of millions of dollars in provincial and federal subsidies are
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already flowing into the forestry system and and that would change. Dave, do you have anything to add?
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25 minutes, 51 seconds
Yeah, it's just want to say that like be clear right up front uh with implementing the new forest act, the the
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rate of cut will come down around the whole province. that that's that's a given and we have to really wrap our head around that and it's not there's no
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26 minutes, 6 seconds
way that we're going to be able to um replace all of those jobs. Well, there'll be far more jobs in the res
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restoration zone in rehabilitation and and all of that uh meaningful work on the ground to bring these these damage
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stands back into a a more uh healthier ecosystem function over a longer period of time, a long long period of time. um
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is there and there isn't going to be any really merchant um uh economy out of that restoration zone
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as far as selling any uh products. Uh there may be uh gathering a force gathering or something like that. And so
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it's it's going to be a a scale down, but I think there's going to be some some stability in that long term. And that's what we were trying to get across.
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26 minutes, 56 seconds
Yeah. To the Thank you.
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26 minutes, 59 seconds
Okay. Uh, sixth question, Parmar's question, what about wildfire?
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27 minutes, 4 seconds
So, the NFA does not treat industrial logging as a general wildfire solution.
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Uh, in the backgrounder, we explain how mature forest can help maintain cooler moisture conditions while clearcuts and
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plantations can increase drying and fine fuels.
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So the protect part of the NFA retains primary forests. Restore repairs degraded watersheds and forest
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27 minutes, 32 seconds
structure. Forest structure is important. Um harvest uses techniques like continuous cover, retention,
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minimal roads and ecological limits. And over time all of that will change fire conditions.
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27 minutes, 46 seconds
The point is that fire resilience becomes an ecological outcome to plan for rather than a justification for more logging.
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27 minutes, 55 seconds
Okay, so all six of the detailed answers are in your handout and notice what connects them. The NFA is not just a map
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of three zones. It changes the rules. It changes who makes decisions and how the transition works.
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28 minutes, 16 seconds
Okay, now let's talk about organizing a
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a meeting on your own or when you're talking to an an MLA or talking to a local government or a First Nation or a watershed organization or another group.
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28 minutes, 34 seconds
You do not need to explain the entire New Forest Act and you probably shouldn't try. It's hard enough for me and sometimes I know Dave Dave and I
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28 minutes, 42 seconds
both struggle to explain the whole thing. So, um, start with the part of the proposal that connects most directly to the responsibilities or concerns of
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the people that you're talking to. For a local government, that might mean drinking water or flooding or wildfire,
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28 minutes, 58 seconds
infrastructure costs, or the local economy.
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For somebody concerned about forestry employment, it might be timber supply stability, local processing, value added manufacturing, and the transition.
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29 minutes, 12 seconds
For a watershed organization, it might be hydrarology or cumulative disturbance, roads or ecological thresholds.
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So, you're not changing the proposal for different audiences. You're changing the doorway into the proposal.
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29 minutes, 29 seconds
Then you can bring the conversation back to the same thing. These changes need to be established in law.
29:40
29 minutes, 40 seconds
One useful way to talk to government is to stop talking about forests only as environmental amenities. So what I'm
29:48
29 minutes, 48 seconds
saying is when you're talking to government, stop with the heartstrings stuff because they might they're likely
29:56
29 minutes, 56 seconds
to completely dismiss you. So talk to them about infrastructure. Governments understand infrastructure.
30:04
30 minutes, 4 seconds

Uh the other thing that came up quite often in um presentations to local governments was the economics.
30:11
30 minutes, 11 seconds
So all levels of government understand that infrastructure provides services.
30:16
30 minutes, 16 seconds
They understand maintenance risk and failure. Um they understand replacement costs and long-term planning.
30:24
30 minutes, 24 seconds
Forests provide water security.
30:27
30 minutes, 27 seconds
They regulate water. They stabilize slopes. They store carbon. They provide habitat.
30:33
30 minutes, 33 seconds
And functioning uh forest ecosystems are also the foundation of a long-term timber supply. Like Dave was saying, we're aiming for stability here.
30:43
30 minutes, 43 seconds
The new forest act treats forests as critical public infrastructure.
30:48
30 minutes, 48 seconds
Think about how differently we treat other infrastructure. We don't deliberately degrade a drinking water treatment plant until it can barely function. and then congratulate
30:57
30 minutes, 57 seconds
ourselves for extracting maximum economic value from it. We maintain the asset because we depend on the service
31:05
31 minutes, 5 seconds
it provides. So this is the shift in thinking that we're asking government to make about forests.
31:14
31 minutes, 14 seconds
All right. Sometimes when you encounter government uh you may have 30 seconds and you may have longer. Um, if you have
31:22
31 minutes, 22 seconds
a very short period of time, give them the central idea. The new forest act replaces BC's existing forestry
31:31
31 minutes, 31 seconds
legislative framework so that ecological integrity comes first. Communities have decision-making power and forestry supports stable regional economies.
31:42
31 minutes, 42 seconds
If you have three minutes, explain the problem. Explain why the problem is structural.
31:49
31 minutes, 49 seconds
briefly introduce the NFA framework and then make your ask.
31:54
31 minutes, 54 seconds

If you do get a formal meeting, then you can give a 20 or maybe even 30 minute briefing and explain PR, nature directed
32:02
32 minutes, 2 seconds
stewardship, governance, transition, and the economic changes.
32:09
32 minutes, 9 seconds
Um, and if somebody asks a technical question you can't answer, don't invent an answer. You can just say that you don't know and point them to the
32:17
32 minutes, 17 seconds
proposal, the executive summary, or the new website, which is newforestact.ca. Really easy to remember.
32:27
32 minutes, 27 seconds
You don't have to become a forester or memorize the entire proposal before you can accurately explain what the New Forest Act is.
32:36
32 minutes, 36 seconds
And this is the part I want you to remember. Don't just have a nice conversation about forestry. If you've taken the time to get a meeting, finish
32:45
32 minutes, 45 seconds
it with an ask. An ask is something the person can actually do. So, if you're talking to an MLA, ask them to receive a
32:53
32 minutes, 53 seconds
formal briefing on the NFA or to raise the proposal with the appropriate people in government with senior staff. If
33:02
33 minutes, 2 seconds
you're talking to a municipal council or regional district, ask them to receive a presentation and consider what action
33:10
33 minutes, 10 seconds
they want to take. If you're talking to an organization, ask them to review the proposal or host a briefing for their members.
33:21
33 minutes, 21 seconds
And you don't need to walk into the conversation demanding that somebody endorse every page of a detailed proposal. The immediate objective might
33:29
33 minutes, 29 seconds
simply be to get the New Forest Act in front of the right people and get them to engage with the actual legislative proposal.
33:38
33 minutes, 38 seconds
But always know what you're asking before you walk into the meeting. Don't finish with, "So, what do you think?"
33:44
33 minutes, 44 seconds
Finish with, "Will you do this?" And then after the meeting, follow up and send the specific documents you

33:51
33 minutes, 51 seconds
discussed and provide the link to newforestact.ca and remind them what the next step is or ask them what their next step would be.
34:05
34 minutes, 5 seconds
Okay. Now, when you talk to an MLA, a minister or another decision maker, you may hear, "We're already doing that." As
34:15
34 minutes, 15 seconds
I've heard that, too. Uh they may point to restoration projects or their three zone model or forest landscape planning
34:22
34 minutes, 22 seconds
or 30% protected or they may say we already work with First Nations um and they're already supporting value added
34:30
34 minutes, 30 seconds
for forestry. I don't know that there's much point in getting drawn into a long debate about whether each of these initiatives is good enough. That can
34:39
34 minutes, 39 seconds
consume the whole meeting and it can leave the central issue untouched. Instead, ask two questions.
34:48
34 minutes, 48 seconds
Is it required by law and does it replace the existing forestry framework?
34:54
34 minutes, 54 seconds
A restoration program is not the same as a legal requirement to restore degraded forests and wersheds.
35:02
35 minutes, 2 seconds
A threezone map is not the same as making ecological limits the starting point for all decisions.
35:09
35 minutes, 9 seconds
A planning process is not the same as giving communities decision-making authority under a new law.
35:18
35 minutes, 18 seconds
The new forest act is not a menu of ideas or new to terminology for government to borrow while leaving the
35:26
35 minutes, 26 seconds
current forest act and the forest and range practices act in place. The NFA is a proposal to replace the legal
35:34
35 minutes, 34 seconds
framework that determines what happens on the land, who makes decisions, and what those decisions must achieve.
35:43
35 minutes, 43 seconds

So when government says we're already doing that, bring the conver conversation back to the legislative ask.
35:51
35 minutes, 51 seconds
Will you support replacing the existing forestry laws with the new forest act? That is the heart of the issue.
36:01
36 minutes, 1 second
Okay. So before we open it up to questions and answers, I'm going to put you guys all into breakout rooms. I just need to make my notes bigger here.
36:10
36 minutes, 10 seconds
I'm not exactly sure how many participants there are, but you might be in breakout rooms of four to six people.
36:16
36 minutes, 16 seconds
So, here's the scenario you guys are going to work on for 10 minutes in your breakout room. You're going to have five minutes with your MLA.
36:28
36 minutes, 28 seconds
You get to explain to that MLA that you support the new forest act. And then the MLA replies, but government is already
36:36
36 minutes, 36 seconds
moving in this direction. We already have the three zone working forest landscape model. We have restoration initiatives and a new planning process.
36:45
36 minutes, 45 seconds
Why do we need a new forest act? So your task in the group is to develop a response that takes more than no more
36:53
36 minutes, 53 seconds
than 60 seconds. So this is your NFA elevator pitch.
36:58
36 minutes, 58 seconds
Your response should explain three things. Your 60-cond response should explain number one, what is fundamentally different about the
37:05
37 minutes, 5 seconds
Neforest Act. Number two, why does that difference need to be put into law? And
37:12
37 minutes, 12 seconds
number three, what do you want the MLA to do? Okay. So, this is in your handout.
37:21
37 minutes, 21 seconds
Can I talk while you're kind of trying to separate out the the breakout groups a little bit?
37:25
37 minutes, 25 seconds
Yeah. What did you want to say first before you do just want to reiterate that point about nothing changes unless it's in the law and and just to give you
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37 minutes, 33 seconds

the context of how it works in BC and how our forest acts are um you can pass policy you can have guidelines like the
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37 minutes, 40 seconds
government's proposing now and the great the great uh example of this is is right now we're heading into election
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37 minutes, 48 seconds
everything's on frozen everyone's they call it uh binding the shelves in Victoria and you just sort of look at the shelf you don't do anything you don't send out any emails you respond.
37:57
37 minutes, 57 seconds
Nothing happens because the government may change. So what they propose in the new working force landscape model is a
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38 minutes, 5 seconds
guideline. It's it's a policy. It's not in law. So if we get say we get the same NDP government in or we we even get conservatives that could evaporate just
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38 minutes, 13 seconds
like that. It's gone. It disappears. If it was in the law, if it was in an act,
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38 minutes, 20 seconds
it's still there. It would be legal obligations. There's accountability.
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38 minutes, 24 seconds
there's people who are um responsible for that. So that's why it should be in law. if if you really want systematic
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38 minutes, 33 seconds
change those things there there's one more thing I wouldn't mind mentioning that our group came up with that was different which was that
38:42
38 minutes, 42 seconds
considering we've got two sets of elections happening right now we could maybe make a point of raising the new
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38 minutes, 48 seconds
forest practices act and asking each candidate um at both levels of um
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38 minutes, 57 seconds
of government the municipal as well as the uh provincial right now uh whether they commit to informing or being
39:04
39 minutes, 4 seconds
informed about the new forest pract uh the new forest act. Uh and maybe we
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39 minutes, 10 seconds
could also you know uh main name the per the main three parts that this new
39:17
39 minutes, 17 seconds
forest act is about while we ask the question. So that was a strategy idea we had.
39:23

39 minutes, 23 seconds
Yeah, good one. Yeah, very good. Thank you for that. I see that Helen Davis has her hand up.
39:32
39 minutes, 32 seconds
Hi, thanks for all your work on this, Jennifer. It's been really amazing. Um, I have uh tried to get legislation changed in my very small specific case.
39:45
39 minutes, 45 seconds
I've tried to get bear dens protected in British Columbia through uh a wildlife act change. um and the Green Party took
39:53
39 minutes, 53 seconds
that on and tabled legislation three times uh to try and get that done. So, I've I've been through this in a minor
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40 minutes
way. Um, my advice from that would be that you really need to talk to your
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40 minutes, 7 seconds
MLAs and talk to the MLAs of the party in power because when it comes from another party, it just becomes an
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automatic no cuz like you you they can't be making it look like another party had a good idea that they support. The
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40 minutes, 22 seconds
governing party doesn't want to to have that happen. So, you know, they'll let things go to first reading and then they'll just let it die on the order
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40 minutes, 30 seconds
sheet after that. Um, and so you, you know, don't just concentrate trying to get the MLAs's in opposition to support
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40 minutes, 39 seconds
the change. You need to to be nice and cooperative with the governing party to
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40 minutes, 47 seconds
try and and get them to uh to want to do this.
40:52
40 minutes, 52 seconds
Yes. and and I I made this point to to you in the chat, but you know, your MLA represents you. Um, and they are
41:01
41 minutes, 1 second
required basically to meet with you. So, if you know, if you are a constituent, you can get a meeting with your MLA. You just email them and say, "I'd like to
41:09
41 minutes, 9 seconds
have a meeting." And anybody can do that. It's not a big deal. They're just a person.
41:15
41 minutes, 15 seconds

Yeah. Thank you for both those points, Helen. Yeah. So, um, if you are talking to an MLA, well, okay, so let's go back
41:24
41 minutes, 24 seconds
to how does, um, how do you get a bill to be decided in
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41 minutes, 34 seconds
the legislature? Well, you know, it if it's the the ruling party, um it's already been decided in cabinet well
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41 minutes, 42 seconds
before anybody any of the MLAs put it on the um on the legislature floor. They they've already the cabinet has sent out
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41 minutes, 50 seconds
word to all of the MLAs, you're going to support this. It's already been decided if it's the ruling party. It's really hard to get something approved uh if
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41 minutes, 59 seconds
it's not the party that's in charge at the legislature. So that's why this is a long-term work.
42:05
42 minutes, 5 seconds
Um we have to keep keep advancing it in the long term so that eventually it becomes a door that people in government
42:14
42 minutes, 14 seconds
see that's it's safe to walk through politically and economically. Um, so I just want to encourage everybody uh to
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42 minutes, 21 seconds
not get discouraged and and keep going if it doesn't happen uh with with uh within the next six
42:31
42 minutes, 31 seconds
months or year or just keep going. Um, anybody else want to make any points
42:38
42 minutes, 38 seconds
that haven't been shared yet on that breakout room exercise? Yep.
42:47
42 minutes, 47 seconds
Okay. We don't know how to to I don't know how to put our hand up, so we're going to wing it. Okay.
42:54
42 minutes, 54 seconds
So, I I think we answered the question um similar to everybody else. Uh you know, current regime is based on
43:03
43 minutes, 3 seconds
extraction and we're going to redo that and we're going to base it using using the legal framework that is in place in
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43 minutes, 10 seconds
BC. we're going to enact legislation to uh basically put put in line those
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43 minutes, 16 seconds

ecological principles etc. Um the the challenge I guess that we were
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43 minutes, 24 seconds
discussing is is how you do that. If particularly on Vancouver Island with all private land, if you all of a sudden
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43 minutes, 32 seconds
put a law in place and told them that 60% of their wershed in a particular area had to be restored, where does that
43:41
43 minutes, 41 seconds
money come from? Does the private property owner have to put the money up?
43:46
43 minutes, 46 seconds
Is there is there a funding source going to be made available because they'll simply look at the wershed if they can't make money on the wershed they won't do
43:54
43 minutes, 54 seconds
anything they'll just sit on the property right so that it's a a question we were we were raising but I think the other point that we were talking about
44:03
44 minutes, 3 seconds
or uh sort of next steps the couple of us here are in local government um is to get a bit of a grassroots
44:12
44 minutes, 12 seconds
movement going as you did already and try to visit all the councils in person to give presentations on on the act. Um,
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44 minutes, 21 seconds
and if you get enough interest going, there's email, streams, and letters that go around between councils, and you could get some traction from local
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44 minutes, 30 seconds
government. There's lots of interest around watershed protection, etc. Some governments are doing their own logging like the like in Duncan here
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44 minutes, 39 seconds
in the North Couch and and would have their own interest in it as well. But maybe maybe going that route as well. Um
44:48
44 minutes, 48 seconds
anyways, we would certainly do it here on the island.
44:51
44 minutes, 51 seconds
Good. Thank you for that. Dave, do you want to address the PMFLA question?
44:58
44 minutes, 58 seconds
Yeah, I think that you know that example that I put up there for that one Trent River wershed. Yes, there was maybe 70%
45:05
45 minutes, 5 seconds
of the restoration. Um we're trying to first of all the the act private managed

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45 minutes, 13 seconds
forest land act would change under what we're proposing in the new forest act but it's a unique beast that's for sure.
45:19
45 minutes, 19 seconds
We're not going to take away their private land. We just changed the rules of how that act would function as far as
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45 minutes, 26 seconds
you know the main reason that they're these huge land owners up to 700,000 hectares for one one corporate ownership
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45 minutes, 36 seconds
um is to cut their taxes. Now, if we cut their taxes through conservation, for restoration, for some other uh goal
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45 minutes, 45 seconds
other than timber extraction, there's there's an incentive there to stay in that program, but they they could opt to go out of that program too and uh do
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45 minutes, 53 seconds
whatever they want. It's not it's not something that they have to keep on going if they are handstrong
46:01
46 minutes, 1 second
um because the pension corpse are invested in them so heavily. That would be the the pension funds to decide that
46:11
46 minutes, 11 seconds
that's no longer a viable uh alternative. No, it's it's not a very popular idea. There's no two ways about it.
46:18
46 minutes, 18 seconds
I think we'll leave it there. I don't want to dominate the time that way. We see a whole bunch of hands up. I don't know where you want to go.
46:23
46 minutes, 23 seconds
Yeah, I can see them and I I kind of have an idea of what order they came in.
46:30
46 minutes, 30 seconds
We are the public of British Columbia and this is what we want.
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46 minutes, 34 seconds
uh we the uh the problem bring it back to the system. This is a system that is not producing the results that are
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46 minutes, 43 seconds
beneficial for the public on any level economically, jobs wise, um ecosystemwise, we're getting more
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46 minutes, 51 seconds
floods, we're getting more fires, we're getting more infrastructure costs because the system is the problem. The system is the problem. And that's that's
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46 minutes, 59 seconds
essentially the difference. Um, you guys have brought up some other good stuff.
47:03
47 minutes, 3 seconds
What is the difference between the new forest act and the current approach?
47:08
47 minutes, 8 seconds
This is changing the entire system. Um, we're not we don't have we're the public. We don't have to appease corporations,
47:17
47 minutes, 17 seconds
right? It's the corporate rule just isn't working. It's not it's not working. It's not producing the results we want. So, we need a different system.
47:26
47 minutes, 26 seconds
Thank you for that, David. Um, Martin Watts, you are muted. There we go.
47:35
47 minutes, 35 seconds
I'm still muted or I should be on. I can hear you now.
47:38
47 minutes, 38 seconds
Yeah. I think one thing that if you're talking to an MLA, you have to make it clear to them that the the same skill sets that people have will still be used
47:47
47 minutes, 47 seconds
needed for this. You're just applying it differently. So you I mean MLAs are all about jobs in that. So you have to say that these people are still employable just in a different way.
47:58
47 minutes, 58 seconds
Yeah, that's a good point. And not just the foresters and the people on the ground, but also No, the equipment operators, all those people. We still need them for restoration work.
48:08
48 minutes, 8 seconds
Yeah. As well as the bureaucrats. We need the the staff. It's just that there's no
48:16
48 minutes, 16 seconds
there's going to be some shuffling in government, but we're not less less of them. Yeah.
48:23
48 minutes, 23 seconds
Okay. Thanks for that, Martin. And then uh Megan, one of the things uh I I'm with a group
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48 minutes, 30 seconds
called Save Our Forest Team, Komox Valley, and a couple of years ago when the NDP uh won the last election, they
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48 minutes, 39 seconds
sent the budget provincial budget committee around the province to hear from the public about what they wanted
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48 minutes, 47 seconds
to see with the budget. And so Soft made a presentation to the budget committee
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48 minutes, 54 seconds

and our presentation was the value of tourism in BC versus the value of forestry and logging.
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And it just so happens that our MLA was sitting in on the hearings that afternoon and so he got to hear our
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49 minutes, 11 seconds
presentation and our MLA is in opposition.
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49 minutes, 16 seconds
Right. It really resonates with the public and it really resonated with him that on every metric except wages paid
49:26
49 minutes, 26 seconds
to workers, tourism is more valuable to the BC economy than forestry is. And
49:32
49 minutes, 32 seconds
that really really resonates with people. I mean literally people do not come here from Germany or France to look at clearcuts.
49:42
49 minutes, 42 seconds
They come here to look at the big trees and at the bears and the wildlife and and so talking to the MLA about the
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49 minutes, 53 seconds
relative benefit to the economy of tourism versus logging um I think is a
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50 minutes
really easy way to get almost any MLA to
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50 minutes, 7 seconds
come on side with the whole project but at least stop putting objections in the way. And apparently um when the
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50 minutes, 16 seconds
BC whoever the minister of tourism is, someone from Sierra Club told her about our presentation and the value of
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50 minutes, 24 seconds
tourism and she was completely unaware of the relative value of tourism as opposed to logging to the BC economy. So
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50 minutes, 34 seconds
that that seems to me like a pretty easy and and an easy way to approach people that isn't
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50 minutes, 42 seconds
really threatening right off the bat because especially if they're already in government, uh they're going to feel threatened right right off the bat.
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50 minutes, 53 seconds
Yeah. Excellent. So yeah, if you can pull together some basic economic stats
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50 minutes, 59 seconds

for your region, especially if tourism is important in your region, and present that to your MLA, then that is an
51:08
51 minutes, 8 seconds
excellent place to start. Um, unfortunately we don't have the funds to do an economic analysis for how the NFA
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would affect the whole of BC, but I'm sure regional stats and tourism would be something that a lot of people could um
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51 minutes, 24 seconds
pull together fairly easily. Um and so another example that came up uh I talked
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51 minutes, 30 seconds
to someone who's in um central interior of BC and snowmmoiling is really
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51 minutes, 37 seconds
critical to their local economy um in the winter and her concern was well is
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51 minutes, 45 seconds
the new forest act going to deactivate all the forestry roads that snowmoilers use? So that would be a decision that
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51 minutes, 54 seconds
would that the local forest board would would make. Um which forestry roads do we want to deactivate? Which ones do we
52:01
52 minutes, 1 second
want to keep open so that tourism continues in our region and it because it's such an economic thing. Yeah. So
52:08
52 minutes, 8 seconds
thanks for that Megan. Yeah. Thanks for that Ramona. Uh thank you. Okay. Uh Brian Mcatti has his hand up.
52:18
52 minutes, 18 seconds
Yeah. Thanks Jennifer. uh you in your notes you uh you spoke about you know the meeting with Ravi Parmar and and some other uh MLAs or ministers I guess.
52:30
52 minutes, 30 seconds
Um I just wanted to get a better sense of how they reacted. Was was it uh uh over my dead body, will this will I ever make these changes or or uh interesting?
52:42
52 minutes, 42 seconds
Um you know, if you could tell us this, this and this or if if a certain condition changes things, you know, and
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52 minutes, 49 seconds
and uh you know, what did they say? What about the Croft and Mill bringing that back? You know, I'm trying to get a better sense as we as we seek uh
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52 minutes, 58 seconds

meetings with our new MLAs post election.
53:01
53 minutes, 1 second
Uh what we're up against. uh if in fact I guess in this case if it's an NDP government we're talking about.
53:09
53 minutes, 9 seconds
Yeah. So uh I presented it now to six MLAs as well as those two
53:16
53 minutes, 16 seconds
um cabinet ministers um and Dave and I presented to uh the deputy chief forester Nora
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53 minutes, 24 seconds
Nora White and uh a senior bureaucrat from Walrus. So there's no push back in the meetings.
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53 minutes, 36 seconds
Like they're not there's no absolutely not. They're they're usually very congenial and they're interested and
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53 minutes, 44 seconds
they're listening and they appreciate that we've come to them with a solution and we're not just complaining. And that
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53 minutes, 51 seconds
that's really important when we go and talk to government is that we're not um antagonistic at all. Uh we we do
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53 minutes, 59 seconds
sincerely appreciate that they've taken the time to hear it. Um mostly they ask a lot of questions about implementation like those six questions I went through.
54:08
54 minutes, 8 seconds
Um they ask what it's going to look like, you know, how workers are going to be affected. One of the questions that comes up I get the sense that they
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54 minutes, 18 seconds
nobody wants to really commit until they know that it's going to be politically safe. So they want to know who else is
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54 minutes, 25 seconds
it? Who else is involved in this? Uh where did this come from? Who's behind it? Who's supporting it? Um those are
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54 minutes, 33 seconds
the kind of questions that come up. Um we've presented it to two conservative BC conservative MLAs. That was last
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54 minutes, 41 seconds
summer though. This was it was very early on. And again, just asking questions is is where they're at. Dave,
54:49
54 minutes, 49 seconds
do you have anything to add about our meetings that we've done together?

54:54
54 minutes, 54 seconds
Um, yeah, just that point I did share with Brian about that Ravi mentioned not not in any meeting we had Brian that he
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55 minutes, 2 seconds
wasn't interested in changing the private manage forest land act. That was a quote from somewhere else. But that's quite right. you know, our meeting with Ravi, I was quite
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55 minutes, 11 seconds
disappointed that his he was in a in a um Radine I think Radine Neil, the MLA,
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55 minutes, 20 seconds
the minister for water, lands and resource stewardship is keener on the new forest act. Right off the bat, she ran this meeting with those two
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55 minutes, 27 seconds
ministers before Ravi was literally backseat. He was in a he was in a conference room at the back of the room.
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55 minutes, 34 seconds
You couldn't even tell it was Ravi. he could hear the voice and it was just a a a dark image and he had his uh adviser next to him. Um but but I think the key
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55 minutes, 44 seconds
takeaway is that they are interested. I think the letters have made a difference. The public writing the pre
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55 minutes, 51 seconds
the road show definitely made a difference. It was on the score sheet.
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55 minutes, 56 seconds
Uh the deputy chief forester that we met with Nora White she said you know I've read it. I've been following you guys
56:04
56 minutes, 4 seconds
since 2024. You know, it it's it's on their radar screen. It's it's attractive. It's much more attractive to
56:11
56 minutes, 11 seconds
the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Natural Resource Stewardship because it's not laws that they look after. It's the Ministry of Forest. It's the
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56 minutes, 18 seconds
Ministry of Forest that is it's his baywick. He's tied the Minister of Forest and the Ministry of Forest is
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56 minutes, 26 seconds
tied so tightly to the industry where it's easier for Dean Neil to sort of support that because there's a more of
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56 minutes, 33 seconds
an environmental proposals already on the table for her. So yeah, it um I mean it we we checked the box that um
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56 minutes, 42 seconds
we got their attention for sure. I think they you know I'm going to be realistic here. I think their working forest
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56 minutes, 52 seconds
model, landscape model, they wanted to ask us questions if if we had questions about their model and yeah,
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56 minutes, 59 seconds
and to Jennifer's uh strength, she said, "Well, I I think we have a presentation.
57:03
57 minutes, 3 seconds
You ask us questions about ours." And we sort of flipped it a little bit. So, um took a little bit of courage to do that, but it worked out. So,
57:11
57 minutes, 11 seconds
I kind of got the impression from uh a few of those bureaucrats and uh the the ministers meeting that they were kind of
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57 minutes, 20 seconds
picking our brain. And I've gotten the impression over the past two years that um government bureaucrats go through the
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57 minutes, 28 seconds
stuff that that we and other forestry reform people are writing and publishing and they kind of cherrypick our
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57 minutes, 37 seconds
terminology and so that they can apply it to the current system and make it sound like they're
57:44
57 minutes, 44 seconds
doing something fabulous uh by using our terminology. Um, so just watch out for that. And that's why it's it was so
57:52
57 minutes, 52 seconds
important for me to to emphasize tonight. They're going to say, "Well, we're already doing that." Um, there were some foresters at the
58:02
58 minutes, 2 seconds
uh one of the tour stops at Campbell River who stood up and said, "We're already doing these things." Well, well,
58:09
58 minutes, 9 seconds
no, not maybe few selected sites, maybe a few pieces of old growth are being saved. Maybe there's one restoration
58:17
58 minutes, 17 seconds
program somewhere, but overall the system. So bring it back to the system every time. We have to replace the system.
58:25
58 minutes, 25 seconds
So I I think um most of you know that uh at this point the reason that I'm doing
58:32

58 minutes, 32 seconds
this workshop is because there has to be a handoff uh from from the boundary forest wershed stewardship society uh
58:41
58 minutes, 41 seconds
that that where the new forest act has been living uh it has to be handed off to the public now because boundary
58:48
58 minutes, 48 seconds
forest board decided to close and um I don't have the capacity to do this on my
58:56
58 minutes, 56 seconds
own. So that's why it's really important and I'm so happy to see so many people here tonight who are taking this on. Um
59:03
59 minutes, 3 seconds
so but I will make myself available for for for some presentations when it's
59:10
59 minutes, 10 seconds
worthwhile. Uh and and I'm sure we could convince Dave to to join me as well. So, if there is an opportunity, for example,
59:18
59 minutes, 18 seconds
to present to a number of um BC uh conservative MLAs, I' I'd certainly be willing to take that on
59:26
59 minutes, 26 seconds
there. Thanks for this. Um yeah, I just uh I just I guess one point is just talking about MLAs and it's very
59:34
59 minutes, 34 seconds
important that we get to them. Um, but I think there's a lot of power in the people and if we can get to the general
59:42
59 minutes, 42 seconds
public and I'm just want to I'm just wondering what your thoughts are of like how can we engage the general public cuz if we can get more and more and more
59:50
59 minutes, 50 seconds
people on side that there has to be change then we can force change. So, I'm that's kind of my thoughts is like
59:58
59 minutes, 58 seconds
because I've been doing this I'm here tonight because I wanted to learn more about how to reach people because I'm just doing it on my own. Like I'm I'm
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1 hour, 6 seconds
telling I'm giving people stats, friends and family and different people I meet and just kind of giving them
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1 hour, 12 seconds
stats about forestry and how things and a lot of people I know go into the forest so they see it firsthand. They
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1 hour, 20 seconds
know their things are wrong. they um they see the news articles and no mills are shutting down. Um because sometimes
1:00:29
1 hour, 29 seconds
MLAs and I was hearing what you guys were saying that sometimes they I mean they're trying to protect themselves.
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1 hour, 34 seconds
They listen but they will only make change when they're forced to make change or they'll only put these things forward when they're forced to by their
1:00:42
1 hour, 42 seconds
constituents. So is there any thoughts of how we can go out and uh engage the do you could start if you if there's any
1:00:51
1 hour, 51 seconds
local watershed groups um where you live you could um start with them and then you know work fan out from there. Uh
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1 hour, 59 seconds
there's there's over a hundred small watershed groups in BC that are working on forestry or watersheds. Um, so you
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1 hour, 1 minute, 7 seconds
could you could join forces with them and encourage them to use um the the membership that they have to to fan fan
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1 hour, 1 minute, 16 seconds
out there. Um, if there's nothing local already, um, you could get together with just a few people. It just takes two or three people to form a group and you
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start um you you offer meetings. Um, one of the resources that's available to people for free is the Facebook group
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1 hour, 1 minute, 33 seconds
that I run. It's called BC Forestry Reform and everybody here um is free.
1:01:39
1 hour, 1 minute, 39 seconds
You're free to use that group. You can post if you want to set up a meeting in your local area, advertise it on the
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1 hour, 1 minute, 46 seconds
group, BC Forestry Reform Facebook group. So, put it in there. Hey, I I want to advance the New Forest Act who
1:01:54
1 hour, 1 minute, 54 seconds
lives in such and such and wants to get together with me. So, you can start there. And I would say also um people in this group if you want to put your name
1:02:02
1 hour, 2 minutes, 2 seconds

and um email contact in the chat and you want to get together with anybody here, you can offer up to hold a Zoom meeting yourself. So it starts small and then
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1 hour, 2 minutes, 11 seconds
you start to fan out and you start to make connections and you start to network and get bigger and bigger. Um does anybody Okay, I'll come back to
1:02:20
1 hour, 2 minutes, 20 seconds
Megan. Did you have an answer to that question, Megan, or something else? Um, if it's something else, does anybody else want to add to what I said to Jamie
1:02:27
1 hour, 2 minutes, 27 seconds
or Megan? If you have something to add for Jaime's question, do have something to add to Jaime's question. Uh, the group I'm with, Save
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1 hour, 2 minutes, 35 seconds
Our Forest Team, we have been working on forestry issues in the Komox Valley for
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1 hour, 2 minutes, 44 seconds
four years, five years, six years, I don't know. They kind of blur together, but we table a lot. So, if you're in a
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1 hour, 2 minutes, 53 seconds
community that has a local market day, um even just going to the farmers market and getting a tent in the farmers
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1 hour, 3 minutes, 1 second
market, but we always have a petition that people can sign. And currently, we're using the petition from Save
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1 hour, 3 minutes, 8 seconds
What's Left. That's the name of the organization. And so, we get every time we table, we get one or 200 or sometimes
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1 hour, 3 minutes, 18 seconds
300 signatures on our petitions. The public cares about this. The public
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1 hour, 3 minutes, 23 seconds
really cares about this. And so engaging with the public is a really really
1:03:32
1 hour, 3 minutes, 32 seconds
important matter. The other thing that we have done here two times thus far is have letter writing evenings and um and
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1 hour, 3 minutes, 41 seconds
and so those goes go to the politicians and as as both Dave and Jennifer have
1:03:47
1 hour, 3 minutes, 47 seconds
said those are having an impact. So, organizing a local letterw writing evening. Uh, we we were lucky enough
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1 hour, 3 minutes, 55 seconds

that Dave lives here and so he came to present to one of our evenings. But engaging with the public is really easy
1:04:03
1 hour, 4 minutes, 3 seconds
and um yeah, it takes half of your day, but it's very rewarding because they really care.
1:04:13
1 hour, 4 minutes, 13 seconds
Yeah.
1:04:13
1 hour, 4 minutes, 13 seconds
And so the more we can get them on board with with this and get them to sign a petition and send that petition in um it it's a good thing.
1:04:25
1 hour, 4 minutes, 25 seconds
Yeah. Soft has done some great work.
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1 hour, 4 minutes, 27 seconds
They're advancing the new forest act and uh Megan and then everybody here and Megan too um specifically because I'll
1:04:35
1 hour, 4 minutes, 35 seconds
remember it for soft I have put together a petition for the new forest act. I just have to finalize it and I will send it out to everybody and that will be one
1:04:43
1 hour, 4 minutes, 43 seconds
of the tools that you guys can use uh to advance the new forest act.
1:04:48
1 hour, 4 minutes, 48 seconds
It's it's interesting because I come from uh I work in marine conservation and just talking about the watershed
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1 hour, 4 minutes, 56 seconds
societies and that's but all this affects everything. So a lot of work I do in the marine environment it's all
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1 hour, 5 minutes, 4 seconds
affected. I do a lot of uh eelgrass restoration work and it's all affected by forestry. A lot of it a lot of the
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1 hour, 5 minutes, 13 seconds
work we're doing. So not just that is part of the wershed that's the estuaries. Um but yeah everything from the from the from the ocean to the tops
1:05:22
1 hour, 5 minutes, 22 seconds
of the mountains is all this is affected by the new forest act. It needs to be put into place.
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1 hour, 5 minutes, 29 seconds
Absolutely. Um, I I do have an opportunity to present to the Water Suppliers Association of BC at the end
1:05:36
1 hour, 5 minutes, 36 seconds
of this month. Uh, they have a convention, so I got asked to speak there. So, that's a great thing. Yeah.

1:05:42
1 hour, 5 minutes, 42 seconds
Um, Jane Welton, um, I just want to thank you, Jennifer, for all the hard hard work you've done and really effective work that you've
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1 hour, 5 minutes, 50 seconds
done. And I'm concerned about the transition plan for the New Forest Act.
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1 hour, 5 minutes, 58 seconds
um that if it simply is going out to a loose group of us, momentum is going to falter, I believe.
1:06:07
1 hour, 6 minutes, 7 seconds
Um so I would really like to see it find a new home in some other organization or at the very least um some keen people
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1 hour, 6 minutes, 16 seconds
form a provin provincewide steering committee um hopefully with you on it um that keeps this going. I I just don't
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1 hour, 6 minutes, 25 seconds
see that without somebody leading it um that it's going to have the the
1:06:31
1 hour, 6 minutes, 31 seconds
opportunity that it needs to have to keep going and become reality.
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1 hour, 6 minutes, 37 seconds
Yeah, thanks for that, Jane. Uh I'm kind of hoping that when I step out of the doorway, someone else
1:06:44
1 hour, 6 minutes, 44 seconds
will step into the doorway. Uh fresh fresh blood is always a good thing. Um,
1:06:51
1 hour, 6 minutes, 51 seconds
so yeah, I mean I just uh I I just don't have the capacity to do this anymore. I just I've I've uh it's come at an
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1 hour, 6 minutes, 59 seconds
enormous personal cost and um you know without a a backing of a group um the
1:07:06
1 hour, 7 minutes, 6 seconds
the finances just aren't there. Um there's been a lot of people who've been very generous and donated to the project
1:07:14
1 hour, 7 minutes, 14 seconds
and that's what kept it going. Um, and I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who who contributed in the ways that they
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1 hour, 7 minutes, 21 seconds
contributed both through donations and every other way. Um, it's just the reality is collectively it's it's not enough money to pay me a living wage.
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1 hour, 7 minutes, 31 seconds
Like I've been working on below poverty level wages for a very long time now.
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1 hour, 7 minutes, 36 seconds
So, but um yeah um but you know maybe maybe maybe this is a good thing. Maybe
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1 hour, 7 minutes, 43 seconds
someone or or a small group will step up and take this on.
1:07:47
1 hour, 7 minutes, 47 seconds
Jennifer, I got a quick question if I can jump in. Go ahead.
1:07:51
1 hour, 7 minutes, 51 seconds
Um, First Nations Leadership Council for the BC Assembly of First Nations,
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1 hour, 7 minutes, 58 seconds
have you approached or should we? I mean, they're more likely to put value sustainability
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1 hour, 8 minutes, 6 seconds
than the ones we're dealing with. So, is it possible for us to go kind of provincialwide to them to see whether
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1 hour, 8 minutes, 14 seconds
they would support funding for, you know, doing some economic work, do a do a model of a few wersheds to see how
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1 hour, 8 minutes, 22 seconds
this could work economically. They they might support that.
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1 hour, 8 minutes, 26 seconds
Yeah. I if the problem with um contacting um any indigenous groups is
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1 hour, 8 minutes, 34 seconds
quite often you have to have an somebody who's already in there. They you have to know somebody who's there before they'll even before they they'll consider it. I
1:08:44
1 hour, 8 minutes, 44 seconds
mean they're busy. They have they've got a lot of their own stuff going on. But I think that's a really good idea. So um Donna asked, "Has the NFA been presented
1:08:51
1 hour, 8 minutes, 51 seconds
to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs?" No, it hasn't. and it hasn't been presented to any of those larger groups. Again, I
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1 hour, 8 minutes, 58 seconds
if somebody has an in, I'd be in. I would that would definitely be worthwhile to present to them. I'm sure
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1 hour, 9 minutes, 5 seconds
Dave would, too. Um, and yeah, I mean, if funding is available through them, great. That would be great. It's just that at this point in time, I'm not
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1 hour, 9 minutes, 14 seconds
going to be seeking out fundraising on my own. If somebody wants to drop 150K in my lab, I'll get that economic analysis done.
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1 hour, 9 minutes, 23 seconds
Yeah. Right.
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1 hour, 9 minutes, 25 seconds
I'll make sure it happens. Um I just would be very surprised if there isn't a foundation somewhere in our
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1 hour, 9 minutes, 32 seconds
province that would think that that's a val like a good use funds to look forward to the future, right? Whether
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1 hour, 9 minutes, 40 seconds
it's Vancouver Foundation or or one of those, right? Yep. I I agree there buying in as well.
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1 hour, 9 minutes, 49 seconds
And I want to say thank you all very much for coming tonight. Uh, and I I really want to recognize Dave for all
1:09:58
1 hour, 9 minutes, 58 seconds
the work he's done. He's been a a volunteer 100% of the time. Um, he's put a lot of his retirement into this. And,
1:10:06
1 hour, 10 minutes, 6 seconds
uh, without Dave, the new Forsak would not be anything near where what it is.
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1 hour, 10 minutes, 14 seconds
Well, thanks. Thanks so much for saying that. Yeah. Yeah.
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1 hour, 10 minutes, 19 seconds
All right. Anything else before we sign off?
Sync to video time