

SIERRA REPORT **SPRING 2026**

Building a brighter future, together.



**SIERRA
CLUB BC**



Our latest forest report is making waves

There's a huge problem in the forests of B.C.: five years after promising change, the province still isn't sharing updates on how much old growth is left, what's being logged, or what's protected. Which raises the question, how can forests be properly stewarded if we don't have such basic information?

So, Sierra Club BC did something about it. We commissioned two of Canada's leading forest scientists to fix this huge knowledge gap by analyzing the province's own databases. In November, they published their findings in our 'Closer to the Brink' report.

What they found was alarming. Here are the three main takeaways:

1. Logging companies continue targeting the last big-treed old growth. In the last four years, an average of 100 soccer fields of old-growth forests were logged every day in B.C.
2. High-risk old-growth areas recommended for logging deferral were actually 4x more likely to be clearcut than other old-growth areas.
3. Only about 6% of the most at-risk old growth mapped in 2021 got protected.

With the B.C. government stalling their forest commitments and giving a lukewarm response to calls for change in their own recent forestry review, we must all step up our efforts to hold them accountable.

With the support of passionate members like you, we put our latest research and maps into the hands of decision-makers. Our campaigners distributed copies to Ministers and MLAs across the province. We also ran geo-targeted ads for B.C. government officials about the importance of protecting old growth with a link to the 'Closer to the Brink' report. These ads were seen over 50,000 times! To keep the public informed, we hosted webinars with over 2,000 registrants and posted explainer videos on social media that were viewed over 376,000 times. The 'Closer to the Brink' findings were also picked up by a variety of news outlets and podcasts.

With this mounting pressure, our staff met with key environmental ministers to discuss the findings of the report and how they can be integrated into stewardship plans. We also supported our network of thousands of local leaders to do the same, writing to the B.C. government and meeting with their MLAs. This is the only way many of our elected officials find out what's happening in our forests and how much the people of B.C. care! We are grateful to everyone who spoke out and are keeping this momentum going.

Protecting the north coast and our economy

This past year, the north coast made headlines as Alberta's Premier Danielle Smith pushed hard to resurrect an oil pipeline across northern B.C. and demolish the north coast tanker ban. The tanker ban protects the ecologically and culturally important Great Bear Sea from oil spills, which in turn supports the thriving tourism and fishery industries in this area. These industries provide thousands of long-term, sustainable jobs and depend on a healthy coast. Now, Coastal First Nations and the B.C. government have renewed their commitment to uphold the tanker ban.

Protecting the coast isn't just about saying no to pipelines and maintaining the tanker ban. It's about saying yes to a different future. A future with clean, renewable energy that creates jobs and economic opportunities without putting our beautiful coastline at risk of devastating oil spills.

That's why we stepped up to join Coastal First Nations and others in defending the hard-won tanker ban legislation. With your support, we:

- Ran ads targeting legislative members on Parliament Hill to ensure they get the message loud and clear: B.C. supports the tanker ban. These ads were viewed over 100,000 times!
- Got more eyes on the issue through media coverage, including publishing an op-ed and attention-grabbing ads in the Ottawa Citizen and Vancouver Sun.
- Activated thousands of people to send letters to Liberal MPs.
- Got two municipalities to go on record calling for the tanker ban to remain in place, thanks to strong advocacy from our Move the Dial at City Council Program.
- Went viral: Our social media videos about why the tanker ban needs to stay in place have gotten over 200,000 views.
- Hosted a webinar that busted the business case of a North Coast oil pipeline. Over 900 people registered!



\$1.77B

injected into the north coast economy through Indigenous-led tourism, fisheries and trade since 2008

4K+

jobs supported in the area that rely on a clean and healthy ocean

\$9.6B

estimated cost to taxpayers if an oil spill occurs in this area

Speaking up for biodiversity

Provincial progress has stalled on getting legal protection for at-risk species and their habitats. Back in 2024, thanks to public pressure from people like you, the province still appeared committed to finalizing a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework. This was supposed to include a path to a biodiversity law co-developed with Indigenous Nations that would legally protect endangered species and their ecosystems. But in 2025 the province went silent about the status of the Framework.

We couldn't let this important commitment fade away, so we worked to remind the provincial government that voters care about this issue. We joined with 88 groups from diverse sectors in an open letter to the B.C. government calling for a final framework and plan leading to legislation. Our staff also helped get a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health law resolution passed at the recent BC NDP convention. This win sends a strong message to Premier Eby that the promise to protect biodiversity is a major priority for the BC NDP base.



Standing up for the Inlet against dredging for tankers

The waters of the Burrard Inlet are under threat. There's a proposal to dredge near the Second Narrows Bridge in Vancouver. This scraping of the sea floor could harm nearby eel grass beds and kelp forests. And it puts orcas and whales at risk, who had only recently returned to the Inlet after years of marine restoration work.

The reason for dredging is to allow more oil to be shipped from the Westridge Marine Terminal, which is part of the Trans Mountain pipeline facility. Right now, oil tankers can fill up to roughly 80% capacity or else they can't fit under the Second Narrows Bridge. Proposed dredging would allow them to fill up to 100% capacity. This would result in more oil being transported, increasing the risk of an oil spill in the area. It would also lead to more toxic pollution being released into the atmosphere.

We are working alongside the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to mobilize support for protecting the

Inlet. This February we hosted an event to invite interfaith leaders into the movement, as these folks are hubs in their communities with massive networks. Over 400 people attended in person and another 500 joined the livestream!

To keep the momentum going, we'll be organizing more in person events and helping concerned residents participate in the project engagement period. If you'd like to get involved, visit sierraclub.bc.ca/inlet.



Paddlers row in front of the proposed dredging site at Second Narrows Bridge (Photo by Mya Van Woudenberg).

Pushing forward with our legal win for migratory birds

Two years ago, Sierra Club BC and the Wilderness Committee — represented by Ecojustice lawyers — took the federal government to court and won. The landmark Federal Court decision confirmed that the Government of Canada had failed to meet its legal obligations to protect critical habitat for migratory birds.

At the centre of the case was the marbled murrelet, a threatened seabird that relies on intact old-growth forests for survival. The ruling sent a clear message: safeguarding the ecosystems these at-risk birds depend on is not optional.

Since that victory, our work has not slowed. Over the past two years, our organizations have repeatedly returned to the federal government to ensure the legal victory is backed by action. This included Sierra Club BC meeting with Federal Environment Minister Julie Dabrusin to discuss this lawsuit.

However, we haven't seen the federal government respond to our court ruling by enacting steps to protect critical habitat. Old-growth forests and other important ecosystems continue to be damaged, putting migratory birds at risk. Each delay increases the likelihood that legal protections will arrive too late to make a meaningful difference.

Our legal team has remained deeply engaged in follow-up work. We will not stop until marbled murrelets and other endangered birds receive the protections they urgently need.



Mobilizing across diverse sectors

We supported members across diverse sectors, from faith groups to tourism operators to farmers, in speaking up for forests and biodiversity. After all, if we're to make the large-scale changes needed to protect the last old-growth forests and endangered species, we need more than just environmentalists speaking up. Through our organizing programs like the Mother Tree Local Leaders Program, we supported these local leaders to mobilize their networks, including by writing letters and setting up meetings with their MLAs.



Defending climate policies

The science is clear: to limit the extreme harms from climate pollution, we must phase out fossil fuels, protect nature and move to 100% clean energy. Yet this past year there was a huge push to go in the opposite direction by expanding fracked gas and oil infrastructure. 2025 also saw the ending of previously celebrated policies like the B.C. carbon tax, EV rebates and pollution limits for new LNG terminals.

Sierra Club BC is fighting hard against this backsliding. We are working to transition to a clean energy economy that supports communities, workers and the environment. To this end, we provided feedback to help shape the recently released review of CleanBC, B.C.'s plan to reduce climate-changing emissions. To demonstrate support for renewed leadership, we worked with the BC Climate Emergency Campaign to release an annual report on B.C.'s climate progress. This report outlines 10 actions that can be taken to greatly reduce provincial emissions. It was endorsed by over 600 groups from diverse sectors including First Nations, healthcare workers, businesses and agricultural organizations. Together, our groups represent 2.2 million people across the province. We further supported local leaders in our network with getting media coverage on climate issues, writing to the B.C. government and meeting with their MLAs. This work is all made possible by people like you!

Moving the dial at city councils across B.C.

We trained 65 local leaders on how to move the dial at their city councils on climate issues. To make action easier, we developed a comprehensive toolkit that outlines 13 practical ways municipalities can become more climate ready. Our Move the Dial program engaged 22 municipalities to take climate action in 2025! Through this program, we got the Union of BC Municipalities to endorse a climate resolution that would help communities mitigate climate disasters like heatwaves and floods by maintaining green space and tree canopy.



Our team continues to organize workshops for passionate local leaders who want to take climate action. Our programs equip them with the tools they need to make meaningful change in their communities (Photo by Mya Van Woudenberg).

Re-connecting thousands of youth with nature

Youth are the decision-makers of tomorrow. Education, especially for children and teenagers, is vital in ensuring future generations are well-versed in stewarding thriving ecosystems and a stable climate. That's why this year our team organized 322 outdoor education workshops, reaching almost 7,000 students across B.C.! We even expanded our in-school services to the Okanagan area. Our educators also hosted five Professional Development workshops that connected 165 teachers with fresh tools and ideas for bringing nature into the classroom. To this end, we released more free, downloadable resources for youth. This included our popular Learn to Draw series which taught over 200 classes about local species and how we can better care for the web of life. Our most recent art lesson about carnivorous plants had over 1,700 registrants!

HEAR FROM TEACHERS

“We are incredibly grateful that our students had the opportunity to engage with Sierra Club BC’s educational programming. The chance to use binoculars and magnifying glasses brought a new level of excitement and curiosity to their outdoor learning experience, allowing them to explore nature up close in ways many had never done before. One of the highlights was building a bug hotel – a hands-on, collaborative activity that not only sparked creativity but deepened their understanding of insect habitats and the importance of biodiversity. It was a joyful, memorable experience that helped foster a lasting connection to the natural world. Thank you for making this learning possible!”

GRADE 4/5 TEACHER, VANCOUVER



Leave a legacy

Making a gift in your will to Sierra Club BC is the easiest way to leave a legacy for the people and places you love.

With over 55 years of experience, we're known for successfully advocating on behalf of forests, biodiversity and the climate. Sierra Club BC exists to leave this world a better place for our grandchildren and their grandchildren, so that they may know what it's like to meet towering old-growth trees, witness orcas breaking through the waves, and rest beside life-sustaining rivers. We want to ensure they grow up with clean water, clean air and healthy communities.

Your legacy gift, no matter the size, will make a tremendous difference in ensuring we can continue working to build a brighter future.

Visit sierraclub.bc.ca/donate/legacy-giving to learn more or contact Gabrielle Vacheresse at 250-386-5255 ext. 102 or gabrielle@sierraclub.bc.ca.



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SIERRA CLUB OF BC FOUNDATION
PO Box 8337 Central
Victoria, B.C., V8W 3R9
Lək'wəŋən Peoples Territory

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