

Although it may seem that the general population is destroying nature, I think that the majority of people, given the option between protecting or destroying nature would choose to protect nature. Many people have no intention of destroying nature, but help contribute to its destruction ignorantly. There are however, several groups and people, like Indigenous people around the world, the land defenders at Ada'itsx (Fairy Creek) and Greta Thunberg, and all their supporters, that are doing everything in their power to defend and protect nature.

According to several reports, there is evidence that indigenous peoples are vital to protecting and conserving the Earth's biodiversity and forests. A study conducted in the Amazon Basin shows that the forests managed by indigenous people only lost less than 0.3% of their carbon, whereas non-indigenous managed forest lost 3.6% of their carbon between 2003 and 2016. Brazil's indigenous territories have more species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, than other protected areas in the country. 60% of Bolivia's plants and two-thirds of vertebrates are found in only two indigenous territories. These reports prove that turning land management over to indigenous peoples may be a strong way to combat deforestation and climate change.

Indigenous and non-indigenous people are coming together on Pacheedaht land to take a Last Stand to defend the old growth forests of Ada'itsx (Fairy Creek). They are blocking the roads to the forests with various tripods, trenches and tree sits to prevent Teal Jones from logging the last 2% of unprotected old growth forests on Vancouver Island. There are thousands of people like me around the world that are supporting The Last Stand remotely through donations and social media (@fairycreekblocade has over 83 followers). There are several news and social media reports that RCMP have brutalized the land defenders using pepper spray and other unnecessary violence as well as breaking the law, which they are supposed to uphold. Despite this, the land defenders remain strong and continue to protect Ada'itsx from being clearcut by Teal Jones.

Greta Thunberg is one of the world's most well known youth climate activists. In August 2018 Greta began sitting outside the Swedish parliament with a sign that read "*Skolstrejk för klimatet*" (school strike for climate) which quickly gained global attention. Soon youth all over the world participated in climate strikes with millions of students like myself attending. All with the same wish: governments to take immediate action on climate change. Greta has spoken at many conferences and events with world leaders to ask them to start doing more to stop climate change. Greta and many more students continue to strike for climate action.

There are millions of people of all races and ages all over the world who are taking a stand to stop the destruction of nature. From the Indigenous people protecting and maintaining the land, to the land defenders at Ada'itsx and Greta Thunberg and thousands of others around the globe all taking a stand for nature... and our futures.