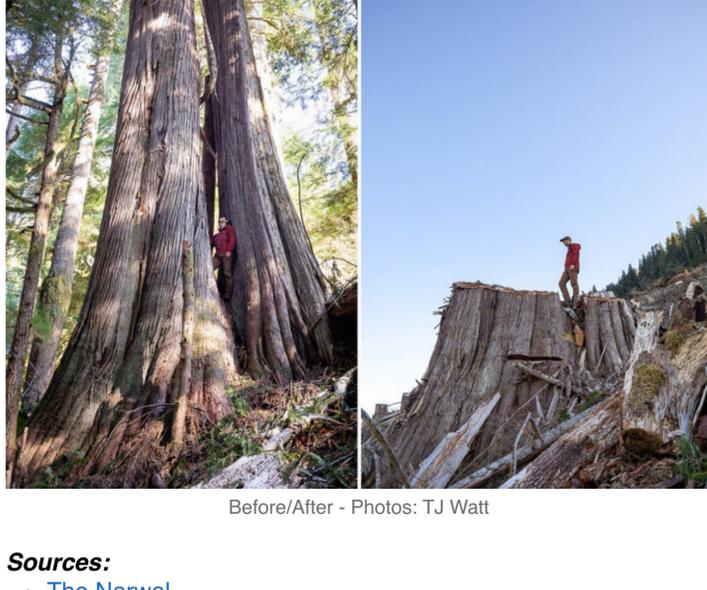


Ada'itsx (Fairy Creek) Logging

Fraser Wagner • Last updated Feb 24

Author: Fraser Wagner



Before/After - Photos: TJ Watt

Sources:

- [The Narwal](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Rainforest Flying Squad](#)
- [Nerdy About Nature](#)
- [Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs](#)
- [BC's Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand For Biodiversity](#)

WHAT:

- Unprotected Old Growth Forest on Vancouver Island
- People protesting the logging of the Old Growth
- Reports of Police violence



! Trigger Warning: Police Brutality!

- Logging industry relying on Old Growth to remain operational
- RCMP wearing banned thin blue line symbol with strong ties to racism

The Thin Blue Line is a badge sewn by officers onto their uniforms that was banned by the RCMP on October 9, 2020, yet is seen daily at Fairy Creek in many photos taken of the police.

BIPOC people and human rights advocates consider the Thin Blue Line a visual, silent opposition to the racial justice movement. As a result, police departments across North America have banned its officers from wearing the symbol.

[Source](#)

- Targeting of BIPOC people by RCMP

In a video released online yesterday, a forest defender of colour stated that she consistently sees RCMP being “outwardly racist” and said they are “targeting Indigenous and black people on the front lines, literally picking them out in the middle of the line.”

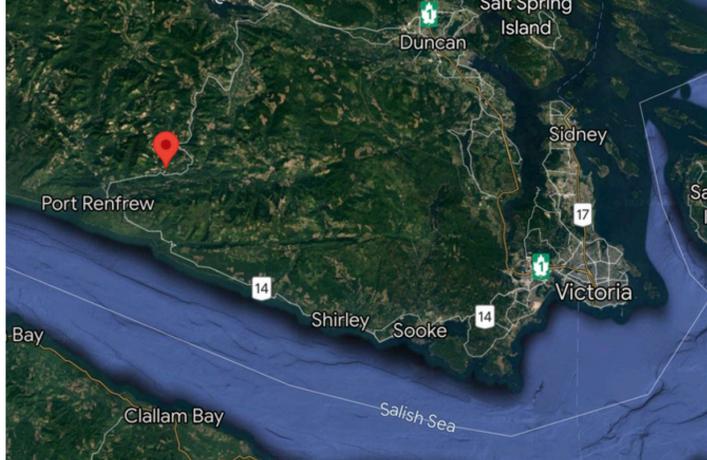
[Source](#)



Indigenous Land Defenders | RCMP 'Blue Guys'

WHEN: August 2020 - Present

WHERE: Fairy Creek Watershed. Port Renfrew, Vancouver Island.



Fairy Creek Blockade

WHY:

- Last unprotected Old Growth Forest on Vancouver Island.
- Last 2% of productive Old Growth in B.C.
- Marked for logging
- Preservation of Indigenous Culture

CONNECT:

How does this connect with the idea of nationalism?

- Canada known for its wilderness and forest management

Does it connect to any topics of identity? Explain.

- Conflict of identities:
 - Canada colonized for resource extraction, including logging
 - Canada's identity as a place of wilderness
 - Indigenous identity of nature stewardship

Does it connect to any topics of historical perspective of interest?

- People came to Canada and colonized it for resource extraction
- Indian Act and Indigenous Culture

I strongly believe that the Ada'itsx (Fairy Creek) Old Growth Forest needs to be protected. It is home to many species, some of which can only survive in these ancient forests (liked Marbled Murrelets). Protecting these forests is also important for preservation of Indigenous Culture. As [stated by Grand Chief Stewart Phillip](#), President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs:

What governments and corporations need to do is to take a step back and view old growth forests not as commercialized products to be harvested and sold, but as the bedrock foundations of a healthy, biodiverse environment that First Nations have been stewards over since time immemorial. Old growth forests help sustain our livelihoods and possess incalculable cultural and spiritual value that is far from pecuniary.

Old Growth is also vital to combat climate change. As stated in a report from April 2020 by three scientist “[BC's Old Growth Forest: A Last Stand For Biodiversity](#)” some of the many benefits of productive old growth forests are:

- large carbon storage and sequestration capacity
- high fire resistance
- air temperature regulation.

Canada is known for it's forests and nature, so I think that we need to protect our Old Growth and continue being known for our wilderness.

Ross Reid ([Nerdy About Nature](#)) discusses some excellent reasons to protect Old Growth in his video about [Creating Sustainable Economy and Ecology](#). (read more below)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think would represent Canadian Nationalism better: Logging or protecting Ada'itsx (Fairy Creek)?
2. How do you think the RCMP wearing the thin blue line badge reflects Canadian Nationalism?
3. Would the ideas of Canadian Nationalism change if we were to return stewardship and control of the land and environment to the Indigenous Peoples?

CREATING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY:

[Nerdy About Nature](#) (Ross Reid) suggests the following for creating sustainable economy and ecology:

1. Immediately end all Old Growth logging
2. End raw log exports to foreign countries (exporting them just throws out job opportunities for Canadians)
3. Retrofit mills through benefits and subsidies so they can handle second and third growth logs to create local milling opportunities, creating stable jobs and economy in our communities
4. Work with the communities and Indigenous People to dismantle the monopoly big logging companies and establish smaller locally-managed woodlots
5. Use long-term management plans and extremely selective harvesting methods.

