

Essay first draft

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MAIN THING I LOST MARKS ON WAS SPELLING/GRAMMAR SO PLS REVISE YOUR SHIT

Environmental Issues:

Deforestation within British Columbia

The majority of Canada's forests and many diverse plants and animals reside in British Columbia. The Canadian department of Sustainable Forest Management stated in a report that forests cover 55 million hectares, or approximately 60% of British Columbia's 95 million hectares (39). This large area of land has been a victim of deforestation and its harmful effects. In this report, deforestation and its impacts on environmental systems within British Columbia will be discussed as well as the negative effect it has on humans and how we can make changes to stop it. Deforestation should be tightly controlled in British Columbia because it will protect environmental systems, benefit humans and fix future complications.

Increased Air Pollution

Through the process of photosynthesis, trees absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide, and then through respiration they rerelease the oxygen back into the atmosphere (Dearden and Mitchell, 112). Destruction of the forests re-releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and decreases the amount of carbon that can be stored for the future. About 6,200 hectares of forestland is converted to non-forest use each year, which make up approximately 4% of British Columbia's total greenhouse gas emissions (Dept. of Sustainable Forest Management, 5).

Destruction of forests will continue to generate more greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere and add to global warming. The increase of these higher global temperatures will contribute to poor air quality, stronger storms, more frequent heat waves, wildfires, and more threats to human health (American Lung Association, par. 1). Companies say they are going to re-plant trees in order to stop these threats to human health, however, in a 2010 forest sustainability report,

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approximately 27% of the rainforest in British Columbia has been logged, with only 3% regenerated (25). Regulations against deforestation have to be enforced to stop air pollution before irreversible changes occur and there is a long lasting impact. Forests are vital for maintaining environmental systems. Human impacts influence its role within the environment; this not only effects air pollution but also leads to water disruptions.

Forests and Water Disruption

Forests regulate the melting of snow by shielding snow from the sunlight. Deforestation destroys this environmental safeguard and allows snow to melt faster. During a case study regarding 240 Creek in British Columbia, flood data from deforested terrain of over 90 years revealed that 50 year floods happened every 13 years, which was almost four times as often (Green and Alila, par. 6) As deforestation continues within areas like 240 Creek, more floods happen and the severity of them increases. If floods continue to rapidly increase like this, it puts peoples lives at risk and makes it harder to ensure the protection of certain communities. Environmental risks need to become more publicized so people understand the serious harm they create. For decades, the common perception regarding deforestation, was that it only makes seasonal floods bigger, and does not effect large floods over time (Green and Alila, par. 8). New research to the public can disprove these theories and help shape a different mind set towards the causes of droughts and the impacts of deforestation. The public can learn how deforestation affects many different environmental systems, including the land we live on.

Destruction of Biodiversity

British Columbia's forests are very diverse and the destruction of these forests destroys biodiversity in these ecosystems and makes it harder for certain species to adapt. About 30% of the plant and animal species in British Columbia rely on forests for some portion of their life cycle. Of these forest-associated species, 35% are known to use old-growth forests (2). Mass production of trees destroys the ability of aged forests to support life systems, if this continues most of the forests will lose their value and certain species will die as a result. One hundred and sixteen different species within British Columbia are currently red listed. Red listed means the species is extirpated, endangered, or threatened (9). These unique species can be used for human advantages. Animals and plants are very useful for scientific studies and research. If these species go extinct it will limit scientific research that could help produce better medicine or cures that are not currently available to us. Currently, companies that clear-cut mass areas of forests are required to re-plant them. However, they replace the deforested areas with the same genetically modified samplings and still destroy the biodiversity of different

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trees within the forest (Sarich, par. 5). This continues to create uniformity within the forest and destroys habitats that certain species depend on to thrive. Without stricter regulations, deforestation will have negative effects on the species living within these forests.

Conclusion

If British Columbia tightly controls its deforestation regulations it will protect environmental systems, benefit humans and fix future complications. Protecting forests maintains carbon sources and helps reduce greenhouse gasses from contributing to global warming. In addition, keeping forests also helps regulate water flow and prevents floods from harming communities. It also, enhances biodiversity within ecosystems by keeping aged forests that support species, alive. These species are then available to contribute to scientific research. Environmental ignorance plays a key role in the destruction of our environmental systems. By seeing how deforestation impacts these systems and human life, individuals can help strengthen laws to protect British Columbia's forests and help shape a better, healthier world.

Works Cited

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