

Forest Views

a newsletter for customers and investors of Canadian logging companies

FALL 2002

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McAllister/Raincoast

"...it allows time for the parties to develop and implement an ecosystem-based management approach that will see British Columbia become a global leader in new forms of forest management."

Sustainable Resource Management Minister Stan Hagen, commenting on the moratorium on logging in key areas of the Great Bear Rainforest. May 2002.

"If a retailer can get foreign suppliers to improve their practices, everyone will benefit."

Alan Knight, Head of Social Responsibility, Kingfisher (parent company of B&Q and Castorama DIY chains). August 25th 2002.

BC Forestry: Business As Usual

Standard industrial logging still ongoing in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The Great Bear Rainforest agreement was a ground breaking consensus reached by environmental groups, logging companies and others back in April 2001. It sought to protect critical areas of the region, defer logging in other contentious areas, and commit all stakeholders to an ecosystem-based planning process that is informed by an independent team of scientists and economists.

While protecting large tracts of rainforest is critical, of equal importance is in ensuring that sustainable logging practices are implemented in the unprotected parts of the Great Bear. Logging companies and government are being urged to begin the process of

reforming logging practices in a timely man-

ner, to ensure a smoother transition to the ecosystem-based land use planning model currently under development.



2002 clearcut logging in Draney Inlet in the Great Bear Rainforest

McAllister/Raincoast

One of the best yardsticks to measure whether this transition is under way is observing actual physical changes to logging on the ground. With this in mind, staff scientists at David Suzuki Foundation and foresters Forest Watch of B.C. recently completed an analysis of over 200 logging permits, complemented by a random sample of on-the-ground logging practices in five areas of the

Great Bear Rainforest. The study revealed that almost one and a half years after logging companies endorsed the Great Bear agreement, companies have yet to make significant changes to their practices in the region, and government continues to issue permits for status quo logging. Specific findings include:

- by area, over 50% of the logging planned in the region is to be conducted by conventional clearcut harvesting
- logging is planned to occur along the banks of 85% of small fish streams
- western red cedar is being over-harvested at unsustainable levels
- patches of trees retained after logging to provide protection to some streams and for wildlife habitat are blowing down.

These initial findings show that logging companies and government still have a long way to go. A final report from the research team will be available in the coming months, available at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Clark/Greenpeace

Turning Back the Clock on Forest Practices in B.C.

For years the B.C. government has touted a 'world-class' piece of legislation called the Forest Practices Code that sought a balance between industrial logging and environmental protection. Although the legislation was introduced in 1995, key provisions within the code which served to protect environmental values, were never fully implemented. Instead, government instituted an arbitrary cap of 6% on the amount of logging that the code could constrain when provisions, such as the protection of habitats for wilderness species, were enacted. Government brochures have in the past promised \$1 million fines under the code, yet in the past five years, the amount of fines given under the code are less than the amount of fines issued by the local Vancouver public library.

However the logging industry has insisted that rather than fully implement the code, it should replace it in favour of a new piece of legislation that puts less emphasis on prescribing ways to protect environmental values.

While our current government is consulting heavily with the

industry in writing this new legislation, environmental organizations have been largely shut out of key discussions within this process even though the forest ministry promised to be more inclusive. This does not bode well for producing a balanced forest law that protects the environment while encouraging a sustainable logging sector. As Jessica Clogg, Staff Counsel at West Coast Environmental Law explains, "Allowing industry to have this undue influence on what goes into our forest policy is like letting the fox mind the henhouse." (For more information, go to: www.wcel.org.)



2002 logging to the banks of a stream at Tom Bay in the Great Bear Rainforest



He's Good Between the Covers

Canadian icon and author Pierre Berton supports the campaign for ancient forest friendly books.

photo: Markets Initiative

In October 2001, some 24 Canadian book publishers adopted formalized commitments to eliminate their use of fibre from ancient forests, allowing for a small exception for FSC eco-certified fibre use. One year later, we find that companies such as Random House Canada, Raincoast Books and McClelland & Stewart are aggressively phasing in these policies, in some cases with expedited time-lines. Taking a look at the numbers, this means:

- over 150 Canadian titles have been printed on ancient forest friendly paper since July 2001, representing about 1.5 million books;

- McClelland & Stewart are ensuring that all of their new fiction books in 2002 will be on ancient forest friendly paper; and
- paper producers have been scrambling to supply this market demand, filling orders for 100% post-consumer recycled paper or developing papers with 20% FSC eco-certified content supplied by Ontario-based logging company Tembec. Tembec is a major player in the FSC certification of Westwind — a 1.2 million ha. forest northwest of Ontario and Canada's largest eco-certified forest to date.

That translates into making a difference where it really matters — in protecting Canada's environment:

- 12,100 trees have been conserved;
- 1,572,997 kw of electricity saved (equivalent to 168 years of electricity to power the average North American home); and
- 905,665 kg greenhouse gases avoided (equivalent to 2,581,328 km travelled by car).

For more information, go to: www.marketsinitiative.org

Wind Generation an Economic Option for Great Bear Rainforest Communities

The implementation of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement requires a shift to Ecosystem-Based Management. This new approach to land use will result in enormous changes to the current economic structure of the coast, to ensure that the mistakes of boom-and-bust economies witnessed in other parts of the province are not repeated. The timber cut will be reduced significantly and jobs in the forest sector will shift from industrial scale extraction to more labour intensive, local, value-added production. This is good news for communities on the coast who have long been shut out of the forest economy. But it will bring major changes to forest-dependent communities outside the immediate Great Bear region, such as Port Hardy, on Vancouver Island, and Prince Rupert on the north coast.

While tourism, non-timber forest products and marine harvesting will all contribute to the new economy, Greenpeace is sparking discussion of entirely new economic options for the region — options such as wind generation and windmill component manufacturing.

photo: Vestas/Greenpeace International

Greenpeace and Living Oceans Society commissioned a study on wind generation by Helimax Energy Inc. of Montreal, a world leader in wind energy studies. The study focused on production and job creation on northern Vancouver Island and in the Prince Rupert region. The results are extremely promising.

The three sites investigated showed a potential of 4,800 megawatts of power production, 1,200 MW of which could be developed in the next 10 years based on existing infrastructure of roads and support systems. With provincial investment and a commitment to the new economy, BC's coast has the potential to become a major global player in wind energy production.

Greenpeace will continue working with the Province, First Nations governments and local residents to explore the potential of a green energy future.

To download the report, go to: www.greenpeace.ca/e/campaign/climate_energy/index.php.

"...the implementation of a strategy for the development of wind energy in British Columbia would potentially make it possible to create 8,000 job-years."

Helimax Energy Inc.

Campaign updates:

Public Relations - \$12 million

The B.C. government has recently committed \$12 million annually to a public relations campaign to try and convince customers around the world that all is fine in B.C.'s woods. The money will be used to produce slick advertising campaigns to give a somewhat rosy view of forest practices and environmental protection in the province.

Forest Stewardship Council eco-certification standards for British Columbia

The draft FSC standard under development for British Columbia was recently endorsed by the FSC - BC steering committee and subsequently by FSC Canada. As we go to press, the standard awaits final approval by FSC International in Oaxaca, Mexico.



O'Neill/Greenpeace

For more information contact:

Editor, Forest Views
Greenpeace Canada
Forest Campaign
1726 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, B.C.
V5N 4A3 Canada
Tel: (604) 253-7701
Fax: (604) 253-0114

EDITOR: GAVIN EDWARDS
DESIGN: BRAD HORNICK DESIGN
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Measuring Progress: A Look At Some Benchmarks

Just over one year after the original Great Bear Agreement, the new B.C. government renewed its commitment to follow through on implementation in May 2002. Here is an update on some key benchmarks that track the implementation progress:

Have the protection areas agreed to in the provincial government's April 4 announcement been formalized through Orders in Council?

Answer: No. Government committed in May 2002 to protect 20 rainforest valleys, but that commitment is temporary until July 2003 - a considerable step back from the BC government's earlier commitment to permanently protect all 20 valleys from industrial logging. This is because the government is proceeding very slowly with First Nations consultations. Furthermore, a significant loophole also exists in this temporary protection because roads may be constructed through these areas to access mining and logging operations.

Does the Coast Information Team have an arms-length standing from all parties? Will the land-use planning tables have adequate time to incorporate the Coast Information Team's (CIT) advice into their decision making?

Answer: This independent panel is now in place and working to inform the various planning processes currently under way in the Great Bear Rainforest. However government is demonstrating little flexibility over land use planning deadlines, meaning that recommendations from the Coast Information Team may not be available until after land use planning is completed.

Is the team evaluating regional economic options for BC's rainforests, in addition to logging?

Answer: Yes.

Has the government reduced the rate of logging in the immediate term to take into account new protected areas and deferrals to ensure that logging pressure is not transferred to other sensitive areas while planning continues?

Answer: Yes. Logging has temporarily been reduced in the region by 22% as a result of deferrals on logging in a number of critical ecological areas. This is a positive step toward reducing logging to a more sustainable level.

Are there transition funds and plans for communities, workers and contractors to adapt to change?

Answer: Yes. In May 2002, government finally announced that \$35 million in transition funds will be available for forest workers and local communities. They have now put in place the Trustees to manage the fund and applications will soon be considered.



Adrian Dorst

The Rainforest Solutions Project (the environmental coalition of Greenpeace, Sierra Club, ForestEthics and Rainforest Action Network) website provides up-to-date information on the evolving Great Bear Rainforest agreement. The site is updated regularly whenever new developments affecting the Great Bear Rainforest occur, and can be viewed at:

www.savethegreatbear.org