

# Forest Views

a newsletter for customers and investors of Canadian logging companies

SPRING 2004

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Taylor/Greenpeace

*"The consensus that the Central Coast Table is putting forward could help bring about long-awaited stability to communities in the plan area. We sincerely hope these recommendations will be given serious consideration by the Provincial and First Nations governments"*

- Patricia McKim,  
Northern Communities  
Economic Development  
Officer

## A Step Forward for the Great Bear Rainforest

Almost three years ago, on April 4, 2001, the government of British Columbia announced the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement, a first step towards creating solutions for this globally important region. This unique accord was supported by the provincial government, the forest industry, environmental groups,

communities, workers, logging contractors and other stakeholders. At the same time, the province signed a critical government-to-government protocol with eight coastal First Nations, containing many elements parallel to the stakeholder agreement.

Recently, a second step was taken towards securing significant

protection for the Great Bear Rainforest. The Central Coast Planning Table, a multi-stakeholder forum that convened to make recommendations on land use in the central portion of the Great Bear Rainforest has come to an historic consensus (see 'Critical Decision' inside).

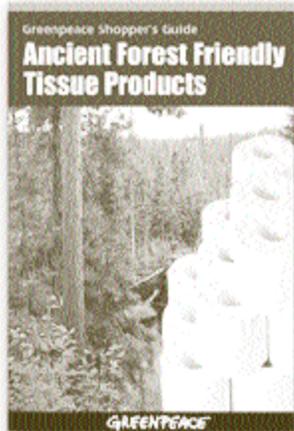
## Greenpeace launches Shopper's Guide to Ancient Forest Friendly Tissue Products.

### Why Produce a Shopper's Guide to Tissue Products?

The production of disposable tissue products such as toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue and napkins is a serious factor in the destruction of Canada's ancient forests.

Over 700,000 tonnes of disposable tissue products are used each year in Canada much of which are produced from ancient forests. Canada exports over 300,000 tonnes of finished tissue products and over 4 billion dollars worth of pulp to the US annually. The average Canadian uses about 22kg of these products every year including approximately 100 rolls of toilet paper. Roll out this amount of toilet paper and it would extend to about 5 kilometres. Multiply this amount by several million people and one can better understand what kind of impact the production of disposable tissue products has on ancient forests like the Boreal forest in Canada.

Greenpeace believes that it is simply wrong that corporations are turning ancient boreal forests into disposable paper products. Ancient forests are literally being flushed down the toilet every day by millions of consumers. This needs to stop.



### The Consumer's Right to Know

Greenpeace has produced this Shopper's Guide to give consumers the information they need to reject products that contribute to ancient forest destruction. Greenpeace believes that if consumers realized that ancient boreal forests were the source of the pulp for many of their disposable paper products they would switch to a less environmentally damaging brand.

The Shopper's Guide is a market-based tool to help convince companies to adopt better production and sourcing policies.

Manufacturers of disposable tissue products were asked to audit their supplies and guarantee in writing that their products were ancient forest friendly. At minimum, manufacturers were asked if they were willing to commit to a corporate policy that would utilise only recycled or sustainably produced fibre for their products in future. The Shopper's Guide contains over 130 products divided into 3 categories – Green, Yellow and Red and will be released at the end of March in print and online and distributed to consumers across the country.

**If each household in Canada replaced just 1 roll of virgin toilet paper with 1 roll of recycled toilet paper, we could save:**

- 47,962 trees
- 3204 cubic metres of land-fill space, equal to 181 full garbage trucks
- 65.5 million litres of water, a year's supply for 135 families of four
- and avoid 4,567 kilograms of air and water pollution from manufacturing.

# Will Ecosystem-based management in the Great Bear Rainforest become a reality?

***"Although a long-term commitment to Ecosystem-based Management was part of the table consensus, strong implementation targets and milestones must still be set"***

A global precedent was set in April, 2001 when a diverse group of stakeholders committed to implement Ecosystem-based Management in Canada's Great Bear Rainforest. Ecosystem-based Management seeks to ensure the coexistence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems alongside human communities. The first principle of Ecosystem-based Management is to determine what must be left (protected) to ensure healthy ecosystems, before determining what to take.

In the last three years, an independent team of scientists\* funded by the provincial government, major industry and environmental groups, and including First Nations' management, has developed a 75-page Ecosystem-based Management Handbook. This handbook sets out guidelines for managing economic activity in the rainforest and clearly defines what must happen on the remaining landscape outside of protected areas. The full implementation of guidelines laid out in this handbook is critical to the future of the Great Bear Rainforest.

Recently, the Central Coast table, (one of three planning tables asked to make recommendations to the provincial and First Nation governments on land use in the Great Bear Rainforest),

reached consensus on adopting the Ecosystem-based Management Handbook. However, this year's timber harvesting and the layout of cut-blocks in the Great Bear Rainforest, will not change significantly due to a weak one-year transition strategy. Under this one-year transition, only 2 per cent of the Central Coast will be managed at low risk to ecosystem integrity. Although a long-term commitment to Ecosystem-based Management was part of the table consensus, strong implementation targets and milestones must still be set. The Provincial and First Nation governments must also formally entrench Ecosystem-based Management as the operating standard in the coastal region. While environmental groups recognize the complexity and challenges of implementing Ecosystem-based Management and accept a phase-in period is essential, it is nonetheless critical to the overall success of the solutions process that this phase-in process be defined and the commitment to the Ecosystem-based Management Handbook be fully realized.

To deal with implementation challenges and phase-in of the handbook a technical working group will be established and is tasked with dealing with these issues over the next few months. By June 2004, the proposed Ecosystem-based Management Council should be up and running. This Council is expected to oversee the full implementation of guidelines in the Ecosystem-based Management Handbook and ensure the future health of this globally significant area.

\*The Coast Information Team (CIT) was founded to provide independent scientific and economic analysis and advice to provincial planning tables and First Nation land use planners in the coastal region. For more information, visit: [www.citbc.org](http://www.citbc.org)

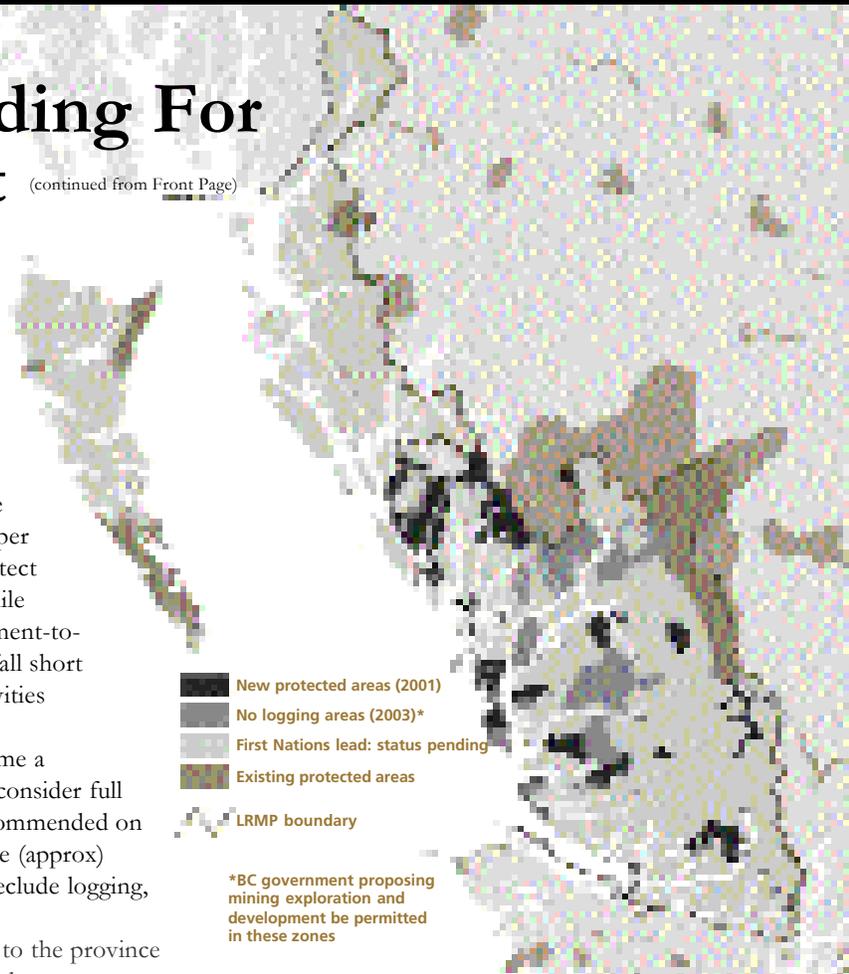
# Critical Decision Pending For Great Bear Rainforest

(continued from Front Page)

With the support of mayors, local communities, labour, industry, small business, tourism, and conservation groups, the Central Coast table has recommend to First Nations and provincial governments that over one million hectares (approximately 33 per cent of the land base, see map) of the Central Coast portion of the Great Bear Rainforest be protected from logging.

Recent independent scientific analysis commissioned by the provincial government, industry and environmental groups for the Great Bear Rainforest region showed that protection of 40 to 60 per cent of the land base was the absolute minimum necessary to protect the long-term ecological integrity of species and their habitat. While additional protection may still be an outcome of the final government-to-government process, the Central Coast table's recommendations fall short of that science-based threshold. Therefore, managing human activities outside of protection areas becomes much more critical (see 'Will Ecosystem-based Management in the Great Bear Rainforest Become a Reality?'). In addition, the Province has indicated a willingness to consider full protection from all industrial activities for the protected areas recommended on the Central Coast in April, 2001. However, they are proposing the (approx) 550,000 hectares of additional land in the final consensus plan preclude logging, but allow mining and road construction.

The recommendations made by the Central Coast table now go to the province and First Nations for government-to-government negotiations, with a target completion date for final land use decisions of June, 2004. Although this stakeholder consensus is considered a major milestone towards the eventual protection of some of BC's coastal rainforests, it is not a final decision. Furthermore, two similar planning tables are still in progress for the North Coast Region and the islands of Haida Gwaii, so the fate of the entire Great Bear Rainforest remains unknown at this point.



## Oil and protection don't mix: offshore drilling may threaten Great Bear Rainforest

As stakeholders reached consensus on recommending the protection of 33 per cent of the Great Bear Rainforest from industrial logging, the Provincial government pushed ahead with its proposal to subject the entire fragile region to the threat of oil spills and climate change.

A flawed and questionable report by a federal commission, suggesting offshore drilling may be feasible in B.C. coastal waters, was warmly welcomed by the Liberal government of the province on Feb. 17. While a federal moratorium on offshore development still stands, the province is determined to have it lifted and proceed with drilling in the earthquake-prone region. The shallow waters of Hecate Strait, between Haida Gwaii and the mainland forests of the Great Bear rainforest, and the waters of the



Greenpeace/Ferraris

adjacent Queen Charlotte Sound, are subject to "weather bombs" – storms of enormous intensity, earthquakes and tsunami-type waves 25 metres in height. Seismic testing, well blowouts, and tanker spills could destroy the fragile ecosystem of the coast, threatening whales, otters, migratory birds, salmon populations and more. New protected areas, chosen for their rich biological values, could see the web of life obliterated if oil contaminates the estuaries and the food sources of bears, eagles, wolves and human communities.

Greenpeace and other environmental groups in B.C. have voiced their strong opposition to offshore oil and gas in the region, noting such development is incompatible with both Canada's commitments under the Kyoto Climate protocol and with the solutions process for the Great Bear Rainforest.

## Canadian Publishing Industry to Protect Ancient Forests

- Nine ancient forest-friendly papers are on the market
- 67 Canadian Publishing Houses have committed to using ancient forest-friendly paper
- More than 5 million books have been printed on ancient forest-friendly paper (primarily 100 per cent post-consumer recycled papers)
- 70,497 trees have been saved to date
- Enough electricity to power the average North American home for 438 years has been conserved
- 111 million litres of water was free to flow downstream
- Greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to driving a car 9.8 million kilometres did not enter the atmosphere

For more information visit:  
[www.marketsinitiative.org](http://www.marketsinitiative.org)



Al Harvey/Slidefarm

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# British Columbia Environmentalists still being jailed and beaten

Some of British Columbia's bravest environmentalists faced tough conditions over the winter. Betty Krawczyk, Canada's famous great-grandmother, was recently released from jail after spending eight months incarcerated for peacefully protesting logging in the Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island. Krawczyk has been repeatedly jailed by the province for her determined opposition to the ongoing destructive clearcutting of ancient forests.

Meanwhile, in the Elk Creek Rainforest, just east of Vancouver, two activists were assaulted as they stood in peaceful protest to stop the logging of one of the last eleven

sites in Canada where the endangered spotted owl lives. This magnificent watershed is graced with the tallest trees left in the Fraser River Valley. First Nation people from the village of Cheam have deemed the area a sacred place – where they practice their traditional spiritual beliefs. To make matters much worse, timber from Elk Creek is being exported as raw logs. This practice eliminates value-added forestry jobs in British Columbia, while the government charges the logging company only 25 cents per cubic metre to log a publicly-owned, irreplaceable watershed. (For more information, visit: [www.freebetty.org](http://www.freebetty.org) and [www.elkcreekaction.org](http://www.elkcreekaction.org))



## Government Initiatives Threaten The Future of British Columbia's Forests

The provincial government of British Columbia recently introduced regulations that will replace the existing Forest Practices Code and weaken standards for forest management. New environmental objectives are to be met only “without unduly reducing the supply of timber for British Columbia's forest [industry]”. In addition, logging companies can “opt out” of these government regulations and propose their own set of rules for soil degradation, water, fish, wildlife, biodiversity and the size of cutblocks.

The province is grossly misleading the public by claiming the environment will be better protected because companies that fail to meet the new regulations will have to pay larger fines. Unfortunately, with over 40 per

cent cuts to staff at the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Water Air and Land Protection and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, there will be few field staff left to identify violations and a drastic reduction in the government's capacity to implement these new standards and enforce the new penalties.

An even greater threat to British Columbia's forests is the proposed “Working Forest” Initiative. This proposed land designation – to span 100 per cent of BC's unprotected public forests (an area the size of Sweden) – gives private corporations virtually incontestable logging rights on public land. Currently, 92 per cent of the province is considered

public land, but First Nations' title has not been addressed and British Columbia is regarded by indigenous peoples as unceded First Nations territory. This new designation would require a solid economic justification for any new areas set aside for environmental and biodiversity protection. The government is trying to increase investor confidence at all costs. However, this initiative means the future protection of British Columbia's forests will be much more difficult, and First Nations' land settlements will be undermined. For more information visit: [www.bcfacts.org](http://www.bcfacts.org), [www.workingforest.org](http://www.workingforest.org), [http://www.greenpeace.ca/e/campaign/forest/depth/archive/050301\\_submission.php](http://www.greenpeace.ca/e/campaign/forest/depth/archive/050301_submission.php)

[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)

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](http://www.savethegreatbear.org)