

Great Bear Rainforest: Background Facts

The Great Bear Rainforest:

- The Great Bear Rainforest is the largest tract of unprotected intact coastal temperate rainforest left on Earth (over 8 million hectares: 2/3 the size of England).
- It includes a vast riparian system of over 100 unlogged large watersheds and sustains 20 percent of the world's wild salmon population.
- The Great Bear Rainforest supports tremendous biodiversity including grizzly bears, black bears, white spirit bears, unique wolf populations, six million migratory birds, three thousand genetically distinct salmon stocks, and a multitude of unique botanical resources.

The Conservation Investments and Incentives Initiative (CIII)

- CIII is a remarkable multi-party collaboration between:
 - coastal First Nations;
 - a coalition of three leading environmental groups – ForestEthics, Greenpeace and Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter;
 - the forest industry;
 - the philanthropic community – including participation by Nature Conservancy, an environmental NGO, and a group of funders that include Tides Canada Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund;
 - the Government of British Columbia;
 - and most recently the Government of Canada.
- CIII was developed with a vision that recognizes that the objectives of preserving ecological integrity, promoting sustainable economic development, and meeting community needs are interdependent and must be advanced in unison.
- The key element of the conservation financing program developed through CIII is grant funding designed to support conservation management and economic development.
- Private funds will flow to a conservation endowment fund, dedicated solely to conservation management, science and stewardship jobs in First Nations' communities. Public funds will be used for investments in ecologically-sustainable business ventures within First Nations' territories or communities.
- The grant funds consist of:
 - a remarkable private capital campaign, based on both conservation commitments and fully matching public funds, that will see \$60 million in private funds placed in an endowment to support conservation management by First Nations on the coast;

- a commitment by the governments to dedicate \$60 million in seed funding for conservation-based economic development on the coast; and
- The commitment of funding by the federal government completes and brings to bear the full funding potential of CIII at \$120 million. The Province had committed to provide \$30 million in funding last February and the private funders had committed to providing their \$60 million as soon as the conservation commitments have been met and the full \$60 million of public funding had been secured.

The Land Use Planning Process

- Consensus land use recommendations for the Central and North Coast were forged by ForestEthics, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter, the logging, mining and tourism industries, labour unions, local communities and other sectors, and forwarded to governments in 2004. These formed the basis for final land use discussions between the Province and coastal First Nations.
- On February 7, 2006, a majority of the coastal First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest and the Province announced agreements on land use designations for the Central Coast and the North Coast.
- The First Nations that have reached land use agreements with the Province include:

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| Gitga'at First Nation | Haisla Nation |
| Heiltsuk Nation | Kitasoo/Xaixais First Nation |
| Metlakatla First Nation | Wuiknuxv First Nation |
| 'Namgis First Nation | Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em First Nation; |
| Tlowitsis First Nation | Da'naxda'xw First Nation |
| We Wai Kai First Nation | Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation |
| We Wai Kum First Nation | Kwiakah First Nation |

Conservation Commitments

- In the February 2006 agreement, the Province committed to create 113 new protected areas in the North and Central Coast under a new conservancy.
- As a result, 5 million acres (2 million hectares) of that portion of the Great Bear Rainforest will be protected from logging.
- In addition to the protected areas, a commitment has been made to implement a new land management regime called ecosystem-based management (EBM) throughout the Central and North Coast by 2009.
- EBM is a new approach to resource planning that was developed by an independent science team jointly funded by the Province, logging companies, First Nations and environmentalists.
- It integrates ecological, economic and social purposes and is designed to work as a management and planning regime that first looks at what is needed to be left in place to allow for a healthy ecosystem and then looks at what can be taken out.

All parties have committed to complete the full implementation of EBM by March 31, 2009.