



## Coast Forest Conservation Initiative

The Central and North Coast support one of the largest areas of coastal temperate rainforest, providing habitat to a diversity of wildlife, including the Kermode bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, timber wolves, five species of salmon, migratory waterfowl and a myriad of bird life.



### The science behind the new thinking: *Options for improving both ecosystem and human well being*

The Coast Information Team (CIT) is a multi-disciplinary group of scientists developing the tools and an information base to carry out ecosystem-based management in the North Coast, Central Coast, and Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands. This is the first time that ecosystem-based management is being attempted on such a large scale and in such a complex natural environment. The team, made up of almost 100 people, is relying on cutting-edge science, as well as traditional and local knowledge.

When completed at the end of 2003, this work will represent the most comprehensive regional and landscape analysis of its kind anywhere in the world. In addition, for the first time, the needs of people-based systems are being fully considered with the requirements of natural ecosystems.

Options are being developed to have a high probability of improving ecosystem and human well being together by identifying choices that enhance compatibilities and reduce conflicts.

Noted writer and sustainable development consultant Robert Prescott-Allen acts as executive director of the CIT. A management committee co-chaired by the BC government and First Nations oversees the CIT mandate and its implementation. The management committee includes representatives from industry, environmental groups, and communities. The funding partners for the CIT's \$3.2 million budget include provincial and federal governments, forest companies and environmental groups.

The purpose of the CIT work is to recommend a framework that reflects the definition, principles and goals of ecosystem-based management (EBM). This will be used in developing operational planning guides to implement EBM – including land-based activities such as forestry, tourism, recreation and mining.

After peer review, information from the CIT will support government and First Nations' land use planning processes to reach well-informed decisions that are science-based.

## Projects within the CIT's work plan include:

- ✘ Detailed guidelines to manage riparian values in coastal watersheds. (*Hydro-riparian Decision Tool*)
- ✘ A “well being” assessment that establishes indicators for rating the economic, social and ecological health of the region or landscape. The assessment determines human and environmental conditions, how close the region is to sustainability, major strengths and weaknesses, and the direction of change. It will also attempt to estimate the size and composition of a sustainable economy. (*Well Being Assessment*)
- ✘ Mapping areas that have cultural or social significance including spiritual, communal, material, recreational, artistic, and symbolic values. (*Cultural and Social Spatial Analysis*)
- ✘ Identifying priority areas for the conservation of biodiversity, species, habitats and environmental variation. (*Ecosystem Spatial Analysis*)
- ✘ Identifying priority areas for improving economic returns in a number of sectors including: logging; fisheries, ocean ranching (commercial and traditional), and aquaculture (fish farming); tourism, including nature-based recreation, sport fishing, and sport hunting; mining; oil and gas; and non-timber forest products. (*Economic Gain Spatial Analysis*)



Forestry is an important economic activity. The area available for harvesting currently represents less than 8 per cent of the Central Coast region. The allowable annual harvest has been reduced by about 500,000 cubic metres to accommodate protection and areas in deferral until an EBM plan is complete.

- ✘ Integrating all results to analyze conflicts between ecosystem and human priorities, including an analysis of options for finding balance. Well-considered consequences of each option can then be provided to land use planning processes for consideration. (*Options and Scenarios*)

### EBM definition:

EBM is a strategic approach to managing human activities to ensure the co-existence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities.

### Trials test the new science

Operational trials are underway on Princess Royal Island and Roderick Island to test the application of EBM. Working through protocol agreements with the Gitga'at and Kitsoo First Nations, and relying on their resource analyses, companies are field-testing several watershed-level and economic components of EBM.

Results of operational trials are important to demonstrate, test, and help finalize the EBM framework.

## CONTACTS



NEW THINKING ABOUT FOREST CONSERVATION

Coast Forest  
Conservation Initiative

For more information on the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative:  
[www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com](http://www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com)

- ✘ Mike Bradley  
Canadian Forest Products  
604-661-5264  
[mbradley@mail.canfor.ca](mailto:mbradley@mail.canfor.ca)  
[www.canfor.com](http://www.canfor.com)
- ✘ Corby Lamb  
Western Forest Products  
250-286-4122  
[clamb@westernforest.com](mailto:clamb@westernforest.com)  
[www.westernforest.com](http://www.westernforest.com)
- ✘ Ric Slaco  
International Forest Products  
604-689-6843  
[ric\\_slaco@interfor.com](mailto:ric_slaco@interfor.com)  
[www.interfor.com](http://www.interfor.com)
- ✘ Stu Clugston  
NorskeCanada  
604-654-4463  
[stu.clugston@norskecanada.com](mailto:stu.clugston@norskecanada.com)  
[www.norskecanada.com](http://www.norskecanada.com)
- ✘ Jeff Ternan  
Weyerhaeuser BC Coastal Group  
250-956-5207  
[jeff.ternan@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:jeff.ternan@weyerhaeuser.com)  
[www.weyerhaeuser.com](http://www.weyerhaeuser.com)
- ✘ Luisa Ciarniello  
Executive Assistant to CFCI Working Group  
604-661-8491  
[luisa.ciarniello@weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:luisa.ciarniello@weyerhaeuser.com)