



March 30, 2001

**Customer Advisory**

- **Negotiations Completed on new Protected Areas and Ecosystem-Based Approach to Forest Management on BC's Central Coast**
- **Landmark Package of Recommendations Forwarded to BC Government & First Nations for Approval**
- **Greenpeace and Interfor Reach Agreement**

Forest companies, environmental groups, communities, logging contractors and other local interests in British Columbia have reached agreement on a package of recommendations regarding forest conservation and management in the Central Coast region of the province, an area called the Great Bear Rainforest by environmental groups.

The recommendations will ensure that environmental, social and economic values represented in the 5 million hectares (12.3 million acres) region will be protected. They have been tabled for approval with the BC government and First Nations. The recommendations reflect agreement on the following key issues:

- **new Protection Areas** where uses such as logging, mining and other forms of industrial development will not be permitted in order to provide critical habitat for large carnivores such as wolves and grizzly bears, including the Kermode variant, and other species of wildlife as well as conservation of significant cultural and scenic values;
- **a framework for application of ecosystem-based planning and management** in the region based on the best available knowledge on ecological, social and economic issues;
- **areas where development will be deferred** for another 12 to 24 months while an ecosystem-based plan for the region is developed;
- **areas where conflict-free harvesting can occur** during the next 12-24 months while an ecosystem-based plan for the region is developed;
- **establishment of an independent team** of respected scientists, community economic development practitioners, investment specialists and First Nation and community representatives to develop new options around ecosystem management and economic development;
- **mechanisms for mitigating impacts** on forest workers, logging contractors, forest companies and dependent communities caused by lower timber harvesting rates;
- **support for an agreement between the BC government and First Nations** on a protocol that will provide an ongoing link between land use planning in the region and measures to address outstanding issues around aboriginal rights and title.



### **Consensus Recommendations from Formal Land Use Planning Process**

The recommendations now going forward for approval are the result of three years of work by a multi-stakeholder land use planning process (the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning process or LRMP), the BC government and First Nations, as well as a series of special initiatives designed to help promote resolve on forest and environmental issues on the Central and North Coast that have been undertaken during the past year by forest companies, environmental groups and First Nations. These include the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI), the Joint Solutions Project and the Turning Point First Nations initiative.

### **CFCI/ Joint Solutions Project**

The consensus recommendations regarding the Central Coast tabled this week with the BC government and First Nations are supported by the companies and environmental groups sponsoring the Joint Solutions Project. Since the spring of 2000, the four BC coastal forest companies participating in the CFCI (Western Forest Products, Weyerhaeuser BC Coastal Group, Canadian Forest Products and Norske Skög Canada) have worked with three environmental groups (Sierra Club of BC, ForestEthics, Rainforest Action Network) in a project known as the Joint Solutions Project.

The Joint Solutions Project is not a formal planning or decision making process. It is a voluntary initiative by companies and environmental groups committed to promoting new approaches to conservation and economic issues on the North and Central Coast of BC. Participating companies and environmental groups have agreed to a conflict-free period in which to collaborate with First Nations and other interested parties on development of a framework for ecosystem planning and specific proposals for protection, deferral and harvesting on the Central Coast. The companies and environmental groups involved have raised an initial \$2 million to support research and other work being done by the project. Ideas developed under the auspices of the Joint Solutions Project were incorporated into the package of recommendations that has been put forward by the land use planning process for the Central Coast.

### **Interfor and Greenpeace**

The consensus recommendations regarding the Central Coast tabled this week with the BC government and First Nations have also been endorsed by forest companies and environmental groups not participating in the Joint Solutions Project, including Interfor and Greenpeace. The recommendations reflect an agreement reached this week in BC between Interfor, Greenpeace and other environmental groups that have been conducting market campaigns against the company. The agreement addresses issues around protection and/ or harvesting deferrals in areas on the Central Coast, as well as in other areas on the BC coast including the Elaho Valley and Clayoquot Sound.

Agreement between Interfor and Greenpeace on these issues signals an end to recent conflict between them and targeting by environmental groups of Interfor products and customers in the international marketplace. Interfor and Greenpeace originally helped develop the Joint Solutions Project and the resolve of differences between them creates the opportunity for both parties to re-engage in the project.



**Next Steps**

A public response by the BC government to the consensus recommendations on the Central Coast is expected the week of April 2/01. It is anticipated that a government decision on the Central Coast will be also be linked to establishment of official deferral areas on the North Coast as a land use planning process gets underway in that area.

If accepted by the BC government and local First Nations, implementation of the Central Coast resolve package will take 12-24 months. During this time the CFCI companies and the environmental groups participating in the Joint Solutions Project will work with First Nations, government, communities, forest workers and logging contractors to further develop and apply the new ecosystem-based framework that has been agreed upon.

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The Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) is an initiative by a group of coastal BC forest companies committed to development of a forest conservation plan for the Central and North Coast of British Columbia that is credible both locally and globally. In order to achieve this objective CFCI companies are working with environmental groups on a project known as the Joint Solutions Project. For more information please see [www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com](http://www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com)