



The **Joint Solutions Project (JSP)** is a cooperative initiative between environmental organizations (**ForestEthics, Greenpeace Canada, Rainforest Action Network, Sierra Club of British Columbia**), major forest companies with interests in the British Columbia coast (**Canadian Forest Products, International Forest Products, NorskeCanada, Western Forest Products, Weyerhaeuser**) and other interested parties.

The purpose of Joint Solutions Project is to promote new ideas for solutions to old conflicts over coastal temperate rainforests. It represents an attempt by forest companies and environmental groups to collaborate on the development of models for conservation and management of globally significant coastal forests that fully integrates social, economic and ecological needs.

Background:

By early 2000, the formal decision-making table regarding land use on the Central Coast of BC was having difficulty reaching agreement and achieving tangible outcomes. Meanwhile, forest companies that made products from wood harvested from the Central and North Coasts were under increasing international pressure in the marketplace to demonstrate that their practices and products respected the unique ecological values of the region.

The forest companies and environmental groups involved in this growing conflict believed that the path forward lay in the creation of a broader array of information, options and ideas than was currently available. The theory being that more options would create more flexibility, and more

flexibility would create more opportunities for dealing with complexity.

The collaborative work between the Joint Solutions Project and other parties contributed to the provincial government's April 4, 2001 announcement of a consensus agreement from the Central Coast public planning table. The agreement included the plan for protection of significant new tracts of the Great Bear Rainforest.

The announcement also included a framework for ecosystem-based management, managing social and economic change in coastal communities and the forest industry, and the signing of a major government-to-government protocol on planning and interim

Continued on back

Pathway to Resolve on the Central Coast

- 1995 Environmentalists launch "Great Bear Rainforest" campaign to promote preservation of forests on the North and Central Coast
- 1996 BC Government launches Central Coast public land use planning process
- 1997 Open conflict between forest companies and environmental groups
- 1998 Companies agree to expand harvesting deferrals on a voluntary but temporary basis
- 1999 International customers urge environmentalists and companies to find a solution
- 2000 Companies agree to extend logging deferrals if environmentalists will agree to suspend market campaigns to create conflict-free period for a permanent resolve to emerge

Environmentalists and companies establish the Joint Solutions Project and propose that the

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measures between First Nations and the province.

To create a conflict-free period in which to collaborate on new approaches, companies are deferring logging in key ecological areas and environmental groups are not conducting market campaigns targeting companies involved in the project.

The difficult journey of moving from conflict to a comprehensive resolution is underway on the BC coast, and will be watched with interest by people around the world. That journey is based on the conviction that conservation,



economic development, community vitality and sustainability go hand-in-hand and that, notwithstanding ongoing differences, it is possible for the forest industry, environmental groups, First Nations, government, local communities and others to collaborate on an innovative stewardship of BC's forests.

The Joint Solutions Project is responding to this challenge, exploring ways to meet the global marketplace demands for ecologically responsible wood

products, ensure the economic health of coastal communities, and conserve a rare natural treasure.

planning framework links ecosystem and economic analysis

Coastal First Nations intervene; endorse ecosystem-based approach

2001 Consensus agreement at land use table; addresses protection areas, deferral areas, short-term mitigation and economic transition

BC government announces Interim Agreement on Land Use Plan for the Central Coast and a new Protocol Agreement with First Nations

Newly-elected BC provincial government announces completion process for agreement

Building Consensus

The companies and environmental groups participating in the Joint Solutions Project do not agree on everything. They do, however, agree on enough things to make it possible for them to work together on some specific issues. When it comes to British Columbia's Central and North Coasts, they agree that:

the remaining intact areas of British Columbia's coastal temperate rainforest are globally rare and significant, warranting further protection;

ecosystem-based planning should provide the basis for forest conservation and harvesting in this important area;

the social and economic impacts of change in harvest levels must be equitably addressed and respect the interests of all affected parties, as well as the need for community stability and an orderly transition to a diversified economy;

new approaches to investment and economic opportunities associated with conservation and ecosystem-based management of coastal forests must help create benefits for everyone involved; and

everyone who benefits from forests on the Central and North Coasts must contribute something to the solution.

