
Joint Solutions Project (JSP)

**Presentation to the 9th Annual
Conference
of Coastal Communities**
convened by the Coastal Community Network

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North & Central Coast of BC



- 7 MM hectares
 - crown land (publicly owned)
 - unresolved aboriginal title
 - incomplete land use & conservation plan
- 5 MM m³ AAC
- 7% BC AAC (Annual Allowable Cut)
 - 24% coastal AAC
- Supporting 5,000 direct jobs
 - 20 communities
 - aboriginal/ non-aboriginal
- Coastal old growth forests
 - pristine areas with global significance
 - since 1995, focus of international campaigns by environmental groups (ENGOS)

1999 -- Forest Company Assessment

- **“No self-pity/ No wishful thinking” situation review in Spring/99**
 - ◆ ENGO market campaigns were damaging -- negative branding of entire BC coast -- exposing coastal industry as a whole to risk in environmentally sensitive markets at global level
 - ◆ Companies might “win” fight at home but not in marketplace
 - ◆ Continuing conflict between companies & ENGOs was undermining formal decision making processes -- putting them in gridlock -- no tangible outcomes before situation in marketplace became acute in 2000
- **Creation of Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI)**
 - ◆ Unilateral move by companies to push for conservation plan for the Central and North Coast that would be credible locally and globally
 - ◆ Break-out from structured conflict by increasing options available for resolve
 - ◆ Engage in complex diplomacy with environmental groups to perform critical tasks while moving away from conflict model
 - ◆ Deal with issues in ways capable of responding to values in the marketplace
 - ◆ Ensure key decisions made in BC, not elsewhere

“Controversial but status quo - not an option”

1999 -- Environmental Group Assessment

- BC has largest remaining area of unprotected temperate rainforest in the world
 - ◆ global significance recognized
- Current protected area system inadequate
 - ◆ “Islands of extinction” - government studies
 - ◆ New Conservation Biology approach emerging
- Need for new solutions to address jobs, new economy, new science
- Government planning process lacked creative element
- New alliances might lead to new ideas

“Controversial but status quo - not an option”

Joint Solutions Project

CFCI Companies

- Western Forest Products
- Canadian Forest Products
- Fletcher Challenge Canada
- Weyerhaeuser BC Coastal

Environmental Groups

- Sierra Club of BC
- Coastal Rainforest Coalition
- Rainforest Action Network



JSP Purpose

- **Find solutions that will address both the “environmental & economic” needs of the region**
 - ◆ Not a planning or decision making body
 - ▶ co-design of new options as opposed to negotiation around existing options
 - ◆ “Change Agent”
 - ◆ Provide information, options and ideas to public decision making processes in BC on land use and aboriginal issues
 - ▶ to multi-stakeholder land use planning processes (“LRMPs” -- Land & Resource Managing Planning Processes)
 - ▶ & to modern-day processes aimed at reconciling crown and aboriginal title issues
 - ◆ Sponsoring companies and ENGOs commit initial \$2 million to help sponsor scientific, technical and socio-economic research
 - ◆ Commit to working with First Nations & other interests

JSP “Anchor” Points of Agreement

- **Companies**: defer harvesting in environmentally contentious areas
- **ENGOS**: defer market campaigns targeting participating companies
- = Conflict-free period to focus on innovations that can help resolve
- Harvest levels on the Central and North Coast will be reduced
- No solution to conservation issues without addressing need for
 - ◆ viable economies
 - ◆ stable communities
 - ◆ new ways to deal with social & economic impact of change

JSP Project Focus

- ◆ Ecosystem Management
 - ▶ includes the ecological and human dimensions
- ◆ Establishment of an independent team of scientists & advisors to promote new knowledge and learning
 - ▶ science defined to include economics and social science as well as biological and ecological science
 - ▶ team to include global and local perspectives
 - ▶ importance of traditional aboriginal knowledge & local context

JSP Recent Activities

- **Since August/01**
 - ◆ working with other parties
- **Discussing ideas with**
 - ◆ Central Coast LRMP table, First Nations (Turning Point), tourism, local communities, IWA, Truck Loggers, other environmental groups and forest companies
- **Package of initiatives now emerging as an interim product from the Central Coast LRMP**
 - ◆ LRMP recommendations will establish a workplan for the coming year

Central Coast LRMP Interim Package

(March 31/01)

Emerging Elements -- Consensus Recommendations:

1. **Agreement on some protected areas, including Spirit Bear area and other areas**
2. **Agreement on areas for operation & areas for continuing deferral**
3. **Agreement on framework for ecosystem management to guide ongoing planning in next 12-24 mos.**
 - ◆ support for establishment of team of scientists, community economic development practitioners, investment specialists and FN and community reps. to develop options on ecosystem management and economic issues
4. **Agreement on framework for managing change**
 - ◆ mitigation measures (workers, contractors, companies, communities, FNs)
 - ◆ economic development and diversification initiatives
5. **Support for government-to-government protocol between BC & First Nations**
 - ◆ to provide link between land use planning processes and Interim Measures Agreements & other Treaty-Related Measures

Key to Implementation: *Managing Change*

- **Must have sufficient capacity for equitable mitigation regarding impacts of change to create social license necessary in BC for implementation of Central Coast LRMP recommendations**
- **Interim package of recommendations from Central Coast LRMP is subject to FN support and development of a mitigation plan to address impact of change**
 - ◆ contractors, workers, forest companies, communities, FNs
- **Key principle: social & economic impact of change in the way forests are managed and conserved on the Central Coast must be addressed in a manner that is equitable to those directly affected and respects the need for community stability**
 - ◆ no one party should bear the burden for the cost of change
 - ◆ everyone must contribute in some manner to the solution

Hardest Parts (Merran)

- **Backlash isn't fun**
 - ◆ can't stop change from happening
- **Companies and ENGOs had reached the point in the conflict over the Central and North Coast where each had the power to stop or inflict significant damage on the other**
 - ◆ but neither had the power to advance workable solutions
- **Win/ Lose wasn't going to solve the issue**
 - ◆ need for co-design to bring resolve
 - ◆ don't have to agree on all issues to work together, but have to be clear about the ones you do agree on
- **Need to eliminate constraints**
 - ◆ new elements/ relationships can help with innovation
 - ◆ can't address needs of new ecology and new economy without going places no one has gone before

Best Parts (Linda)

- **Be part of the emergence of a new capacity to deal with forest management and conservation issues in coast temperate old growth forests**
 - ◆ pressing need to bring new resources and ideas to the table in order to reconcile competing pressures between local and global interests in coastal old growth forests
 - ◆ body of unique knowledge and experience building on coast of BC on conservation biology and natural ways to manage natural forests
- **New capacity is a “paradox” that contains elements of forest industry and elements of the environmental movement but isn’t either**
 - ◆ something in its own right that has genetic material from both industry and ENGOs
- **Can’t wait to see what it grows up to be!**