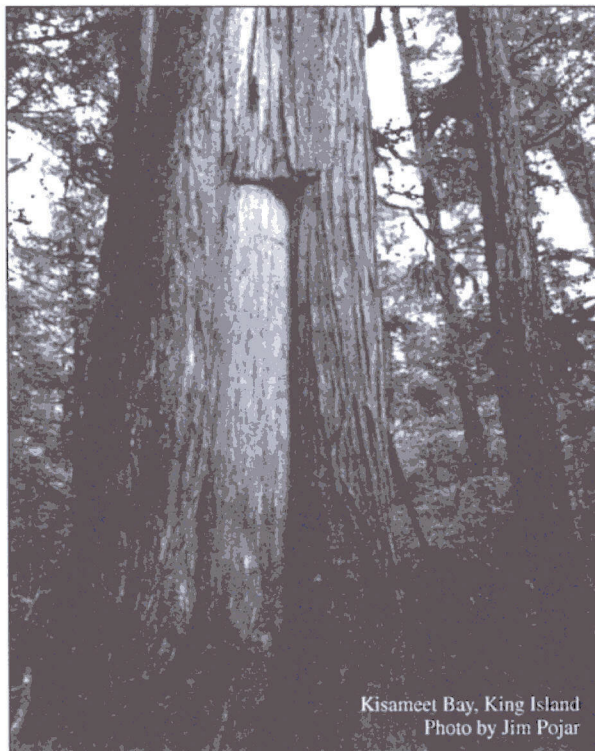


Coastal Rainforests of British Columbia, Canada Planning Update

ForestEthics, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, the Sierra Club of British Columbia, Turning Point First Nations, Kwakiutl District Council, Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council, Tlowitsis First Nation, Western Forest Products, International Forest Products, Weyerhaeuser, Canadian Forest Products, Norske Canada, the Truck Loggers' Association and the Government of British Columbia are working together. The government reports progress in a number of areas:

- The completion phase of the Central Coast land and resource management plan is underway with a completion target of March 31, 2003. The provincial government minister responsible may, based on a recommendation from the planning participants, extend the timeline.
- Interim protection designation for 20 candidate protection areas, including some habitat for the white kermode bear, is expected in May 2002. Following this phase, and pending final approval by First Nations, these 20 areas are expected to gain permanent protection, while permitting ecologically appropriate uses that maintain biological and cultural values. Harvesting deferrals, in place informally since April 2001, are also expected to be established in May 2002.
- Road access in protection areas is under discussion at the planning table and with First Nations.
- Local First Nations, forest companies and environmental groups have begun two pilot projects to define ecosystem-based forestry management.
- Industry, Turning Point First Nations and the provincial government are exploring economic opportunities.
- Agreements between First Nations and the B.C. government establish planning partnerships and a government-to-government dialogue to resolve First Nations issues, and are a basis for ensuring that economic development opportunities for First Nations are fully explored and implemented. In addition, the B.C. government is following through with all Coastal First Nations to enable them to prepare their own visions for land use in the traditional territories.
- Coast Information Team formed to provide independent ecological and socioeconomic information and analysis to the planning tables.
- Progress started on community transition with the establishment of an initial \$35 million trust fund in April 2002 to address economic impacts of coastal land use planning on the Coast on workers, contractors, communities and companies. The steps necessary to hire a Trustee for this fund and appointing the advisory board are currently underway.

The groups involved in the Central Coast planning process remain committed to forging long-term solutions and implementing the details of the April 4, 2001 preliminary land-use agreement. In addition to the participants identified in this update, planning also involves local communities, small business, and the recreation, tourism, energy and mining sectors.



Kisameet Bay, King Island
Photo by Jim Pojar