



Coast Forest Conservation Initiative

CUSTOMER ADVISORY

March 3, 2001

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Re-engagement between CFCI companies and Interfor in working jointly on land use issues relative to the BC Central Coast

This memo clarifies the understanding of the four BC coastal forest companies participating in the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) and the Joint Solutions Project (JSP) regarding the current status of International Forest Products (Interfor) in relation to these initiatives.

Background

The CFCI is a voluntary initiative by a group of BC forest companies (Western Forest Products, Weyerhaeuser, Canadian Forest Products, NorskeCanada) committed to development of a conservation plan for the Central and North Coast of BC that can be credible locally and globally. The CFCI companies are working with three environmental groups (Sierra Club of BC, Rainforest Action Network and ForestEthics – formerly the Coastal Rainforest Coalition) on a special project focused on forest conservation and management issues on the Central and North Coast of BC. The project is known as the Joint Solutions Project (JSP).

In addition, there are a number of formal decision making initiatives now underway in BC working to resolve forest issues on the Central and North Coast of the province. These include: (1) the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Planning processes (LRMP) mandated by the BC government; (2) the North Coast LRMP, which is in the process of being convened; and (3) discussions convened by Turning Point, a special initiative of a number of First Nations from the Central and North Coast currently seeking reconciliation with the federal and provincial governments on aboriginal issues.

While Interfor and Greenpeace originally helped develop the Joint Solutions Project, neither is currently participating in that initiative. They are, however, both currently participating in the Central Coast LRMP process and in current initiatives aimed at addressing First Nations issues.

Recent Developments

Earlier this month, the CFCI companies and Interfor agreed to re-engage in coordinated work on land use issues relative to the Central Coast LRMP and First Nations issues. This decision was made on the basis of a number of factors including the following:

- the fact that CFCI companies and Interfor are both participating in the Central Coast LRMP process and in current initiatives with First Nations;



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- the fact that Interfor manages a significant area of forests in the Central Coast that, in many instances, is contiguous with forest tenures held by CFCI companies;
- the fact that the BC government has requested recommendations from the Central Coast LRMP by March 31 2001; and
- a belief by the CFCI companies and Interfor that the probability of a successful resolve of outstanding issues would be increased if there was greater coordination between them.

Although CFCI companies and Interfor are now working together in a coordinated manner on the Central Coast LRMP this does not mean that Interfor has re-joined either the CFCI or the Joint Solutions Project. CFCI companies are hopeful that agreement can be reached on a March 31, 2001 outcome from the Central Coast LRMP that will create the conditions for both Greenpeace and Interfor to participate in the next phase of the Joint Solutions Project.

Western Forest Products
Weyerhaeuser BC Coastal Group
Canadian Forest Products
NorskeCanada

Further Background Notes

The purpose of the Joint Solutions Project is to generate new solutions to old conflicts over coastal temperate old growth forests on the Central and North Coast of British Columbia.

Forests on the Central and North Coast of BC are publicly owned and currently the focus of efforts to resolve aboriginal title issues. Information and ideas developed by the Joint Solutions Project will be tabled with formal decision-making processes mandated to address land use and aboriginal issues in the area.

In order to create a conflict-free period of time in which to collaborate in a joint project aimed at exploring new approaches, CFCI companies have supported voluntary deferrals of harvesting in ecologically contentious areas on the Central Coast and the environmental groups involved in the JSP have agreed not to engage in market campaigns against CFCI companies or their products.

Forest companies and environmental groups participating in the JSP believe that ecosystem planning will lead to development of a forest conservation plan for the Central and North Coast of British Columbia that will be capable of maintaining critical forest ecosystems while meeting local social, cultural and economic requirements. The JSP represents the first attempt by forest companies and environmental groups in BC to jointly develop a model for conservation and management in forests with high environmental values that fully integrates social, economic and ecological needs.