

Media Release

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Environmental groups affirm their commitment to the "rainforest solutions" process

The Sierra Club of B.C., Coastal Rainforest Coalition and Rainforest Action Network today made clear their shared commitment to the "solutions in the rainforest" talks underway with B.C. coastal logging companies.

"We see progress being made and expect real results by spring," said Merran Smith, Senior Forest Campaigner, Sierra Club of BC.

The announcement came as Greenpeace, a partner in the talks from the outset, stepped up its campaign against Interfor in Germany. Greenpeace began alerting paper makers and publishers there that some logging companies participating in the talks buy wood pulp chips from Interfor, which walked away from the talks in June and controls half the old growth valleys in the North and Central Coastal region under discussion.

Sierra Club of BC, Coastal Rainforest Coalition and Rainforest Action Network agree with Greenpeace's concern over Interfor's unsustainable logging practices, its decision to log in some of the last pristine valleys on the coast and Interfor's unwillingness to participate in the solutions process.

"Interfor is out of step with modern public opinion and they will suffer in the marketplace," said Christopher Hatch, Executive Director of the US-based Rainforest Action Network. "We will advise Home Depot and the large US homebuilders to keep their support behind the rainforest solutions process and to drop suppliers that drop out of the process."

CRC and RAN halted market campaigns in the United States against the BC operations of participating companies as part of the moratorium.

"Trying to work with the logging companies to find solutions is a difficult and sometimes painful process, but we believe that this solutions process is historic and we are dedicated to seeing it through." said Tzeporah Berman of the US-based Coastal Rainforest Coalition. "We are currently engaged in discussions with all the major stakeholders, except West Fraser and Interfor and believe significant progress is being made."

The environmental groups also announced today their related support for Interim Measures Agreements and other means pursued by First Nations in order to achieve greater decision making over their traditional territories.

"We hope that the data collection and research undertaken in the solutions project will benefit all coastal communities and assist First Nations, the Provincial and Federal governments in making final land use decision on the remaining coastal rainforests." continued Ms. Smith.

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