

**Media Information
For Immediate Release**

British Columbia coastal forest operations seek FSC certification

The Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) representing International Forest Products (Interfor), Western Forest Products (WFP), BC Timber Sales (BCTS), Catalyst Paper and Canadian Forest Products has applied for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) group certification of forest operations in the Mid Coast Timber Supply Area (TSA). Interfor, WFP and BCTS manage the operations that will be assessed by FSC certifier SmartWood in October and November of this year.

The 2.2 million hectare Mid Coast TSA is located in the heart of British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest. The Mid Coast TSA extends from Cape Caution in the south to Sheep Passage in the north.

In February 2006, the Province, First Nations and coastal stakeholders ratified land use plans, committing to establish new conservancies, Biodiversity/Tourism areas and implement ecosystem-based forest management planning, monitoring and operating rules by March 31st 2009. FSC certification in the Mid Coast TSA will be used to communicate the new forest practices to customers around the world.

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For further information contact:

Gerry Fraser
International Forest Products
604 689 6870
Mobile: 604 970 9566
www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com

For more information on FSC certification: www.fsccanada.org