

Beyond Expectations! a new beginning in the BC rainforest

It took nearly a decade to reach the agreement, but on February 7th 2006, the British Columbia provincial land use decisions for the Central Coast and the North Coast were formally announced. The decisions mean that some of the most spectacular, ecologically-diverse regions in the world including critical Spirit Bear habitat, are being protected. A region once known for conflict has established itself as a leader in sustainable solutions.

In making the announcement Premier Gordon Campbell explained “The agreement reached on these areas represents an unprecedented collaboration between First Nations, industry, environmentalists, local governments and many other stakeholders in how we manage the vast richness of B.C.’s coast for the benefit of all British Columbians. The result is a strong marriage that balances the needs of the environment with the need for sustainable jobs and a strong economic future for coastal communities.

“Diverse interests have come together in a unique partnership that will support economic opportunity while preserving some of B.C.’s most spectacular wilderness areas and protecting habitat for a number of species, including the rare Spirit Bear. I want to thank all the groups who have shown vision, foresight and patience in bringing us to this historic day.”



The Joint Solutions Project

After many years of conflict, forest companies and environmental groups had agreed in 2000 to work together to find real solutions, the result was the Joint Solutions Project (JSP). With scientific advice from the independent, multidisciplinary Coast Information Team, they developed models that eventually became the cornerstone of consensus agreements for the Central Coast and North Coast land use planning. Consensus agreements were formally presented to the British Columbia and local First Nations governments in July 2004. The final and critical step was the launch of government-to-government discussions involving the province and more than 25 First Nations with traditional territories in the area. The agreements support the cultural values of and provide economic opportunities for First Nations.

The result is a vision that respects both the unique, globally rare coastal environment, and the needs of the people who live and work in the area. It acknowledges the global importance of this sensitive region.

Partners in the Joint Solutions Project are Canfor Corporation, Catalyst Paper Corporation, ForestEthics, Greenpeace, International Forest Products, Rainforest Action Network, the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter and Western Forest Products.

Conservation financing

A key component of the agreement is an innovative conservation financing package to fund conservation management projects and ecologically sustainable business ventures in First Nation territories. To date almost half of the \$120 million has been raised by Canadian and US foundations, and fundraising continues.

During the long journey, the interest and encouragement of our customers has been invaluable. We thank them for their support. Full details on the historic agreement and a background on the process that led us all here can be found at: www.coastforestconservationinitiative.com , or please contact us directly at: info@canfor.ca