

# Change In The Great Bear Rainforest At the Finish Line

Photo courtesy of Moresby Consulting Ltd.

## BACKGROUND

In 2014, a small group of forest product businesses in BC and environmental groups delivered joint recommendations to achieve final implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM) in the Great Bear Rainforest. This work was the culmination of 15 years of collaboration and leading-edge science to develop a unique solution for a globally significant area.

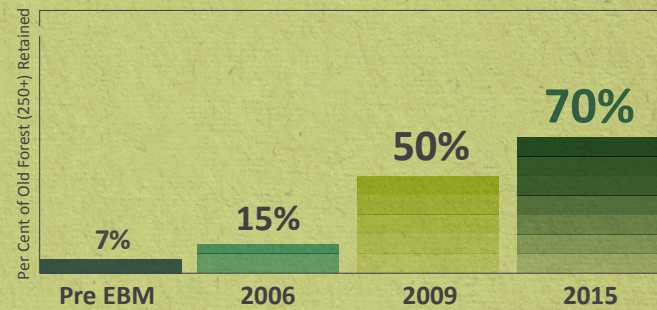
The recommendations were incorporated by the Government of BC, Nanwakolas First Nations and Coastal First Nations into the *Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Objectives Order* (LUO). On June 10th, 2015, the new LUO was advertised for public review. Once proclaimed, the GBR Land Use Order will guide EBM in the Great Bear Rainforest.

## EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED

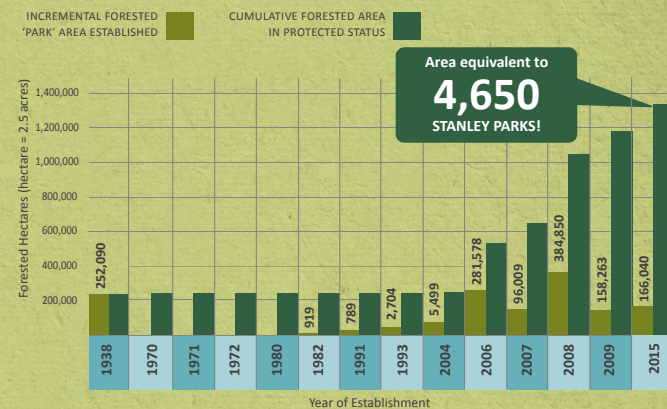
Since 2000, numerous changes have already taken place in the Great Bear Rainforest:

- **Smaller harvest areas:** today more than 70% of the cutblocks are 10 hectares or less compared to 42% in 1996.
- **More protected areas:** 85% of the forested area will be managed for conservation. Protection comes from 137 parks and conservancies that represent 33% of the total area, along with reserved or natural forest designations for 52% of the forested area to protect wildlife, cultural and ecological values.
- **Less logging:** 15% of the forested area will be designated as the managed forest that can be harvested over the next 250 years. Less than 0.1% of the total forested area can be harvested annually, providing about 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup>/yr. The lower harvest level represents a 40% reduction from pre-EBM harvesting levels in the GBR.
- **Protecting old growth:** under the agreement, the old growth targets increased from 7% in 1999 to 50% in 2009 with the goal of protecting 70% of the naturally occurring old growth found in nearly each ecosystem over time.

OLD GROWTH RETENTION TARGETS



PARKS, CONSERVANCIES & PROTECTED AREAS IN THE EBM PLAN AREA: 1938 TO PRESENT





## IMPLEMENTING EBM

**“The 2015 LUO reflects industry and the ENGOs’ joint recommendations to achieve ecological integrity and a viable forest economy.”**

**Ric Slaco,  
Chair of CFCI**

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT FINDS EBM IMPLEMENTATION UNDERWAY

BC’s independent forest practices watchdog, the Forest Practices Board has conducted two full scope audits in the Great Bear Rainforest. The Board found that the two companies audited are diligent in their ongoing application of EBM, including addressing EBM implementation in key areas such as old growth targets, wildlife habitat, cultural heritage and in sharing information with First Nations.

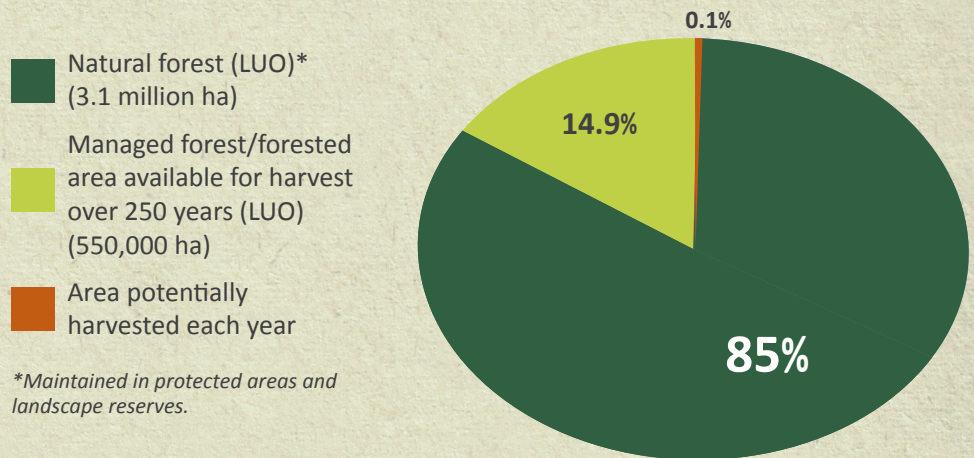


Forest companies have been working with EBM since 2004 and under the legal framework established in 2007. While the latest LUO is out for public review, CFCI forest companies — BC Timber Sales, Interfor and Western Forest Products — have already begun incorporating the new elements of EBM into their operations. To ensure the success of EBM, CFCI is working with experts, environmental organizations, the Province and First Nations to:

- Conduct pilots to provide important insight on EBM implementation.
- Develop guidance material for all forestry companies that operate in the GBR to make sure EBM is implemented consistently.
- Design a framework for coordination of planning and logging activities between all companies within the GBR that promotes accountability and professional reliance.
- Ensure there is an effective monitoring and continuous improvement process in place to evaluate ongoing progress of EBM implementation.

### GBR FOREST AREA CLASSIFICATION - 2015 LAND USE OBJECTIVES

Total forested area in the GBR is 3.7 million ha or 57%



Five forest product businesses joined together as the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative to work with ForestEthics Solutions, Greenpeace and Sierra Club. The primary objectives of the joint work were to:

1. Achieve ecological integrity.
2. Ensure a viable forest economy.

### COAST FOREST CONSERVATION INITIATIVE:

**BCTS**  
BC Timber Sales

**Catalyst**

**HOWE SOUND**  
PULP & PAPER  
CORPORATION

**INTERFOR**

**WFP**  
Western Forest Products Inc.