

# Collaboration Drives Land Use Solutions In The Great Bear Rainforest



## BACKGROUND

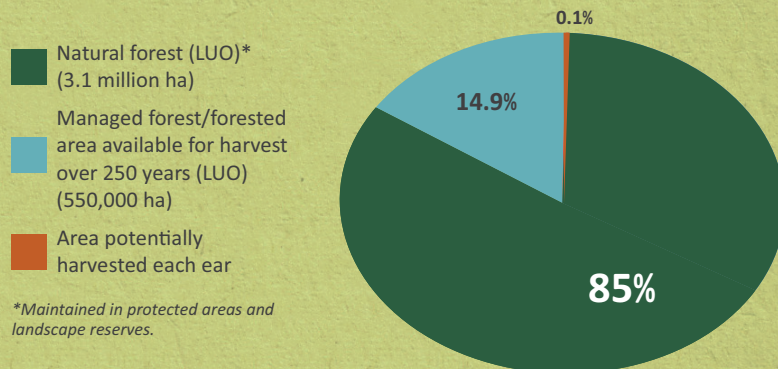
The Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order is the outcome of 15 years of hard work and unprecedented collaboration involving First Nations, the British Columbia Government, forest companies, environmental groups and coastal communities. It supports two key objectives – low ecological risk and a high degree of well-being for local people and communities.

The Great Bear Rainforest covers 64,000 square kilometres along British Columbia's Central and North Pacific Coast. It contains one of the largest tracts of temperate rainforest in the world and provides habitat for a significant diversity of wildlife. It supports resource communities and is in the traditional territory of 26 First Nations.

For years, the Great Bear Rainforest was the focus of an international controversy over logging. This changed in 2000 when five forest companies and three environmental organizations chose to work collaboratively through the Joint Solutions Project. In 2014, the Joint Solutions Project delivered recommendations to the BC Government and First Nations.

## GBR FOREST AREA CLASSIFICATION

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



## JOINT SOLUTIONS PROJECT

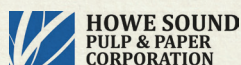
The Joint Solutions Project began as a unique effort between a group of forest products businesses and environmental groups interested in exploring ways to end market-based conflict over forests in the Great Bear Rainforest. Members include:

**Coast Forest Conservation Initiative:** BC Timber Sales, Catalyst Paper Corp., Howe Sound Pulp & Paper Corp., Interfor Corp. and Western Forest Products Inc.

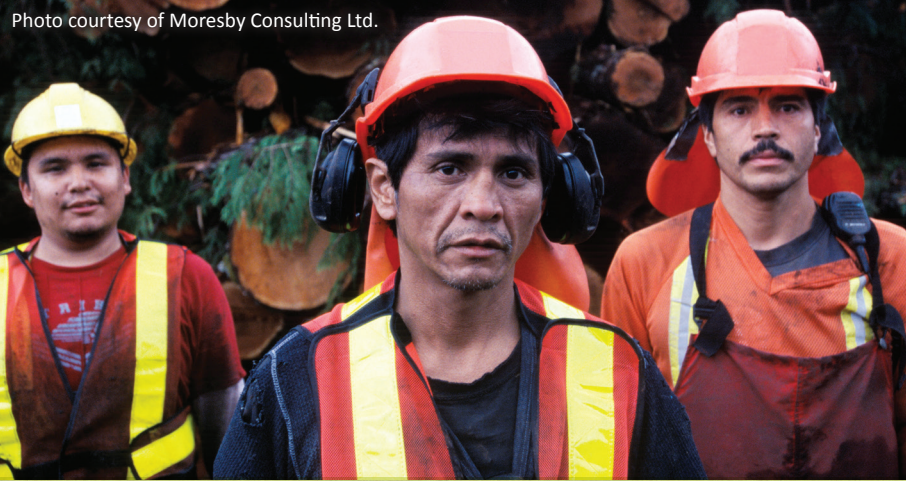
**Rainforest Solutions Project:** ForestEthics Solutions, Greenpeace and Sierra Club BC.

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

- **More protected areas.** 85% of the forested area in the Great Bear Rainforest is being managed for conservation; 15% is managed forest that can be harvested over the next 250 years.
- **Less logging.** Less than 0.1% of the total forested area, or 2.5 million cubic metres, can be harvested annually. Where logging can occur, it will be in a combination of old and second growth forests.
- **More community well-being.** A viable forest industry that supports well-paying jobs and economic development in local communities.
- **More certainty for markets.** Customers can rely on a stable supply of quality forest products from BC's coast.







## GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING

The Great Bear Rainforest agreement is based on collaborative government-to-government decision making between local First Nations and the BC government.

Management decisions respect First Nations cultural values and protect their special lands. There are new economic opportunities for First Nations whose traditional territories include land and water within the region.

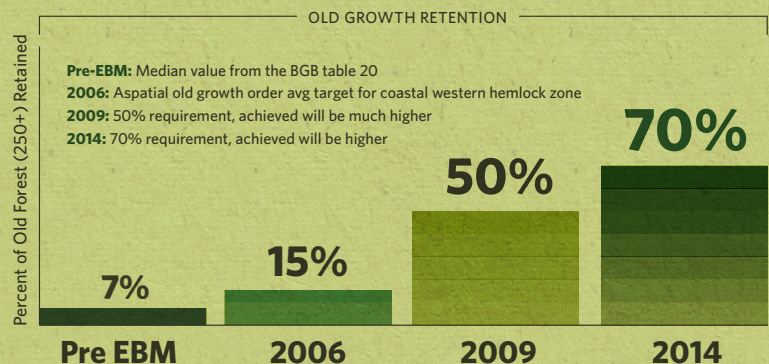
Across the coast, First Nations are becoming more active in resource management. Today, they have forest licences that support an allowable annual cut of 2.2 million cubic metres across the coast.

## ENSURING OLD GROWTH FOR GENERATIONS

Seventy percent of the naturally occurring old growth found in nearly each ecosystem in the Great Bear Rainforest will be protected over time—up from 7% when the process first began.

In the 15% of the region where harvesting is allowed, there are specific targets—ranging from 30% to 70%. These targets are based on recommendations by industry and environmental groups represented by the Joint Solutions Project—and allow harvesting of both old growth and second growth forests. No commercial logging is allowed in the remaining 85%.

### OLD GROWTH RETENTION REQUIREMENTS



*“British Columbia’s experience is an example of what can be achieved when diverse stakeholders involved in complex resource management issues step back to consider wider interests and test innovative approaches.”*

– Chris Elliott, WWF Canada in 2007 upon presentation of WWF’s “Gift to the Earth” award to First Nations, the Government of BC, CFCI forest companies and environmental groups.



## Gift to the Earth Award

## BEYOND THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

The coast region, which includes the Great Bear Rainforest, stretches from Washington State in the south to Alaska; from BC’s Fraser Valley east of Vancouver to the west coast of Vancouver Island. It covers 16.5 million hectares; close to half of it is forestland.

Much of BC’s population is found along the coast in cities like Vancouver and Victoria. The forest industry is an important economic driver—40% of BC’s regional economies are forestry dependent. The coastal forest industry contributes close to \$400 million to the BC government, revenue used to fund services like education and health care.

Forest products are natural and renewable, and a sustainable forest economy ensures forests remain forests and are not converted to other uses.