



## **Forest Companies Welcome Proposed Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order *A New Era of Certainty, Says Industry***

**Media Release**

**June 10, 2015**

VANCOUVER, BC – Five of British Columbia’s largest forest product businesses welcomed today’s release of the proposed *Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Objectives Order* (LUO) that will guide forest management on BC’s Central and North Coasts.

The LUO was released today for a 60-day public input following a year of discussions between the BC government, Nanwakolas First Nations and Coastal First Nations. The LUO represents the culmination of 15 years of effort by local communities, businesses, labour, environmental organizations, First Nations and the Province. Once proclaimed, the LUO will provide the foundation for securing ecological integrity and supporting economic development across 64,000 square kilometres of BC’s coast.

In January 2014, at the request of First Nations and the BC government, the Joint Solutions Project (JSP), representing five forest companies and three leading environmental groups, provided [recommendations](#) on the scope of future logging in the Great Bear Rainforest and [conservation measures](#) to support ecological integrity.

“The proposed LUO reflects JSP’s recommendations and represents a unique solution for a globally significant area,” said Ric Slaco, chair of the [Coast Forest Conservation Initiative](#) (CFCI) and Interfor’s vice president and chief forester. “Looking back over the past 15 years, a tremendous amount of work and leading-edge science has gone into getting us to this point –it’s good to be at the finish line.”

### **Key Facts:**

- The Great Bear Rainforest is located on the mainland coast of BC between Bute Inlet and the border with Alaska.
- Since 2004, all forest companies in the Great Bear Rainforest have been working with the system of ecosystem-based management (EBM) developed for the GBR by independent science.
- In 2006, one-third of the region was protected through the creation of 137 new parks and conservancies; under the 2015 LUO, another 500,000 hectares of conservation areas have been proposed – increasing the amount of natural forest protected to 3.1 million hectares or almost 50 per cent of the region.
- In 2007 LUOs were established to provide a legal framework for the transition to EBM.
- In 2009, and again in 2013, the LUOs were amended to support the ongoing implementation of EBM.
- 85% of the forested area is off limits to logging; with 550,000 hectares (15%) of the forested area to be designated as managed forest where logging can occur over the next 250 years under the rules of EBM. Annually, less than 0.1% of the total forested area can be harvested.
- The 2015 LUO, once proclaimed, will apply to all aspects of forest management and provide protection for fish and wildlife habitat, old growth forests, First Nations’ cultural values while providing a sustainable harvest level that will support an economically viable forest sector.

- more -

- The Joint Solutions Project (JSP) was established in 2000 by a group of BC coastal forest companies (CFCI) and environmental organizations (Rainforest Solutions Project-RSP), working collaboratively in land use planning and providing technical analysis and joint recommendations.
- CFCI is comprised of BC Timber Sales, Catalyst Paper Corporation, Howe Sound Pulp & Paper, Interfor Corporation and Western Forest Products.
- RSP is comprised of ForestEthics Solutions, Greenpeace and the Sierra Club of BC.

- 30 -

**Editor's Note:** backgrounder attached.

**Contact:**

Karen Brandt, Director  
Public Affairs and Corporate Communications  
Interfor Corporation  
(604) 689-6866



# 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.

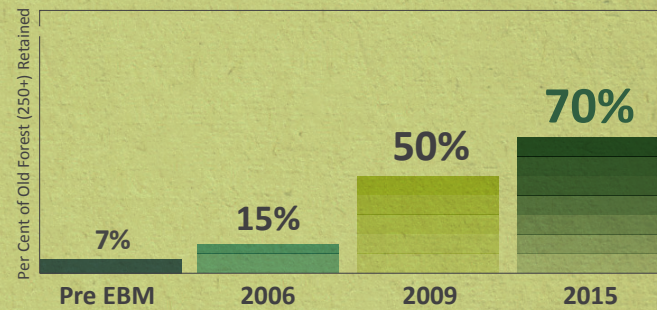
The recommendations were incorporated by the Government of BC, Nanwakolas First Nations and Coastal First Nations into the *Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Objectives Order* (LUO). On June 10th, 2015, the new LUO was advertised for public review. Once proclaimed, the GBR Land Use Order will guide EBM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

## EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED

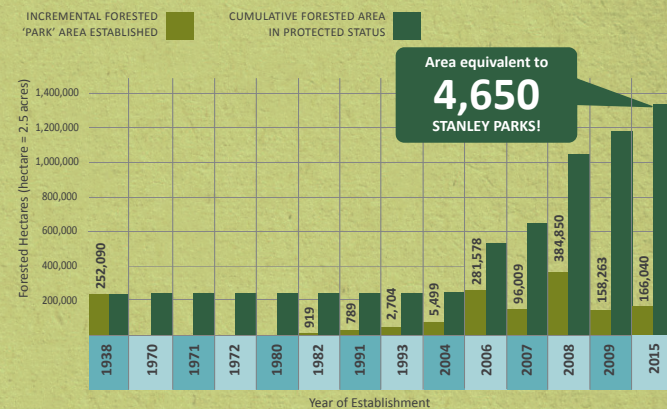
Since 2000, numerous changes have already taken place in the Great Bear Rainforest:

- **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

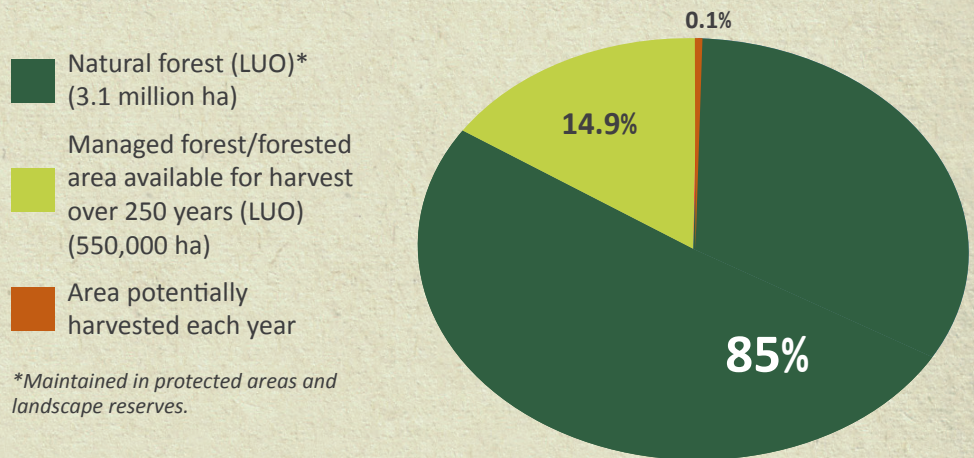
BC’s independent forest practices watchdog, the Forest Practices Board has conducted two full scope audits in the Great Bear Rainforest. The Board found that the two companies audited are diligent in their ongoing application of EBM, including addressing EBM implementation in key areas such as old growth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

