



## »»» BRITISH COLUMBIA'S INTERIOR FORESTS

British Columbia's interior forests are the most vast and diverse in the province. They stretch 1,200 kilometres (745 miles) from the dry ponderosa pine forest in the south to the western redcedar and hemlock of the Columbia forest region to the spruce and pine boreal forest along the Yukon border.



More than 80 per cent of B.C.'s forests are east of the Coast Mountains. While they contribute the most value to B.C.'s forest economy, only a fraction of one per cent is harvested each year. Interior forest management respects all values including community water supply, habitat for species such as woodland caribou and scenic vistas that attract visitors from around the world.



### PROTECTING INTERIOR FORESTS

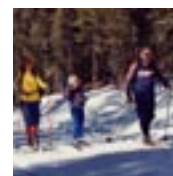
Like all regions of the province, the Interior includes protected areas and special management zones that are designed to help maintain the province's unique diversity. About 10 million hectares of land in the Interior are protected. In addition, there are special management areas where values such as wildlife habitat take precedence over logging, including the Muskwa-Kechika management area, which is almost as big as Ireland.



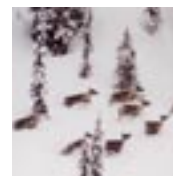
In the south, provincial parks include Granby with its stands of old-growth cedar and hemlock, Graystokes with its subalpine and Engelmann spruce, and Manning, which has recreational and ecological importance including habitat for the spotted owl.



The central part of the region includes Tweedsmuir, B.C.'s biggest provincial park with more than 981,000 hectares (2.5 million acres) of magnificent wilderness, and Wells Gray with Douglas-fir, western redcedar and hemlock forests.



In the north, Muskwa-Kechika, which includes parks and management zones, is more than 6 million hectares (14.8 million acres) in size and has wildlife so diverse it is often called North America's Serengeti, and Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park is one of the province's most important habitats for woodland caribou.



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# BC Forest Facts



## »»» LOGGING IN INTERIOR FORESTS

Forest companies operating in B.C. practise sustainable forest management to protect all forest values for the long term. All logging must conform to the specific needs of each site. In the Interior, techniques include everything from selection harvesting to clearcutting. Selection harvesting involves logging individual or small groups of trees across the stand at regular intervals – in some cases there is as much as 40 years between harvests. This technique is used in interior Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forests where soils are dry and need to be shaded to avoid losing moisture.

In lodgepole pine or spruce forests, companies use clearcut logging, which means they remove most of the trees from a stand, leaving patches of trees or buffers to protect other forest values such as wildlife habitat, streams and soils. Clearcutting produces even-aged forests that cover different sized areas not unlike the result of natural disturbances such as wildfire. The average size of clearcuts in B.C. has dropped to 26.4 hectares in 1998 from 43 hectares in 1988, primarily to address visual concerns.

In areas of the central and northern Interior, B.C.'s chief forester has increased harvest levels temporarily to respond to a current mountain pine beetle infestation. This involves the same detailed technical analysis and public review required for harvest level determinations, and all logging and reforestation must meet the same standards required under the Forest and Range Practices Act.



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### For more information:

Market Outreach Network delivers facts about B.C.'s sustainable forest management on behalf of B.C.'s government, industry and communities.

Visit our Web site at [www.bcforestinformation.com](http://www.bcforestinformation.com) to learn more about B.C. forests and how the province has become a world leader in forest management.

Suite 1200  
1130 West Pender Street  
Vancouver BC  
Canada V6E 4A4  
Tel: (604) 685-7507  
Fax: (604) 685-5373  
E-mail: [info@bcmcon.ca](mailto:info@bcmcon.ca)

