



# BC *Forest* Facts

June 2004

[www.bcforestinformation.com](http://www.bcforestinformation.com)

## »»» **MANAGING FORESTS IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND**

The temperate rainforest of Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island brings together quality forest resources and high ecological values.

In the 1990s, British Columbia recognized the uniqueness of Clayoquot Sound by doubling the amount of protected land in the region, and introducing fundamental changes to forest management in response to 120 recommendations. The recommendations were provided by a scientific panel with international expertise in biodiversity, fisheries and wildlife, forest harvest planning and scenic resources, and First Nations experts who provided traditional ecological knowledge.

The special aspects of Clayoquot Sound were recognized in 2000 when the region was designated by the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an international biosphere reserve. The biosphere reserve identifies core areas for protection and other areas for sustainable resource use. Forestry activities in Clayoquot Sound are an excellent way to promote and demonstrate a balance between people and nature.

The harvest levels in Clayoquot Sound have also been dramatically reduced. The allowable annual cut has dropped from 900,000 cubic metres in 1992 to about 200,000 cubic metres today, which has minimal impact on the land base. For example, Interfor, one of the main companies licensed to operate in the region, harvests the equivalent of 120 hectares (less than 300 acres) a year, or less than 0.05 per cent of Clayoquot Sound's land base.

Independent audits and regular inspections are done routinely in the Clayoquot Sound area. In addition, a special audit done in 2001 by the independent Forest Practices Board confirmed Interfor's activities in Clayoquot Sound complied



in all significant respects, not only with the Forest Practices Code but also with the more stringent recommendations of the scientific panel.

### **FORESTRY IN CLAYOQUOT**

A number of operators are licensed to harvest in Clayoquot Sound. As recommended by the scientific panel, all of the harvesting of original forest and second-growth forest must be done using variable retention logging methods. This type of harvesting leads to a stand with greater natural diversity and improved visual esthetics because it leaves 15 to 80 per cent of the trees, individually or in groups.

The panel also recommended limiting the harvest in each watershed to an average of 1 per cent a year and leaving 40 per cent of the old-growth forest in each planning unit. Under the harvest guidelines, almost 50 to 60 per cent of old-growth forest in Clayoquot Sound will be reserved from harvest forever.

First Nations play a special role in planning through their involvement as a co-chair of the Central Regional Board, which reviews

*Companies*

*harvesting in*

*Clayoquot Sound*

*use variable*

*retention, a*

*harvesting method*

*that results in*

*greater natural*

*diversity and*

*improved visual*

*esthetics.*

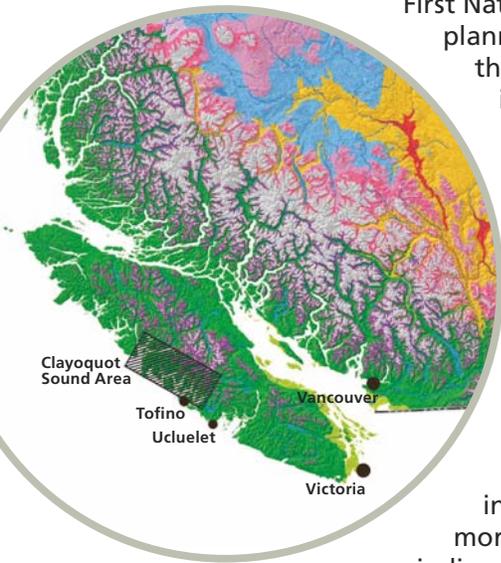


BC Market Outreach Network





resource plans. Interfor is working with First Nations and local communities for planning in the Clayoquot Sound area through a community cooperative initiative. For example, it has planned a recent harvest activity so it could build a road desired by the Hesquiaht First Nation to connect their isolated community of Hot Springs Cove with their traditional territory.



There is an economic cost to protecting an area's unique environmental and social values. The original harvest in Clayoquot Sound supported more than 3,700 jobs directly and indirectly where the current allowable annual cut, if fully harvested and processed, would support 840 jobs. Yet even with today's limited harvesting, Clayoquot Sound's productive forests continue to provide premium products and anchor the local economy.

hectares (216,500 acres) is fully protected. This includes some of the largest areas of protected old-growth rainforest on the west coast of North America, and 78 kilometres (48.5 miles) of outer coastline from Pacific Rim National Park north to the Hesquiaht Peninsula.

Clayoquot Sound includes 9 primary watersheds that are in pristine condition and contain most of the old-growth timber. The 1993 land use decision protected more than half of the total area of these watersheds. It also established special management zones in another one-third of the region, which allows some logging but places the emphasis on conservation of wildlife, recreation and scenic landscape values. Interfor has deferred plans to harvest in the 2 undeveloped valleys that are within its licence until the B.C. government and First Nations have completed watershed plans and agreed on future activity.



### CLAYOQUOT'S UNIQUE VALUES

Clayoquot Sound covers 260,000 hectares (642,245 acres) of land, almost a third of the size of Japan's largest island, Hokkaido. One-third of this land area, or 87,600



FSA - 036

*»»» In May 2004, Don McMillan, manager of Interfor's West Coast Operations, received national recognition for his commitment to stewardship and his respect for all forest values in Clayoquot Sound.*

*A registered professional forester who has worked in the region for 15 years, McMillan understands why people around the world regard Clayoquot Sound as special. He also knows it can support a stable forest-based economy. "Local communities understand the balance between the needs of the environment and the needs of the economy. The proof here is on the ground – both with our current practices and with the fact that we are seeing healthy second-growth forests that are now 50 to 60 years old." <<<*



### For more information:

The BC Market Outreach Network delivers facts about B.C.'s sustainable forest management on behalf of B.C.'s government, industry and communities. Visit our website 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 Pender Street West  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
Canada V6E 4A4  
Tel: (604) 685-7507  
Toll-free: 1-866-992-BCMON  
Fax: (604) 685-5373  
E-mail: [info@bcmon.ca](mailto:info@bcmon.ca)