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The Gift to the Earth award recipients, from left to right: Art Sterritt (Turning Point), Guujaaw (Haida Nation), Dallas Smith (Nanwakolas Council), British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell, Merran Smith (Forest Ethics), Bruce Cox (Greenpeace), Katherine Malloy (Sierra Club of Canada, B.C. Chapter), Reynold Hert (Western Forest Products representing the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative), James Leape (Director General of WWF International).

Companies Among Recipients of WWF Award

VANCOUVER – Participants who worked for more than a decade to reach land use planning agreements for British Columbia’s central and north coast planning regions have received The Gift to the Earth award, WWF International’s highest international accolade for conservation outcomes.

“By conserving the Great Bear Rainforest, home to the largest tracts of primary temperate rainforest on earth, British Columbia has demonstrated global leadership, while at the same time ensuring its local communities have a stake in the region’s future,” says James Leape, Director General of WWF International, who presented the award.

The award recognized member forest product companies of the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative, environmental groups, First Nations and the Government of British Columbia.

Reynold Hert, president and CEO of Western Forest Products, says it is an honour for the companies to be recognized by WWF. “What’s even more important is knowing we are making a difference on the ground, one that will bring new approaches to forest conservation and management, and greater certainty for companies and our customers. The process that led to the coast vision brought together divergent groups and opened an important dialogue that continues today.”

The Gift to the Earth is awarded to individuals, companies, institutions or governments who have demonstrated environmental leadership, and have made a globally significant contribution to the conservation of the natural world. A short video of the ceremony can be viewed at www.multimedia.gov.bc.ca/EN/province_receives_‘gift_to_the_earth’_award/

British Columbia’s Catalyst Paper Introduces Carbon Neutral Paper

VANCOUVER – Rolling Stone will become the first mass-marketed magazine to print on carbon-neutral paper produced by Catalyst Paper of Vancouver.

Catalyst Cooled paper has lighter basis weights that take less energy and raw materials to manufacture and transport, elemental chlorine-free production and the option of 100 per cent certified fibre. Its production adds no net carbon dioxide to the environment because Catalyst has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent over the 1990 Kyoto baseline year and offset the few remaining direct emissions through a carefully chosen ecosystem restoration project.

“Catalyst is among a handful of global companies that are recognized as early reducers of greenhouse gas emissions,” says Steve Howard, CEO, The Climate Group. “Initiatives like Rolling Stone Magazine and Catalyst Paper are taking a great step forward in helping to tackle climate change and connect with consumers in a commercially viable way.”

Rolling Stone prints on Catalyst’s Electracote™ lightweight coated paper, produced in Port Alberni, British Columbia. The June 28 issue of Rolling Stone, which will use the carbon neutral paper, will include a series of features devoted to the climate change crisis.

Focusing on Certification

Certification is increasingly becoming a strong tool that helps assure forest product customers around the world that the product they buy comes from legal and sustainable sources. As a result of the growing interest in certification, *The Balance* is introducing a new section featuring the latest news on certification from British Columbia and around the world.

Symposium Builds Networks

VANCOUVER – The chair of a recent international land use planning symposium says the event presented an invaluable opportunity to build international networks.

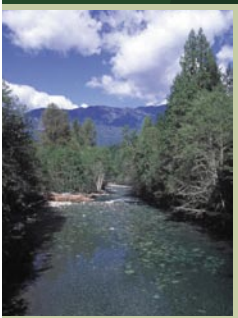
Jeff Sayer, a senior associate with the Worldwide Fund for Nature at its international headquarters in Switzerland, chaired a May symposium – Our Common Ground, Innovations in Land Use Decision-Making – that brought together for the first time some of the world’s top authorities on land use planning from 19 countries. Hosted by the University of British Columbia’s Faculty of Forestry, the event was organized in association with WWF-Canada and the BC Market Outreach Network.

Sayer says the discussions showed that balanced land use decisions in sensitive regions must involve an inclusive process centred on meeting the needs of local people. “Resource management issues cannot be resolved until we find a way to alleviate poverty and build opportunities for the people who live in these special places.”

WWF and the UBC Faculty of Forestry will produce a journal article that examines the findings from the symposium and recommends follow-up action, and will post it to their websites and to www.ourcommonground.ca/

Canfor Donates Land

HARRISON, B.C. – Canfor has donated 22 hectares (54 acres) of land to The Nature Trust of BC for a project aimed at protecting part of the Fraser



River east of Vancouver that has been described as one of the most productive stretches of river in the world.

Caribou Recovery a Complex Task

VICTORIA – As far as wildlife biologist Dr. Steve Wilson is concerned, the issues around mountain caribou are among the most complex he has ever encountered when working with endangered species.

Wilson, a member of the British Columbia government’s independent mountain caribou science team and principal of EcoLogic Research of Gabriola Island, says there are a number of challenging and overlapping factors related to managing for mountain caribou.



Photo: Garry Beaudry, Ministry of Forests and Range

First there’s the immense geographic area involved. The animals live in sub-populations and range over a vast area of British Columbia’s remote mountainous interior. Then there’s the fact that the region supports a variety of human activities – including commercial recreation, public recreation, forestry, urban development, agriculture, highways and railways, mining – and many other species.

But what he finds particularly challenging is the amount of uncertainty that is tough to resolve when dealing with so many issues over such a huge area. For example, in the 1990s the focus was on habitat loss. Then the population dropped to 1,900 from 2,500 in one five-year period, which was greater than the corresponding loss of habitat.

“It is not entirely clear why this happened,” says Wilson. “We are comfortable we have identified the many factors that can affect mountain caribou populations, but we are not sure how these factors interact. There are so many things that can happen, and they vary across the range.”

The mountain caribou science team has developed a series of options related to mountain caribou management, drawing on previous recovery work, research and land use planning processes.

“As a science team, we agreed we would stick to the technical side of the issue and not get involved with social choices,” says Wilson. “We provided a mix of management options we thought were feasible and would be required to recover caribou to different levels ranging from the status quo to self-sustaining populations. The social choice is deciding which option to apply where.”

As well as maintaining habitat, the science team concluded that the management options likely to result in mountain caribou recovery rely heavily on predator and prey population management, as well as restrictions on motorized winter recreation. They also agreed it would not be feasible to achieve a self-sustaining population throughout the entire range.

Government is currently developing a Mountain Caribou Action Plan based on the science team’s recommendations and input from public consultation earlier this year.

Mountain caribou, a unique population of woodland caribou found only in British Columbia, currently occupy about 60 per cent of their historic range. About two-thirds of current mountain caribou herd areas are either protected or managed for mountain caribou. A fact sheet is posted on the BC Market Outreach Network website at www.bcforestinformation.com/PDFs/FSA-039-E.pdf

certification news

Support for Certified Products Grows

LONDON/BERLIN – Support for forest products certified to the three standards used in British Columbia continues to grow around the world – with Germany and the 2012 Olympics organizers in London using this as assurance that timber is from sustainable sources.

This is good news for British Columbia where the June 2007 statistics show the province has increased its amount of certified land by 12 per cent. British Columbia now has 48 million hectares (almost 119 million acres) certified to one of three globally recognized programs – Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). CSA and SFI are endorsed by PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes).

In London, organizers of the 2012 Olympic Games published a Sustainable Development Strategy which, among other things, says they will seek to “maximize timber from sustainable sources, supported by appropriate evidence as defined by the UK Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) with all timber used from known, legal sources, with clear supply chain evidence”. Products certified to the CSA, FSC, PEFC and SFI all meet CPET’s highest designation of legality and sustainability.

In Germany, the federal government has said it will only buy wood products that come from legal and sustainable forest sources, and will accept PEFC and FSC certificates as proof of sustainable forest management. “The federal government wants to set a clear example against over-exploitation and illegal logging with its new public procurement regulation,” says Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel. “In order to contain the ongoing destruction and degradation of forests globally, sustainable forest management is indispensable.”

PEFC Expands to China

LUXEMBOURG – PEFC has opened an office in Beijing to build market awareness and acceptance of PEFC-certified forest products in Asian markets.

Benson Yu, director of the new China office, says Chinese companies that are importing and exporting paper or timber products will be told about the advantages and benefits of attaining PEFC certification.

Since it was launched in 1999, PEFC has become the largest forest certification organization in the world, having endorsed national certification standards responsible for more than 195 million hectares (477 million acres) of certified lands.

FPAC Meets Certification Target

MONTREAL – In January 2002, member companies of the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) agreed to certify all of their forestry operations by the end of 2006.

Earlier this year, FPAC announced it had achieved this goal, and that all forestlands under the 2002 commitment have been certified to one of three globally recognized sustainable forest management certification programs – CSA, FSC or SFI*

As a result, Canada now accounts for more than half of the certifications recognized by the global Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), and is home to almost one quarter of global FSC certifications.

**One FPAC member’s division underwent a third-party audit and expects its FSC certificate in June 2007. The land base represents approximately one per cent of FPAC’s committed land*



FINDING WOOD FROM SUSTAINABLE SOURCES JUST GOT A LOT EASIER.

JUST USE OUR CERTIFICATION SEARCH TOOL, www.bcforestinformation.com to find all the wood products you need to complete your next project. British Columbia is a world leader in voluntary, third-party sustainable forest management certification.

BC Market Outreach Network

Certification Ad Honoured

An advertisement produced by the BC Market Outreach Network to promote its certification search engine tool was recently honoured for creative excellence by the International Summit Creative Awards.

CSA to Invite Public Review

TORONTO – The Canadian Standards Association will circulate the third edition of its forest certification standard for public review this summer. Revisions in draft CSA Z809-07 – Sustainable Forest Management include the addition of about 30 mandatory core indicators for topics such as biological diversity, maintenance of forest ecosystems and their resilience, carbon uptake and storage, and forest land conversion. The draft standard is expected to be available in late July for a 60-day review period. For more information about the review, contact Kelly Deeton at kelly.deeton@csa.ca. To learn more about CSA’s sustainable forest management or chain-of-custody certification, visit <http://certifiedwood.csa.ca>

Companies Move Toward EBM

VANCOUVER – An evaluation of 32 harvest sites on British Columbia's Central Pacific Coast has found that forest companies are making most of the transitional changes on the ground as they move toward ecosystem-based management (EBM).

The Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI), a collaborative effort of five forest companies including government's BC Timber Sales, had asked Symmetree Consulting Group Ltd. to evaluate planning, harvesting and associated practices related to the early steps of implementing EBM. The results showed a high degree of success in applying voluntary guidelines accepted by CFCI members in 2004, including managing ecosystems at the landscape scale and recognizing and appropriately managing biological hotspots. The evaluation also found a need to improve some retention distribution and tracking procedures.

As a result of land use agreements for the Central and North Coast planning areas, also known as the Great Bear Rainforest, more than one third of the region is off limits to commercial forestry. Where logging is allowed, it will be guided by EBM, a balanced approach to managing resources, which recognizes that people are part of the ecosystems in which they live. A legal framework for EBM is expected in 2007, and it will be fully in place by 2009.

The Symmetree evaluation provides a baseline to monitor EBM implementation, including the effectiveness of guidance and training provided to forest managers and professionals.

Land Use Agreement Proposed for Haida Gwaii

VICTORIA – The Government of British Columbia and the Council of the Haida Nation have initialled a draft Strategic Land Use Agreement that moves Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands a step closer to resolution of long-standing land use and resource management issues.

Among other things, the draft agreement recommends protection for a significant amount of land for natural, cultural, spiritual and recreational values, while balancing environmental sustainability with the social and economic needs of island communities. If the agreement is ratified, more than half of the Islands will be set aside from resource development. It also calls for the analysis, testing and establishment of land use objectives implementing ecosystem-based management.

"Through this process we have maintained the values that have given us our culture, while at the same time setting the stage for a sustainable Island economy," says Guujaaw, president of the Council of the Haida Nation.

Provincial government and Haida representatives plan to host public open houses and consultations on the draft agreement before assembling final recommendations for ratification.

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For more information about British Columbia forest practices and products, visit our websites at www.bcforestinformation.com and www.bcforestproducts.com



briefs

Interfor Plans New Mill

VANCOUVER – Interfor will build a \$100-million sawmill to replace its existing Adams Lake facility in British Columbia's southern Interior. The new mill, which will be completed in late 2008, has been designed to match the current and future timber resource in the area and to address the challenges of sawing timber killed by the mountain pine beetle. It will have a state-of-the-art system that uses wood waste to provide energy for kilns, will incorporate proven technology and will materially improve the operating efficiency and cost structure of the Adams Lake mill. In 2006, Interfor invested \$30 million at Adams Lake in site improvements and a wood-fired energy system.



New thermal energy system at Interfor's Adams Lake sawmill.

Board Commends Triumph

VICTORIA – An independent Forest Practices Board audit found that Triumph Timber Ltd. activities near Prince Rupert in the North Coast planning area complied with all legislative requirements. The licensee is working toward implementing ecosystem-based management in the audit area through multiple assessments and enhanced consultation with First Nations in the area. "The licensee employed good environmental practices, such as using barges instead of dropping logs into the water from the helicopter," the board reported. "This reduces woody debris and minimizes the impact of logging on whales and other marine mammals."