

FALL 2000

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound

MURRELET HERO!

For three years now we have managed to prevent Interfor from logging Catface Mountain. We can see the “ears” of Catface from our office. This summer, however, it was a little bird whose powerful kinship with the forests made it a hero for Catface’s rainforest! A marbled murrelet’s nest was found by researchers in an old tree right between two of Interfor’s still unlogged cutblocks in Peneetl Creek. Words have wings and within days of the discovery the word was out on the street that this little threatened bird’s nest had been found. With a little sleuthing we confirmed the rumour.

(cont'd on page 2)



Maryjka Mychajlowycz

This old growth forest near marbled murrelet nest could be logged by Interfor anyday

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Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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("Murrelet Hero" cont'd from page 1)

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound have officially applied to the BC Ministry of Environment to designate the area an Identified Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) under the Forest Practices Code. The Identified Wildlife Habitat designation can provide some protection for habitat of species that are at risk. In the five years since the Forest Practices Code was legislated, only two small areas have been designated as WHA's in all of BC.

It is estimated that there are 6,000-8,000 murrelets in Clayoquot Sound. Marbled murrelet populations throughout the coastal temperate rainforest region (southern Alaska to

Canadian Wildlife Service



Marbled murrelet

northern California) have been in a dramatic decline paralleling the depletion of their old growth forest habitat. Because Clayoquot still has a lot of ancient forest it still has a lot of murrelets (simple math!). We will not know for some time yet whether our bid to protect the murrelet's nesting habitat on Catface as a Wildlife Habitat Area will be successful, but for the meantime Interfor has held off on logging the area. The establishment of a WHA could create a minimum 200 hectare off-limits-to-logging area around the nest. The current reprieve for the marbled murrelet has also been a reprieve for us, and has allowed us to focus on campaigns to affect broader forestry issues.

Valerie Langer



They Poison our water!

Destroy our habitats!

Threaten our populations!

What do they want!

Farmed and Dangerous

Human Health Risks Associated with Farmed Salmon

FOCS has released *Farmed and Dangerous: Human Health Risks Associated with Farmed Salmon*, written by Dr. Sergio Paone. This report follows *Industrial Disease*, also by Dr. Paone which discussed the threats to wild salmon from disease transfer from salmon farms

Farmed and Dangerous highlights the drawbacks of heavy antibiotic use in the industry. I looks at the administering of drugs and chemicals on the salmon farm and their path to your plate Also, the report shows that farmed salmon are less nutritious in terms of fat content. The repor includes a set of clear recommendations that aim to reduce or eliminate the health risks to human posed by salmon farming

If you are interested in obtaining these reports, please contact us or visit our website a

www.ancientrainforest.or

Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

Biosphere Reserves are a designation by UNESCO acknowledging globally significant ecological traits in a region and the commitment by communities in that region to work towards the twin goal of conservation and sustainable development. Clayoquot Sound was named a Biosphere Reserve earlier this year. We liken the designation to being knighted by the queen! There is an expectation by the populace that you will be a person of exemplary comportment, but there's nothing legal holding you to it (and by the way, just 'cause you're a knight doesn't mean you get a horse!).

When the federal government anted up the sum of \$12 million for the establishment of a Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, the communities were given some seed money to work towards the horse (so to speak).

Interest from the Biosphere Trust endowment is to be allocated by a Board of Directors towards research, education and training endeavours that advance the goals of conservation and sustainable development in the Biosphere Reserve. Not many Biosphere

Reserves in the world have any money associated with them to help them work towards their goals. So, the Trust can be seen as a good thing, as long as the money is well spent. Research, education and training are all very broad terms, almost as broad as terms like "conservation" and "sustainable development"!

There are a couple of baseline research projects that would aid our communities in working towards conservation and sustainable development. First would be an investigation of the "ecological footprint" of each of the major industries in the region (tourism, salmon farming, shellfish aquaculture, logging, commercial fishing). This would give us a better sense of our economies' impact on the Biosphere. Second would be an economic "gap analysis" focused on potential "green" businesses or institutions that could thrive in the Biosphere region. This would help Clayoquot communities in planning transition strategies to a green economy.

Valerie Langer

INTERFOR ON BIOSPHERE TRUST!

Ucluelet town council has appointed Interfor's West Coast Operations Manager as its representative on the first Board of Directors of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. It's hard to imagine a greater mismatch, as Interfor's logging operations in the Sound and in coastal BC are totally incompatible with conservation and sustainable development, the main goals of a Biosphere Reserve. The Trust will fund research, education and training to promote the Biosphere's goals. How much trust can we have in the Trust when an Interfor manager is one of its directors? There are also three managers/directors of other logging companies on the new Board. Talk about losing credibility and starting off on the wrong foot!



Thanks to the Newsletter Team!

Writers: Fiona Creina, Valerie Langer, Edward May, Maryjka Mychajlowycz, Sergio Paone, Jill Thompson, Lee-Ann Unger

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Original Artwork on page 8: Edward May
(We desperately need artists!!!)

CLAYOQUOT CONTEXT

An Update on Vancouver Island Forest Issues

by Jill Thompson, Sierra Club of BC

What's up in Vancouver Island's forests this fall? Salmon are searching for spawning habitat. Bears are trying to fatten up for the winter. Timberwest is spreading its Vision around Shawnigan Lake (Vision is a herbicide!) and government is preparing to lower the bar for biodiversity protection on about 1/4 of the Island. Let's focus on this last point.

Government is now winding up 8 years of land use negotiations on Vancouver Island in the form of a Higher Level Plan (HLP). The HLP allocates 24% of the Island to "Enhanced Management" zones and 6.4% to "Special Management".

Don't be fooled by the wording! "Enhanced", believe it or not, means more monoculture plantations, bigger clearcuts and more hydrological impacts than are allowed under the Forest Practices Code. "Special" is a little better than the Code, restricting clearcut size to 5 hectares and generally restricting the amount of each Special Management Zone that can be comprised of young plantations at any time. However, the small networks of Special Management Zones were intended to be places where non-timber values such as fish and wildlife habitat or recreation qualities were given priority over timber production. This has been entirely lost in the HLP. The rest of the Island remains either "General Forestry" zones, where normal Forest Practices Code rules apply, or private land, where there are almost no environmental safeguards.

This is what was proposed in the draft HLP, released on February 10, 2000 and it's left many of us wondering just how "high" you have to be to think this is a good plan. It is a plan that prepares for more overcut, rather than a sustainable future. It does nothing to protect or restore our struggling fish populations and

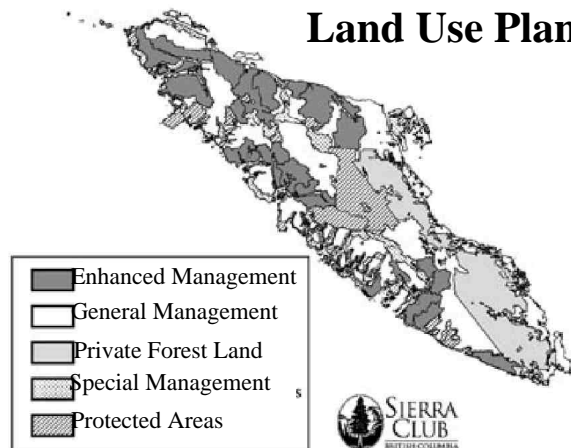
nothing to protect most endangered species habitat. It promises further degradation to tourism and recreation values, and even to future timber quality. Furthermore, it will grant guarantees to timber companies that they can practice intensified logging within First Nations territories without considering how this affects Treaty negotiations or compensation.

You can view the draft HLP on the Ministry of Forests webpage (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/news/vilup/vilupdraft.pdf>) or call them at 250-751-7001 for a copy. We urge you to call Environment Minister Joan Sawicki (free via 1-800-663-7867) and tell her not to sign any Vancouver Island Higher Level Plan that lowers forestry standards on our highly impacted island. Demand that she strike "Enhanced" Forestry Zones from the agenda.

CAN THIS PLAN!

Jill Thompson is currently the Vancouver Island Forests Coordinator for the Sierra Club of BC

Vancouver Island Land Use Plan



The Statistics of BC's Economy

PUTTING FORESTRY IN ITS PLACE

The forest industry often states that forestry is the driving engine of the BC economy. While this may have been true in the past, what about now? As we enter the new millennium, is BC still a resource extraction economy based upon the export of raw materials? This article will look at some BC economy statistics* to determine not only the forest industry's current contribution to the BC economy, but how "bright star" sectors such as tourism, high technology and the film industry currently benefit BC's economy.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of value added; that is, the price a product sells at, minus the total cost of its production. In 1997, forestry accounted for 5.9% of BC's GDP, ranking 6th of all sectors.

Direct employment is another way of measuring a sector's contribution to the BC economy. The question of jobs and what sectors provide them often arises in the logging debate. Upon examination, forestry doesn't even rank in the top five employers – it ranks ninth! This translates to 5.7% of paid jobs in this province,

down from 6% in 1990. By contrast, employment provided by tourism held steady at 7.8% between 1990-1998.

Let's look at some of today's bright stars.

- ★ High tech is the fastest growing sector in the entire economy. In fact, high tech GDP growth has led since 1985. Given its current rate of growth, and the rate at which employment in forestry is decreasing, the high tech sector will soon eclipse forestry.
- ★ BC is now the third largest center in the world for film and TV production. In 1999, this industry generated \$1 billion and provided 35,000 people with direct employment, accounting for 2.4% of the labour force.
- ★ Generally there are two types of businesses, those that produce goods and those that provide services. According to government statistics, the service sector has been steadily growing, and is now the primary growth engine in the BC economy.
- ★ The nature of the manufacturing sector has also been changing. From 1984 to 1997, all resource industries (agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, and related manufacturing activities) collectively went from supplying 17% of BC's GDP to 13%. Similarly, all resource industries collectively dropped from providing 16% of BC's jobs to 11%. Decline in the resource sector has been accompanied by growth in businesses that are not directly based on processing natural resources and that supply 11.6% of BC's work force. The GDP for non-resource manufacturing has grown faster than the resource industries, so that by 1997 the two were tied at 13%.

Statistics prompted the BC government to conclude in its November 1998 *Business Indicators* newsletter that industries which extract and process natural resources no longer dominate BC's economy. The BC economy is healthily diversifying, and job opportunities are changing. This reality is a far cry from the gloomy predictions of the timber giants who prophesied rampant unemployment and economic mayhem if not allowed to cut the last of the old-growth forests.

Fiona Creina

*source: BC Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

CLAYOQUOT DEFENDERS ON TRIAL AGAIN

Trials for Heather Cain, Joanne Hooyberg and James Whitehead took place September 25-28, 2000 at the Nanaimo Supreme Court*. These Clayoquot Sound defenders were arrested for trying to protect the ancient forest around Lost Shoe Creek, on the border of Pacific Rim National Park, one of the six most endangered federal parks in Canada. We admire their courageous efforts and are inspired by their dedication.

**Results of trials were not known at time of printing*

Iisaak's Year 2000 Logging

- 4 areas (blocks) on outer face of Catface Mountain, west of Cypre River mouth
- volume is about 10,000 cubic metres (300 loaded logging trucks)
- total area of the 4 blocks is 100 hectares (one square kilometre)
- of that, about 11 hectares will be logged in 53 "patch" cuts, ranging in size from .1 hectare (50 x 20 m) to one hectare (100 x 100 m)
- Ministry of Forests definition of a clearcut is one hectare, so largest patch cuts are flirting with that designation
- there will also be selective cutting of small groups of trees and single trees, amounting to an additional 10 hectares
- on average, close to 80% of the trees in the blocks will be left standing
- no new roads; logs will be lifted out by helicopter and dropped onto nearby existing roads



Maryjka Mychajlowycz

One of Iisaak's larger patch cuts, August, 2000

Iisaak Forest

Iisaak Begins Logging

A new company, Iisaak Forest Resources, began cutting in Clayoquot Sound late this summer. Iisaak is the company that has replaced MacMillan Bloedel here. It was formed in November 1998 as a joint venture between MacBlo and local Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations; it is now 49% owned by Weyerhaeuser, which bought out MacBlo in 1999.

Felling of the first trees on August 22nd was made into a ceremonial and national media event. Ahousaht First Nation elders performed a short prayer ceremony, then three trees were felled. Friends of Clayoquot Sound were invited, but declined to attend, as we do not celebrate the cutting of old growth – the crashing of ancient trees is a heart-breaking sound to us.

Nevertheless, we recognize that Iisaak's operation has the potential of becoming a low-volume, high-value, conservation-based model that can be used to replace the destructive juggernaut of large-scale commodity forestry in BC (see articles on facing page regarding commitments Iisaak has made). For this reason the Friends are not opposing Iisaak at this time; instead, we are monitoring its operations.

A description of Iisaak's logging for this year is found in the panel to the left.

Iisaak's cutting is by far the most ecologically and visually sensitive of any industrial logging done to date in Clayoquot Sound. However, its obvious drawback is that it is taking place in rare and

precious ancient forest. Also, the logging is further fragmenting remnant islands of old growth in the severely overcut Cypre/Catface area.

Iisaak's Catface cuts can be summarized as an ambivalent mix of good logging in a bad context (old growth). We will continue to watchdog Iisaak and to press for adherence to its commitments to low volume and transition into second growth logging.

Maryjka Mychajlowycz

st Resources

Iisaak and Interfor: Not in the Same League

Iisaak and Interfor are the two companies now logging in the Sound. What are the main differences between the two and why are they treated differently by many environmental groups? Four key factors to consider when judging whether a logging operation is sustainable are the rate of logging, where to log, how to log, and what to log.

Iisaak has a total operating area in Clayoquot of 87,000 hectares and their 2000 logging plan calls for a cut of 10,000 cubic metres of wood. Interfor, with 49,000 hectares under their control in Clayoquot, plans to cut 67,000 cubic metres in 2000. This puts Interfor's rate of cut at 12 times that of Iisaak's in the Sound. Interfor is also a large corporation with operations throughout coastal BC and a total annual cut of 3.6 million cubic metres, whereas Iisaak is a company operating only in Clayoquot Sound.

Unlike Interfor, Iisaak has promised not to log in the pristine valleys within their area. Given the rarity and biological importance of intact (pristine) ancient valleys, this is an important step forward in balancing sustainable resource use with conservation.

As for how the logging will be done, Iisaak's on-the-ground operations call for higher levels of forest retention than Interfor's. Iisaak plans on building few new roads for their logging (none for this first year), while Interfor continues to put many new roads into each area cut. Retention and roads are important when considering how intact the forest remains after logging. There will be less fragmentation with Iisaak's method of cutting compared to Interfor's.

Both companies are logging old growth. However, Iisaak has committed to work with environmental groups to work out a timeline for a transition to second growth logging. Interfor's position is to log in any old growth areas allowed by government, which is any area not inside a park or reserve.

So while there are still issues, like the logging of old growth, to be worked out with Iisaak (negotiations with environmental groups continue), they have taken many of the important steps needed to develop more sustainable forestry. On the whole, Iisaak's logging is in a different league from Interfor's.



Sergio Paone

Iisaak and Environmentalists Meet

Early in September, the environmental groups which have been working to protect Clayoquot Sound's ancient forests - FOCS, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club of BC, Western Canada Wilderness Committee (Greenpeace was absent) - met with the board of Iisaak Forest Resources, the joint venture between the native tribes of Clayoquot and Weyerhaeuser. The purpose of the meeting was to work out how the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed last year, would be implemented. FOCS did not sign the MOU but has the role of monitoring implementation.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing how to bring highest price value for the wood logged in order that Iisaak can continue to log low volumes (this year they will log 10,000 cubic metres rather than the 110,000 cubic metres they are legally allowed). We addressed how important it is for us that Iisaak log small amounts for high value during the time it takes for them to implement their commitment to phase in sustainable logging in second growth forests.

HANDS OFF!

The Approach of Fisheries Staff in Enforcing Fish Farm Regulations

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has not been responsibly stewarding our wild fisheries and oceans on Canada's western coast. This is evident by DFO's clear intentions to disregard the interests of ocean ecology and wild fishermen as fish farms violate regulations without penalty.

When a sea lion carcass was recently found washed ashore in Clayoquot Sound after it had been killed and illegally disposed of underwater, the local fisheries officer said that there was nothing he could really do. Although permits to kill sea lions and seals are routinely issued to fish farmers by the federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister, they come with regulations. Attempting to hide evidence underneath the ocean surface is a clear violation which the Department should enforce.

Fisheries and Oceans also seems to have a policy against penalizing fish farmers, as thousands

of farmed Atlantic salmon regularly escape and inhabit Pacific salmon spawning grounds. Wild Pacific salmon fishermen are outraged and their livelihood is threatened, yet DFO refused to even attempt to retrieve any of the exotic salmon in the last escape in BC waters. To add salt to the wound, no reprimand was issued to Stolt Sea Farm, the company responsible for the escape. Again, DFO has shown its negligence in stewarding our ocean ecology and protecting fisheries on the west coast.

The fish farming industry in British Columbia is clearly threatening the integrity and health of our national waters and fisheries. Besides these recent violations, BC salmon farms also dump sewage equivalent to a city the size of Vancouver and introduce chemicals into the ocean through the use of toxic net cleaners, pesticides and antibiotics. If there's any industry in our ocean that needs to be monitored and regulated this is it. Instead of our federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans protecting our fisheries and oceans, they recently funneled 75 million dollars into further development of fish farming.

DFO's funding towards the growth of an industry they should also be regulating shows a gross conflict of interest. Having salmon aquaculture under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is like having forestry under the Ministry of Environment. It is impossible to stimulate an ecologically destructive industry and protect the ecology at the same time. Salmon farming's relation to fisheries exists as a threat only, and salmon farming's relation to the ocean is as a polluter. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans should be protecting our wild fisheries and oceans instead of allowing and investing in their demise.

Attention Clayoquot-Loving Artists

Friends of Clayoquot Sound are looking for a new t-shirt design.

If you think you have a design that may work, please send it to us.

The chosen design will be featured in our newsletter and the artist will receive one of the new organic cotton t-shirts printed with the new design. Other designs may be printed periodically in our newsletter.

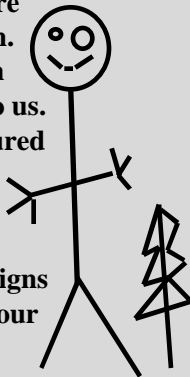


Illustration by Edward May

Edward May

DO YOU HAVE A SPARE BOAT MOTOR?

Friends of Clayoquot Sound's Forest Watch boat needs a new motor. Our boat is used to keep watch on logging in the Sound and for actions. Currently the boat is operating with a 20 hp motor, but it is on its last leg. If you have a 20-30 hp motor and would be willing to donate it to the Friends please give us a call @ (250) 725-4218.

Marbled Murrelets and Fragmentation of Coastal Temperate Rainforest*

The inlets, islands and fjords of the Pacific Northwest give rise to a long coastline where interaction between sea and forest is strong. In this zone one finds the marbled murrelet, a small seabird that feeds at sea but nests in the coastal temperate rainforest, from California to the Bering Sea. For breeding, this secretive bird relies on the use of thick moss-covered branches that are found high up on large old-growth trees. It wasn't until 1974, after a century of looking, that ornithologists finally discovered the first marbled murrelet nest, and to date few more than 134 nests have been identified in the Pacific Northwest.

Beginning as early as 70 years ago, biologists began noticing a trend of declining populations for marbled murrelets. Observations in 1946 showed a decrease in numbers on the east coast of Vancouver Island, which was attributed to the removal of old-growth forests. Surveys conducted in Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds between 1979 and 1993 estimated that populations of the bird declined by between 20% and 60% during that time period. In 1995 it was estimated that the rate of decline for marbled murrelets throughout their range was 4-6% per year. Current estimates put the population at 45,000 - 50,000 in BC. Federally, both the USA and Canada list the marbled murrelet as threatened while, more locally, it is listed as endangered in California and threatened in BC.

Loss of old-growth forests is a key reason for the decline in the marbled murrelet population. But the impact of logging the bird's habitat is one of many factors contributing to the bird's mortality rate. These include oil spills, gill nets, and chemical pollution from pulp mills. The 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill alone killed 8,400 marbled murrelets. In 1980 it was estimated that gill-net fishing in Barkley Sound killed between 175-250 of them annually, which represented 6.2% of the breeding population of that time.

While factors such as gill nets and oil spills

are important to consider, the nature of their impact differs from logging in that they do not result in loss of habitat for marbled murrelets. Logging of old growth not only reduces the number of these birds, it eliminates habitat which is vital for any population recovery to occur. Marbled murrelets only lay one egg per year, so if populations are to recover they need all the nesting habitat they can get. Once the habitat is reduced and fragmented, the impact from events that result in loss of individual birds increases.

The thick moss-covered branches of old-growth trees can take centuries to regrow after logging. Not only is this a long recovery time, but also consider that the forest industry in BC operates on an 80 to at most 100-year cutting cycle. The plan is to replace most of the old-growth forests outside of parks with second-growth forests that will never be allowed to mature beyond 80 to 100 years.

But the loss of nesting habitat is only one way in which the logging of old growth impacts the marbled murrelet. The other way is the increase in the amount of forest edge that results from fragmentation of the forest due to logging, and especially road building. More edge in a forest not only makes the nest more conspicuous to predators, but also increases the density of nest predators such as gray jays, great-horned owls, eagles, and other birds of prey. It has been found that predators are the main reason for nest failure for marbled murrelets, as these defenseless birds rely on a closed canopy for cover.

Given the current rate of old-growth logging in BC and the resulting forest fragmentation, the marbled murrelet is in danger of extinction. This also makes the marbled murrelet an indicator for the overall health of the coastal Pacific Northwest environment.

Sergio Paone

* A lot of the information for this article was obtained from a thesis by Volker Bahn on marbled murrelets in the Ursus Valley of Clayoquot Sound.



Marbled murrelet profile

CATFACE: Keep it Standing!

Within Clayoquot Sound Biosphere's scenic landscape is Catface Mountain, located within view of the town of Tofino. Catface is covered by magnificent ancient forest and is home to many old growth dependent species. Although portions of Catface have been logged, parts of the mountain are still well intact. The struggle continues in efforts to protect Catface Mountain from Interfor's industrial-scale logging. Currently, Interfor has nine cutblocks approved on Catface, comprising a total of 83,000 cubic meters, enough to fill 2,500 logging trucks. Road building began in the fall of 1997 and almost 1.5 kms of road were completed. Interfor resumed road building in September 1998, when they were met by blockades. Blockades continued until late



"Our fulfilment is not in our isolated human grandeur, but in our intimacy with the larger earth community, for this is also the larger dimension of our being. Our human destiny is integral with the destiny of the earth."

-Thomas Berry,
American Author

October and as a result logging on Catface was held off for another year. In hopes of continuing to protect Catface Mountain, FOCS set up a witness camp in the summer of 1999. Unwilling to face another year of protests, Interfor continued to delay logging. In early summer of 2000 researchers from Simon Fraser University headed to Catface to research the marbled murrelet (a threatened bird species). A nest was found within one of the areas Interfor is scheduled to log. Once this was publicized and public concern began to grow, Interfor again delayed operations but is expected to resume road building and logging at anytime.

Interfor is also planning to continue logging on the border of Pacific Rim National Park.

The struggle within the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve continues. FOCS will continue all efforts to protect the Sound, the fight's not over yet!

Lee-Ann Unger

Sold Down the River

Interfor insists on logging around the boundary of Pacific Rim National Park. They resumed in May. This brought them unfavourable press, sharp criticism from across the country and a blockade. Hundreds of people who understand that habitat does not end at the park border wrote letters to the minister responsible for federal parks, Hon. Sheila Copps, to try to stop logging on the park boundary.

In August Interfor announced that it was giving the town of Ucluelet's Economic Development Corporation some of its forest to log near the boundary of Pacific Rim Park. Interfor retains first rights to buy the wood logged and Ucluelet gets to cut it down. The obvious question is "Why would a company make a business decision to buy back wood it already owns?" The answer is very clear: Interfor gets the wood at ridiculously low commodity prices and Ucluelet takes the heat from all of us for logging on the border of a National Park. For Interfor, the price of the wood is a public relations strategy expense which will pit community against community. Ucluelet's Community Forest experiment will be used as a shield by Interfor to buffer the corporation from public criticism as the trees are felled on the boundary of Pacific Rim National Park.

Valerie Langer

INJUSTICE

Two non-violent Elaho forest defenders have just been sentenced to one year in jail with no time off for good behaviour. Betty Krawczyk, a 72-year old grandmother, and Barney Kern, a computer consultant, are now in jail serving a term longer than that of many rapists and armed robbers. Please protest against these outrageous sentences.

Contact Attorney General of BC, Andrew Petter. Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 tel:(250) 387-1866 (or toll free in BC via 1-800-663-7867) fax: (250) 387-6411

Pristine Wilderness Profile: Sydney Valley, Clayoquot Sound

Many years ago, a Clayoquot fisheries officer told me that the most aggressive black bears he had ever encountered while doing salmon counts were in the Sydney Valley in northern Clayoquot Sound. A few years later a bunch of us jumped off the bow of a boat onto the estuary grasses at the mouth of the Sydney River. We had barely walked 50 metres when a mammoth black bear emerged from the forest on the opposite side of the riverbank. We stopped, silently assessing escape routes, while the bear looked at us calmly.

Friends of mine had gone up the Sydney Valley and recounted finding trails where generations of bears had stepped into each others' paw prints, wearing deep, perfectly shaped impressions in the forest floor. These impressions would continue for a few metres and then the trail would again become a regularly worn path. Why bears step into these prints so exactly, we do not know. Nor do we know why the bears of the Sydney are aggressive.

Myriad elements distinguish the Sydney Valley from others – a thousand mysteries that have developed in the ten thousand years since the glaciers melted back to reveal the valley. Its water, for example, has a unique scent that draws its salmon back to it each year.

The Sydney has become increasingly special over the last fifteen years as one of the few remaining large pristine valleys on Vancouver Island. Its 8,000 hectares stretch into the northern-most part of Clayoquot Sound. The river empties into a long fjord with steeply sloped mountains rising dramatically from its sides. The impossibly steep sides of the fjord



Adrian Dorst

The pristine Sydney Valley

were protected in 1993. The river valley, with its tremendous Sitka spruce and giant cedars, is not protected.

Interfor (International Forest Products) intends to log the Sydney Valley, a place that has never experienced industrial activity. Iisaak, the other logging company with a Tree Farm License in the valley, has agreed not to log there. Our estimate is that Interfor will want to begin logging in the Sydney in 3-4 years. We will not wait until the machines have reached the estuary. There is a sweet smell in the waters that indicates home to its salmon and millennia of genetic diversity for which Interfor's chainsaws have no respect. As one of the 10 remaining pristine valleys over 5,000 hectares in size on Vancouver Island, the Sydney is a treasure to be held in trust, free from industrial activities.

Valerie Langer

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

7:00 pm on Thursday, October 26th at the Wickaninnish School in Tofino.

***Note - We are creating 3 new portfolios for Regional Directors in Victoria, Vancouver and Central Vancouver Island. Interested? - Please contact us anytime!**

Friends Of Clayoquot Sound
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Return Requested

Address Correction Requested



SUPPORT THE WILD!

We are a grassroots group advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests and marine ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound, and all of Vancouver Island. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate, and inspire people to action. Please keep writing those letters to politicians, sending donations, and joining us to take a stand for the environment.

Please contribute generously to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Box 489, Tofino, British Columbia, Canada, V0R 2Z0

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation: _____

Memberships: Individual, \$20; Family, \$35; Sustaining, \$200.

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PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT NOW AVAILABLE!!

Pre-authorized debit allows you to donate the same amount of money every week, or month, or 2 months, etc., directly from your bank account. For example, a painless \$10 per month results in an annual donation of \$120.

To make regular donations using Pre-Authorized Chequing, please fill in this section.

I (we) hereby authorize The Friends of Clayoquot Sound to draw on my (our) chequing account a debit in electronic form in the amount of \$ _____ every _____ weeks/months/year, beginning _____.

Signature of Account Holder Date Signature of Account Holder Date

Please include a sample cheque marked VOID for banking information purposes.