



MEMBERS 1998 REPORT

WILDERNESS COMMITTEE, 20 WATER ST., VANCOUVER, BC CANADA V6B 1A4

Canadians want nature preserved for future generations, but politicians are not listening...

It's time to change!

Public opinion polls across Canada reveal that the majority of Canadians want their elected leaders to take immediate action to halt the destruction of nature. But the politicians continue to ignore these heartfelt wishes. Why?

In Alberta, provincial and federal politicians have recently given the go ahead to a huge new open-pit coal mining operation right next to Jasper National Park. This is in spite of sure knowledge that the proposed development will destroy prime wildlife habitat which is needed for grizzly bears to survive in the park. People shake their heads in disbelief and wonder why, in a province where global warming has sparked unprecedented burning of forests and farmlands in *wintertime*, would any public leader sanction yet more air-pollution-spewing coal production?

In British Columbia, where every citizen is watching the wild salmon stocks decline with apprehension and dread, why does the B.C. government still allow clearcut logging right to the banks of headwater streams?

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in B.C., employing more people than the timber industry, so why do B.C.'s leaders still maintain that only 12 percent of the province will be protected as parkland and the rest opened to ecosystem-destroying heavy industrial development?

Why is the sport hunting of grizzly bears and the destruction of grizzly habitat still permitted when B.C.'s grizzly population is now only half of what it once was?



**Future generations will wonder...
what was going on in the minds of
government leaders at the end of
the 20th century when they let
loggers clearcut in the Stoltmann
Wilderness and cut down this tree,
one of Earth's last remaining
thousand-year-old Douglas firs?**

Why is the cutting of thousand-year-old trees still allowed for two-by-fours and pulp production? Incredibly, this past year B.C.'s timber companies have actually lost money while cutting some of the finest and rarest ancient forest left on Earth. The B.C. government has even gone so far as to provide a multi-million dollar bailout of a bankrupt, heavily polluting pulp mill.

None of these decisions make financial or ecological sense, so why do Canada's politicians continue on their kamikaze-flight to disaster?

Perhaps the answer is that the old resource industries and their unions have deep, long-standing connections and relationships with Canada's political parties. Perhaps our elected leaders are so insulated in their air-conditioned towers-of-power that they've lost touch with the world outside.

Old habits die hard, but this political stagnation can be broken and indeed has been broken in some Canadian communities by organized citizen activism.

Canada is undergoing an ecological awakening akin to the social tidal waves that brought down the Berlin Wall, the Soviet Union and South African apartheid. It's time our leaders caught up to the rest of us.

Read on to learn about the work of Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation organization. Find out how you can join and fight to preserve 40 percent of Canada as a perpetual wilderness heritage.

BEAR REFERENDUM INITIATIVE A CANADIAN FIRST

The WCWC-sponsored Initiative 195001—an Act to Ban Bear Hunting in B.C.—ended on Dec. 9, 1996. Two wheelbarrows delivered 80,000 signatures on official petition forms, collected by over 1,700 volunteer canvassers, to the Elections B.C. office in Victoria.

Because there were less than the required 10 percent of registered voters' signatures from each and every one of the 75 electoral districts, sport hunters said that this petition effort proved that the majority of B.C. voters supported the killing of grizzly and black bears for recreational fun in B.C. But it was the bureaucratic rules that defeated this effort, not an uncaring public. Polls still show that British Columbians overwhelmingly want to end the sport killing of bears. No one since has tried to launch another Initiative, undoubtedly because we helped prove that the barriers are too high.

In March of 1997, three months after the Initiative ended, Proponent Paul George and BETR campaigner Anthony Marr finally got a meeting with B.C. Environment Minister Cathy McGregor. McGregor would not commit to move beyond her government's existing programs to protect bears. She would not consider ending the cruel and biologically unsound spring bear hunts which have been outlawed in almost all jurisdictions in the U.S. Nor would she end the hunting of bears with dogs which has just been outlawed in Washington



Volunteers take 80,000 signed ban bear hunting initiative petitions to the Legislature on December 9, 1996 in a valiant attempt to protect B.C.'s bears.

State because of a successful initiative there.

She would not even increase the penalties for poaching and trafficking in bear parts, something which the opponents of the initiative even supported!

All of the six MLAs in whose riding the needed 10 percent signatures were obtained, including Leader of the Opposition Gordon Campbell, were asked to sponsor a similar private members bill to curtail bear hunting and increase poaching penalties. All declined to do so.

In September of 1997 WCWC asked the B.C. Environment Ministry to check out the "Grizzly Grove" in the Stoltmann Wilderness, an area with many bear trails and possible denning trees, because some of the trees were imminently scheduled for logging. Two months later, the Environment Ministry still had not acted, the trees were cut and WCWC called for Minister Cathy McGregor's resignation. "What kind of Environment Minister makes no effort to protect our wildlife—especially grizzly bears?" we asked.

WCWC is committed to educate and urge more and more citizens to pressure our politicians to stop killing bears for fun and profit and adequately protect necessary bear habitat. Let's pray it is not too late.



Fin Donnelly, founder of the Swim for Life Rivershed Society, poses with Paul George, founder of Western Canada Wilderness Committee, on B.C. Rivers Day, September 28, 1997. Fin had just completed a 30 kilometre marathon swim down the polluted Fraser River into False Creek. He made this swim to highlight the need to clean up the Fraser River estuary and protect this, the world's biggest salmon river, from pollution and degradation. Paul was a paddler on one of Fin's escort canoes. Just one month prior, WCWC had launched a new campaign to protect B.C.'s wild salmon. Working together with several other groups, WCWC vigorously protested the Juan de Fuca Interception fishery openings because of the bycatch of endangered Fraser River coho stocks. These stocks are on the verge of extinction. Our concerted cooperative conservation effort led to the curtailment of these openings.



At a 1997 community meeting, Siska Indian Band members voted unanimously to preserve their 6,000 hectare Siska Watershed from logging. This watershed is in the J.S. Jones Timber Company's logging chart area and the company is actively planning to log this year. Siska is located in the Fraser Canyon, south of Lytton. WCWC assisted the Siska Band in publishing the Siska Declaration (above) and is co-publishing an educational newspaper with the Siska Band this spring.



WCWC Staff

From left to right: Joe Foy, Campaign Director; Andrea Reimer, Membership Director; Chris Player, GIS Consultant; Tanya Hedch, Office Assistant; Paul George, Founder and Publications Director; Mona Lisa Amirsetia, Data Entry; Alice Eaton, Director and Volunteer; Adriane Carr, Fundraising and Campaign Director; Brian Connor, Comptroller; Sue Fox, Publications and Communications; John Murray, Canvass Director; Tim Murphy, Tiger Walk Coordinator; Kerry Dawson, Volunteer Coordinator and Stoltmann Campaigner; Debra Drouin, Data Entry; Anthony Marr, BETR Campaigner. Not available for photo: Selena Blais, Store Manager; Helen Evans, Store Staff; Li Ping Mok, Ecotourism Expert; and Andy Miller, Spotted Owl Expert.

Credits

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WCWC is a non-profit charitable society dedicated to winning wilderness preservation through research and grassroots public education. Writing: Joe Foy, Paul George, Anthony Marr, WCWC Branch & Chapter representatives and other WCWC staff. Editing: Adriane Carr. Design/Layout: Sue Fox. Production Assistance: Andrea Reimer. Photos: Kerry Dawson, Joe Foy, Doug Radley, Greg McInyre, Anthony Marr, Hobe Kelly, Doug Carter, Ivan Hunter, Scott Turner, Garth Lenz, Eric Schindler, Ralf Kellman, John Yates and others. Thanks to all for generously donating their images!

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WCWC's 1997/98 Board of Directors

- Kevin Bell* (Chair) - naturalist
- Robert Broughton - systems analyst (Membership Secretary)
- Adriane Carr - geographer (Executive Team appointment)
- Alice Eaton - retired social worker (Secretary-Treasurer)
- Tony Eberts - retired journalist (Appointed December 3, 1997)
- Paul George - biologist (Executive Team appointment)
- Mike Gildersleeve - social worker
- Ian Mackenzie* - photographer and author
- Annette Tanner* - teacher

The number of Board members is fixed in WCWC bylaws at ten, with two of these appointed from WCWC's four-member Executive Team by Team consensus. The eight other Board members are elected at WCWC's Annual General Meetings (AGMs). Four are elected each year for overlapping two-year terms. Directors listed with a "*" were elected at WCWC's 1997 AGM. There is currently a vacancy on the Board. The Directors are in the process of selecting a candidate for appointment until the election at the 1998 AGM.

Clayoquot Sound: Biosphere Reserve Designation Could Solve Conflict

Clayoquot Sound is famous world-wide as a place where people have rallied to resist the clearcutting of Earth's rare, beautiful and precious temperate rainforests. The fight to protect the 262,000 hectare Clayoquot Sound has been a long journey of intense personal sacrifice and commitment for many people. They've put their hearts, dollars and even their freedom on the line to protect this magnificent place—the largest remaining tract of low-elevation ancient temperate rainforest left in North America.

These forests are truly remarkable. They have more biomass per hectare than any other of Earth's ecosystems. The immense size of their trees is impressive—only a few places have larger trees. But the biodiversity of these ancient forests—what makes them so old and the trees so big—is still a mystery.

The Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations hold traditional title to all the land and resources of Clayoquot. They have publicly criticized the unsustainable exploitation of the area's fish and forests over the last 60 years. They have led the fight to regain local control over resource development, to stop clearcut logging and secure protection for all the natural and cultural values of this special place.

WCWC is working hard to ensure that this year brings positive results in the massive efforts of First Nations people, local citizens, environment groups and other stakeholders to find a solution to the 13-year-long Clayoquot conflict. A locally-formulated plan to seek United Nations Biosphere Reserve designation for Clayoquot Sound is in the works. Key elements of this plan include placing the still-threatened pristine valleys in a buffer zone that is off-limits to logging and developing a new economy based on ecotourism, enhanced fisheries, local value-added activities and conflict-free eco-forestry in the already fragmented areas.

This positive resolution of a long-standing conflict over resource exploitation holds the promise for a bright future. Clayoquot is on the verge of becoming a globally renowned model of conservation and sustainability.



It was a proud moment for Stanley Sam of Ahousaht as Adriane Carr of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (left), presented him with the first royalty cheque that came as a result of the publishing of the new guidebook entitled *Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail Guidebook*. The book relates the history and stories about the native people on Flores Island as told by the Ahousaht elder. Susan Jones (right) assisted in the transcribing of the book. The guidebook was a joint project of the WCWC and Ahousaht First Nations. 1500 books were donated to the Ahousaht First Nations; the funds raised through the sale of these books will be used for a Nuu-chah-nulth language camp. Photo: Susan McIntyre, *Westerly News*. Photo and outline courtesy of *The Westerly News* (December 17, 1997).

TRAIL BOOK REVEALS HISTORY

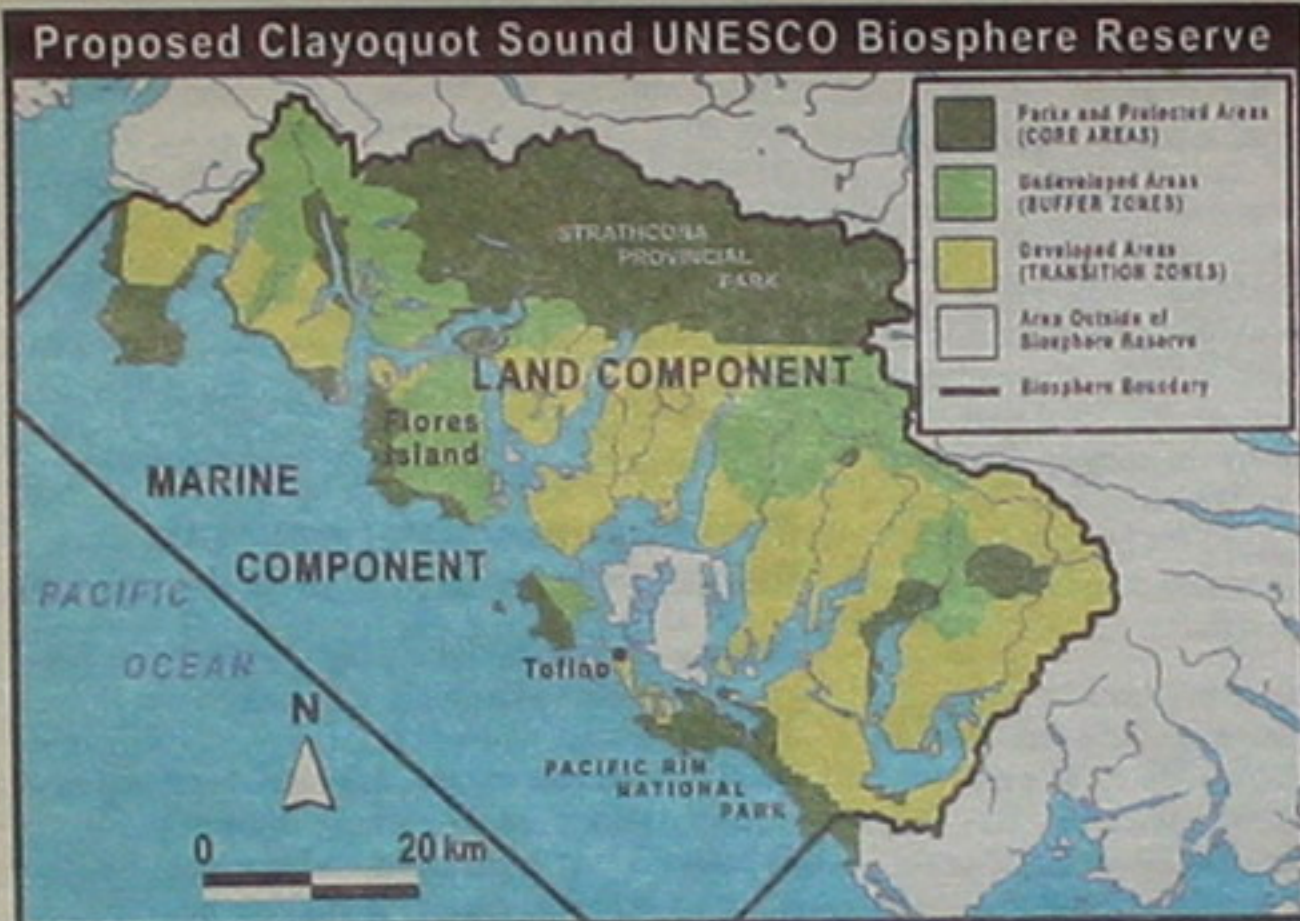
Throughout the spring of 1997, WCWC volunteers put in a super-human effort to put the finishing touches on the *Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail* on Flores Island in order to pass inspections by the B.C. Forest Service and Parks Branch. The trail project was a year-long joint effort of Ahousaht First Nations, WCWC and youth workers.

Initially a series of March storms hampered volunteer efforts to move building supplies onto the surf-pounded beaches of the west shore of Flores Island in the heart of Clayoquot Sound. Finally, thanks to the incredible boating skills of Ahousaht skippers, supplies and volunteers landed safely.

The trailbuilders constructed several staircases, repaired sections of the boardwalk damaged by fallen trees, and removed storm-downed trees and limbs. They experienced huge trees, saw old village sites and drank from pristine streams. Grey whales cavorted in the kelp fields in front of their beach camp. Some kindly Ahousaht people hiked in from the village with salmon for them to eat. After many weeks of effort, they finished the trail. Now you can see and experience all of these things, too!

As part of the original trail project (1996-1997), Ahousaht elder Stanley Sam Sr. and his sons created a series of beautiful hand-painted signs to identify historically significant sites along the trail. He also wrote a guidebook that tells the traditional Ahousaht stories commemorated by the trail signs. In the fall of 1997, WCWC published this *Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail Guidebook*, with financial assistance from the Natural Resources Defense Council. The information and stories in this book are truly amazing. The \$14 price tag includes all handling, shipping and taxes. All the proceeds from the sale of this book are being collected by Ahousaht First Nations for an Ahousaht Nuu-chah-nulth language camp.

Map on left prepared for community discussion paper, *The Proposed Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: Building a Local Model*. Copies available from: Clayoquot CRB. Phone 250-725-2009.



CULTURALLY MODIFIED CEDARS CAN HELP SAVE WEST COAST WILDERNESS

In February of 1998 WCWC will publish *Shaped Cedars and Cedar Shaping - A Guide to Identifying, Documenting, Appreciating and Learning from Culturally Modified Trees*. This guidebook is as massive as its name is long. It details the results of almost two decades of work by David Garrick, who has examined in depth over 1,800 Culturally Modified Trees (called CMTs) on Hanson Island in Johnstone Strait. These trees have been culturally modified over the last 700 years (1284 AD to 1993 AD).

WCWC is publishing this guidebook as part of its ongoing campaign efforts to save B.C.'s threatened wilderness heritage. Recent court decisions establish that CMTs are crucial evidence of traditional occupancy and use of First Nations' territories. If thoroughly inventoried, they can help First Nations hold on to their traditional territorial rights and their oldgrowth and salmon-based culture. WCWC also believes that the study of CMTs can advance our knowledge of traditional forestry as a model of sustainable forest management.

WCWC will be utilizing this book as a training manual for fieldworkers in the Great Bear Rainforest protection campaign.



David Garrick inspects culturally modified redcedar in "Heron Sector" on Hanson Island that has been damaged by shrapnel from nearby logging road blasting.

WCWC ALBERTA BRANCH

Expanding Campaigns and Profile



Gray Jones, Branch Executive Director

1997 was a really rough year for Alberta's environment and wilderness heritage.

The Athabasca Oilsands expansion has been approved by all levels of government. According to a top federal scientist, this 20.6 billion dollar megaproject will create such a giant cloud of greenhouse gas emissions and acid rain, that it could potentially destroy 15,000 square kilometres of boreal forest. This is

not to mention the impact of the massive amounts of carbon emissions to the atmosphere on the already changing climate.

The giant 23 kilometre long Cheviot open pit mine in the Rocky Mountain foothills adjacent to Jasper National Park has been approved by the federal cabinet, after a totally inadequate and hasty "environmental review". If this project goes ahead, it will destroy the beautiful Cardinal River Wilderness and spell doom for the grizzly bears living in Jasper Park that depend on this prime wildlife habitat for survival. The proposed Cheviot mine will also destroy the habitats of disjunct and rare mosses and orchids and threatened Athabasca rainbow and bull trout, along with the recreational values of the area that people now enjoy.

With the announcement of the granting to Sundance corporation of two new Forest Management Areas—in the Nordegg-Rocky Mountain base area and in the Footner Lake area to the north, now a full 96 percent of Alberta's public lands are committed to industrial clearcut logging over the next 20 years.

This virtually total industrialization of Alberta wilderness flies in the face of all international protocols, including the Biodiversity Convention, to which Canada was a lead signatory.

If this is not bad enough, through legislative changes and Orders in Council, the Alberta government has given the resource companies (oil, gas and forestry) the right to police and monitor their own activities. Alberta is arguably in the forefront of the massive move towards corporate plutocracy which is sweeping our planet.

Despite the adversities Alberta Branch campaigns keep growing

The Wilderness Committee's Boreal Forest Campaign is six years old. We continue to be the most quoted media source on environmental and wilderness issues in the province. Our membership and support base continues to grow and, accordingly to our canvassers who go door to door educating people and seeking support in Calgary and Edmonton, the Wilderness Committee's name and campaigns have become household words.

Not all is doom and gloom in the province. Many rural people who were former supporters of the mega-developments, are now critics. They are vocally fighting the wilderness-destroying policies of the Alberta government. For example, a number of ecotourism operators in the Nordegg area have joined forces to protect their area of interest, using the courts and every means at their disposal.

We believe that the old cliché, *the darkest hour is just before dawn*, applies to Alberta: that the environmental destruction has peaked and the growing concern of Albertans about the fate of their natural heritage heralds a turn-around in wilderness and wildlife protection.

Boreal forest ecosystem heavily affected by global warming

This year our Alberta Branch will continue to lead a *Boreal Forest Campaign* that focuses on the effects of climate change on the boreal forest ecosystem. It is a sometimes confusing, often scary but extremely important issue. We are planning a one-day mini-conference in Edmonton and the production of a one-hour video, featuring presentations by climate

change and boreal forest experts. We are also planning a newspaper publication on climate change in the boreal forest.

Most experts agree that the boreal will be the ecosystem most affected by global warming and climate change. Through raging wildfires and associated insect outbreaks, it is predicted that 50 to 75 percent of the boreal forest of Canada will revert to grasslands during the next fifty years. This will have massive environmental, social and economic costs and impacts—the result of our governments and industries refusing to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

The 1.7 million hectares of boreal forest which burnt in a two week period two summers ago, the massive floods in Manitoba in the spring of 1997 and the giant ice-storm in January of 1998 which wiped out power transmission lines and destroyed and damaged many of Canada's maple sugar trees are indicators not only of the negative effects of climate change but also of the astronomical costs.

Our great boreal forest, which represents 82 percent of Canada's forested lands, still remains the least researched and least understood ecosystem in



The Cheviot Mine protest, on the road to Jasper

Canada. The Wilderness Committee's Boreal Forest Campaign needs the help of every member and supporter this year to turn the tide away from its destruction and towards sustainable and sane ecosystem-based management.

AL-PAC - world's largest single-line pulp mill is a costly dinosaur

AL-PAC, the world's largest single-line pulp mill is located near Athabasca, Alberta. It was built despite protests regarding its negative environmental impacts. Four years ago we predicted it would become another failed mega-project. We produced a hard-hitting publication on AL-PAC and were threatened with law suits by the company. We predicted its failure, given the boom and bust nature of the world pulp market and the immense costs associated with transporting raw pulp to the U.S. and Japan. And we were right!

AL-PAC is now refusing to pay back hundreds of millions of dollars of interest on their loan from the Alberta government. AL-PAC claims that the persistent slump in world pulp prices is causing the company financial hardship. In essence, one of the world's largest transnationals, Mitsubishi, the parent company of AL-PAC, is trying to rip off the Alberta taxpayer. We are planning a second publication and media blitz on this issue.

Cardinal River wilderness threatened by mega-strip coal mine development

When we heard about the Cheviot proposal to build a 23-kilometre-long, half-a-kilometre deep open-pit coal strip mine on the Jasper National Park boundary, we were the first environmental group to respond and say "NO!"

As part of our campaign to stop this ecologically insane mega-project, we co-produced and widely distributed a video on the issue, followed up with a publication, *Save Our Mountain Parks*. Last summer we supported a group of people who marched from Edmonton to Jasper National Park to publicize the issue. Then, during prime tourist season, we set up an information kiosk right in Jasper National Park, to educate people about this destructive project.

We followed up with a nation-wide postcard



The clearcut fragmentation of Alberta wilderness

campaign (depicting a mother grizzly and her cubs being hauled away in the back of a mining dump truck). Thousands of Canadians used this postcard to voice their opinion against this mine, which resembles something out of the 1950's destruction of West Virginia by the strip-mining of coal there. It is hard to believe that our federal government, a defender of sane development in Banff National Park, has approved of this project that threatens to destroy the wildlife of Jasper! Our opposition to the mine has grown into a campaign of international scope. Please write a letter to government to express your opinion and help stop this mine!

Rocky Mountain House - wilderness logging continues

For years, we have supported The Friends of the West Country in their battle to save the wilderness wedged between our famous mountain parks, Jasper and Banff. The Sunpine logging company continues to clearcut the wilderness heart out of this West Country. At this moment only one major creek drainage remains intact. Through an educational newspaper, media profile and court cases, we plan to save some wilderness in this beautiful area.

Athabasca River International Flyway Park Proposal

The neo-tropical migrant birds, the wood warblers and others, use the oldgrowth forests along the Athabasca River as a migratory route and as critical breeding and nesting habitat. This flyway extends all the way to the Peace River Delta in Wood Buffalo National Park. This year we are nominating all of the riparian forests along the Athabasca to be protected as an International Flyway Park. This is one good way for Albertans to honour and uphold the international Migratory Bird Convention.

Mapping Industrial Impacts; Reporting on State of Wilderness

Utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) we are assembling and publishing a detailed map showing the extent to which the oil and gas industry and the forest industry has fragmented and impacted Alberta's wilderness. We believe that many Albertans do not know the extent to which Alberta's wilderness has been sold out to transnationals. Our *Multiple Impact Map* will be a great visual, educational tool. A brief *State of Alberta's Wilderness Report* will accompany the map and help explain it.

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STOP THE CHEVIOT MINE! (postcard)

Tiger Trust India and the Wilderness Committee work together on projects to help save the tiger

In 1990 the Wilderness Committee launched its international campaign work with its *WILD (Wilderness Is the Last Dream)* conference in Hawaii. Representatives of conservation groups and First Nations from over 27 countries attended. Friendships and the groundwork for future cooperative efforts were established. Projects that resulted include wilderness mapping with 11 partner groups in South and Central America and sustainable forestry and eco-tourism projects with 2 partner groups in Chile. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supported this work.

In 1995 our Committee hired a new campaigner, Anthony Marr, a Chinese-Canadian, who launched the *BET'R (Bear, Elephant, Tiger and Rhinoceros) Campaign*. The goal is to save these species from extinction by increasing the protection of their natural habitat and by reducing the demand for their body parts which has resulted in illegal poaching and rapid population declines. Anthony has stirred up a media storm by exposing the illegal sale of Chinese medicines containing tiger bone in the Chinatowns of Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa. Since these illegal medicines are still being sold openly, WCWC will pursue legal action this year.

In 1996, with funding from CIDA, we established a partnership with **Tiger Trust India (TTI)**, now headed by Pradeep Sankhala, the son of the late Kailash Sankhala, a pioneer in tiger conservation in India who attended our *WILD* Hawaii Conference. TTI has established a pilot educational facility next to **Kanha National Park**, with a medical clinic and conservation centre, a demo bio-gas plant and a demo medicinal plant garden. TTI has also provided women's craft programs, art programs and a *Nature Guide Training Program* to enable local people to benefit from tiger-related ecotourism. The WCWC-TTI partnership efforts to save India's endangered tiger will be expanded this year—CIDA has agreed to provide three more years of program support.

Pradeep Sankhala of TTI and WCWC's Anthony Marr confer with village elders near Kanha National Park in India.



Anthony Marr, WCWC BET'R campaigner with Omni Film's executive producer Michael Chechik on location in India. Anthony will be *Champion of the Tiger* in Omni's *Champions of the Wild* series on the Discovery Channel this fall.



This wild tiger in Bandhavgarh National Park, a tiger reserve in India, is threatened by poaching.



Sign outside the *Tiger Conservation Centre* near the entrance to Kanha National Park in India.



Villagers living by the Kanha National Park come to a new medical clinic with a *Tiger Conservation Centre* waiting room. The centre was developed as part of a WCWC-TTI partnership project funded by CIDA.



Spinning wheels and a new cottage industry are introduced to village women whose free time is increasing as bio-gas replaces tiger-habitat-destroying fuelwood collection. Part of a WCWC-TTI CIDA-funded project.



TAKE A WALK TO HELP SAVE THE TIGER FROM EXTINCTION...

In 1997 the Wilderness Committee co-published with Tiger Trust India 120,000 copies of the *Tiger, tiger burning dim...* newspaper and 5,000 copies of a poster entitled *Mother Earth With No Wild Tigers?* Both publications featured a series of maps showing how markedly the tiger's range has diminished since 1900. The trend is extremely alarming!

In 1998, the Chinese Year of the Tiger, less than 4,500 tigers roam wild on Earth and an estimated two tigers per day are being "lost" to poaching and habitat destruction. If this trend continues tigers will be extinct in the wild by the year 2004, long before 2010—the next Chinese Year of the Tiger. It will take a massive conservation effort to reverse this situation.

And the situation will not be changed overnight. As one "step" to help, we held our first annual *Save-the-Tiger Walk* last fall in Vancouver. 100 hard working volunteers, unseasonably sunny weather and hard work by BET'R Director Anthony Marr, event coordinator Tim Murphy, and other WCWC staff resulted in a hugely successful event. About 1,000 children, parents and teachers participated. Over \$18,000, great media coverage and a lot of awareness was raised. Part of the money is being used to test solar ovens in the villages near Kanha Tiger Reserve in India to see if they can alleviate the pressure to gather firewood from tiger reserves.

Our second annual *Save-the-Tiger Walk* is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 1998 in Stanley Park, Vancouver. Tiger Walks are planned for Victoria and Toronto, too. If you are interested in helping or hosting your own *Save-The-Tiger Walk*, we have "kits" available that explain how to organize one and help save tigers no matter where you live.



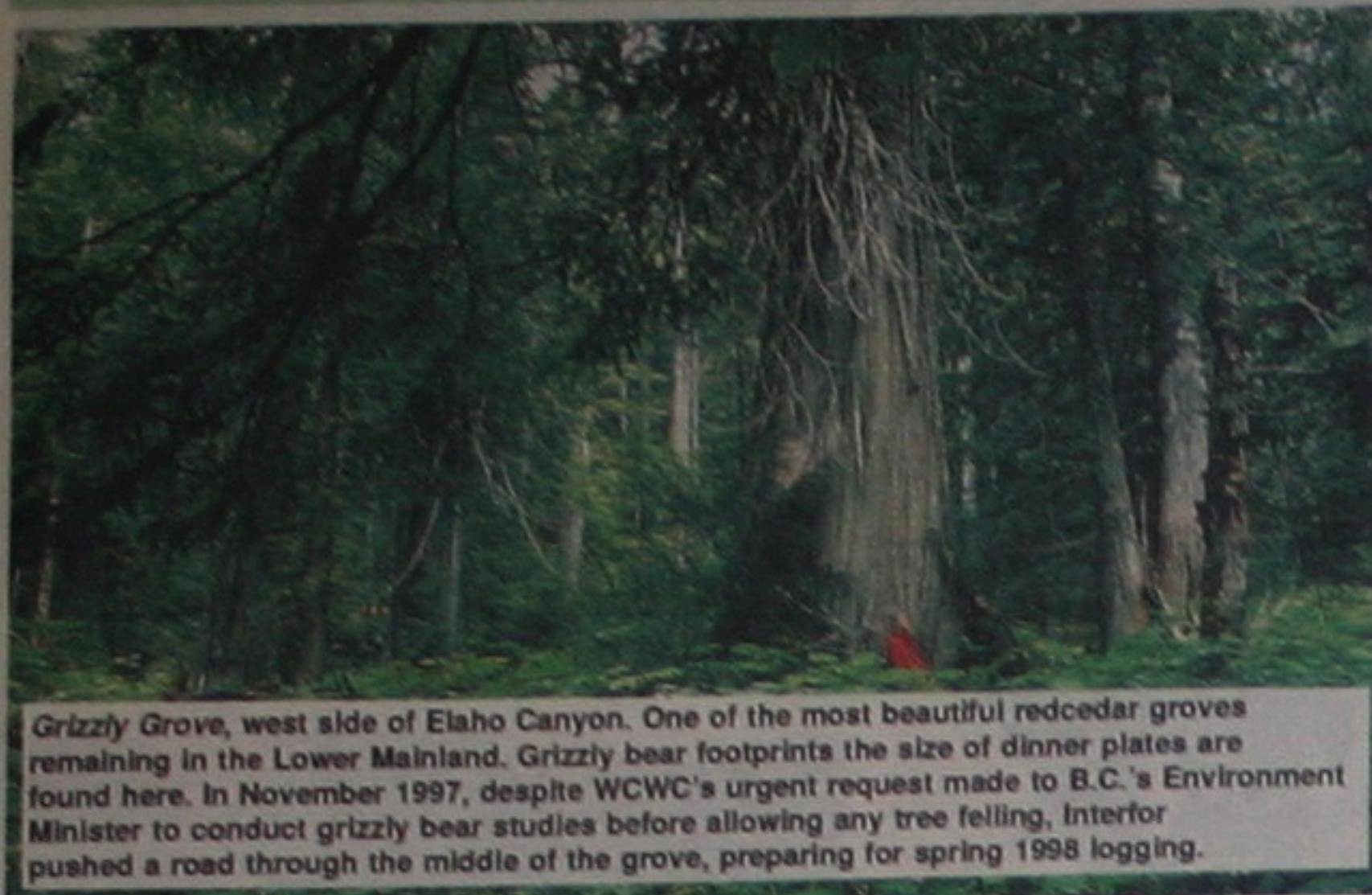
Winning banner at the *Save-the-Tiger Walk '97*.



Over 1,000 people turn out for the first annual *Save-the-Tiger Walk* held in Stanley Park, Oct. 18, 1997. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, 1998 in the same place. Interested in holding a *Save-the-Tiger Walk* in your community? Call us at 1-800-661-9453 to find out how.

SNAP SHOTS FROM B.C.'s WILDERNESS FRONT LINE

Featuring The Wilderness Committee's Desperate Tree-by-Tree Fight To Save The Stoltmann Wilderness



Grizzly Grove, west side of Elaho Canyon. One of the most beautiful redcedar groves remaining in the Lower Mainland. Grizzly bear footprints the size of dinner plates are found here. In November 1997, despite WCWC's urgent request made to B.C.'s Environment Minister to conduct grizzly bear studies before allowing any tree felling, Interfor pushed a road through the middle of the grove, preparing for spring 1998 logging.



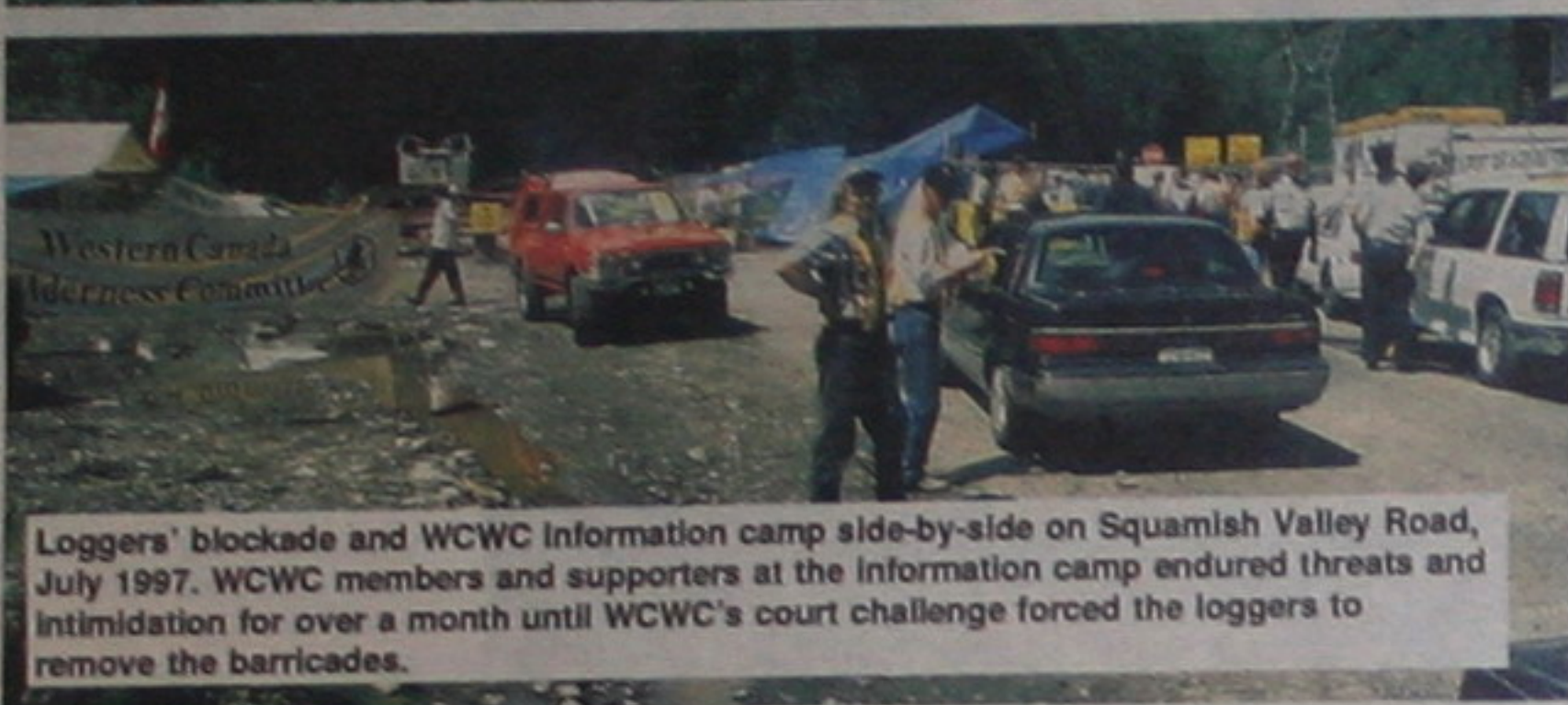
Before - Joe Foy, WCWC Stoltmann Wilderness Campaigner, beside huge Grizzly Grove redcedar, September 1997.



After - Stump of same tree (see photo on left), cut down by Interfor November 1997.



WCWC's research station, stolen during loggers' blockade and dumped in Squamish RCMP parking lot, July 1997. WCWC demanded that the thieves be charged. In December 1997 Crown Council ordered RCMP to abandon the case without laying charges.



Loggers' blockade and WCWC information camp side-by-side on Squamish Valley Road, July 1997. WCWC members and supporters at the information camp endured threats and intimidation for over a month until WCWC's court challenge forced the loggers to remove the barricades.

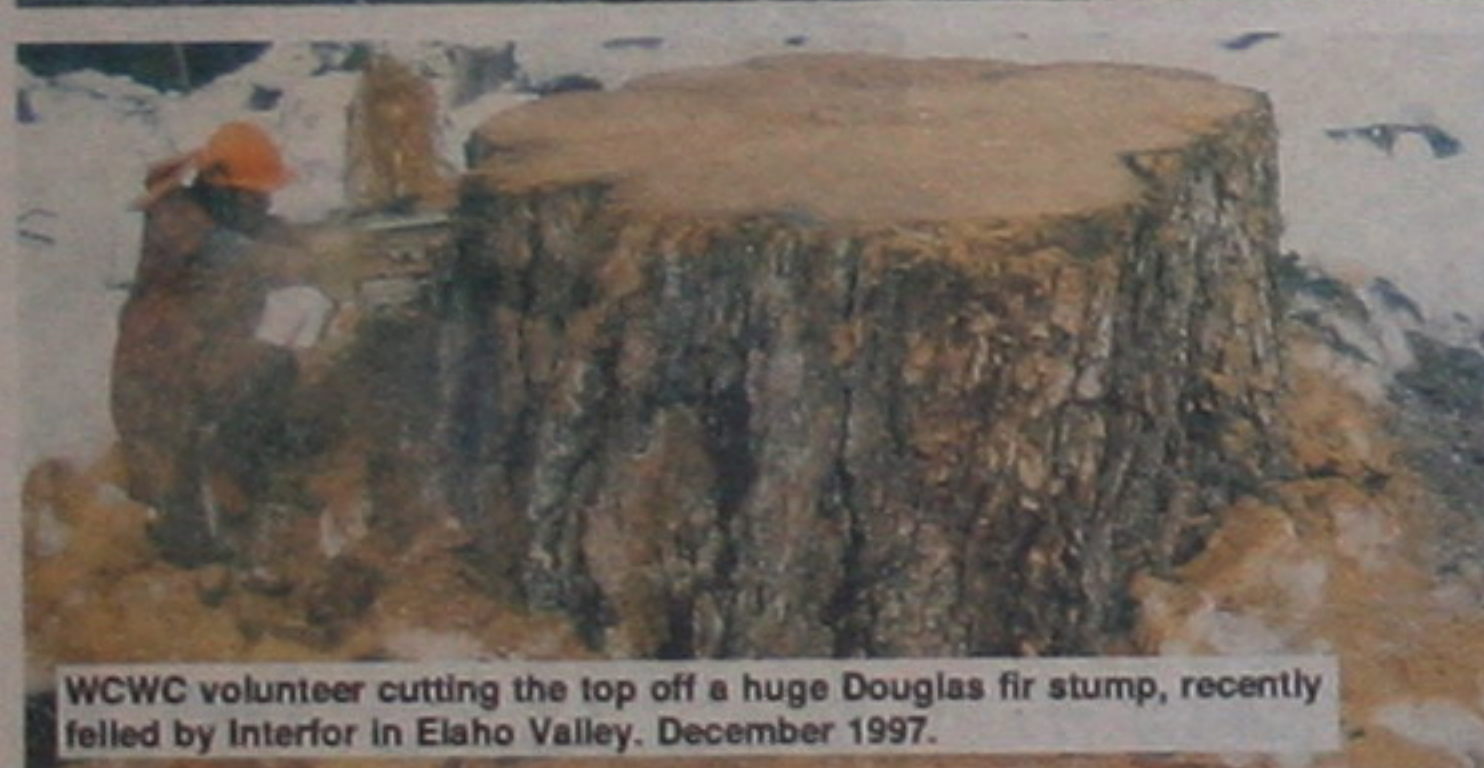


Selena Blais, WCWC store manager, adds the word "illegal" to a loggers' sign warning motorists of blockade on Squamish Valley Road, July 1997.



This past year was tough for those who love the Stoltmann Wilderness. International Forest Products (Interfor) succeeded in cutting down 800-year-old redcedars in Magic Grove, thousand-year-old Douglas fir trees in the Elaho Valley and carving a logging road through Grizzly Grove. Interfor loggers staged a six-week-long blockade of the Squamish Valley Road leading into the Stoltmann Wilderness, during which time WCWC's research station was stolen and deposited behind the Squamish RCMP offices. Through it all WCWC's staff, volunteers and members worked tirelessly to build the case for full preservation, gathering information, building hiking routes and mapping the area. WCWC had great friends helping out, too. The Squamish First Nation graciously gave WCWC permission to set up the research station on Squamish Nation territory. The Sierra Legal Defence Fund carried the fight into the law courts on WCWC's behalf. Lighthawk, the Seattle-based "environmental airforce" gave us air support, allowing us an "eye in the sky" to keep abreast of Interfor's logging. Fifty international Greenpeace campaigners from countries such as Argentina, Belgium, Britain, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Russia and the USA toured the Stoltmann Wilderness so that they could carry the message home with them.

The Stoltmann Wilderness is the Vancouver region's largest remaining wild area. It is North America's southern frontline for the coastal grizzly bear. Its ancient forest is a rare and unique remnant of wild Earth. It must be protected for our children's children. Join the fight to save the Stoltmann, before it's too late!



WCWC volunteer cutting the top off a huge Douglas fir stump, recently felled by Interfor in Elaho Valley, December 1997.



Coyote Dancers from Siska Indian Band (Siska is near Lytton) dance at WCWC info. camp to show their support for WCWC. Loggers at nearby blockade jeer but are unable to break the spirit of the young dancers. July 1997.



Interfor's new bridge across Elaho Canyon to the Stoltmann's Grizzly Grove, October 1997.



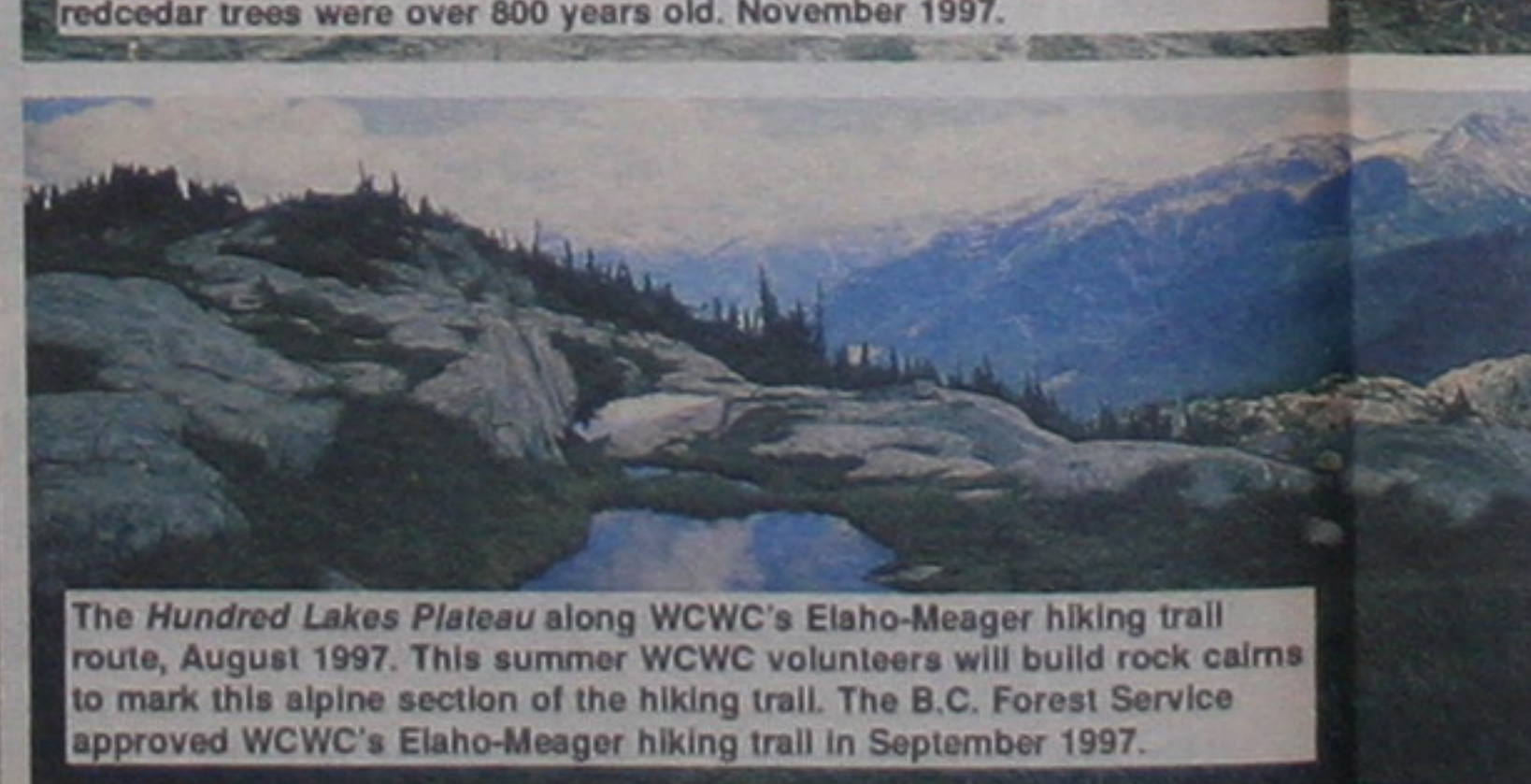
Log It - Burn It - Pave It sign left by Interfor crew, April 1997.



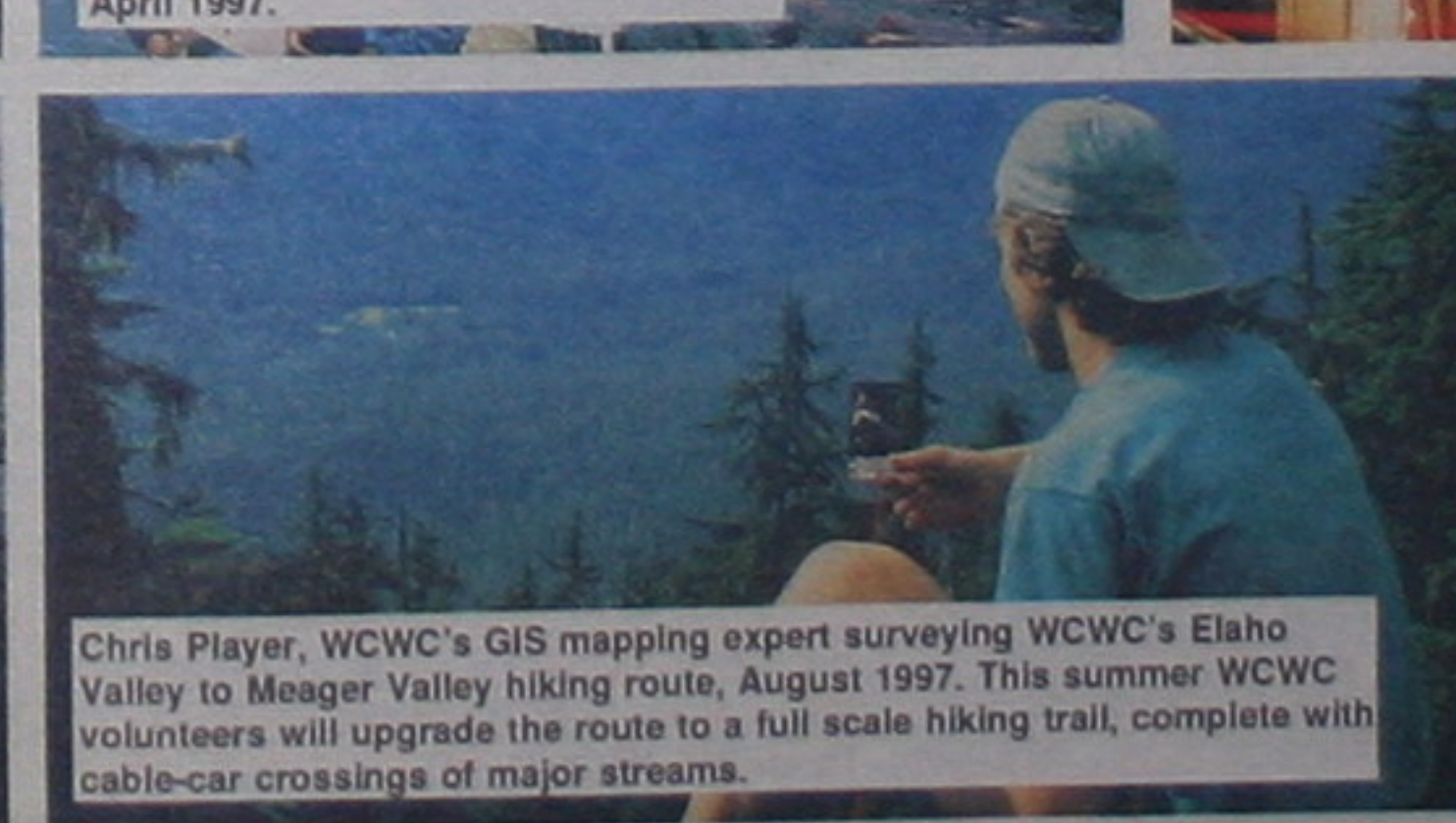
WCWC volunteers pack our Research Station back into Stoltmann Wilderness piece-by-piece and set it up again. July 1997.



Joe Foy counts 1,060 yearly growth rings on Douglas fir stump drying in WCWC's Gastown warehouse, January 1998. WCWC plans to widely tour the remains of this thousand year old tree through North America in the ongoing efforts to save the Stoltmann Wilderness from further logging.



The Hundred Lakes Plateau along WCWC's Elaho-Meager hiking trail route, August 1997. This summer WCWC volunteers will build rock cairns to mark this alpine section of the hiking trail. The B.C. Forest Service approved WCWC's Elaho-Meager hiking trail in September 1997.



Chris Player, WCWC's GIS mapping expert surveying WCWC's Elaho Valley to Meager Valley hiking route, August 1997. This summer WCWC volunteers will upgrade the route to a full scale hiking trail, complete with cable-car crossings of major streams.



The Stoltmann Wilderness art show and silent auction, thanks to the donations of works from over 80 artists and the participation of hundreds of WCWC's members and supporters, raised over \$20,000 to help support WCWC's continuing battle for the Stoltmann Wilderness, March 1997.



Opening night Stoltmann Wilderness Art Show, March, 1997.

WCWC'S VICTORIA CHAPTER

Celebrating Successes; Expanding Campaigns

Completing Protection for Sooke Hills in 1998!

1997 was a spectacularly successful year for our Sooke Hills Campaign. Our goal is to create a 'Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt', linking existing parks from Saanich Inlet to Sooke Basin and protecting this region's native species over time. In April of 1997, responding to enormous public support, the provincial government took the lead role and announced legislated park protection for the Greater Victoria Water District's non-catchment lands—nearly 50 square kilometers of wild forests on the edge of our city, including three of the five river valleys needing protection in our Sooke Hills Wilderness Proposal.

Left unprotected were Ayum and Charters Valleys at the Sooke Basin end of the proposed Greenbelt. In November of 1997 the province again took the lead, embracing the public's goal of a fully protected greenbelt, by announcing its commitment to add all provincial crown lands in Ayum and Charters Valleys to the new park. This gift of about one million dollars worth of crown lands almost entirely protects Ayum Creek and two of the most prominent hills on Victoria's western skyline. It also adds several key parcels in Charters Valley adjacent to Sooke Mt. Park. Full protection now only requires the purchase of the remaining private lands in these two valleys.

Most of the private lands are owned by an Asian holding company. These key lands include Mt. Manuel Quimper, the third prominent hill on our western horizon, and Shields and Grass Lakes. These two magnificent wilderness lakes adjacent to Sooke Mt. Park are the recreational heart of the Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt and when protected will be the nucleus of the first and only wilderness backpacking area in our region.

This year, WCWC Victoria is working full-out with our members and supporters to urge our Member of Parliament and Federal Fisheries Minister, the Hon. David Anderson, to join the partnership of local citizens and their regional and provincial governments and help complete the Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt. The protection of both Ayum and Charters Valleys merits federal attention, as these streams support runs of wild salmon and their



Ayum Valley with Sooke Basin, Juan de Fuca and Olympic Mtns. in back.

valleys contain some of the last stands of Canada's endangered coastal Douglas fir forests.

In 1994 the provincial government invested \$17 million in the purchase of the Tod Gowlland private lands anchoring the north end and inspiring others to dream of a Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt. Federal government support is now essential to purchase private lands anchoring the greenbelt at its southern end and finalizing full protection for a spectacular wilderness greenbelt on the edge of our city.

Expanding the Park System to Protect Our Island's Species

When parks are too small and isolated in oceans of clearcuts and plantation forests, they offer no hope of long term survival for many of the species that depend on them. Vancouver Island's park system, which has been created on a political not scientific basis, shows this grim reality. Capped by government at 12.8 percent of the land base, the current park system cannot sustain the Island's wild salmon, Roosevelt elk, marbled murrelets, northern goshawks and other species. Though some of the parks are large, they are isolated and not interconnected by protected wildlife corridors. Over 90 percent of the parklands are rock, ice and scrub forest. Only 6.6 percent of the protected areas are biologically rich ancient-forested valleys.

In 1998 WCWC's Victoria Chapter will lead campaigns to win protection for large intact areas of ancient forest not yet protected as part of our commitment to achieve a park system that is based on conservation biology principles and that will protect our Island's native species. Areas being lost now to clearcut logging and in immediate need of park protection are the Upper Walbran Valley adjacent to Carmanah, and the Klaskish and East Valleys in the Greater Brooks Peninsula area.

Working to Protect the Great Bear Rainforest

WCWC's Victoria Chapter has been working closely with the Raincoast Conservation Society (RCS) and WCWC's main Vancouver office on the campaign to protect the *Great Bear Rainforest* (see page 3 for more details). WCWC and RCS organized a very successful expedition up the mainland coast in April 1997 on the 92 foot classic schooner *Maple Leaf*. The expedition brought media representatives, film makers, and environmentalists into several of the *Great Bear Rainforest's* endangered river valleys. WCWC and RCS are organizing two similar expeditions for 1998.

In the fall of 1997 WCWC's Victoria Chapter and RCS mounted four *Great Bear Rainforest* slideshow presentations at the Kaleidoscope Theatre in Victoria. The sold out shows were a huge success with 300 people attending each of the four nights.

WCWC and RCS will continue their collaborative *Great Bear Rainforest* campaign efforts this year, focusing on the preservation of salmon habitat and the plight of coastal grizzlies.



WCWC Victoria Chapter Staff: (left to right) Jessica Snider, Chris Genovall, Allison Spriggs, and Liora Freedman.



WCWC Victoria Chapter Canvass Crew.

OKANAGAN CHAPTER

Raising Awareness with Trails and Talks

During 1997 the Wilderness Committee's Okanagan Chapter continued to work hard on maintaining the 50-kilometre-long (Kelowna to Vernon) *High Rim Trail* for hikers. We also launched a new project: an experimental nursery that is raising a variety of trees and plants that will produce fruit, seeds and nuts for local animals and birds. Our goal is to renew natural ecosystems, including some local clearcuts, and repopulate these areas with native animal species. School children are involved in tending the nursery. During our trips there, each child gets to plant seedlings and is taught about forest ecosystems. We are presently planning to establish another nursery.

WCWC's Okanagan Chapter holds regular meetings in Kelowna at the EECO Center at 2363 Springfield Road, usually on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Several guest speakers are already lined up for 1998 including Joe Foy, WCWC's National Campaign Director and Anthony Marr, speaking on WCWC's partnership work with Tiger Trust India.

We also hold informal classes in and out of doors that can help people learn to identify the native trees and plants growing in the Okanagan. Everyone living in our area is invited to come to our monthly meetings and find out about all our Okanagan Chapter activities. We look forward to seeing you!

WCWC Okanagan Chapter, P.O. Box 23025, Plaza 33 Postal Outlet, Kelowna, BC V1X 7K7 Phone (250) 765-5883

Victoria Chapter Wish List

10 passenger van for expeditions and canvass
Slide projector and dissolve unit
Tripod (outdoor all-weather)
Pentax Spotmatic 500 or 1000
Plain paper fax machine
Portable stereo
Office chairs
IBM Compatible Computer Stuff:
VGA monitors
486 or better with VGA monitor
386 or 486 notebook computer
Ethernet hub
CD ROM drive—preferably IDE
ZIP drive
Laser printer (600 dpi)

Thank you for making all our successes possible!

We love working on our members' behalf to protect wilderness and wild things! We deeply appreciate your support. If you are in Victoria come to our office at #507 - 620 View Street and say hi. We have a small gift shop with most of WCWC's publications and products available along with lots of other gifts and goodies.

A final word of thanks to our wonderful canvass director, Jennifer LeBaron, and our canvassers, without whose dedication none of our campaign work would have been possible. Thank you all for supporting our canvass and our campaigns!

WCWC Victoria Chapter, Suite 507-620 View Street, Victoria BC V8W 1J6
Phone 250-388-9292

WCWC's WEST KOOTENAY CHAPTER

Campaigning to keep watersheds healthy

WCWC's West Kootenay Chapter is campaigning for greater preservation of wilderness, a stop to the inappropriate Jumbo Pass mega-ski development and ecosystem-based resource management to protect ecological values and biodiversity across all of the landscape, including protected areas.

The citizens of the Slocan Valley and Silva Forest Foundation have developed a truly sustainable, ecosystem-based management plan for their region. WCWC has assisted groups like the Valhalla Wilderness Society mobilize citizen and local government support for the plan, explaining how it will protect all the values on all the land base and, if successfully implemented, could act as a positive model for true "sustainable development" elsewhere.

But in 1997 the B.C. Government rejected the locally-supported ecosystem-based plan and allowed logging to proceed in critical oldgrowth-forested watersheds. During the summer, hundreds of people stood on logging roads, as a last resort, defending their right to keep inappropriate clearcutting out of



McFayden Creek, Perry Ridge, Slocan Valley



Jumbo Pass

the watersheds that they use for drinking water and irrigation in the Slocan Valley. In total 35 people were arrested from Perry Ridge, New Denver Flats, and the Bonanza Creek watersheds. More blockades will occur in 1998 if logging permits are issued for the Elliott, Anderson and Hasty Creek watersheds.

Following a two-day court hearing in November of 1997, Justice Parrett set aside the injunction that prohibited protesters from standing on the proposed road into Perry Ridge. He strongly rebuked the B.C. Attorney General and Ministry of Forests for failing to make available to the court information critical to the decision to issue the injunction. The Attorney General appealed the decision but the B.C. Court of Appeal turned it down.

Local citizens are determined to continue their fight to protect themselves from the landslides, river bank destabilization, flooding, contaminated water and the loss of community sustainability that will result if logging in their watersheds goes ahead. Although the Wilderness Committee does not participate in civil disobedience, it will continue to advocate the moral integrity of the protesters' position: that the health and safety of people is at stake; and that these oldgrowth watersheds are critical for wildlife, especially as cross-valley corridors between protected areas. Wildlife biologists fear that if these wilderness watersheds are roaded and logged, local

cougar and grizzly bears will be heavily hunted and suffer severe population decline.

Core samples show that oldgrowth trees found in the headwaters areas of watersheds earmarked for logging are 300 to 700 years old. These old forests are also of great concern to the Sinixt aboriginal people. Marilyn James, appointed spokesperson for the Sinixt Nation, stated in a letter to the Ministry of Forests, "When you do not protect and are responsible for the destruction of wildlife and fish habitat you are responsible for violating our aboriginal rights." Hutchinson Creek on the Lower Arrow Lake has been identified as an area of significant cultural heritage and our WCWC West Kootenay Chapter has requested that this area, too, be protected.

Our Chapter also continues to participate in the "Say No to Jumbo" campaign. Despite widespread local citizen opposition, the B.C. government is still pushing ahead with the Jumbo Ski Mega-Development plan for the Purcell Mountains. If this project goes ahead it will negatively impact the local way of life and the wildlife that use Jumbo Pass as a key passageway through the mountains.

WCWC West Kootenay Chapter
RR 1, Group 16, C-9, Winlaw BC V0G 2J0
Phone: (250)-226-7324 Fax: (250)-226-7324

WCWC's MID-ISLAND CHAPTER

Fighting to Save Canada's Smallest Ecoregion

WCWC's Mid-Island Chapter is located in the heart of the Nanaimo Lowlands, a narrow strip of land along the coastal plain on the east side of Vancouver Island between Campbell River and Sooke. It is Canada's smallest, and one of its most biologically diverse, ecoregion. The government's "final" park land use decision for Vancouver Island, made several years ago, preserved only 2 percent of the Nanaimo Lowlands. This unique ecosystem and the rare and endangered species it supports, is consequently being driven to the brink of extinction.

The meagre two percent of this area that has been spared from urban and industrial development is mostly made up of heavily used and modified parks where tourists line up for campsites. The growing number of people moving into the area want more recreational areas. Public input to local *Official Community Plans* verify that the creation of greenspace, park development, trailways, and bike paths are a priority along the heavily populated Nanaimo Lowlands.

Because most of this part of Vancouver Island was given outright to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as the E&N (Esquimalt and Nanaimo) Land Grant and later subdivided for private sale, public (crown) lands are extremely rare. As a result,

community groups have no choice but to purchase private lands for conservation and recreation.

Our Mid-Island Chapter has actively supported two such projects: a \$4.9 million fundraising campaign spearheaded by the Brown Property Preservation Society to purchase a 20 hectare oldgrowth coastal Douglas fir forest in the heart of Qualicum Beach. Preserving the Brown Property would mean an increase of almost one-fifth in protected oldgrowth dry-belt coastal Douglas fir forest for all of B.C.

The Nanaimo Area Land Trust has an option to purchase south Winchelsea Island, east of Nanoose, between Parksville and Nanaimo for the price of \$595,000. This 10 hectare island is a pristine example of the small and fast disappearing Garry Oak ecosystem.

While landtrusts and community groups are trying to buy land for preservation and conservation, the B.C. government is rushing to liquidate and clearcut the few fragments of crown land that remain within our threatened and endangered ecosystem.

Our Chapter believes that the best use of Crown Lands within or buffering this under-represented and badly fragmented ecosystem is as protected areas. The short term gain by clearcutting and liquidating the mature forests on these last few fragments of Crown Lands is minuscule compared

to the future price tag of restoration of this public land for habitat conservation and for the growing number of people demanding recreational spaces.

You can learn about all our campaigns at our regular monthly Mid-Island Slide Show Nights. If you live in our area, phone us and we'll make sure you know about all our events in advance!

WCWC Mid-Island Chapter
PO Box 442, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S9
Phone: (250) 716-9292



20 hectares of drybelt oldgrowth coastal Douglas fir forest on Brown Property. Only 112 hectares of this oldgrowth forest type have been protected in all of B.C.

Streamkeeper workshop on Beach Creek, Brown Property.



WHITE ROCK CHAPTER

Although a serious illness in one of our core White Rock Chapter families has resulted in scaled down chapter activities, the Chapter is still planning its summer Bird-a-Thon on Boundary Bay.

WCWC White Rock Chapter
13175 14th Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 1G6
Green Line: 604-591-7899



wilderness committee

WESTERN CANADA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE (WCWC)
20 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 1A4 Tel: 604-683-8220 Fax: 604-683-8229
E-Mail: info@wildernesscommittee.org Home Page: www.wildernesscommittee.org

Dear Members:

If you read my 1996 report in your member's paper you are aware that for 1997, WCWC's executive and staff were committed to reversing last year's \$60,000 deficit from operations, and eliminating the \$28,000 negative balance in members' equity - our debt - in 1997. We budgeted a surplus of \$30,000 to accomplish this.

To reach this goal, we took strong measures. Staff had to deal with pay cuts of up to 10 percent. Capital spending was frozen. Canvass teams were doubled in Vancouver and increased in Alberta and Victoria. We cut prices in our store to move old inventory. We brain-stormed new fundraising ideas, endeavored to thank donors personally, and expended extra effort in increasing our membership renewal rate.

The end result? I'm happy to report that we not only met, but slightly exceeded our goals. Donations to the Wilderness Committee increased about \$200,000; membership dues increased approximately \$50,000. Monthly giving by April 30, 1997 had doubled from approximately \$1000 to \$2000 per month. While sales of goods declined overall as old posters and higher priced items were sold off from inventory, our stores, catalogue and wholesale activities still turned a profit, contributing to the organization as a whole. Our Stoltmann art show succeeded in raising the profile of the Stoltmann Wilderness and generated gross art sales of \$20,000 and net proceeds (after calculating in the costs of hosting artists in the Stoltmann) of \$4,000.

Our grant funding from private foundations was consistent compared to the previous year. Government grants included \$48,000 from Forest Renewal B.C. and the balance of a Youth Service Canada grant (\$90,000) for the Ahousahit Wild Side Heritage Trail project, jointly conducted with the Ahousahit First Nations on Flores Island. Canadian International Development Agency funds were used along with in-kind contributions from WCWC to continue the Save-the-Tiger Project in conjunction with our Indian partner, Tiger Trust India.

Most of our branches and chapters improved their financial performance this year. Victoria improved its revenues by one third, and went from a \$10,000 deficit in 1996 to a small surplus in 1997. Our Alberta Branch reduced its operating deficit. Other chapters ran financially small operations, but none at a deficit.

In summary, total revenues grew by \$270,000, and even after sharply higher canvass costs are factored in, the Wilderness Committee exceeded its target surplus by \$21,000. That is to say, a surplus of \$51,000 has put members' equity back in the black.

Charities are increasingly under public scrutiny to be accountable for the funds spent on charitable objectives - what the Wilderness Committee calls campaigns - as opposed to spending money on administration and fund raising. The two pie charts on this page are therefore interesting as they show that, while tax-received donations are 39 percent of Wilderness Committee revenues, our campaign expenditures comprise 49 percent of our total expenditures. In dollar terms, close to \$700,000 of tax-received donations was collected, while \$926,000 - 33 percent more - was spent on campaigns. WCWC's administration is efficient, costing only 13 percent of total expenditures. Canvass costs come in at 26 percent of total expenditures, up substantially from the previous year, reflecting the increased canvass activity.

The balance sheet shows an organization improving but still on the cusp. While members' equity is positive, the current ratio - used as an indicator of short term liquidity - is .75 to one, short of our target ratio of 1.5 to one.

To sum up, financially, 1997 was a good year for the Wilderness Committee. We escaped the jaws of negative equity, and took the first step back along the road to solvency and financial stability.

Beyond these results, I am glad to report that I believe there has been an evolution in WCWC management this year. Perhaps due to the more ready availability of accurate information, and perhaps stimulated by a strategic review by CIDA, the Executive Team has made a serious commitment to take the Wilderness Committee to what I see as the next two levels financially:

Level 1: Where cash revenues are sufficient to more than cover cyclical downturns in revenue, where interest and finance charges can be eliminated, staff can be paid at a level more suitable to their qualifications, job performance and commitment and best prices can be struck with suppliers for large quantities and COD purchases.

Level 2: After level one is achieved, to move to a level where the Wilderness Committee is able to establish a permanent fund accepting bequests and endowments. Only the interest and returns on investment would be used for specific wilderness, biodiversity and ecosystem preservation campaigns, while the capital portion would remain intact.

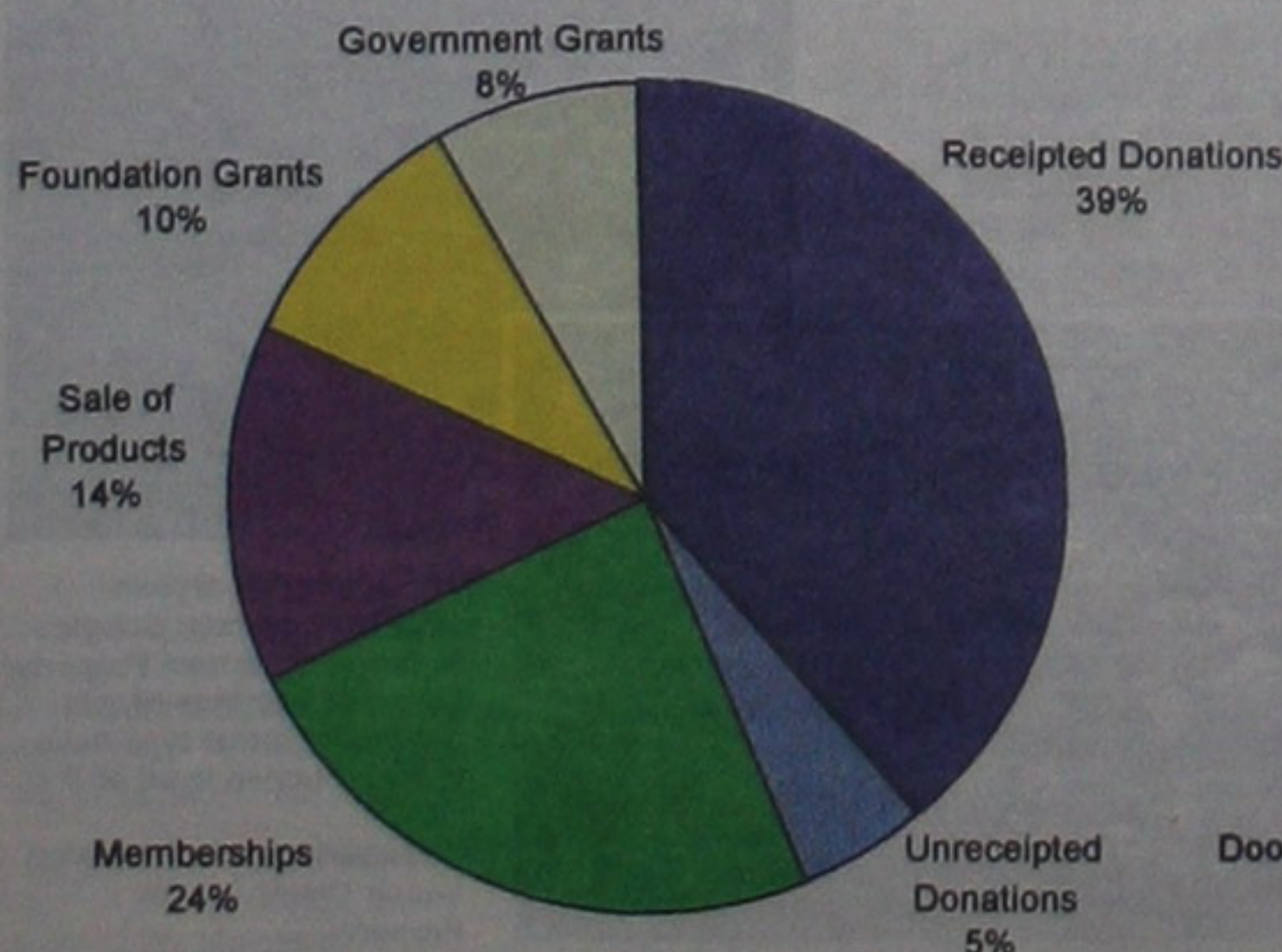
While 1998 has not met our expectations so far, due in part to the Canada Post strike, WCWC's management team is taking action to deal with this and remains committed to these long term goals.

In conclusion I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Wilderness Committee's voluntary Board of Directors, our very supportive members and donors and our dedicated, under-paid staff. Every year I wonder if we can make the super-human effort to pull our organization through and every year, the commitment, effort and quality of work is not only sustained, but improved.

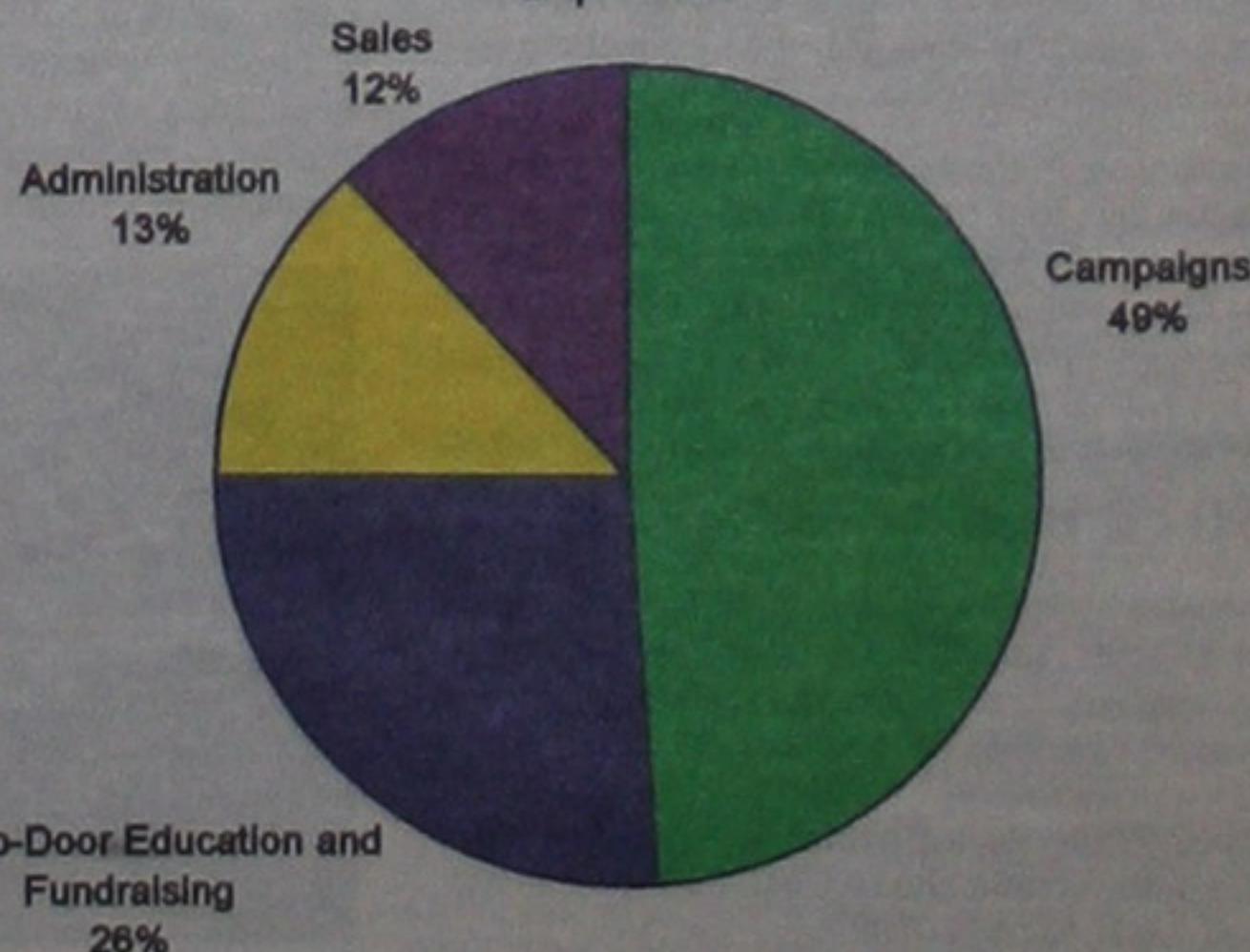
Brian Conner
Brian Conner
WCWC Comptroller

**A special thank you to all
WCWC Members and Donors.
Your support of WCWC in 1997
helped us save wilderness!**

Revenues



Expenses



IBDO

IBDO Chartered Accountants

One Central Centre
100 - 101 Second Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada V7X 1Y1
Telephone: (604) 683-9421
Telex: 3006 1861 5141
E-mail: ibdo@ibdo.ca

Auditors' Report

To the Members of Western Canada Wilderness Committee

We have audited the Balance Sheet of Western Canada Wilderness Committee as at April 30, 1997 and the Statements of Revenue, Expenditures and Members' Equity and Changes in Financial Position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the accounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Committee derives a portion of its revenue from unrecipitated donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Committee and we were not able to determine whether any adjustment might be necessary to unrecipitated donations revenue and members' equity.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to completely verify unrecipitated donations as explained in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Committee as at April 30, 1997 and the results of its financial operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

IBDO Chartered Accountants

Vancouver, British Columbia
August 22, 1997

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Members' Equity

For the year ended April 30	1997	1996
Revenue		
Membership dues	\$ 464,180	\$ 416,005
Contributions and donations	1,614,886	922,080
CIDA Grant revenue	19,900	-
Sales of educational material	268,958	318,585
Special projects	72,544	43,920
Admission to educational events	1,337	1,936
Unrecipitated donations	75,620	56,136
	<u>1,998,625</u>	<u>1,638,162</u>
Expenditures		
Campaign, member and grant costs	997,148	859,660
Sales costs	225,517	281,782
Canvass costs	483,869	323,802
Administration costs	243,123	229,603
Cost associated with wind-up of Ottawa Branch	-	4,480
	<u>1,856,849</u>	<u>1,698,727</u>
Revenue over (under) expenditures for the year	51,776	(60,565)
Members' (deficiency) equity, beginning of year	(28,179)	32,386
Members' equity (deficiency), end of year	\$ 23,597	\$ (28,179)

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Balance Sheet

April 30	1997	1996
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 75,469	\$ 34,972
Accounts receivable	16,847	3,406
Inventory	95,858	117,530
Prepaid expenses	5,906	3,754
	<u>194,880</u>	<u>159,662</u>
Capital assets (Note 1)	35,842	37,618
Endowment (partially restricted) (Note 2)	50,000	-
	<u>\$ 279,922</u>	<u>\$ 197,280</u>
Liabilities and Members' Equity		
Liabilities		
Current		
Bank indebtedness (Note 3)	\$ 373	\$ 1,814
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	178,479	194,743
Note payable (Note 4)	25,173	28,902
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	52,190	-
	<u>256,325</u>	<u>225,459</u>
Members' equity (deficiency)	23,597	(28,179)
	<u>\$ 279,922</u>	<u>\$ 197,280</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:

[Signature] Director
[Signature] Director

Seymour forest: for industry propaganda or record-sized-tree preservation?

Spurred on by our Victoria Chapter's recent victory in winning park protection for their drinking watershed off-catchment lands, WCWC embarked on a campaign to gain similar protection for the Lower Seymour Valley. The Lower Seymour, located on Vancouver's North Shore, is almost as large as Carmanah Valley. About one-third of the area still has its oldgrowth forest intact. Here grow some of the biggest Douglas firs and redcedars found anywhere in the world today.

More than three decades ago, due to a new dam and drinking water reservoir created upstream, these lands became surplus to the Vancouver drinking water supply. Two decades ago, Vancouver's North Shore municipalities proposed that the area become a park. But in 1987, due to the powerful forest industry's back room lobbying, the lower Seymour Valley was designated a "demonstration forest" instead of a park. Since that time this demo-forest has in reality been a propaganda forest with little actual logging. Its management bears no resemblance to the massive clearcutting and plantation forestry practices that prevail in B.C., destroying our wild forest ecosystems.

In August 1997, at the forest industry-sponsored 10th Anniversary of the Seymour Demonstration Forest, WCWC launched its Seymour Ancient Groves Park campaign with our hot-off-the-press *Our Choice—Seymour Demonstration Forest or Seymour Ancient Groves Park* educational newspaper. The paper featured a map showing trails to Seymour's groves of giant trees. A more detailed 20" X 30" full-colour hiking map of the proposed Seymour Ancient Groves Park is now available from us for \$20.

Our Seymour Ancient Groves Park initiative is being firmly fought by the forest industry. So far, they've rejected our suggestion that they move their demonstration forest to a nearby location in Squamish where real clearcutting is taking place.



Andy Miller relaxes in the Seymour forest.



Selena Blais and Chris Player in WCWC's store.

WILDERNESS COMMITTEE STORE THRIVES DURING 8TH YEAR IN VANCOUVER'S HISTORIC GASTOWN

In April of 1997, Selena Blais, a long time WCWC store employee, took over the management position of the Wilderness Committee's Store located at 20 Water Street in Vancouver's historic Gastown. Under Selena's artistic direction, the eight-year-old store has thrived. Every year, thousands of people from all over the world stop in for information about wilderness preservation campaigns in B.C. and to purchase WCWC's unique posters, books, cards, calendars and other products.

This past year was record-breaking in terms of store sales. Many fabulous WCWC posters of "saved" areas have been on sale for \$1 each. If you are in the Greater Vancouver Area, drop by or if you live anywhere in North America call 1-800-661-9453 for a new catalogue featuring WCWC's quality merchandise. Purchasing WCWC products shows that you care about wilderness preservation. Every purchase helps fund our wilderness-saving campaigns!

WCWC VANCOUVER CANVASS



Left to right. Back Row: Tom Wysom, Wes Berg, Mike McKenzie, Rupee Kahlon, Neville Panthaky, Vance Reidy, Ken Wu. Front Row: John Murray (Canvass Director), Chris Jacob (Field Manager), Radim Reltschmied. Missing: Ryan Crawford, Stuart Jackson, Janine Johnston, Lawrence Kay, Usman Majeed, Joan Miller, Ian Slone.

WCWC TORONTO CANVASS



Left to right: Angela Holmes, Andrew Owens, Stefan Lehmann (phone canvass), Michael Boulger, James (Hamish) Greig, Brad Batten, Peter Maracle, Kyla Kowalsky, Sid Lacombe, Norm Perrin. Missing: John Yates (Canvass Director).

Canada's Largest Membership-Based Wilderness Preservation Organization!

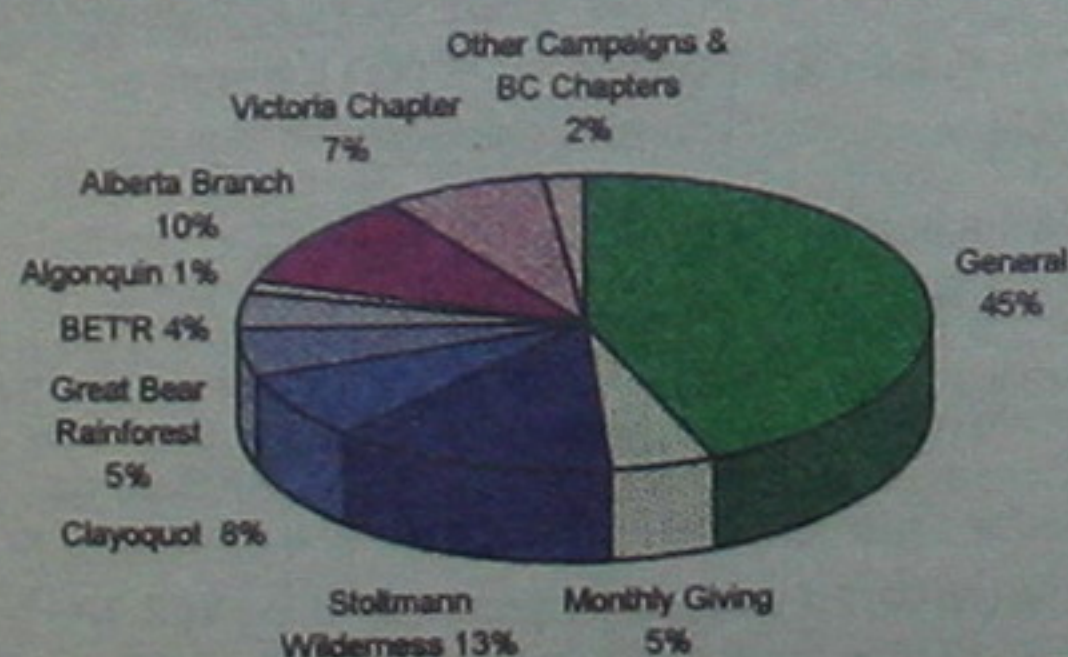
The Wilderness Committee's membership continued its uphill climb in 1997, recovering from the low point that we—and many other North American environmental groups—experienced in 1993. Our growth reflects Canadian citizens' heightened concern for environmental issues—a concern that pollsters predict will peak around the turn of the millennium. We project a WCWC membership of 40,000 by the year 2000.

But membership does not automatically grow by societal trends! Thanks to the dedication of WCWC canvassers in Toronto, Alberta, Vancouver, and Victoria, over 5,000 new members joined WCWC last year. Two adventurous WCWC canvass crews hit the pavement in towns across rural

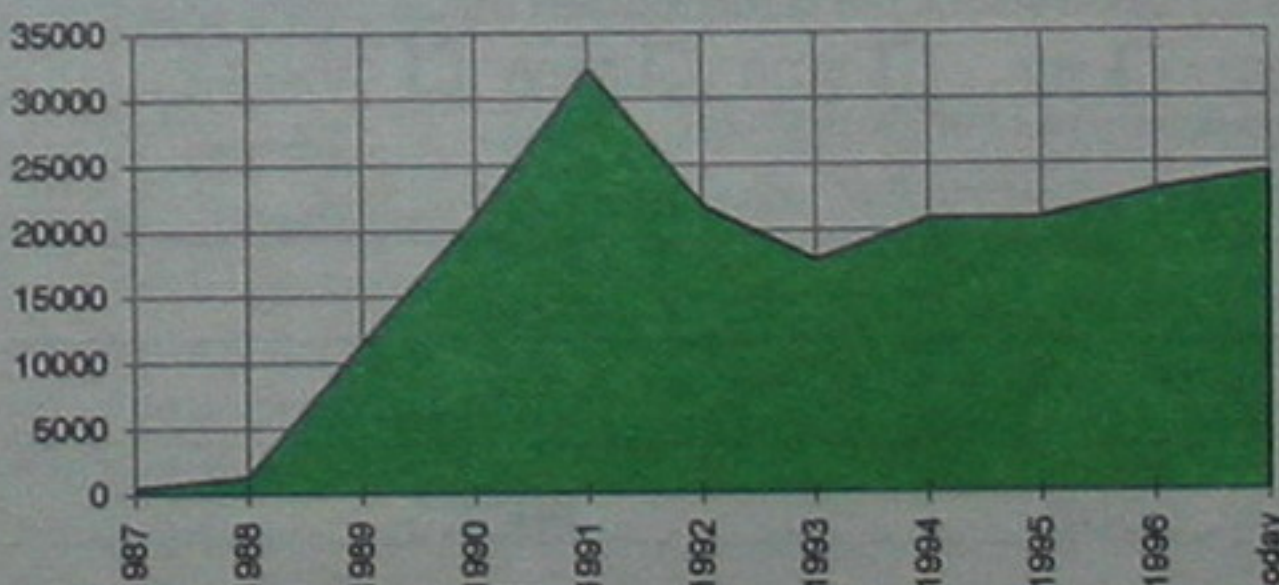
B.C. (Squamish, the Okanagan, West Kootenays, Vancouver Island) this summer, educating the public door-to-door and generating new WCWC members despite the B.C. government's "enemies of B.C." rhetoric which stirred up animosity towards environmentalists.

An extraordinary effort by WCWC staff and volunteers has resulted in a significant increase in the rate of membership renewals. We now get membership packages to people within a few days of their joining (or renewing). Exciting new programs include a revamped interactive web page, campaign kits to facilitate community action, nature walks, and much more. If you've got a great idea on how to keep our membership growing and active, please let us know!

Individual Donor Support for 1997 WCWC Campaigns



A Decade of WCWC Membership 1987-1997



GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST NOT CLEARCUT MIDCOAST

Named the Great Bear Rainforest eight years ago by a handful of visionary conservationists who early on recognized its significance, this remote mid-region of B.C.'s mainland coast contains the largest network of intact ancient temperate rainforest valleys left on the planet. It is home to Canada's largest concentration of grizzly bears, Canada's highest density of wolves, and a significant proportion of Canada's unique races of wild salmon.

Over fifteen of the Great Bear Rainforest's intact watersheds—all of them precious on a global scale—are scheduled for roadbuilding and logging by Interfor, Western Forest Products and others this year. Industrial clearcut logging will kill this magnificent wilderness unless environmentally-concerned citizens from B.C. and Canada and conservationists from around the world unite and fight like never before to protect this precious place.

We are battling incredible odds—a hostile provincial government with an archaic "smelters and pulp mills" vision of B.C. development. It is using propaganda dollars and logging subsidies to assist money-losing multi-national forest companies in their aggressive push to pillage the last of the world's great ancient temperate rainforests.

Recognizing the need to inform, inspire and mobilize British Columbians in support of preserving the Great Bear Rainforest, we teamed up with the Raincoast Conservation Society, the lead organization exploring and documenting this wilderness. In the spring of 1997 we produced 130,000 copies of a comprehensive eight-page educational newspaper entitled *Save the Great Bear*

Rainforest. This report launched our campaign to protect the 3.5 million hectare Great Bear Rainforest and establish this area as a globally significant model of environmental stewardship.

In 1997 we also purchased a special edition of the best-selling hardcover coffee table book *The Great Bear Rainforest, Canada's Forgotten Coast* (a few copies are still available at \$40 each including taxes and shipping) and printed the three magnificent full-colour posters shown below (\$10 each or all three for \$15 including postage, shipping tube and taxes).

During 1998 our public education campaign will intensify, with another large-run educational newspaper and a series of community slideshows.

We've also planned on-the-ground projects to work with First Nation partners in identifying and mapping culturally modified trees and to inventory the ecotourism potential of the area, which will prove that these forests are worth more left standing than cut down.



WCWC Wish List

Regarding our requests: if it's broken we probably can't fix it. If you wouldn't give it to your mother, daughter, husband or son, please don't give it to us. If it's in good working condition, it will help us save wilderness and we'd really appreciate it.

Trail Gear

- zodiac, outboard motor and lifejackets
- Spilsbury single side band radio
- Motorola two-way radios
- radio frequency scanner

- chainsaws
- loppers
- axes
- tents, sleeping bags and cookstoves

Slideshows and Rallies

- large portable slideshow screen
- Kodak slide projectors and carousel slide trays
- dissolve unit
- laser pointer
- megaphone
- video camera

Office Equipment

- slide scanner
- two desktop photocopiers
- laser fax machine
- Pentium computer with 28,000 baud modem
- more RAM
- free office space!

Other stuff

- 40,000 members +
- 3,000 monthly donors
- winning lottery ticket
- \$128 million (just like Skeena Cellulose)
- a \$100,000 donation

WCWC MISSION STATEMENT

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) is a registered non-profit environmental society with federal charitable status working through research and education for the preservation of wilderness in Canada and around the world. WCWC advocates and promotes ecological principles that achieve sustainable communities. WCWC works only through lawful means.

WCWC VALUES

- ★ life in all its abundance, complexity and mystery.
- ★ wilderness, with all its natural biodiversity, as absolutely vital to the continuing health of the planet and human survival.
- ★ accuracy in all our information and excellence in all our endeavours.
- ★ the diversity of individuals and groups whose combined non-violent strategies give the environmental movement its strength.

Policy on Civil Disobedience

We do not participate in any form of civil disobedience. We do not condemn non-violent civil disobedience by others. We condemn activities that threaten life, property or the environment.

Recognition of Aboriginal Title

The Wilderness Committee believes that social justice for First Nations is a prerequisite to lasting environmental protection. We support the efforts of all indigenous peoples to safeguard their traditional homelands and ensure the survival of their cultures. We believe that aboriginal rights and title to traditional land and sea territories are inalienable. We support the current treaty negotiations between the federal, provincial and First Nations governments and look forward to the final outcome—a just and fair treaty settlement.

Traditional stewardship practices provide examples of how we can live in sustainable harmony with our natural world. However, if First Nations adopt unsustainable industrially-based resource exploitation practices such as clearcut logging or commercial whaling on their treaty or jointly-managed lands and seas, we will oppose these practices as we oppose ecosystem-destroying activities wherever they may occur under whomever's authority.

We believe that all protected areas must be established in consultation with the First Nations whose traditional territories are affected. WCWC advocates that protected areas include cooperative management with First Nations so that First Nations can be assured of the economic benefits that protected areas bring—including new jobs related to the recovery of fisheries and increased ecotourism activities. WCWC also advocates that protected areas be established in a form like "park reserve" that doesn't prejudice the outcome of the Treaty negotiation process that the Federal and Provincial governments are undertaking with First Nations.

✓ I Believe:

in wilderness, ancient forests, wild salmon, clean drinking water, clean air, and the survival of all species

for the next millenium!

I would like to Adopt-a-Tree in the Canadian Rainforest.

Here's my tax-deductible contribution of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Federal charitable number 11929-3009-RR0001

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

I would like to join with WCWC's 25,000 members!

Enclosed is my annual membership fee:

☐ \$30 Individual membership

☐ \$52 Sustaining-Family membership

Members receive regular Wilderness Education Reports about threatened wilderness areas as well as a free copy of our beautiful full-colour *Western Canada Endangered Wilderness* wall calendar. Sustaining-Family members also get a *Canadian Endangered Wilderness Calendar*.

Please clip and return to the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), 20 Water St. Vancouver, B.C., V6B 1A4
To join and donate by credit card phone 1-800-661-9453 (683-8220 in the B.C.'s Lower Mainland).

