

Protect the **TETRAHEDRON**



FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE?

“Our policy emphasis today ensures that the forest resource is sustainable not just for industry but for wildlife, for heritage and cultural values, for recreation, and even for the health of the globe.”

Minister of Forests Claude Richmond

“Is it unreasonable to ask to set aside less than one three-hundredth (1/300) of our District timber supply for wildlife, for our heritage, our spiritual and recreational life and the health of the globe?”

- Tetrahedron Alliance



A composite view of Chapman Lake Bowl

TETRAHEDRON:

THE PLACE, THE PROBLEM, THE SOLUTION

The Place...

Consider: three mountain peaks rising over 5500 feet, ten lakes at or above 3000 feet, alpine and sub-alpine meadows, and the last substantial accessible old growth forest remaining on the Sunshine Coast. All of this ... nearby, within an area which constitutes less than one three-hundredth of our Forest District's Timber Supply Area (TSA).

Please ask: is it reasonable to save this legacy for future generations?

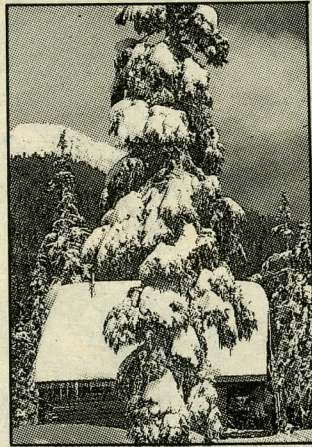
Alpine wild flowers and deep snows on the summits of Panther Peak, Tetrahedron and Mount Steele seasonally compete for supremacy atop the rim of the Tetrahedron Wilderness. Here, Rock Ptarmigan, typically birds of the northern tundra, have been discovered in what is likely their most southerly breeding locale on the continent.

Down from the rocky peaks, down through the meadows and stunted trees of the sub-alpine

zone, you come to the less harsh habitat of the lakes and old growth forest. Here, ancient Yellow Cedar, Mountain Hemlock and Balsam Fir trees dominate this 3000 foot high bowl of lakes, meadows, creeks and steep slopes. Here, Chapman, Edwards, Tannis and seven other lakes form the heart of the Sunshine Coast's water supply system. Here, surrounded by large Yellow Cedars in a cut block scheduled for logging this summer, lives the oldest recorded Mountain Hemlock in B.C., aged over 900 years. Nearby, a recently logged stump is all that remains of a Yellow Cedar which was living 1200 years ago.

The wilderness value of this area was first formally acknowledged in a provincial park proposal made by local naturalist John Hind-Smith in 1976. An extensive hiking and cross-country trail system now meanders through the area, connecting four log cabins. Last year our Regional District

government gave its support to a wilderness proposal for the Tetrahedron. Even the Ministry of Forests itself has recognized the area's high wilderness and recreation values by building the first hiking trails in 1982; by helping the Tetrahedron Ski Club construct cabins and new trails in 1987; and by recently proposing that the Tetrahedron be designated as a Wilderness Recreation Area.



Edwards Lake back-country cabin at foot of Mount Steele.

Small by either district or provincial standards, the area proposed for the Tetrahedron Wilderness includes only 651 hectares of operable (or loggable) forest within a 5,650 hectare area, most of which is either alpine or otherwise unloggable. The operable forest of the Sunshine Coast Forest District is 227,000 hectares within a timber supply area of over one million hectares. Preserving the Tetrahedron Wilderness therefore requires that less than one third of one percent of the working forest be set aside.

What we have here is an excellent opportunity for the Ministry of Forests to prove their concern to sustain values other than logging in our forest.

The Problem...

The details in this issue are complex but the immediate problem is simple. The Ministry of Forests has authorized logging to proceed this summer in the Tetrahedron in spite of requests

from the public and the Regional Board to wait until wilderness and watershed values can be fully evaluated.

Thirty-one hectares may be logged as early as July, pending the results of a hydrology study in that small area. Wilderness and recreation will not be considered in this study.

The logging has been authorized, even though the Ministry itself has proposed the creation of a Wilderness Recreation Area. However, to be precise, the wilderness proposal has to date not been given a high enough priority for early study and may languish for years while logging proceeds.

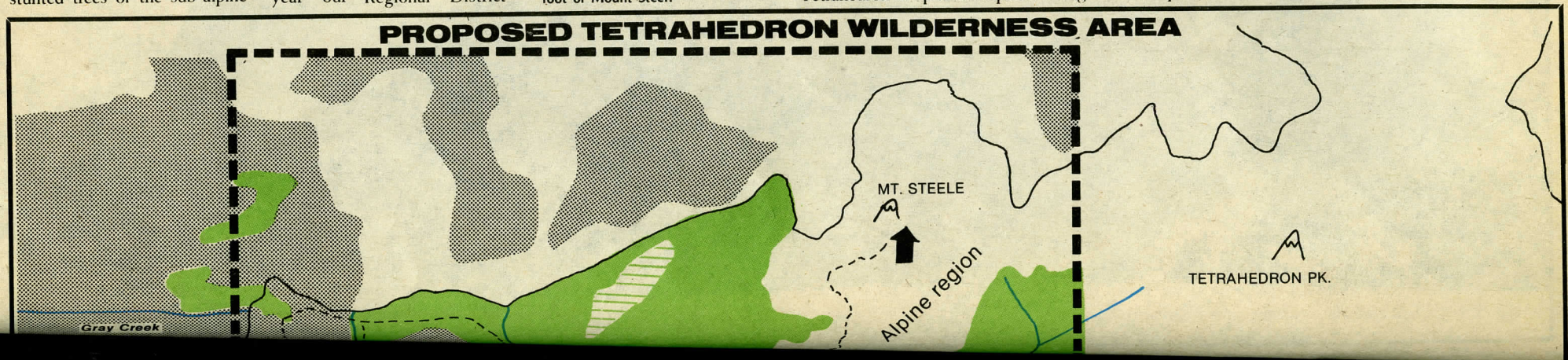
The logging has been authorized even though an Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team has only just begun a study of the area. And there are no independent wilderness or outdoor recreation specialists on the Team to counterbalance logging interests.

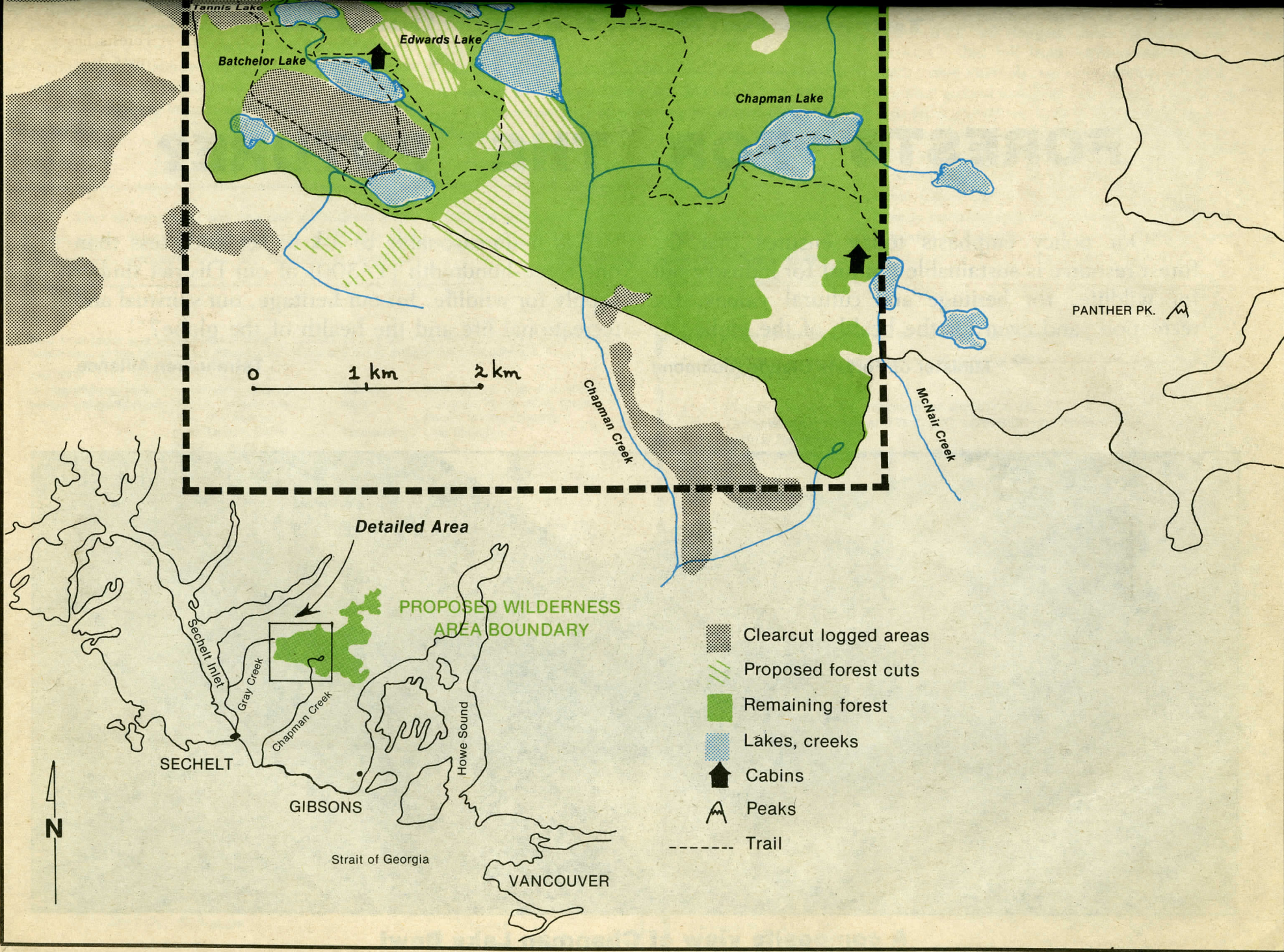
The public meeting process which began last October was cut off in February after the Ministry announced that logging would proceed on the

thirty-one hectare block. In frustration at having public and local government requests for a halt to logging ignored, the Tetrahedron Alliance was formed in March and after less than three months has already grown to about 550 members.

This problem has surely not arisen due to anyone's ill will but as a result of swiftly changing management perspectives of the B.C. forests. The Ministry of Forests is moving away from practices primarily geared to extraction towards a more balanced style which will consider values such as watershed, recreation and wilderness. Moreover, this process is moving quickly - perhaps too quickly for government agencies to keep up.

The Ministry has committed itself to Integrated Resource Management. However, here on the Sunshine Coast, according to the Minister of Forests "the timber allocation is fully committed." But why? And how can wilderness or other values even begin to receive consideration? Must other interests pay for the overcommitment of provincial forests to logging? Is the Ministry in-





Tannis Lake

Batchelor Lake

Edwards Lake

Chapman Lake

PANTHER PK.

0 1 km 2 km

Chapman Creek

McNair Creek

Detailed Area

PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA BOUNDARY

SECHULT

GIBSONS

Strait of Georgia

VANCOUVER

N

terested in applying Integrated Management only in the small area which the local government and people want preserved?

We live here. We don't want to see jobs lost. We understand the need to log in B.C. - but surely not at the expense of this high elevation ancient forest, where sustainable harvesting is questionable and where other values like wilderness and watersheds should take precedence.

Interfor, the logging company most affected, is in the difficult position of having other strong interests focussed in part of its logging area. However, they are attempting to find a solution to this problem. The logging company and we, need the full and protective support of the Ministry of Forests to find practical solutions to this unnecessary conflict.

The Solution...

To Claude Richmond, Minister of Forests:

1) Please stop logging in the Tetrahedron until both the Integrated Watershed Management Plan and the Wilderness Recreation Area Proposal studies have been completed

openly and with due process,

2) Find a short term alternative for International Forest Products, to replace the 31 hectare cut block scheduled in the Tetrahedron this summer,

3) Include a wilderness recreation specialist recommended by the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan Team,

4) Place the Tetrahedron high enough on the priority list to allow study this year as a potential Wilderness Recreation Area, and do not allow any more logging which would reduce the potential for the wilderness designation,

5) Work hard to find a solution to the current timber allocation situation which seems to leave no chance for any real wilderness option on the Sunshine Coast, in spite of your expressed support for Integrated Resource Management.

6) This is the last chance we have to preserve an accessible wilderness on the Sunshine Coast. Please create a Wilderness Recreation Area in the Tetrahedron.
Thank you.

Tetrahedron Alliance

ANCIENT TREES

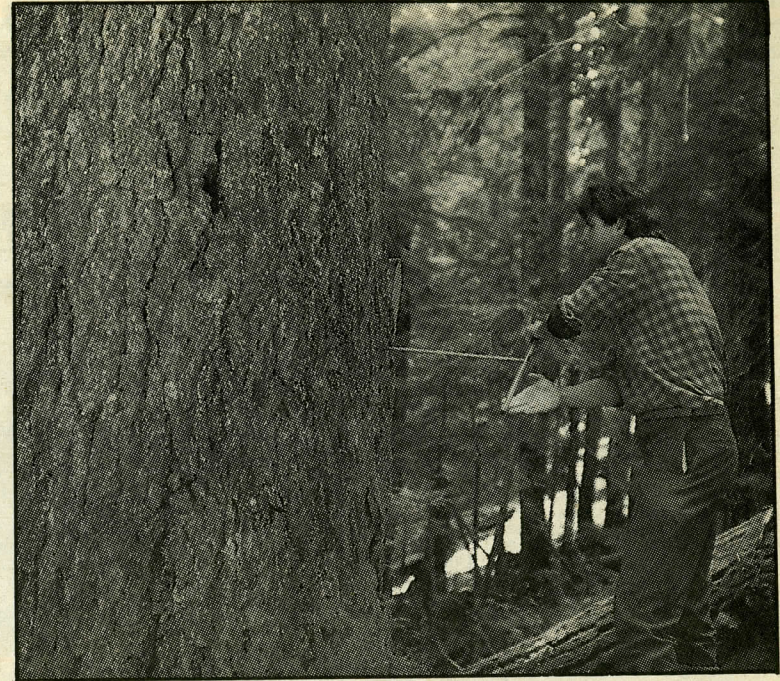
Where are the oldest trees in the Tetrahedron and how old are they? A Yellow Cedar stump from the Tannis Lake clearcut was dated at more than 1200 years and has triggered a search for other ancient trees.

On May 28 of this year, Alliance members guided Randy Stoltmann, author of the Hiking Guide to the Big Trees of Southwestern B.C., through this summer's proposed cut blocks in the Tetrahedron.

To date a tree's age, Stoltmann uses a borer, which extracts a pencil-thin core sample. This is then placed under a microscope where its growth rings can be counted. One Mountain Hemlock specimen was so large that the borer could only penetrate 85 percent of its radius. Even so, it contained 902 growth rings, automatically placing it in the record books as B.C.'s oldest recorded Mountain Hemlock.

Larger standing Yellow Cedars in the vicinity have been dated at more than 1000 years. They may be the oldest living things on the Sunshine Coast.

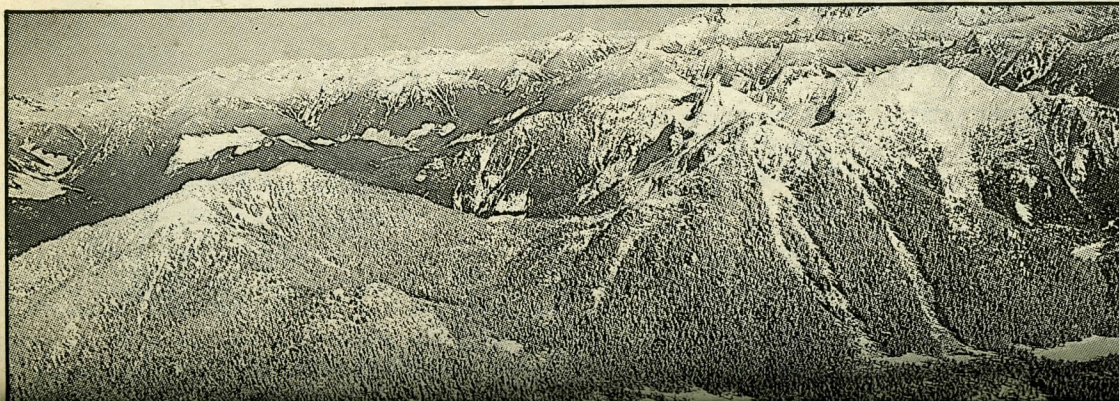
Should these old growth stands be



Sample taken by Randy Stoltmann indicated this tree found within the proposed cutblock is the world's oldest known hemlock - 902 plus years.

logged as an export commodity, or preserved for this and future generations of Sunshine Coast residents? If you object to this summer's proposed logging in the Tetrahedron forest, please write

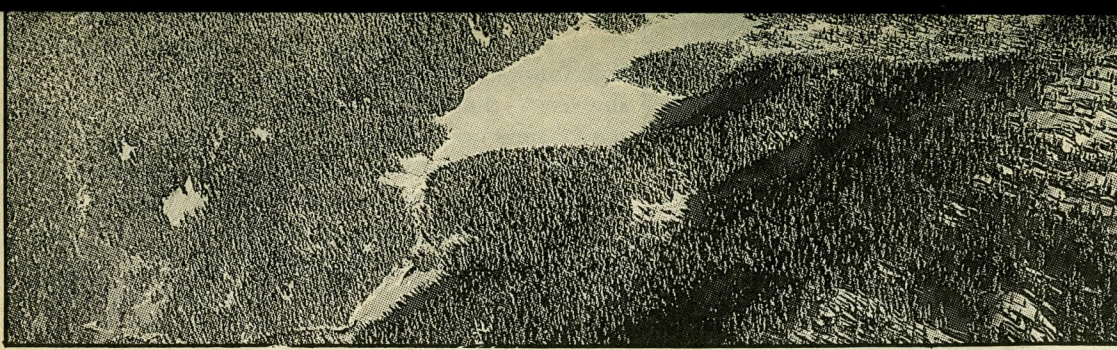
to:
Honorable Claude Richmond
Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4



WILDERNESS AND RECREATION

The Tetrahedron forest encircles an unspoiled wilderness. It is the only area of its kind within the accessible portions of the Sunshine Coast. Even by the high standards of British Columbia it offers outstanding beauty, serenity and natural diversity. Forests, lakes, alpine meadows and peaks make up this intact unit of wilderness.

To stand or walk in this forest is sufficient recreation. Its enduring wilderness value is easily appreciated and



Aerial view of a portion of the Proposed Wilderness Area, including Chapman Lake, Mount Steele on the left and Tetrahedron Peak on the right



Yellow cedar on trail to Mount Steele

THE WATERSHED ISSUE

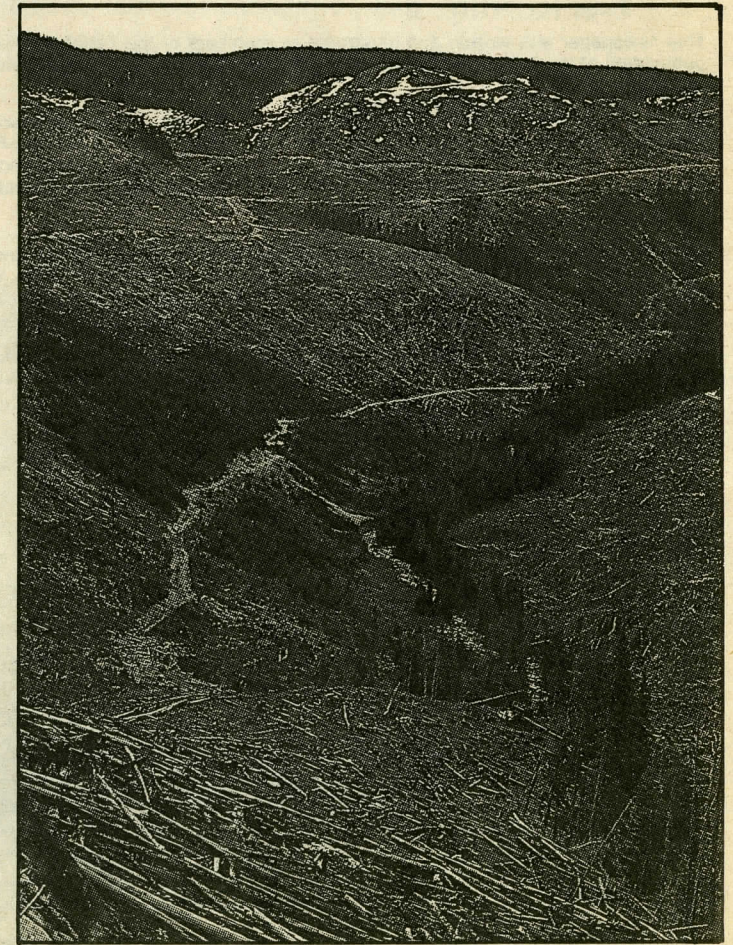
The Tetrahedron forest lies at high elevation in the Chapman and Gray Creek watersheds. This area receives ample rainfall and very heavy snowfall, our only reliable source of good drinking water. The prolonged retention of snowpack by this forest makes a vital contribution to our summer water supply.

Both watersheds have been heavily logged at lower elevations. Turbidity in the water supply has been attributed to past logging practices and a failure to correct the damage. These difficulties have prompted a comprehensive appraisal of the area and a short-term study of this summer's proposed cut blocks. Concerns have been expressed about the quality, quantity and seasonal flow of water, but logging in July is still scheduled.

Can we afford to take chances with our water supply? If you are concerned about the risks posed by further logging in the Chapman and Gray Creek watersheds, please write to the Minister of Forests.

lingers in the minds of visitors after they leave the forest. Other forms of low-impact recreation fit naturally into this environment. The Ministry of Forests has considered creation of the Tetrahedron Wilderness Area, but the proposal needs urgent, public support.

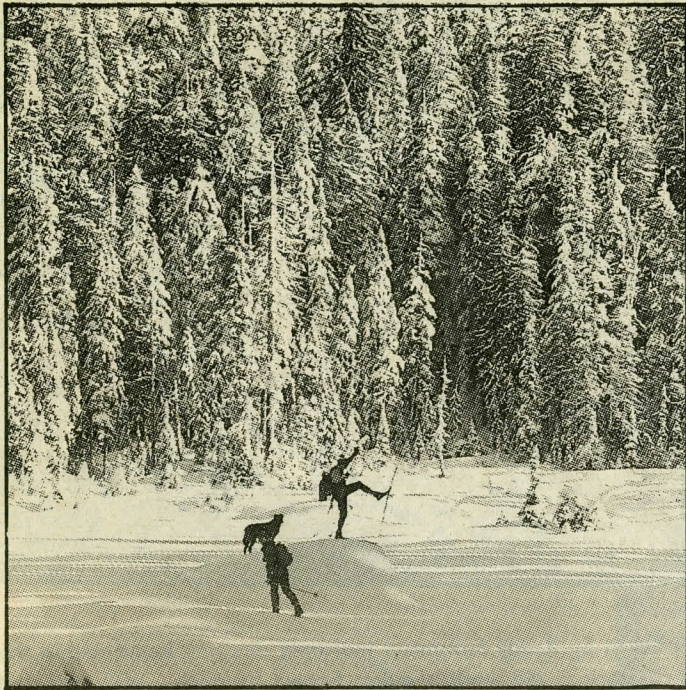
This is our last opportunity to preserve an intact wilderness for the growing population of the Sunshine Coast. Should the intrusion of logging be permitted to devalue it? If you support the inclusion of the remaining Tetrahedron forest in a protected wilderness area, please write to the Minister of Forests.



Clear cuts along Chapman Creek.

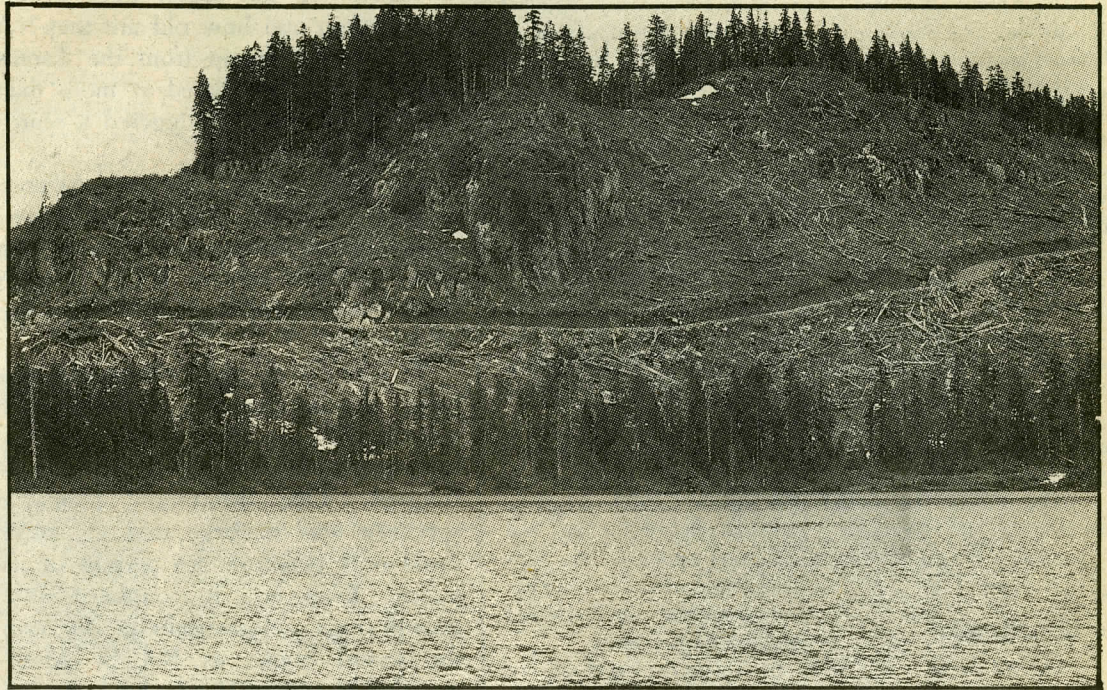
Don't Let this Continue in the Tetrahedron

Before



Tannis Lake, Winter 1987

After



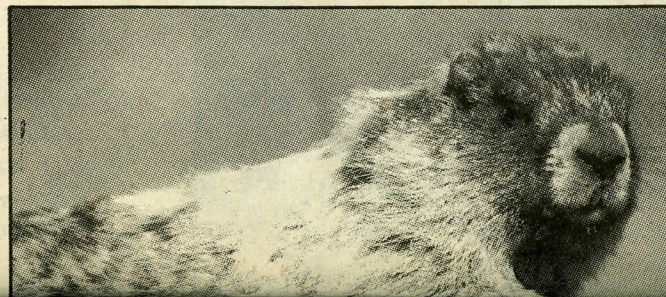
Tannis Lake, Spring 1990

"Into the solitary yet vital spaces we go for inspiration and renewal; from them we return refreshed and unburdened always with a clearer sense of what really matters."

—St. George's School

HABITAT

Logging is always a shock to any wilderness ecosystem. Areas like alpine regions are large, single living entities, kept alive in a unique high altitude life-support system. Though much of the wildlife that lives there can survive outside this particular ecosystem, alpine species are totally dependent on it. Although all ecosystems are in themselves very gently balanced, alpine regions are even more so. In short, dramatic changes—such as those brought about by logging



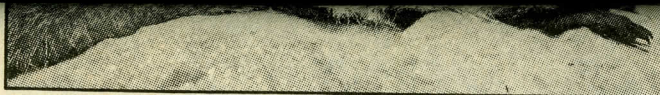
SOUND FORESTRY PRACTICE?

The B.C. Ministry of Forests adheres to a policy of logging on a sustainable basis. This means that forest blocks may only be cut if successful regeneration is anticipated, either naturally or by replanting. However, the Tetrahedron area is almost entirely above 3,000 feet, and both forestry professionals and research findings question the success of natural or fill planting regeneration at these altitudes.

According to a 1989 Federal-Provincial report on

vironmental chaos.

The Hoary Marmot, Rock Ptarmigan, Cougars and Pikas (to name a few) rely on the alpine ecosystems of the Tetrahedron Wilderness for survival. What we have to ask ourselves is, what is worth more, the money generated by logging in such a small area, or survival of these creatures.



A member of Chapman Lake Hoary Marmot colony basks in the Fall sunshine prior to beginning his annual eight month hibernation.

is of low reliability and poor productivity. Natural regeneration of logged areas depends on "cone showers" that fall from surrounding trees at widely spaced time intervals, up to twenty years apart. During this time ground cover can have become too thick for the successful growth of Yellow Cedar seedlings.

Even if nothing else is valued in the Tetrahedron forest except timber, the wisdom of logging here is open to serious question. If you are concerned that the Sunshine Coast Forest District is not adhering to soundly based, sustainable forest practices, please write to the Minister of Forests.

"Our membership has reacted with great concern to the news that the Ministry of Forests has decided to proceed with the logging of approx-

imately 60 hectares in the Batchelor and Edwards Lake area of the Tetrahedron Plateau."

- The Sechelt Marsh Protection Society

This newspaper was written and illustrated by members of the Tetrahedron Alliance. It is a joint publication of the Tetrahedron Alliance and Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

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YOU CAN HELP BY SENDING A LETTER LIKE THE FOLLOWING TO:

Honorable Claude Richmond,
Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Minister,

I support your Ministry's efforts to establish a Wilderness Area in the Tetrahedron region of the Sunshine Coast.

I believe that the last large stand of ancient and high-elevation forest on the Sunshine Coast should be preserved, including the Edwards and Batchelor Lakes area.

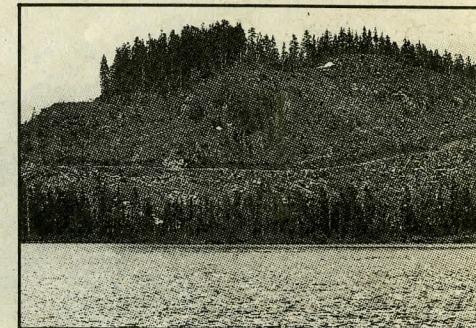
I am asking you to halt all industrial activities in the proposed Tetrahedron Wilderness Area. Both the lakes area and the high-elevation terrain included in your ministry's proposal area are recognized for their outstanding recreational opportunities, their vital contribution to our local drinking water supply and their inestimable wilderness values.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt response.

Yours truly, Signature

Address

- () **YES!!!** I want to keep industrial activity **OUT** of the Tetrahedron Wilderness Forest!
- () Please put my tax deductible donation of \$ _____ toward the Tetrahedron Alliance and W C W C campaign to protect this regionally important natural heritage.
(Revenue Canada tax reg. no. 0587113-21-28)



**ALL PROCEEDS GO
TO SAVING
TETRAHEDRON
WILDERNESS FOREST**

- () I would like to become a member of Tetrahedron Alliance. (Voluntary membership fee)
- () I would like to become a member of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Here is my \$25 annual membership fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

P. Code _____

Please make out your cheque or money order to:

- Tetrahedron Fund and send it to: Box 1802,

Sechelt, B.C. VON 3A0