Western Canada Wilderness Committee Education Report

ARMANAH VALLEY AMPAIGN Phase II

Working Together to Save the Upper Carmanah Valley





VOLUNTEERS AND SCIENTISTS WORK TOGETHER TO studies to prove that such North America, with torrential unanimously decided to leave it SAVE THE WHOLE VALLEY logging would not harm the two day downpours delivering corked. For just like logging the

three TV cameras poised on the the government provide low

a copy of our Carmanah Big our most successful poster to

conference in Victoria. He was saw and pulp mills. It worked. Suddenly it was just as if we were there.

Although I was 99% certain of what his announcement would be - preservation for only those areas best known for their big Sitka spruce - I felt a pung of disappointment when Claude Richmond's voice boomed the announcement that his government intended only to establish a half valley park in the lower part of the Carmanah watershed. He went on to say that they planned to let MB log the upper valley, once the company finished

the table in front of us. One of About six weeks earlier Joe Foy, that the valley harbours marbled eventually spoil the jest, the half

Ken Lay, Joe Foy, Adriane Carr hearing our suggestions for studies in other watersheds, that picture. Why weren't they and myself, all long time WCWC creative and feasible win-win logging would trigger increased consulted? We knew that we directors, sat together behind the solutions that would provide both crossion and landslides, which table in the back room of our logging jobs and full preserva- would in turn increase the Gastown office. We peered over too in Carmanah. dozen or so waiting reporters and We suggested, for example, that destroy the giant spruce habitat. the badly needed research

he promised to give us them arguments. He said that, in wood manufacturing plants could leaving us an opportunity to One of the reporters was talking barely keep up with the jobs respond. on a cellular phone to a colleague being lost every year due to
sucoding the legislative press increasing automation in huge many tries on our part, we never incredible thought and effort went

fact that the small area around suspected that there were no Carmanah Valley commonly but independent hydrology, windthrow back using our speaker phone, so unexpectedly experiences some of or slope stability studies; only the Few accepted the half-baby, that everyone in the room could the heaviest 24 hour rainstorms in incomplete ones done by MB. ecologically unworkable solution

start of the Headwaters trail.

carch dresses, and I met for a protected under the federal amounced full preservation for his plush logislative office. It dependent on the old-growth for As Adriane said, it was like the entire Carmanah Valley that was obvious even then that he nesting sites, did not sway him. a closed mind on this issue. Nor was he swayed by our He was not interested in arguments, based on scientific

stream's sediment load and interest loans to help establish a But the minister did promise to In the weeks to come, we new secondary manufacturing give us all the scientific Pinned to the wall behind us was plant in Port Alberni that would information and studies which our Carmanah research and use less wood while employing his Forest Service would be using boardwalking activities through

before he made his decision,

entific studies, our society would Only six out of 89 primary

make sure that they were done. hectres - on Vancouver Island All of a sudden the minister was have not been logged! A you feel about the decision? protect large animals and

For a second we hesitated. We The faster people come to looked at the bottle and each understand the valid and drink half of it, celebrating half a for entire watershed protection, perhaps by telepathy, we be fully protected.

over a foot of rain. Even the fact upper half of the valey would matter how well reserved, would

> Solomon choosing p cut the buby in half. We wondered where must work harder than ever to finish the research dation and the tree top platforms and get

continued to raise money to fund "adopted" trees. By the thousands, recommendations to cabinet. And faithful Carmanah apporters sent "their" tree. In appreciation we Above - Upper Carmanah canyon

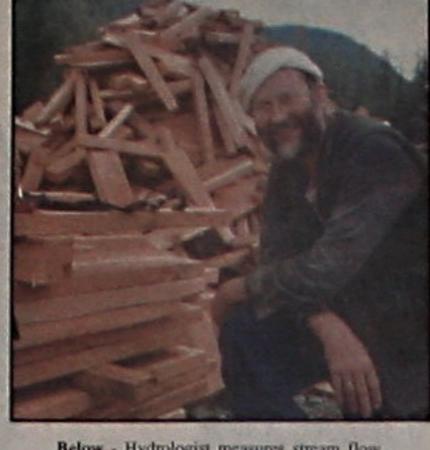
> into ensuring the platforms did not hurt the tree and were safe

and most agreed that logging were to be any independent sci-their "share" of consul rainforest. have to take the lead and help watersheds - those over 5,000 patchwork of tiny preserved inevitable questioning: How do parcels across B.C. would fail to

other. Should we open it, and compelling ecological arguments victory? Without a word spoken, the sooner all of Camanah will



takes a break from packing planks for boardwalk construction.



Below - Hydrologist measures stream flow



winds through the old growth with ramps and stairways and featuring



some very fancy spenity work.



Right - An entomologist prepares

a trap to catch light seeking insects

which is left overnight in the upper

Right - Platform at the

150 foot level goes all

is the largest of the four

around the tree. This

Left - Zoologist weighs mouse caught in

with backup safety ropes

provide access to the top

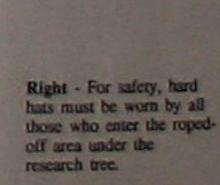
three platforms in the

main research tree.

live trap high in the canopy.

Below - Scientist sorts insect life caught in net in upper reaches of Carmanah creek.







Above - Key Wilderses Committee stuff and volunteers pose by research tree.

Twelve stones above the ground is a long ways up especially if you get there suspended on a climbing rope. That's exactly how some dedicated old growth lerest researchers go to work in the upper Carmanah Valley

Modeled ster tropical rainforest research clions, the Carmanah world of the temperate rainforest from the ground, and continue for nearly 150 feet. The huge twisted eastern Cinada, are draped in thick moss pads, bathed in a constant is a unique environment for plants and animals.

Several research projects are currently under way. Using the platforms as observation perches, marbled murrelet observers track the flight paths of these tiny seabirds that are known to depend upon nesting in the canopy of ancient, never-logged Pacific coast rainforests. In areas that have been clearcut logged, the bird disappears. Although B.C. is thought to have 10% of the world population, to date no nests have been discovered here. In

When University of Victory scientists stand on the first platform they are 125 feet above the forest floor. It's so hard to show instructions to the ground crew, they use two way radios to communicate, yet they are only half way up the tree! Three higher platforms, accessed via aluminium ladders are beated at the 150 ft., 175 ft., and 204 ft. levels. Another platform is ocated in a nearby Sitka, accessible to researchers via a traverse on honzortal climbing ropes.

In the spring of 1990, Western Canada Widerness Committee constructed North America's first, and the world's highest, rainforest canopy research platforms. With the help of mountain climbing expens who volunteered their time, the platforms were installed without pounding a nail or tightening a lag bolt into the trees.

platforms give scientists access to the canopy. The limbs start about 100 feet limbs, bigger than most trees found in mixture of mist and dripping water. It

June 1990 the Carmanah research team reported 70 murrelet sightings in the area of the research station in a

53.4 m AMERICE CANOPY LEVEL ROPE AND PLALEY ASCENDING SYSTEM -

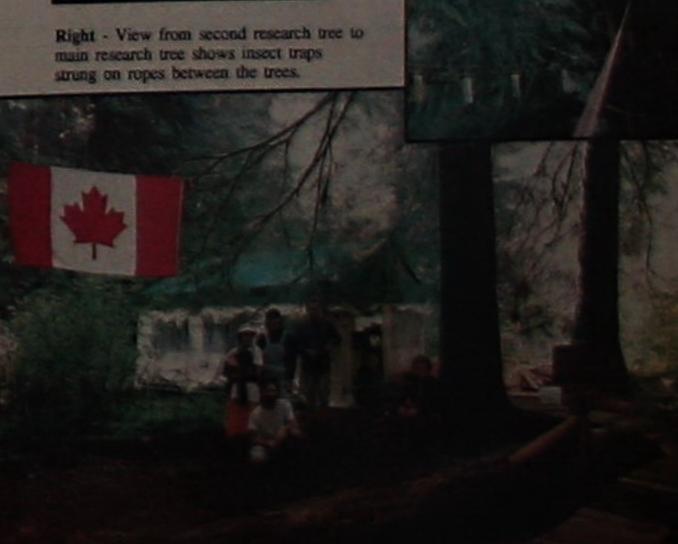
BOARDWALK AND PLATFORM TO PROTECT AGAINST HOOT CANADE AND BOL COMPACTION

CARMANAH VALLEY CANOPY RESEARCH STATION

single morning. Recently, by climbing "bugs" collected are classified. No one knows how the invertebrate species of other trees, they have discovered a temperate rainforest contribute to the indentations in the moss on several branches which are apparently long term health of the ecosystem. abandoned nesting sites. Carmanah scientists tell us that we have barely scratched the surface. We

Currently the most intensive studies need to learn more about the are those designed to produce base line information about the insects rainforest creatures of the night, the bats and owls that also are dependant found in the canopy. University of on the ancient forest canopy. As well, Victoria researchers are collecting insects using various kinds of traps at studies are just beginning on a different levels within the canopy. population of mice that has been found living in the canopy, 200 feet There is every indication that new above their normal habitat. species will be found when all the

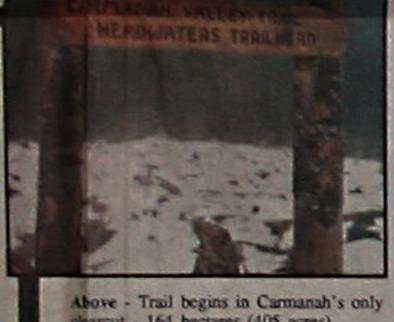




Above - A ten minute walk down the boardwalk from the trailbead, the 10 X 30 foot platform tent serves as the research station's headquarters.



Even with all the recent research activity, the Carmanah watershed is only partially explored. The largest tributary, August Creek, which flows north before it circles in to join the south flowing Carmanah is particularly steep, rugged. No one has combed its sidehill for the fabled 2,000 year old red cedar.



learcut - 164 hectares (405 acres).

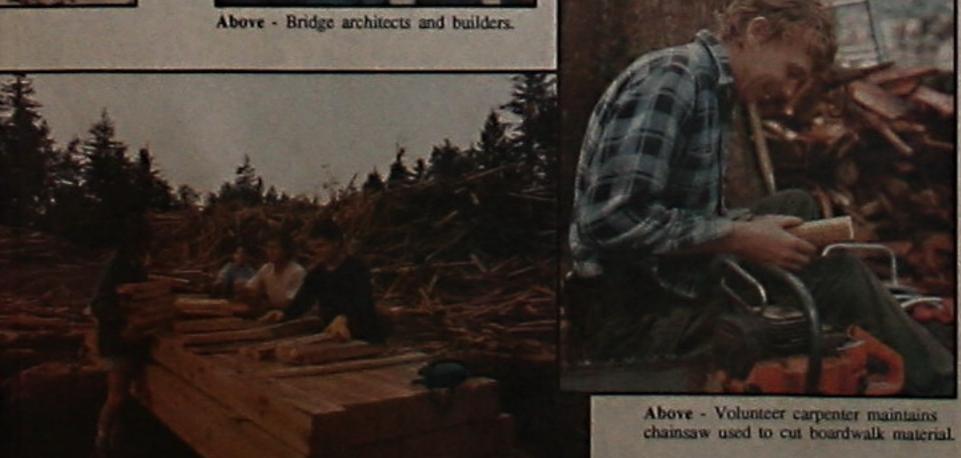
selow - A volunteer packs wood for search platform through late rch snow in headwater clearcut.



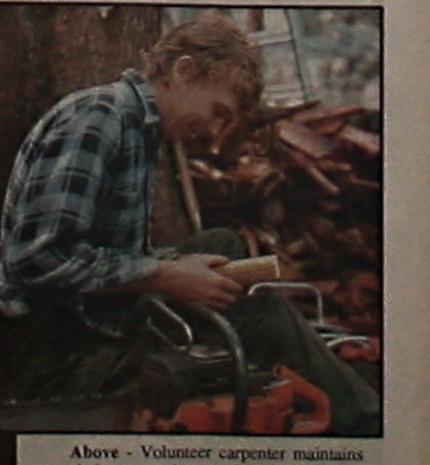
Above - Volunteers build bridge

over upper Carmanah to provide

a safe trail crossing.



shove - Volumeers select and cut usable pieces of cedar from waste pile at cond growth mill in Nanaimo. Sympathetic mill owner donates it for trail.



Below -It took about

board feet of cedar

(about the amount of

50,000 nails and 44,000

wood found in the largest

of the Carmanah Sitkas) to

complete the 2.5 km trail.

Above - Marbled murrelet researcher tracks birds in flight, trying to pinpoint nesting sight. Research shows upper valley has a high density of nesting birds.



Before white contact until very recently -Qwa-Ba-Diwa native people used the the natural landscape.

giant MacMillan Bloedel (MB) a tree farm licence (TFL) which includes Carmanah Valley.

April 1988 - WCWC members discover that

on the upper Carmanah and begin construction of a scientific camp, including boardwalk access, a large wooden floored research tent

CARNANAH CHRONOLOGY

MB had accelerated its plans to log Carmanah. New roads led to the Valley's edge and roadways were surveyed into the heart of the valley's superb spruce stands. WCWC starts to build access trail into valley bottom.

Summer 1988 to Spring 1990 - A huge political fight erupts over how much of Carmanah Valley should be park and how much should be logged. The B.C. Supreme Court rejects MB's bid to halt WCWC trail building activities. WCWC produces video titled Carmanah Forever and completes trail to headwaters. Thousands of people hike in to see Carmanah. WCWC brings in many scientists to study the valley, publishes and distributes nearly a million educational newspapers which explain why the whole

and platforms high in a Sitka.

March 10 - First research platform completed.

March 23 - MP David MacDonald, the chairman of the Federal Environment Committee, visits the upper Carmanah. MacDonald stresses the need for research into the old growth forest before decisions are taken on its fate. MP Robert Wenman becomes the first elected official to ascend to the canopy research platforms.

April 10 - Honourable Claude Richmond, B.C.'s Forest Minister announces that the lower half of Carmanah will be a provincial park, and the upper half opened to logging if studies to be conducted by MB show that such logging would not hurt the park downstream.

necessary.

May 6 - WCWC's coffce table book, CARMANAH - Artistic Visions of an Ancient Rainforest, published in the fall of 1989, wins both the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize and the Bill Duthie Booksellers Choice.

May 28 - Peter Knighton, hereditary chief of the Qwa-Ba-Diwa, files a writ laying claim to Carmanah Valley and surrounding territory. The writ also demands financial compensation for damage to forests and fisheries inflicted on Qwa-Ba-Diwa territory since Canadian confederation.

June - There are now five platforms in a complex of three Sitka spruce trees in the upper Carmanah. Scientists begin studies on insect and small mammal life in the canopy.

July - WCWC publishes a report titled, Carmanah Valley Old-Growth Research Project. The report details the research conducted from the WCWC camp in the upper Carmanah. The report is widely distributed to government, industry, universities and media. WCWC research camp staff report that MB has not yet started its on-the-ground scientific

Summer 1990 - Research accelerates in the upper Carmanah Valley, attracting rainforest scientists from other universities. The boardwalk is completed and interpretive signs installed to complete the upper Carmanah rainforest demonstration trail. An increasing number of Canadians seek full preservation for the entire Carmanah watershed.

TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE ALL OF CARMANAH VALLEY

Yes! I would like to help (help again) save the upper Carmanah Valley. I am pleased to give you this tax deductible gift of [] \$500 [] \$100 [] \$50 [] \$25 _____ so you can continue your successful Carmanah Valley Research Preservation Campaign. (Rev. Can. Tax Reg. #0587113-21-28) ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND:

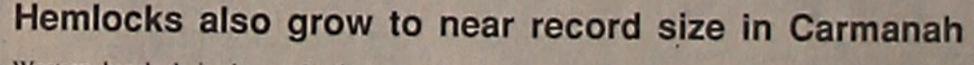
[] \$6 for a 24" by 16" copy of the All Things Are Connected clearcut logging poster - shown above. [] \$4 to buy WCWC's newly revised (July 1990) Carmanah road access and trail guide map, so I

- can hike the valley and see the forest for myself. Price includes postage, handling and tax [] \$12 for the WCWC double-album tape, Sounds of Our Voices. This unique cassette tape features
- many of our best known west coast artists and a collection of songs about the coastal rainforest.
- [] Count me in. I want to become a member of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Enclosed is my \$25 annual membership fee.

Name	VERTICAL DE		
Address			
City	Province	Postal Code	
	y this coupon. Please make you Committee and send to WCWC, 20		

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARD SAVING ALL OF CARMANAH - THANK YOU!!!





Western hemlock is the predominate species in the remaining old growth on the B.C. coast. This species makes up more than 50% of the existing volume of coastal rainforest wood in general and in Carmanah Valley in particular. A young hemlock growing in the shaded understorey can wait for hundreds of years for the inevitable downfall of a nearby overtowering giant and the sunlight needed to grow up to the top of the canopy. Classified as a "weed species" and left behind by early loggers, it was after World War II under the pseudonym "Alaska pine" that it achieved widespread use. This hemlock was recently discovered in the upper Carmanah. It is of near record size. Further off the trail, waiting to be discovered is, without a doubt, a bigger one. Even though hemlocks don't grow to be as old as the most ancient red cedars or as tall as the tallest spruces, nevertheless they rank in the top 10 list of mightiest trees on earth.

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A very special thanks to the hundreds of volunteer trail builders, the scientists who have used the platforms and conducted the research, the volunteers who have helped in the WCWC office, and the thousands of people who "adopted a tree" and thereby helped finance the building and maintenance of the Carmanah Canopy Research Station. All of you have made, and are making this project a success!

