

A GLOBAL HERITAGE IN PERIL

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WESTERN CANADA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE—WILD
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When most people think about rainforests, they imagine steamy hot tropical jungles of South and Central America, Asia and Africa. But rainforests—lush forests that grow where precipitation is at least 2000 mm (over 6 feet) and is spread out relatively evenly over most of the year, are also found in temperate regions of the world. Temperate rainforests grow along a thin band of land where moist ocean air collides with coastal mountains.

Temperate rainforest ecosystems occupy only a small part of our planet. It is estimated that five hundred years ago, there were 30,000,000 hectares (ha) of temperate rainforest growing on Earth—about one-fortieth the extent of tropical rainforests. Areas with temperate rainforests include western North America, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and Norway.

The maritime temperate climate, with its moist summers and mild winters, is very favourable to forest growth. Because of the infrequency of fires and other large-scale natural catastrophes, the temperate rainforests are characterized by

very old and very tall and large trees. These forests have high biodiversity in comparison to other temperate ecosystems, although much less than that found in tropical rainforests which never experience freezing or frost. However, the living biomass accumulation of the temperate rainforests is more than three times as much as in the faster growing and faster decaying tropical rainforests. The temperate rainforests on North America's west coast have the largest accumulations of living organic material per hectare of any ecosystem on Earth!

Although everyone is aware of the current, devastatingly rapid loss of the world's tropical rainforests (estimated to be as much as 50 ha per minute), temperate rainforests have been under human pressure for a much longer time, and have suffered proportionately greater loss. The original temperate rainforests of Ireland, Scotland, France, Yugoslavia, and Turkey are all gone. In western North America—home to over 50 percent of the world's original temperate rainforests—over 60 percent of the original Canadian temperate rainforest, and 90 percent of the American temperate rainforest have been destroyed.

The ancient temperate rainforest of BC is without a doubt one of the natural wonders of the world. In Carmanah Valley, on Vancouver Island, grows the tallest known living tree in Canada—a 95 metre high Sitka spruce. In these forests, trees over 1,000 years of age are common and the oldest known and recorded are nearly 1700 years old. Few doubt that there are trees over 2,000 years old growing somewhere in one of BC's remaining wild, unlogged watersheds.

As scientists learn more about the ancient old growth temperate rainforest along the coast of BC, they are finding more and more "old growth dependent" species—plants and animals that need an intact old growth forest in order to survive.

Only one third of BC's primary temperate watersheds are still wild. We have a responsibility to all inhabitants of this planet, present and future, to set aside self-sustaining areas of temperate rainforest as wilderness, forever.

JOE FOY

Why Protect Wild Watersheds?

Recognition of the intrinsic value of natural, wild ecosystems is a recent phenomena. It is becoming more evident that wild ecosystems are the storehouses of genetic information and thus anchor the life processes on Earth. In 1982, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recommended that all countries protect not less than 12 percent of their total area as natural reserves, and that all ecosystems found in each country be included in that country's protected area system. In its 1987 publication *Our Common Future*, the Brundtland Commission, reconfirmed the need for this level of "wilderness" protection: a tripling of the existing global level of protection. It must be noted that much of the world's current protection exists on paper only—maps that delineate an area as a park or ecological reserve—but not in the reality of actual, on-the-ground protection.

The selection of 12 percent as a minimum level of natural ecosystem protection has no basis in science. Many scientists believe that the world needs more, or that natural corridors must interconnect the protected areas in order to prevent them from becoming small islands in a sea of ecologically impoverished, man-dominated landscapes. Because of in-breeding and lack of habitat variety and extent, the smaller the island, the less biodiversity it can maintain.

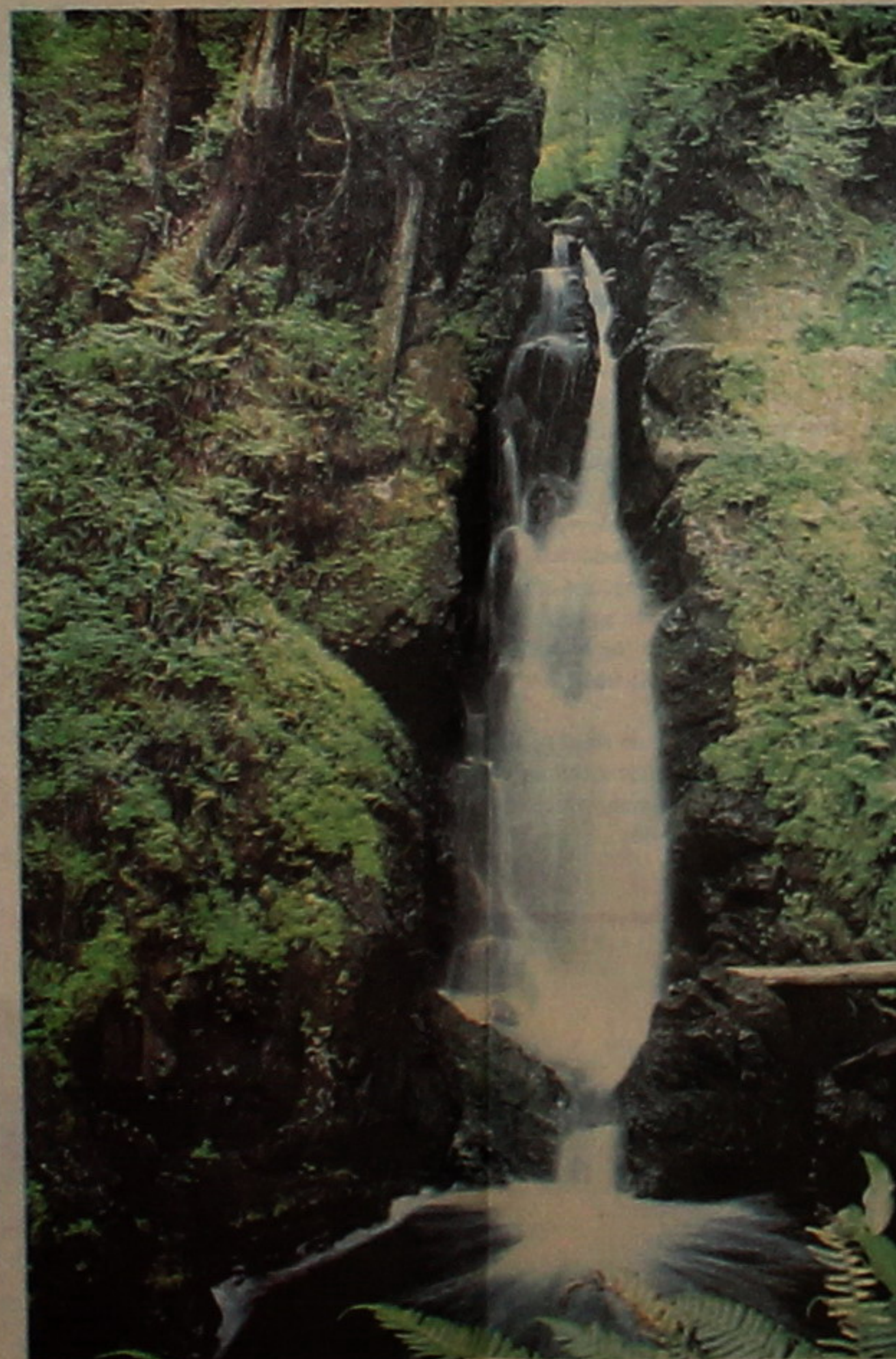
Both the Canadian national and the BC provincial governments have embraced the internationally acknowledged goal of 12 percent protection. They have endorsed World Wildlife Fund Canada's Endangered Spaces Campaign, to complete the provincial and federal park systems in Canada to include representation of all significant landscapes by the year 2000. BC's new NDP government is committed to making "substantial progress" towards doubling the parks system in the province (from the current 6% to 12% of the province's area) during the next 5 years. In January of 1992 they announced a new land commission, charged with the task of developing a comprehensive land use plan for the entire province, starting with Vancouver Island.

The completion of BC's parks system—as part of the overall plans for ecologically sustainable development—must be done with biological goals in mind. The system must contain areas that adequately represent all of BC's biodiversity at the gene, species and ecosystems levels. The protected areas must be based on ecological units such as watersheds, and must be large enough to support viable breeding population of the species highest in the food chain, such as bears, eagles and cougars.

PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO TELL THEM WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN TO BC'S REMAINING WILD TEMPERATE RAINFOREST WATERSHEDS—development or protection. Ultimately permanent protection will only come about through legislated land use designations.

Hon. Dan Miller
Minister of Forests
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, BC
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Hon. John Cashore,
Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, BC
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KEN LAY

BC's Opportunities for Wild Watershed Preservation

In the southern-most regions of the coast, we have already lost the chance to protect whole, undeveloped watersheds over 5,000 ha in size. Only fragmented watersheds remain. We must act now to protect the few remaining ancient forests and relatively pristine watersheds in this region: such as the Carmanah and Walbran valleys on southwestern and the Tsitika on eastern Vancouver Island; the fragments of forest left on the Sunshine Coast (the Caren Range and the Tetrahedron area); and in the Fraser Valley (the Nahatlatch valley).

Photo above: BC coastal old growth forest

Photo left: Shark River in Clayoquot Sound

As we move up the coast, opportunities to protect intact watersheds increase. In the mid-Vancouver Island region, there is the opportunity to add the Megin and Sydney watersheds to Strathcona Park. Upgrading Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area to class A park status and adding the Power, Klaskish and East Creek watersheds would provide another large sustainable wilderness area of ancient temperate rainforest and a refuge for the Roosevelt elk.

The Shushartie watershed is the only watershed left intact on the east side of Vancouver Island: it must be protected as the only opportunity to protect a representative area of the Nahwitti Lowlands ecoregion.

On the mainland, the Paradise watershed stands alone as the only example of a pristine watershed left in the south coast. The Ahnuhati, recognized as excellent Grizzly habitat, and its neighbours the Ahta and the Waump should be protected together as a grizzly sanctuary. The Koeeye river, which supports all five salmon species, is also excellent grizzly habitat, making it, together with the adjoining Elizabeth Lake, a top candidate area for wilderness preservation in the Hecate Lowland ecoregion.

Northern Graham Island in the Queen Charlotte archipelago boasts 3 complete protected intact watersheds on the eastern side (in Naikoon Provincial Park). The western side is recognized as a different ecoregion and so we must preserve intact watersheds there as well. Duu Guusd Tribal Park, declared by the Haida in 1983, includes the Beresford, Otard, Seal and Coates watersheds on the windward Queen Charlottes, as well as the pristine Jalun River, representative of the Queen Charlotte Lowlands ecoregion. It must be recognized as an opportunity to protect biological diversity in a culturally appropriate way.

Most of the remaining undeveloped watersheds in coastal B.C. are located in the North Coast region. Here there is the opportunity to create a huge protected area which extends from the coastal divide, and Tweedsmuir Park, all the way south to Fiordland Recreation Area (which must be upgraded to class A park) and the ocean. This magnificent park would contain the largest temperate rainforest watershed in the world, the Kitlope, and much of the longest fiord in the world, the Gardner Canal.

Another large cluster of undeveloped watersheds is centred on the Ecstall River. The Khutzeymateen river, currently being considered as a grizzly bear sanctuary along with the Khyex and Exchamsics watersheds form a landscape that could provide a major sanctuary to the north coast grizzly.

We have enough information now to say that at least the areas mentioned above should be granted protection right away. But we don't have enough information to make a reasoned decision as to which of the remaining undeveloped watersheds should be thrown open to development. What are the resource values in these watersheds? Are they critical habitats which have not yet been recognized? We won't know until a thorough inventory of all the resources in the coastal temperate rainforest is completed. Until that time, there should be no industrial activity in these last remaining undeveloped watersheds.

An Inventory of BC's Coastal Temperate Rainforest Wilderness Watersheds

Last year Keith Moore, a BC professional forester on contract to Conservation International / Ecosyst and Earthlife Canada, completed an inventory of primary watersheds—watersheds larger than 5,000 hectares (ha) which empty directly into salt water. He divided them into three categories: pristine—those in which there is no evidence of industrial development, modification—those with some development but less than 2 percent of the area disturbed, and developed—those with over 2 percent disturbance. The point of the survey was to identify candidates for large preservation. More and more biologists are recognizing that in order to conserve biodiversity into the future, we must set aside and protect large, contiguous, natural areas that include whole, undisturbed ecological units such as watersheds.

Moore found that only one third of BC's 354 primary watersheds are still pristine or only slightly modified. These 118 wild watersheds are shown on the map on the right. Tables elsewhere on this page group these watersheds by ecoregion and present information about each one. The data was gathered from government sources—the federal ministry of fisheries and the provincial ministries of the environment and forests by WILD researchers Ian Purdie and Rachel McGee. WILD's search for information revealed that very little is known about BC's wild coastal watersheds. Further biological inventories are essential if we want to rationally determine priorities for preservation.

A Key to Understanding the Data Tables in this Paper:

- Name** - Watersheds are named after the major watercourse or in some cases major lakes or lagoons within the watershed (Moore's report).
- Area** - Size of watershed in hectares (Moore's report). The choice of 5,000 ha as a minimum size for an area to be considered wilderness was used by the B.C. government's Wilderness Advisory Committee of 1987, and by others.
- Development** - Undeveloped watersheds are those with virtually no development—pristine (pris) or with very little development (less than 2 percent or no more than 250 hectares for large watersheds)—modified (mod). Development that has occurred has been primarily logging activities (Moore's report).
- Protected** - Watersheds are listed as park if they are completely within a national or provincial park, and RA if they are completely within a provincial recreation area. Mining exploration and developments are permitted within a RA. Watersheds which are only partially within an existing park or recreation area are listed as part (part).
- Parks Plan '90 Wilderness for the '90s** - In 1991 the BC ministries of parks and forests released maps showing areas that they are respectively considering for further study as possible new parks or wilderness areas. Those watersheds that lie fully within a park study area are identified by the letter P. Those lying completely within a proposed Ministry of Forests wilderness study area are identified by the letter F. Watersheds which are only partially within a study area are further identified by (part) following the P or F.
- Salmon Species present** - Equipment (number of spawning salmon by species returning to a stream) estimates are kept annually for most streams by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Notes on the productivity potential have also been made for some streams. Notes that this inventory is full of information page. Abbreviations: Chinook = Ch, Coho = Co, Pink = Pk, Sockeye = Sk.
- Waterfowl Rating** - In 1985 R.A. Hunter, K.R. Summers and R.G. Davies prepared a rating scheme for the B.C. Ministry of Environment for B.C.'s major coastal wetlands. The coastal wetlands having high waterfowl use and productivity that are found within undeveloped watersheds are denoted by the word high.
- Grizzly Rating** - The highest density of grizzly bear populations in BC are found on the coast, but no complete, watershed by watershed inventory of our greatest land predator has been conducted. Four wilderness watersheds were identified by grizzly experts working for the Ministry of Environment as exceptional grizzly habitat. These are denoted by the word high. Watersheds with no rating do not necessarily mean they are less important as grizzly habitat. It means only that they have not been surveyed or rated.



Megin Valley, Clayoquot Sound: the largest unlogged watershed on Vancouver Island



The mouth of the Koeye River



Recent clearcut logging in the San Juan watershed

WINDWARD QUEEN CHARLOTTE MOUNTAINS

Name	Area (ha)	Development Status	Protected Status	Parks Plan '90 Wilderness Study Area	Salmon Species	Waterfowl Rating	Grizzly Rating
76 Borsford	13,157	pris		F(part)			
77 Oard	9,150	pris		F(part)	Pk		
78 Coates	8,370	pris		F(part)			
79 Seal	5,250	pris					

QUEEN CHARLOTTE LOWLANDS

Name	Area (ha)	Development Status	Protected Status	Parks Plan '90 Wilderness Study Area	Salmon Species	Waterfowl Rating	Grizzly Rating
67 Julian	11,000	pris		F(part)	Co,Pk,Sk		
68 Christie	12,812	pris					
69 Onan	13,897	pris					
70 Hancock	20,750	pris					
71 Sumpster	15,900	mod			Co,Pk		
72 Hillier	15,400	pris	part		Co,Pk		
73 Oranda	10,373	pris	part				
74 Cape Ball	16,117	pris	part		Co		
75 Mayer	15,220	mod	part				

More Research and "Log arounds" Needed Now

The maps and charts contained in this paper quantify the obvious. Watersheds over 5,000 ha in the southern part of the province, where forest timber values were high, and human settlements and industry concentrated, have all been developed. In the temperate rainforest region of the lower 48 United States, there are no longer any wild primary watersheds of this size left—protected or unprotected! The message is clear: we must choose to protect the wilderness areas we need for ecological sustainability or we will lose them.

A survey must be immediately conducted to determine if and/or when resource development is planned for each existing undeveloped coastal BC watershed. These watersheds must remain intact and "log arounds" found, so that options to preserve biodiversity are not foreclosed while the current provincial land use planning process is underway.

On Vancouver Island, in the Queen Charlotte Islands, and on the southern mainland coast, the few remaining opportunities for preservation of large intact watersheds must be acted upon as quickly as possible.

In the areas where more pristine watersheds still remain, along the steep and rugged central and northern coast, watersheds need to be quickly studied. Those watersheds with the best wildlife and fisheries values, not just those with the lowest commercial timber values, must be preserved.

It is important that some partially developed watersheds and watersheds that are only somewhat modified be considered for full preservation. Left to mend themselves, these mostly-wild watersheds have a better chance of ecological sustainability if nature is allowed to reclaim the already developed areas within them. This is our best chance for representation of the 9 ecoregions that no longer have any large, still-wild watersheds.

If we are committed to a land use strategy in BC which will ensure ecologically sustainable development, we must do all we can to preserve biological diversity—our remaining wilderness—in areas which are as ecologically self-sustaining as possible—our primary watersheds.

HECATE LOWLANDS

Name	Area (ha)	Development Status	Protected Status	Parks Plan '90 Wilderness Study Area	Salmon Species	Waterfowl Rating	Grizzly Rating
80 Karmadon	5,187	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
81 Frodo Lake	6,687	pris			Co,Sk		
82 Lewis-Quibell	24,656	pris		F			
83 Tinnack L.	7,000	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
84 Kenyatta Cove	5,000	pris		F	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
85 Unnamed	6,596	pris		F	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
86 Banks L.	10,662	pris		F	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
87 Ketchikan L.	5,625	pris		F	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
88 Bitedale	5,312	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
89 Canoea	12,275	pris			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
90 Archel L.	8,812	pris			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
91 Kowaka	7,065	pris			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
92 Four Lakes	6,250	pris			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
93 Karye	18,825	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		High
94 Elizabeth L.	6,687	pris			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
95 Chacnic L.	6,562	pris			Pk		
96 Sandell	12,262	pris					
97 Johnson	6,789	pris			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
98 Alford	7,437	pris			Ch,Co,Pk		
99 Takash	8,230	pris			Ch,Co,Pk		

NAHWITTI LOWLAND

Name	Area (ha)	Development Status	Protected Status	Parks Plan '90 Wilderness Study Area	Salmon Species	Waterfowl Rating	Grizzly Rating
111 Shulbaric	7,300	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		

WINDWARD ISLAND MOUNTAINS

Name	Area (ha)	Development Status	Protected Status	Parks Plan '90 Wilderness Study Area	Salmon Species	Waterfowl Rating	Grizzly Rating
112 Klaskish	5,189	mod		P			High
113 East	5,033	pris		P, F (part)			
114 Nauparti	6,020	pris		P, F (part)			
115 Power	5,488	mod		P, F (part)	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
116 Sydney	5,883	pris			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
117 Megin	24,299	pris	part		Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
118 Moyeta	18,220	pris	part	P	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		

NORTHERN PACIFIC RANGES

Name	Area (ha)	Development Status	Protected Status	Parks Plan '90 Wilderness Study Area	Salmon Species	Waterfowl Rating	Grizzly Rating
100 Unnamed	6,652	pris					
101 Hot Springs	11,437	pris				High	
102 Iduna	14,625	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
103 Lockhart/Gordon	11,812	pris			Co,Sk		
104 Smokehouse	38,750	mod		F (part)	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
105 Waump	10,812	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
106 Alta	6,750	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
107 Matsui	6,437	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
108 Kwalate	7,750	mod			Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		High
109 Ahnhati	19,125	mod		F	Ch,Co,Pk,Sk		
110 Paradise	9,375	pris					

What is a Primary Watershed?

A primary watershed is a complete river or stream drainage basin that empties directly into salt water. Primary watersheds are important ecological units tied together by the flow of water from the mountain tops all the way down to the sea. At every point along the way, the water quality and quantity is the product of processes occurring upstream.

Moyeta Valley, Strathcona Provincial Park. One of only four primary wilderness watersheds entirely within a park in BC.



SOURCES

Ecoregions of BC. Dennis A. Demarchi, BC Ministry of Environment, 1988.

Parks of BC. BC Ministry of Lands and Parks, 1991.

An Inventory of Watersheds in BC Coastal Temperate Forests of British Columbia. Keith Moore, Earthlife Canada & Ecosyst/Conservation International, 1991.

Cartography by Dennis (Joanni) and Ian Parfitt, 1992.

SCALE - 1:2,000,000
Kilometers 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 Kilometers

- ### LEGEND
- Undeveloped watersheds
 - Ecoregions with opportunities to protect entire undeveloped watersheds
 - Ecoregions with no opportunities to protect entire undeveloped watersheds
 - National parks, provincial parks and provincial recreation areas
 - Pacific Ocean

Ecoregions of Coastal British Columbia

British Columbia has greater diversity in landform and climate than any area of comparable size in Canada. The variety in these two key geographic elements, together with the large size of the province, its maritime location, and its spatially intermittent glaciation, are responsible for the province's high biological diversity at the gene, species and ecosystem levels.

In order to ensure that the full spectrum of today's biodiversity is conserved for tomorrow's generations, we must act now to complete a system of protected areas.

In a perfectly rational world, we would develop an adequate protected area system based on a complete data base. We would know all of the species that exist in the province. (It has been estimated that only about half of BC's unique insect species have been identified and named). We would have a watershed-by-watershed inventory of species and subspecies. We would know, for the larger animals, their range and the minimum population size needed to avoid loss of genetic variability, which could threaten the species' survival. We would know the degree of sub-speciation of tree species and the rate of their gene flow from watershed to watershed.

Given this information, we could then study our system of parks and protected areas to determine if all of the province's biodiversity is adequately represented, and where gaps in current representation exist. Then we could select areas for protection which would best "fill in" the gaps.

Unfortunately, our knowledge today is unbelievably rudimentary. In coastal BC, for instance, we currently have little understanding of even the threatened species such as the marbled murrelet. Whole new communities of insect species were discovered only this summer in the canopy of the Carmanah forest on Vancouver Island. The process of studying our natural wealth in all its diversity must become a priority immediately. The government of BC is beginning to realize this, and, with the help of the Nature Trust, has set up a provincial conservation data centre.

Yet, we cannot wait until all of the information is in, for, at the present rate of industrial development, all of today's wild areas—and the opportunities to protect our biodiversity—will have long been developed before we have learned what we have lost.

We have no choice. With the limited information that now exists and the general biogeographical classifications which have already been developed, we must begin to analyze the adequacy of our current protected area system.

Several efforts have been made to classify BC's ecosystems into units for the purposes of systematic study and management. V. J. Krajina, together with his colleagues and students at the University of British Columbia, developed a Biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification which has been adopted by the B.C. Ministry of Forests and most forest companies. D. Demarchi of the BC Ministry of Environment developed an Ecoregion classification for B.C. to provide a regional physiographic and climatic context to the biophysical framework. The Ministry of Parks has also developed a system of classification which divides the province into 59 Landscapes.

The temperate rainforest is defined in the biogeoclimatic classification system as the area within BC in the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) and Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zones. The extent of the diversity in this area is better reflected in the Ecoregion classification system, for these two biogeoclimatic zones extend through two Ecoprovinces (Coast and Mountains and Georgia Depression), which are subdivided into 12 ecoregions. Some of these ecoregions are further subdivided into ecosections, resulting in a total of 18 regional units.

The map and tables on the next page analyze undeveloped watersheds within the temperate rainforest zone by these Ecoregion units. The most startling finding from this comparative study is that only 7 of the 16 ecoregions—all of which once contained wild primary watersheds greater than 5,000 ha—still do today. In more than half of our temperate rainforest ecoregions we have already lost the chance to protect whole wilderness watersheds!



This publication was made possible by a generous gift from the Cundill Foundation. Special thanks to Earthlife Canada and Conservation International/Ecotrust for permission to use Keith Moore's *An Inventory of Watersheds in the Coastal Temperate Forests of British Columbia*.

New Land Use Commission Brings Hope

Everyone knows that giant bulldozers and hungry chainsaws are destroying BC's coastal wilderness at a very rapid rate. But no one could say how much of BC's ancient temperate rainforest remains, that is, until a few months ago when Conservation International / Ecotrust and Earthlife Canada released the results of their survey of coastal watersheds.

The study shows that of the 354 primary watersheds greater than 5,000 ha along BC's coast, only 20 percent are pristine and 13 percent are slightly modified by man. Sixty-seven percent have already been developed. Virtually all of the larger watersheds (there are 25 over 100,000 ha) are well along the road to complete development. Only the Kitlope, found in the north-coast region, survives untouched.

These statistics alone do not reveal the extent of the loss of ancient forest biodiversity that has already occurred in BC. What's already been lost, and can never, ever, be recovered, comes into sharper focus when the locations of these remaining undeveloped watersheds are compared to the BC Ministry of Environment's map depicting the ecologically distinct coastal forest regions. The ancient temperate rainforests are of similar weave, but not of the same fabric. Ecologists have identified 16 different coastal rainforest subtypes, primarily the product of climate differences. While sharing many species in common, each region has unique features and has, or had at one time, unique species, especially in the insect realm.

Today, only 7 of BC's 16 temperate rainforest ecoregions still contain wild primary watersheds. And conservation opportunities to protect whole watersheds in these 7 regions will soon be lost, too, unless conservationists are able to make the case for wild watershed preservation strongly enough to the newly created Commission on Resources and the Environment (CORE), headed by former ombudsman Stephen Owen. This commission has an important job to do and it is the duty of every environmentalist and conservationist to participate. A strategy to save an adequate number of wild watersheds and conserve our temperate rainforest heritage must include:

- protecting representative samples of the different types of natural salmon streams—essential to the conservation of wild salmon stocks.
- the enactment of an Endangered Species Act that protects species' natural habitat as well as individual members of that species.
- an industrial strategy on the lands not set aside for protection that is truly ecologically sustainable and that enhances the jobs-per-tree-cut ratio, so that the future productive capacity of the land is not compromised for short term profits.
- land use designations such as tribal heritage areas and tribal parks that protect watersheds and ancient temperate rainforest areas while allowing low-impact native use. The Haisla Declaration on the Kitlope is a good model.
- protection of ecologically representative wild watersheds in as large, contiguous units as possible, in every distinct ecoregion.

HELP PROTECT BC'S REMAINING WILD RAINFOREST WATERSHEDS

Here is my gift of \$_____ I understand that it is tax deductible and that my donation will go towards campaigns to protect BC's remaining wild temperate rainforest watersheds.

Yes, I want to become a Wilderness Committee member. Enclosed is my \$30 membership fee. Membership fees are not tax-deductible.

Please send me a copy of your full-colour, 144 page, coffee table book *CLAYOQUOT - on the Wild Side* about preserving the ancient temperate rainforest on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Enclosed is \$49 to cover all costs, including taxes and shipping.

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ Postal/ZIP Code _____

Please make your cheque or money order payable to WCWC - Temperate Rainforest Campaign and send it to Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 1A4. Thank you!

Aboriginal Title and Rights

The first human inhabitants of BC's coast were, by many accounts, experts in ecologically sustainable development. Despite thousands of years of occupation, natural resources remained plentiful and continually available for each generation to use to meet their needs. They were closely connected to

their food supply and understood that over-harvesting of shellfish beds or salmon runs, for example, would have direct negative consequences for them and their children. In less than two hundred years, immigrants who introduced systems and technologies of massive natural resource extraction, have reduced biodiversity and degraded the soil, water and air which sustain all life.



With the exception of a few treaties covering small areas around Vancouver Island, none of the native groups living in the coastal area of what we now call British Columbia signed treaties giving up their traditional territories to the newcomers. Since the "discovery" of "British Columbia" by Captain Cook, native people have been discriminated against through repressive laws and policies, forced to assimilate, and not allowed an equal place in the economic development of BC. For generations, native people in BC have been seeking a fair, negotiated settlement of land and sea claims which would respect their right of resource ownership and right to self government. A parks and protected area system plan to preserve watersheds and the ancient temperate rainforests of BC must be negotiated with the native owners, recognizing their rights to subsistence use and economic benefits arising from protected area status.

Today, respect for the traditions and values of native peoples is growing. The federal and, more recently, the provincial governments have begun to negotiate land ownership and other rights with First Nations groups. The areas that have been claimed by the native bands on the coast in formal submissions to the federal government are shown on the map in the centre of this page.

WILD
WILDERNESS IS THE LAST DREAM

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