

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Educational Report Summer/Fall 1992
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WILD+BEAUTIFUL


CLAYOQUOT

SOUND





Looking northeastward at pristine ancient forest along Shelter Inlet, Clayoquot Sound



Looking in a northeasterly direction at old clearcut logging scars on Herbert Inlet, Clayoquot Sound

TWO DIFFERENT WHICH ONE WILL YOU

Clayoquot Sound - the core protected area of a world-famous U.N. Biosphere Reserve. An ancient temperate rainforest where immense trees of the Pacific coast and their wildlife-rich natural ecosystems are allowed to flourish forever.

FUTURES~ HELP CHOOSE?

Clayoquot Sound - an integrated use area where tree farms dominate 90 percent of the area. Biodiversity and natural beauty is lost due to clearcutting.

MAKE CLAYOQUOT SOUND A U.N.



NEW VISION FOR CLAYOQUOT -- BIO RESERVE CORE PRESERVATION

The Clayoquot Sound region, centrally located on the west coast of Vancouver Island, is one of the most scenically beautiful and awe-inspiring areas in the world. It's 200,000 ha of forested mountain slopes, valleys and islands comprises the largest remaining expanse of temperate ancient rainforest on Vancouver Island and one of the largest tracts in the world. Because much of Vancouver Island has already been heavily logged, the pressure to clearcut the rest of Clayoquot Sound's wilderness is strong. Government processes such as the Clayoquot Sound Sustainable Development Strategy (CSSDS)

*Top Right: Canoeing in
Lemmons Inlet on Meares
Island.*

*Right: "Big Mother"
western red cedar on
Meares Island*

*Far Right: Wolf on Meares
Island*

*Bottom Right: Grapple
yarder loading old
growth logs on truck*



Clayoquot Sound Boundary

The logging companies and the BC Forest Service see the forest primarily as timber to be converted into profit. Clearcutting, as the most cost-efficient method of logging, is the only harvesting system used in Clayoquot Sound, despite increased erosion, the loss of aesthetic value and the loss of biodiversity. The companies are willing to give up only a tiny percentage of what they term the "working forest" for non-timber values such as wildlife, fish habitat, recreational, and spiritual needs. They are also unwilling to recognize the lands as unceded lands of the Nuu-Cha-Nulth tribe.

Environmentalists see the ancient forest as a complex ecological blueprint which very little is known about and which is impossible to reproduce once lost to clearcut logging. Scientists have discovered that an intact ecosystem must be extremely large - possibly as large as 500,000 ha - in order to sustain the species it supports and to regenerate itself over time.

In the face of growing concern for ecological viability, short-sighted government policy continues to support the industrial plantation vision for Clayoquot Sound. The policy of the provincial government is to liquidate the old growth. And now the federal government is attempting to get involved in timber extraction in Clayoquot Sound as well, through the new "Model Forest" initiative.

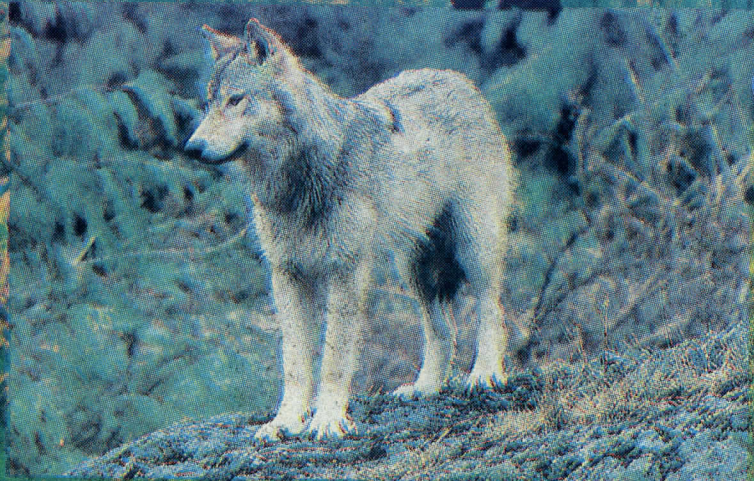
Processes such as the Clayoquot Sound Sustainable Development Strategy (CSSDS), aimed at resolving the land use conflicts in the region have only exacerbated them. Clearcut logging and road-building continues to push into the last remaining intact watersheds, compromising the CSSDS process by reducing conservation options. Further fragmentation of the forests is rationalized for the sake of forest industry jobs. But further fragmentation of the old growth forest reduces the chance of long-term forest sustainability.

This conflict of jobs versus the environment is not unique to Clayoquot Sound. Several decades ago the UN recognized that people must use resources as well as conserve ecosystems, and a new type of protected area was established: the "Biosphere Reserve". A Biosphere Reserve is a large area, in some cases as large as Vancouver Island, with three zones of activity: a core preservation area managed for conservation of biological diversity; a buffer zone where human impacts are modified to have a low impact on the environment; and an industrial zone where the land is intensively used by humans. Clayoquot Sound alone is not big enough to comprise a Biosphere Reserve, but it could be one important core area, buffered from continuing industrial activity in existing fragmented watersheds.

If Clayoquot Sound's wilderness is fragmented by clearcut logging the opportunity to protect a large self-sustaining portion of the temperate rainforest in southern BC will be lost forever, and Vancouver Island's biological diversity will steadily deteriorate. Individual action is needed. Remaining silent about the destruction of nature is an endorsement of that destruction.



BIOSPHERE RESERVE CORE AREA



Key to Satellite Image

Dark Green	Ancient Forest
Light Green	Second Growth
Brown	Recent Clearcuts and other Bare Soil and Rock
Black	Water
Blue	Snow and Ice
Wispy Blue	Clouds

Chronology of Events

1000 - When first Norseman "discover" North America, many of the huge ancient red cedars still thriving in Clayoquot Sound were already tall trees, and Nuu-Chah-Nulth people had already occupied the area for thousands of years.

1778 - Captain Cook reaches Vancouver Island and "discovers" the Nuu-Chah-Nulth and their rich culture based on cedar and salmon and sustainable resource use.

1955 - Newly amalgamated MacMillan and Bloedel (MB) logging company granted perpetual tree farm licence (TFL) with exclusive cutting rights over half of Clayoquot Sound, including an area of forest then reserved for future park, without public consultation.

1956 - Almost all the rest of Clayoquot Sound's forests, reserved for small loggers' use in a "Public Working Circle", granted to British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP), a newly formed large logging company. Forest Minister of the day sentenced to jail for accepting bribes to grant this licence. Licence allowed to stand despite proven corruption.

1960s and 70s - Level of clearcutting continually increases to more than triple the initial rate at time licences granted. Evidence of damage--especially accelerated erosion--grows.

1981-82 - Local residents of Tofino organize to oppose proposed clearcutting of Meares Island, the source of their drinking water. Government establishes Meares Planning Team.

1984 - Government ignores planning team's recommendation for substantial preservation of Meares and reconfirms allocation of 95% of timber on Meares to industry. Cutting permits issued. Native and non-natives block company efforts to log. MB granted injunction to have protesters removed.

1985 - Nuu-Chah-Nulth natives granted an injunction to halt MB's logging of Meares to maintain status quo while their claim to aboriginal rights to the trees on Meares is before the courts.

1988 - Local residents oppose road building along shoreline of pristine Sulphur Pass--entrance to the largest region of natural unlogged rainforest on Vancouver Island. Courts grant injunction to New

Zealand based logging company, Fletcher Challenge (FC), who had recently purchased the TFL from BCFP. 35 people defy the court orders and are arrested, convicted and sentenced to jail. FC eventually halts Sulphur Pass road construction and develops alternative access road.

- Tofino City Council and Chamber of Commerce ask provincial government for Sustainable Development Strategy for area.

1989 - Premier Bill Vander Zalm announces the formation of a Sustainable Development Task Force for the Clayoquot Sound area.

1989-90 - Task Force flounders because continued logging in study area compromises process outcome.

JAN 1991 - Task Force restructured but is still focused on finding a consensus compromise between logging-dependent communities and those dependent primarily on tourism and fisheries. Logging in study area continues.

MAY 1991 - Continuing "talk and log" process leads to the resignation of the task force's environment and tourism representatives.

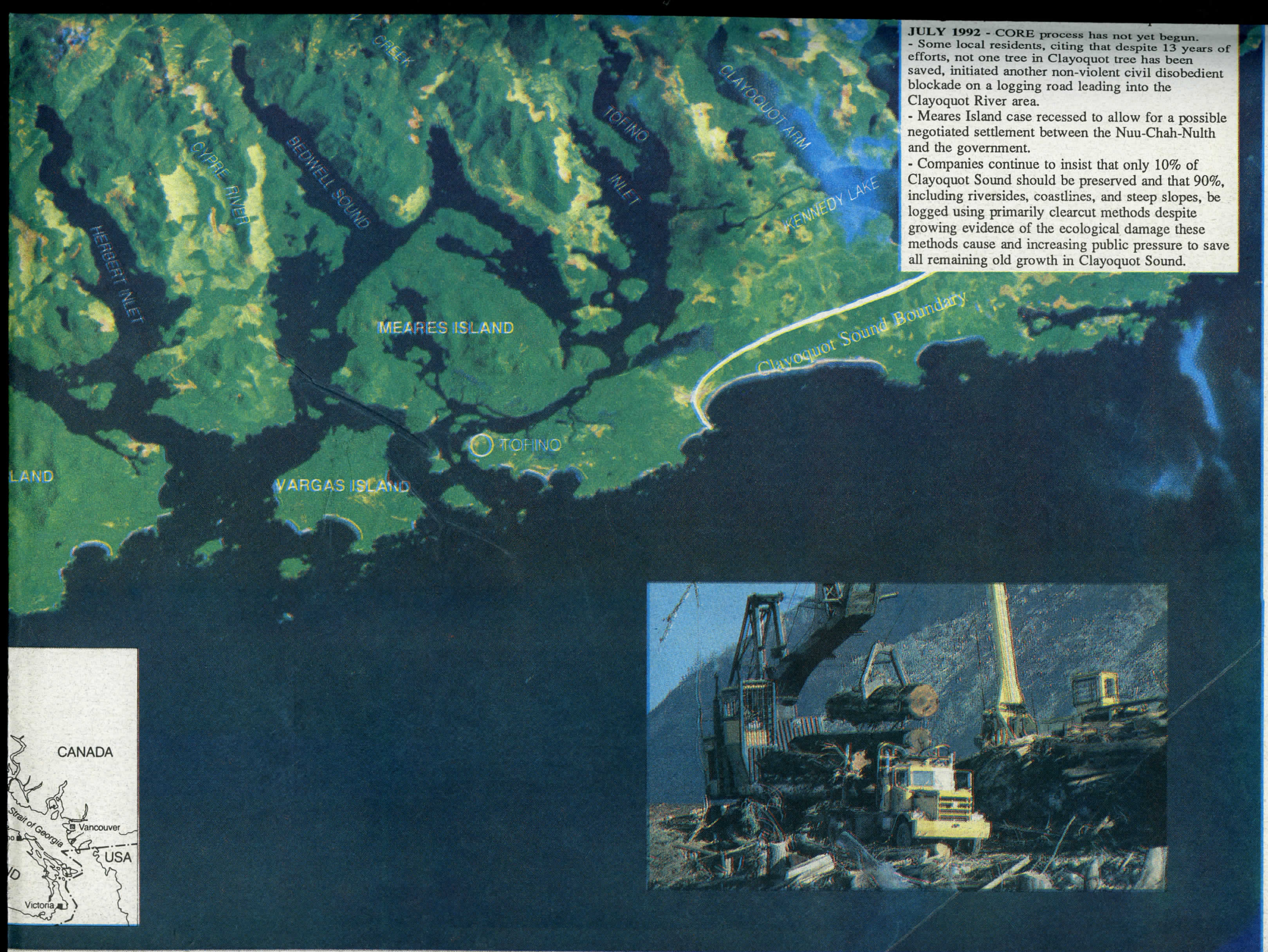
SEPT 1991 - Meares Island case begins in Supreme Court of B.C.

-Blockade established in response to logging in the Bulson drainage.

JAN 1992 - Provincial government establishes CORE (Commission On Resources and the Environment). It is given an 18 month mandate to solicit public input and make recommendations regarding all of Vancouver Island. Some land use conflict areas are granted "log around" moratoriums but none of these are in Clayoquot Sound.

JUNE 1992 - Task Force delays its final submission till September. BC Forest Service evokes emergency measure to allow larger clearcut in Cold Creek area of Clayoquot River than recommended by the Task Force's Interim Conservation and Development Panel.

- Without any public debate and without recognition of CORE, the federal government announces that Clayoquot Sound is a finalist for Green Plan "Model Forest Area" grant. Model Forest plan calls for continued clearcuts and more research. \$1 million of \$5 million taxpayers dollars allocated for the Model Forest plan to be spent on PR campaign to



JULY 1992 - CORE process has not yet begun.

- Some local residents, citing that despite 13 years of efforts, not one tree in Clayoquot tree has been saved, initiated another non-violent civil disobedient blockade on a logging road leading into the Clayoquot River area.
- Meares Island case recessed to allow for a possible negotiated settlement between the Nuu-Chah-Nulth and the government.
- Companies continue to insist that only 10% of Clayoquot Sound should be preserved and that 90%, including riversides, coastlines, and steep slopes, be logged using primarily clearcut methods despite growing evidence of the ecological damage these methods cause and increasing public pressure to save all remaining old growth in Clayoquot Sound.



POINT & COUNTER POINT

Pt. Don't worry about logging the old growth. We are replenishing the forests. There is nothing unusual about clearcutting. Its effect is very much like natural forest fires. Now we replant three trees for every one we cut down and within a few years the ugly clearcuts "green up" and everything is back to normal. Anyway the trees are already over mature and decadent and we are doing the Earth a favour by giving young, healthy trees a chance to grow.

Pt. Even if the cutting of these ancient forests causes some environment damage we must cut them because we need the jobs and already have built the mills to process the wood.

Pt. There is lots of old growth forest left on Vancouver Island...at least 50 percent of the original forest. There is no urgency to protect any more. It doesn't matter if we cut Clayoquot Sound, there are plenty of other areas where we can save samples of the ancient forest for scientific purposes. Besides, more than 12 percent of Vancouver Island is already park, and much of that is unused.

Pt. We used to build roads and log in ways that caused

Cpt. Forests are not just a bunch of trees growing together. It is not only the number of trees that count. It is the snags--the dead standing trees where many birds and animals live-- , the thick moss and lichens high up in the closed canopy, and the diversity of ages and species that make a self-sustaining temperate rainforest work. Forest fires were exceedingly rare in the coastal rainforest. When they occurred they consumed only a small area, leaving many trees alive and lots of standing snags. Multinational companies typically clearcut huge areas and try to establish plantation forests by planting trees with little genetic variation. They typically allow only 70 years of growth before they clearcut again. In these plantations the essential components of the natural forest never recover and many old growth dependent species are lost. It is ecological ignorance and arrogance to state that clearcut logging and plantations improve the forest.

Cpt. Our planet will be destroyed if everyone adopts this position. Natural ecosystems are the real basis of ecological sustainability, and they underlie all human economic activity. Where people and governments allow the environment to be degraded ultimately the carrying capacity of the area for jobs also decreases. Think of a place like Haiti. The cure for the overcapacity of our mills is in diversification of the economy, more value added manufacturing and commercial thinning and selection system logging of the second growth forests rather than clearcutting them again. The ecologically sound, long-term economic solution is not in cutting down the last large remnants of natural forest.

Cpt. Most of the remaining natural forest on Vancouver Island is high elevation, scrubby forest, not lush temperate rainforest. Much of it is fragmented by clearcutting and roads. Species depend on specific ecosystems or specific components of ecosystems, not just any old forest. It is also absolutely necessary to have very large natural areas to protect the complete compliment of species in a complex natural ecosystem over time, especially given variations in climate and the random occurrence of natural disasters which might wipe out a small reserve. Scientists estimate that about 500,000 ha--more than twice as much as the intact old growth left in Clayoquot Sound--is a minimum size of area needed to protect the biodiversity of a region. Currently less than 3% of Vancouver Island's old-growth is protected.

Cpt. This is simply not true. The recent cutting by

One way or the other...

YOU

take a stand

Write to:

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

He has the power to prevent this area from becoming a Model Forest where tree plantations replace the naturally regenerating old growth forest. He also has the power to take steps to forward this area to the United Nations as one core area of a large Vancouver Island Biosphere Reserve.

Premier Michael Harcourt
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

He has the power to avoid needless conflict and make the CORE land use planning process genuine by placing an immediate moratorium on further logging in Clayoquot Sound while CORE evaluates the Biosphere Reserve proposal and considers what it will take to make future forestry developments ecologically sustainable.

Send a letter to your local MLA. If you are a visitor from another country to Tofino and Clayoquot Sound, your letters are particularly powerful. *We live in a global community and everyone has a stake and a say in the fate of Earth's increasingly rare natural forests.*

Send copies of your letters to us at WCWC
We will use them to gain more support.

openings and make sure the trees grow back.

Pt. It is just a very small radical group of eco-nuts that want all of the remaining old growth preserved in Clayoquot Sound. The vast majority of people understands that saving 10 percent of the area is more than adequate and that, with our new silvicultural techniques, we can cut the rest without any ecological and visual damage and keep communities like Port Alberni and Ucluelet alive.

Top: Fresh clearcut in Tofino Creek, Clayoquot Sound

Bottom: Ancient (old growth) forest in Tofino Creek, Clayoquot Sound

clearcuts on unstable slopes and debris in salmon creeks are as common as ever. MB is cutting the leave strips they had left between small cutblocks because they blew down, creating one huge clearcut. They continue to use grapple yarding techniques which requires twice the amount of road building, causing even more erosion than older methods.

Cpt. The most recent polls indicate that over 60% of British Columbians place environmental protection before jobs. It is not the environmentalists who are greedy, but the multinational companies. They have already developed all but eight of the 90 large primary watersheds on Vancouver Island. Too few choices remain. If we save too little the future generations will not have all the components and the blueprint of a naturally working forest necessary to know how to sustainably maintain industrial forests.


Allowing logging to continue at the current rate in the current manner isn't even a short term solution. At current cut rates, in less than 15 years the ancient rainforest

will be gone, with many years to wait until the second growth forest is big enough to cut.

Meanwhile a growing tourism industry, as well as fishing and mariculture, will be negatively affected.

YES! I WANT TO HELP SAVE ALL OF CLAYOQUOT SOUND

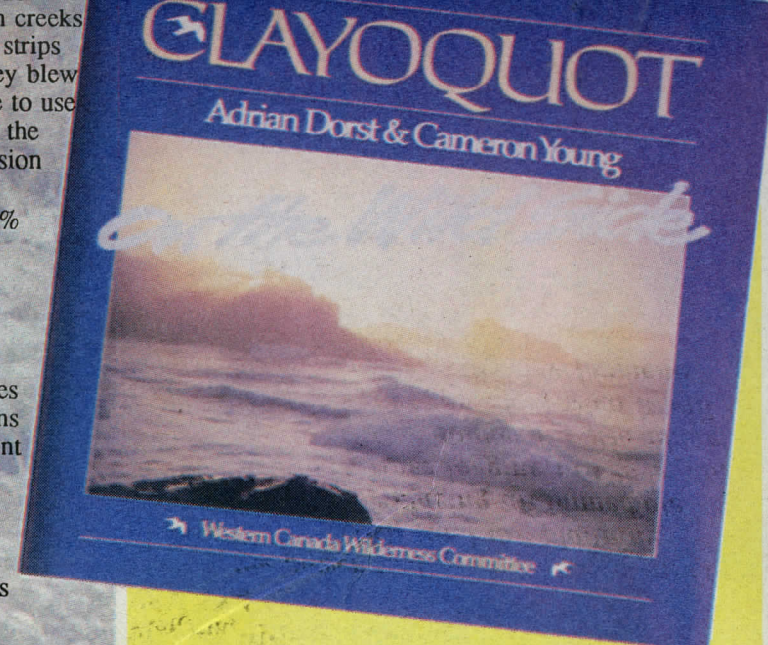
This publication was made possible by a grant from The Bullitt Foundation

- ☐ I have written letters to government officials. Enclosed are photocopies.
- ☐ I know it costs money to reach the public and convince people that it is absolutely necessary to save the largest remnant of ancient rainforest left on Vancouver Island. Here is my ___\$10 ___\$25 ___\$100 ___\$1,000 tax deductible gift to help succeed in saving the ancient forest in Clayoquot Sound.
- ☐ Please sign me up. I want to become an active member of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee, which is not tax deductible because I receive a beautiful 1993 BC Endangered Wilderness calendar.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$45 for a copy of *Clayoquot - On the Wildside*. 
- I understand that this covers all taxes and postage.

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Please return to Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), 20 Water St., Vancouver, BC, V6B 1A4 Phone (604) 683 8220

Everyone doing something positive to address the ecological crisis is the only way to solve it.



Clayoquot - On the Wildside

This hard cover coffee table book features the inspiring images of Tofino photographer Adrian Dorst and the prose of Victoria environmental writer Cameron Young. 144 pages with over 80 stunning colour photographs. It has a strong message--save the remaining wild areas on the west coast of Vancouver Island ISBN 1-895123-040-6

Regular price \$49.95. With this coupon at participating stores in Tofino only \$44.95

CREDITS

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