

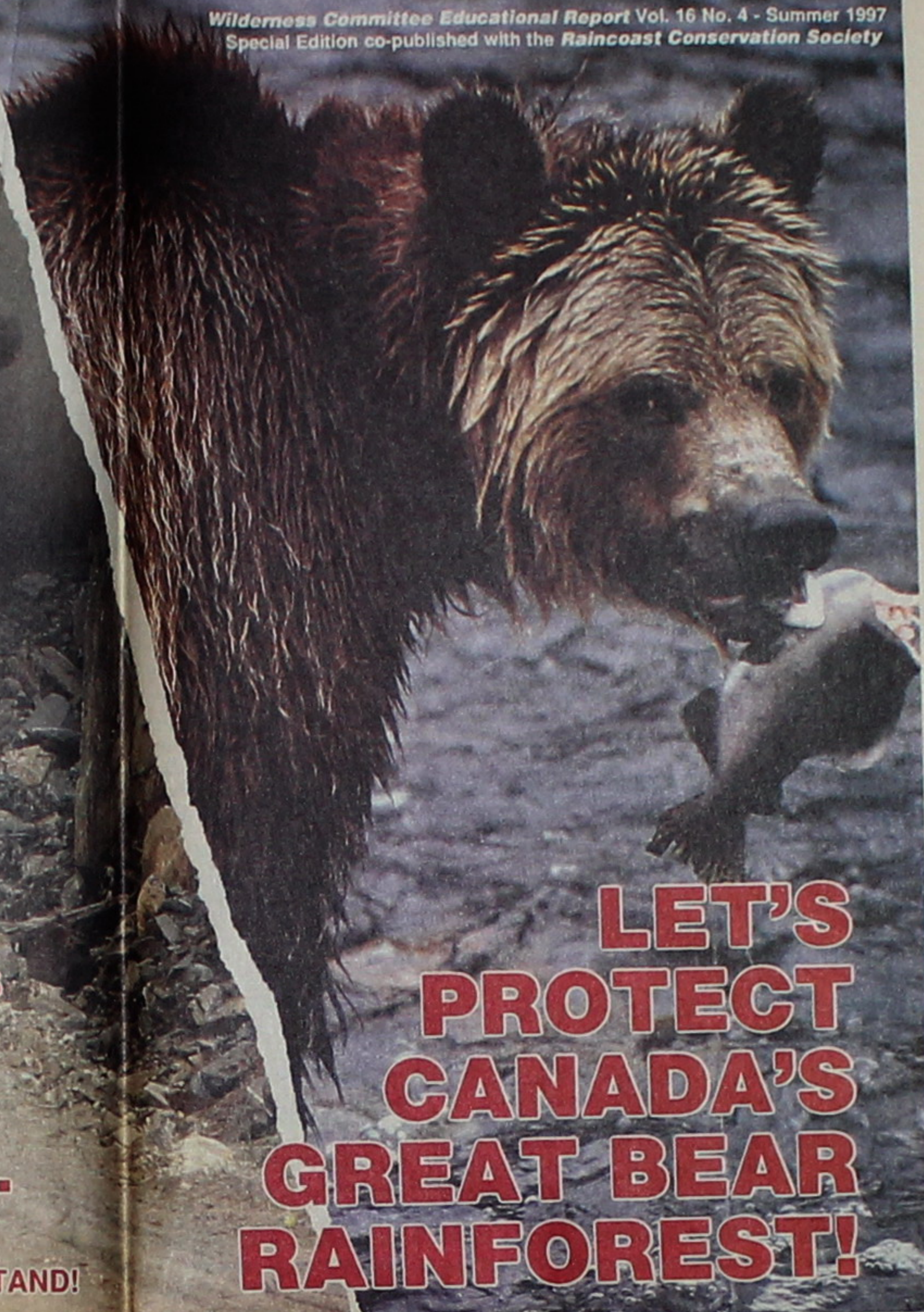
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**We have a choice.
 Clearcuts, tree farms
 and big stumps.
 Or grizzlies, wild
 salmon and big trees.**

PLEASE READ THIS PAPER AND TAKE A STAND!

Wilderness Committee Educational Report Vol. 16 No. 4 - Summer 1997
 Special Edition co-published with the Raincoast Conservation Society



**LET'S
 PROTECT
 CANADA'S
 GREAT BEAR
 RAINFOREST!**

WILD SALMON - MAJESTIC GRIZZLIES - ANCIENT RAINFORESTS

We cannot let the clearcutters' bulldozers and chainsaws destroy them!

British Columbians and concerned citizens everywhere around the world -- join us and defend CANADA'S GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS

On Canada's Pacific shores, at the western edge of the North American continent, is a remarkable wilderness area known as the B.C. Raincoast. Bounded by the high and rugged coast mountains, it has the deepest and longest fiords in the world. With its islands, beaches, bears and wild salmon, this place has the sceneries to equal the grandest parks in the world. But it has, up to now, been explored more by people seeking their fortune from resource extraction than those relishing its wilderness state.

B.C.'s Raincoast, over 600 kilometres long, with more than 100 still-pristine rainforest valleys, is home to First Nations, grizzly bears, wolves and more than 1,000 distinct races of wild salmon. Remote and difficult to access, it has been called "the forgotten coast". But not for much longer. The fate of its never-logged rainforested valleys, the largest tract of this rich ecosystem left on Earth, is rapidly becoming the focus of major international conservation campaigns. Their goal: to save the three Great Bear Rainforest areas and the Stoltmann Wilderness—see map inside.

The situation is urgent. As areas to the south have been logged out, the destruction of the Raincoast has accelerated. Since 1990 14 pristine rainforest valleys over 5,000 hectares in size have been roaded and logged. This represents a loss of more than two wild river valleys a year.

The Raincoast Conservation Society, the lead organization

championing the protection of the Raincoast, has been exploring and documenting the wildlife and recreational values of this exceptional area for the past seven years. Amongst its records are photos capturing the original beauty of all 14 of the valleys that are now the ravaged domain of industrial forestry. Over the next few years 17 more pristine valleys are scheduled to be clearcut...unless we succeed in stopping it from happening.

One of the major barriers standing in the way of protecting B.C.'s Raincoast is the present provincial government's insistence that only 12 percent of B.C. can be set aside from development. This limit is based in politics not in science. Biologists have estimated that if only 10 to 12 percent of Earth's land base is left wild, about 50 percent of Earth's species will go extinct. In the lower 48 States, 10 percent preservation has meant the close-to-complete loss of grizzlies, wolves and salmon. In Alaska, where about 38 percent of the land base is protected, the survival of these species is more secure. In B.C. and the Yukon, scientists have recently documented the extinction of 142 salmon stocks and classified 624 more salmon stocks at high risk due to a century of resource use and industrialization.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee, B.C.'s largest membership-based conservation group, has proposed a "40 percent solution" based on a *Conservation Vision* we developed in 1993 for Vancouver Island. We used the principles of conservation

biology to map out the lands needed to sustain wildlife and ecological processes. We concluded that about 40 percent of the land base must be off-limits to industrial exploitation.

On B.C.'s Raincoast, less than six percent of the land base grows forests of commercial value. The recently-protected Kitlope Valley is touted by government as the world's largest protected temperate rainforest watershed in the world, yet it has only about three percent commercial forest cover. The logging company gave up its cutting rights there without a cent of compensation. This indicates that the logging jobs and profits foregone to save the Great Bear and the Stoltmann areas is not prohibitively high.

Our *Conservation Vision for B.C.'s Raincoast* asks government to protect the 3.5 million hectare Great Bear Rainforest and the 260,000 hectare Stoltmann Wilderness as the minimum land base needed to assure the survival of grizzlies and salmon and other wildlife. It is not an outrageous demand. What is outrageous is to knowingly condemn these species to extinction.

There is hope. Where people have stood together and said, "this place is too precious to destroy", including South Moresby, the Stein, Carmanah and Clayoquot, governments have had to listen. Now let's stand together to save the Raincoast—the Great Bear Rainforest and the Stoltmann Wilderness. It will require immense commitment, vision and effort. It's a legacy worth protecting.



Top left - Logging truck hauls out a load of huge oldgrowth logs in Pike/Sleeman Creek, Devastation Channel on B.C.'s North Coast. Photo taken in 1995. Sitka spruce 7 to 8 feet in diameter are now extremely rare. The timber companies know where the best of what's left is found and target it first. They barge in the bulldozers, punch logging roads into the river valleys, log out the ancient forests, truck out the logs and dump them into the ocean, leaving behind a legacy of stumps, eroding mountain slopes and biologically-bankrupt tree plantations. The forest companies will be long gone before the consequences of their destruction in the remote fiords and inlets of B.C.'s Raincoast are fully discovered. How can a five year forestry development plan chart the future for a ten thousand year old ecosystem? How can a few short-term logging jobs justify the destruction of an intact ecosystem that could support ecotourism ventures and clean rivers full of salmon that would employ and feed people indefinitely? Photo: Bernadette Mertens

Top Right - Grizzly bear eats a returning wild pink salmon in one of the 17 pristine watersheds along B.C.'s Raincoast slated for logging in the near future. Photo: Ian McAllister

Left - The 38,000 hectare Khutze River watershed forms a central core in a cluster of magnificent river valleys and islands which include the Aaltanhash, Green and Kiltulah Rivers and Princess Royal and Pooley Islands. The Khutze's rich river estuary (in foreground) and its sheltering ancient forests are critical to maintaining its salmon. The river valley has prime grizzly bear habitat. It is one of the most beautiful anchorages on the whole coast. But Western Forest Products has the cutting rights to all its forests. Photo: Ian McAllister

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM the FOUNDER of the RAINCOAST CONSERVATION SOCIETY

"The situation is desperate. We need concerned citizens from around the world to join in and help us save the GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST."

The Raincoast Conservation Society sailed north in 1990 on the first of many expeditions exploring British Columbia's 20,000 kilometre-long mainland shoreline. Here, amongst the fiords, passages and mountains, we found Canada's final bastion of intact and threatened coastal rainforest valleys, each one a jewel, a globally scarce and priceless masterpiece of nature. Our goal was to inventory and document the wilderness and wildlife values of these stunningly beautiful and biologically rich places.

What we discovered was not just Canada's, but a good portion of Earth's last legacy of wild coastal temperate rainforest valleys. There are about 100 of these valleys in all, many over 5000 hectares in size. They are largely clustered in two big areas we call the Great Bear Rainforest and the Greater Ecstall Region (Northern Extent of the Great Bear Rainforest). These are the only wild rainforest ecosystems left on B.C.'s Raincoast that are large enough to be self-sustaining. Two smaller but also critical clusters of wild valleys—as the southern "line in the sand" for wild bears—are the Knight Inlet Region (Southern Extent of the Great Bear Rainforest) and the Stoltmann Wilderness.

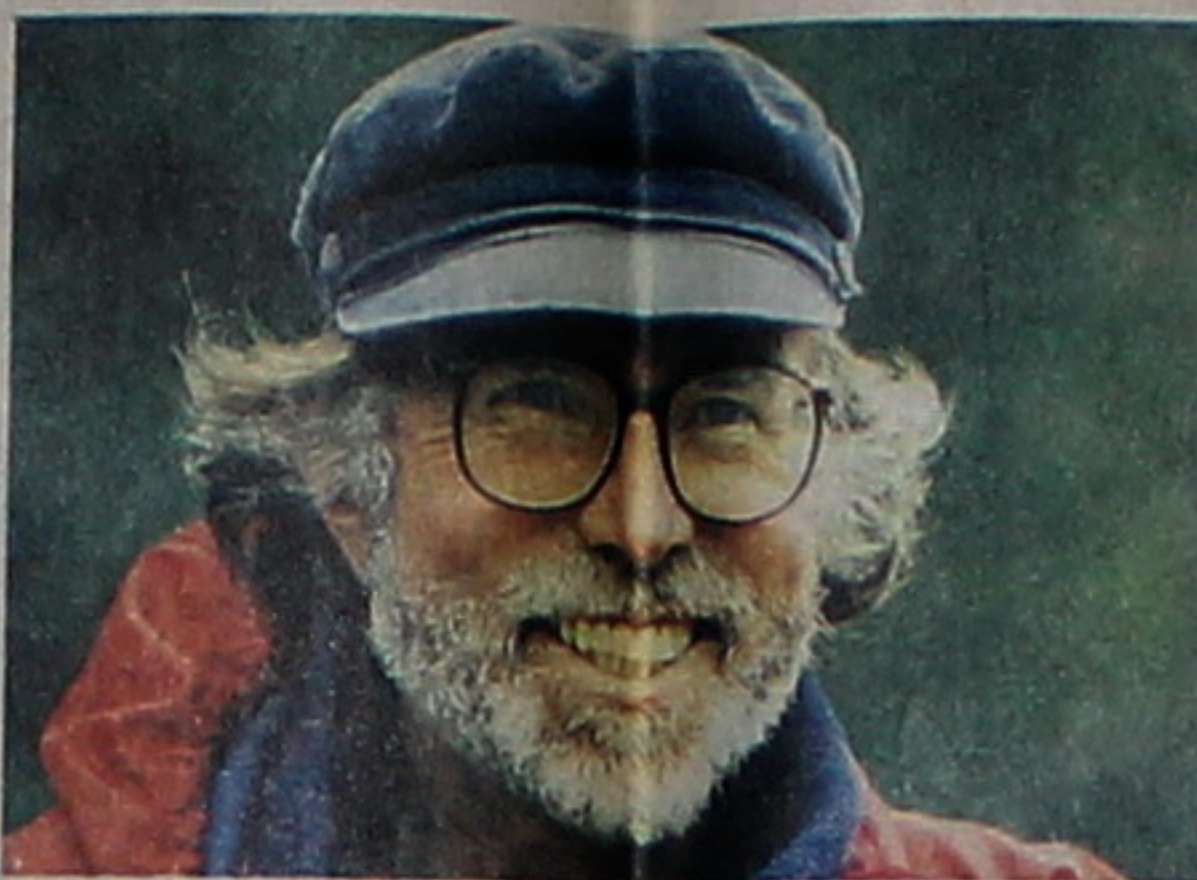
In the estuaries and back along the rivers of the Great Bear Rainforest, we discovered the largest concentration of grizzly bears in all of Canada. These are unique rainforest-dependent bears, their survival linked to the ancient forests that nurture the rivers where hundreds of races of wild salmon still spawn.

For the past seven years we have worked feverishly, collecting photographic, video and scientific evidence and presenting hundreds of slide shows to bring public and political attention to these last wild valleys of the Great Bear Rainforest.

Meanwhile the B.C. Ministry of Forests has been quietly allowing multi-national timber companies including International Forest Products (Interfor), Western Forest Products and others to clearcut these natural treasures. As the clearcut logging proceeds, the rainforest grizzly bears are driven from their homes and wild salmon stocks face extinction.

The last seven years of NDP Government in B.C. may prove to be the worst time in the sorry history of clearcut logging in this province. Up on the Raincoast we have watched in horror as rivers and streams are clearcut and massive deforestation proceeds up the valleys. There are more clearcuts then ever before. The rate of cut has gone up and the government admits that it's already 50 percent above the long term sustained yield. Precipitous slopes are still being logged, sometimes right up to avalanche chutes in the subalpine. Logging on steep slopes down to the ocean's edge is found everywhere along the fiords.

All the while, the public and the press have been told by government and industry that logging has changed, the bad old



Peter McAllister, outspoken wilderness advocate and founder of the Raincoast Conservation Society.
Photo: Bernadette Mertens

days of clearcutting are over, and the B.C. government's new Forest Practices Code is the toughest and best in the world...an incredibly big lie.

The Code has become the Provincial Government's green-faced, multi-million dollar public relations scam. The Code's key environmental sections, weak as they are, have not been implemented. For timber companies like Interfor, Western Forest Products, Doman Industries and West Fraser, it has been the ticket to disperse their clearcuts and build logging roads faster than ever through the remaining wild valleys. They are trying to violate all the remaining conservation options before the public and the press figure out they have been deceived.

Those who speak out and present evidence that little has changed in B.C. forest practices have been called "enemies of B.C." by the government. To show the outside world the same evidence—the truth—and ask for help is to risk being called a "traitor".

These are the scare tactics of a government that has lied about its precious Forest Practices Code in order to enable the timber industry and its IWA union friends to keep logging our last great forests like there is no tomorrow. History will say that no other government regardless of its political stripe, did more damage to our forests and wildlife then this one. It will be remembered for hiding behind a green facade while advancing a brown agenda.

When I remember the joy of following a bear trail in sight of the open Pacific and the many times I have walked up a pristine river valley without ever seeing a human print, where hundreds of wild salmon spawn beneath towering sitka spruce, where a family of wolves play on a sandbar, I

also remember the profound sadness that I couldn't shake off. Given the current rate of logging, these places and this extraordinary web of life seemed almost certainly doomed. Now maybe they have a chance. Word is finally getting out about the Raincoast and the public is getting more fed up with Government's arrogance.

Since the Federal Government has no constitutional responsibility for provincial forests and the current Provincial Government's priority is a "jobs and timber" accord with the multinational forest companies, environmentalists have no choice but to take their case to the outside world. Environmentalists will be presenting evidence to international agencies, commissions, parliaments and government bodies concerned with deforestation, aboriginal rights, and international law and trade. Evidence will go before the World Court, the Convention on Biodiversity, the International Law of the Sea, and Convention on Climate Change. Canada, a signatory and a leading architect of these agreements, is in gross violation of their principle tenants, which include the conservation of biodiversity and forests.

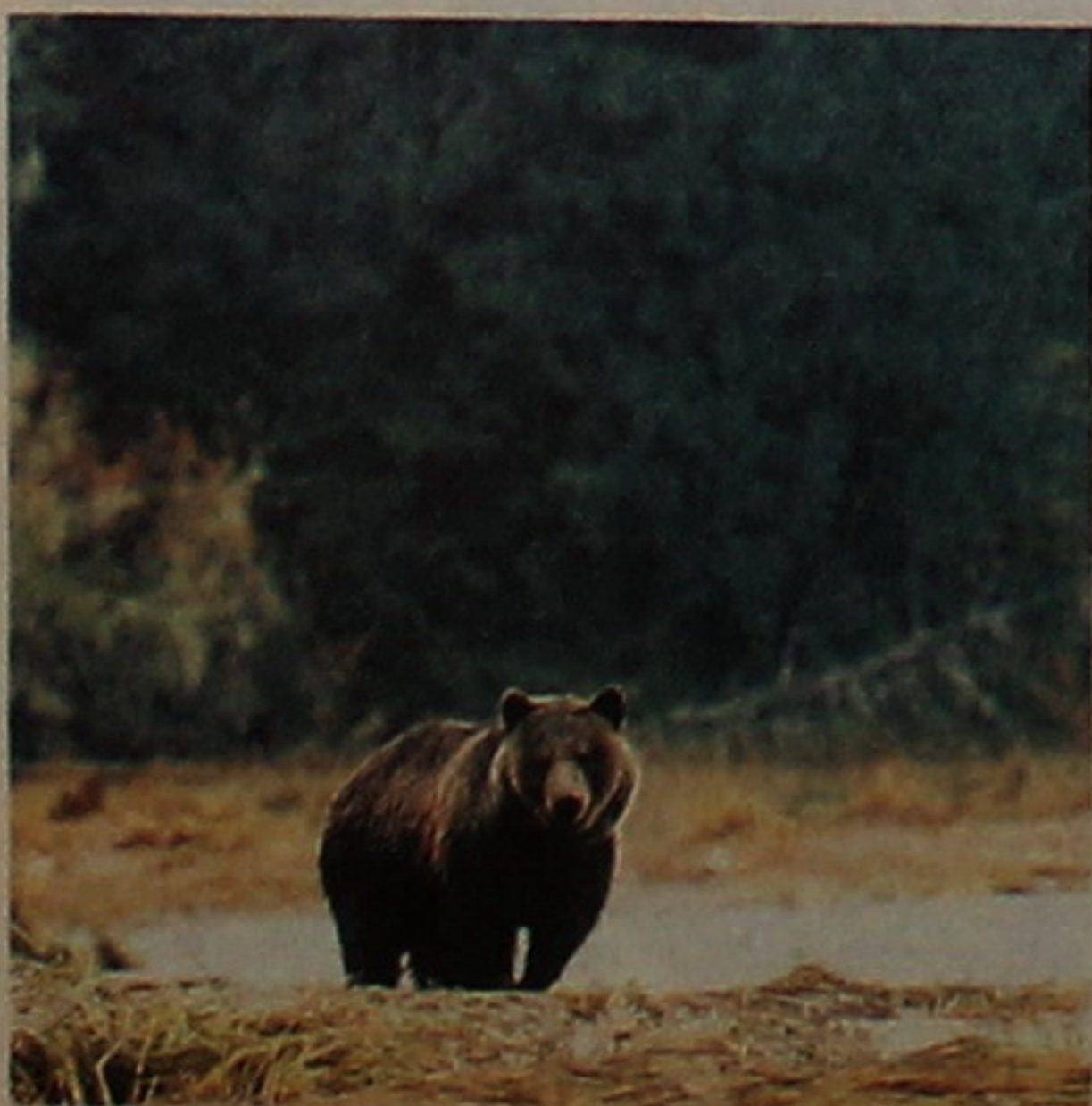
Canada is on the brink of losing any vestige of its once-proud international reputation as a leader in environmental responsibility. If British Columbia does not change its ways, Canada will become an international target for condemnation and will risk reprisals. Economic reprisals have already started. The fact that the B.C. Government hides its appalling record of bad logging practices behind an international P.R. campaign of exaggerations, distortions and dishonesty makes Canada even more vulnerable to international actions.

If British Columbia, one of the richest places on Earth, remains guilty of some of the world's worst forestry practices and cover-ups and committed to a 12 percent protected area strategy that guarantees more to the logging industry than to wildlife conservation, then what hope do we have of any nation truly addressing environmental destruction or moving to sustainability?

A B.C. Raincoast rescue campaign, led by the Raincoast Conservation Society to save the threatened Great Bear Rainforest, and led by the Wilderness Committee to save the threatened Stoltmann Wilderness, has started. You are invited to join! The Valhalla Wilderness Society is working on the Spirit Bear Reserve. Ecotrust continues working with the Haisla Nation on the North Coast. Forest Action Network and members of the Nuxalk Nation are defending the ancient forests left in the Bella Coola region. The Sierra Club, Bear Watch and many other groups are helping make the Raincoast a major issue. Help is coming from Greenpeace in a very big way. All of us are working hard out of urgent concern for the Raincoast. For the coastal grizzly bears, the wild salmon and their homes in the last natural rainforested valleys, I urge you to join in and help, too!



The Pyewacket, RCS's expedition vessel in the Khutze. Photo: Bernadette Mertens



One of many outstanding images of grizzly bears from the collection of Ian McAllister that are featured in "The Great Bear Rainforest: Canada's Forgotten Coast" book. The Great Bear Rainforest has the highest concentration of these magnificent animals in Canada.
Photo: Ian McAllister

New coffee table book *Great Bear Rainforest: Canada's Forgotten Coast* reveals the beauty, mystery and threats to this ancient salmon-bear ecosystem on B.C.'s Pacific coast.



From left to right - Cameron Young, Ian and Karen McAllister beside an ancient Sitka Spruce on a research expedition into the wilderness of the "forgotten coast" for "the Great Bear Rainforest" book.
Photo: Ian McAllister

Not since *Clayoquot - on the Wild Side* premiered seven years ago, has a conservation coffee-table book generated so much excitement as Harbour Publishing's new book entitled *Great Bear Rainforest: Canada's Forgotten Coast*. It highlights the acute need to protect the last large pristine temperate rainforested valleys on B.C.'s mainland coast in order to preserve the great salmon bears that depend on the wilderness there for their survival. South Moresby, the Stein, Carmanah, and Clayoquot have all been cause celebres. B.C.'s Raincoast—the Great Bear Rainforest—is the new focus and this book divulges the secrets why.

The Great Bear Rainforest book team brings together the awesome talents of Ian McAllister, nature photographer, writer and campaigner; Karen McAllister, researcher and writer; and Cameron Young, veteran environmental journalist whose award winning works include *The Forests of British Columbia* and *Clayoquot on the Wild Side*. Featuring 150 images (some of them appear in this newspaper)—the best of Ian McAllister's monumental collection—this 144 page 11" X 10" hardcover book is packed with information. To be released in September, it's an exceptional value at only \$39.95. The thoughtfully written text is a celebration of the rainforest wilderness we still have and a wake-up call to the world that we will lose this precious wilderness heritage if we do not halt the rapacious clearcutting of this incredibly biodiversity-rich rainforest ecosystem.

If there is one thing that makes this book extra special it's the images of the bears, both grizzly and spirit bears. The Great Bear Rainforest is the last stronghold of the coastal grizzly bear, spirit bears and wild wolves. Ian McAllister, who has devoted the last seven years of his life to building the conservation case for the area, has patiently stalked these magnificent animals and shot them with his shutters, catching countless candid moments in their rich lives. He brings to us the message that these creatures have a right to live unmolested by hunters, poachers and habitat robbers. *The Great Bear Rainforest: Canada's Forgotten Coast* is a must for everyone's coffee table this year. Surely this powerful book will have the same positive results that earlier books have had in helping protect threatened wilderness areas.

Credits

This Special Edition of the Wilderness Committee Educational Report is co-published by: **Wilderness Committee**, 20 Water St., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1A4
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The Wilderness Committee, founded in 1980, is a non-profit charitable society dedicated to promoting, through research and education, sustainable resource use and wild ecosystem preservation.

The Raincoast Conservation Society, founded in 1990, is a non-profit marine-based research organization dedicated to the conservation of temperate rainforests and their dependents—salmon and grizzly bears.

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Government's claim that B.C. logging is now "world class" is a whopping big lie!

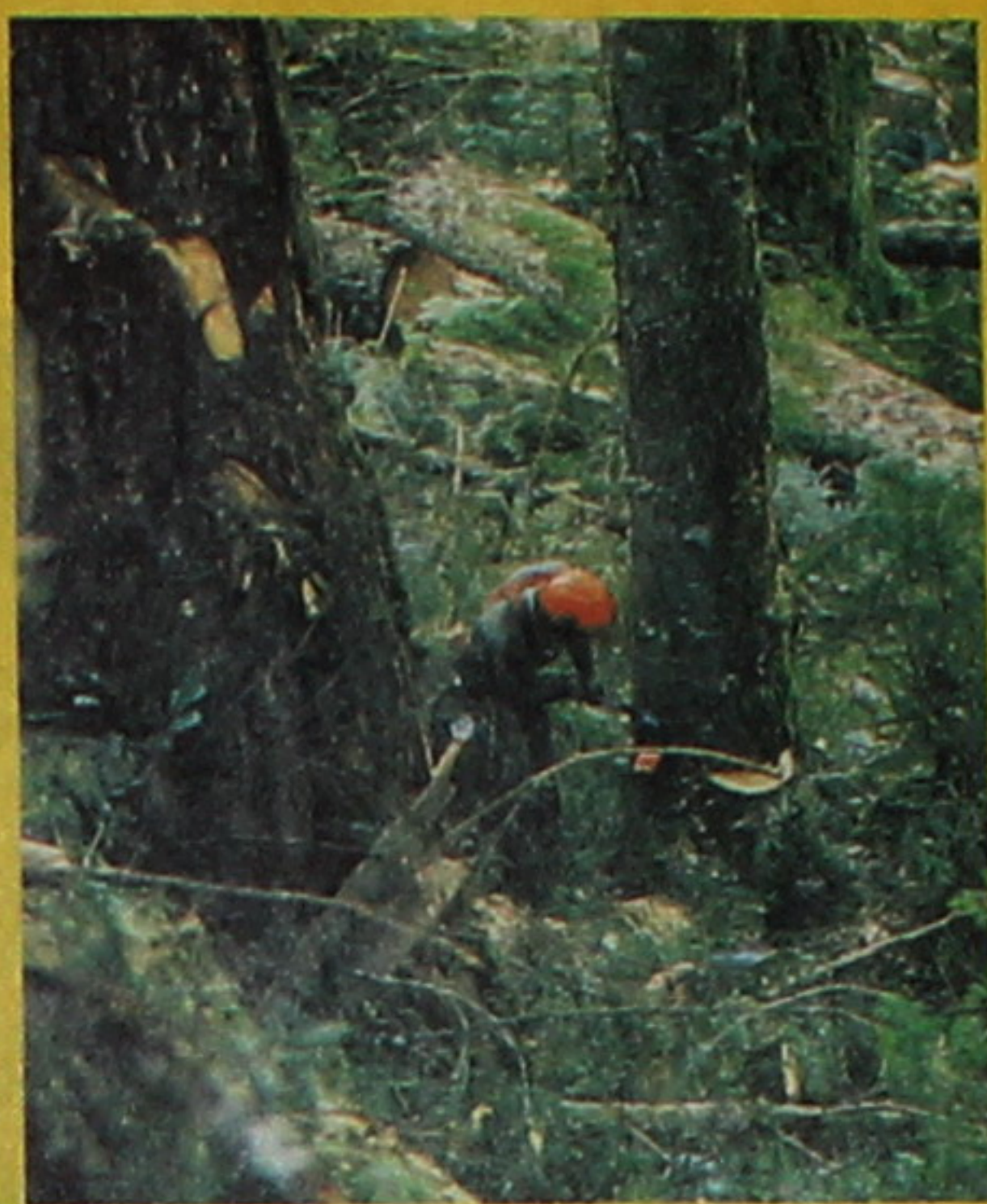
The truth: it's some of the worst in the world... rapacious clearcutting that's destroying ancient rainforests, wild salmon rivers and grizzly bears!

GOVERNMENT and INDUSTRY
SPEND MILLIONS telling you
EVERYTHING'S O.K.
in the WOODS

**BUT the LAND
SPEAKS for
ITSELF**



Every logging day, Interfor, Western Forest Products, West Fraser and other timber companies operate hundreds of logging trucks in dozens of remote valleys on B.C.'s Raincoast, destroying an irreplaceable and priceless natural heritage. Photo: Bernadette Mertens



The last of Canada's very best remaining ancient temperate rainforest is being clearcut on B.C.'s isolated Raincoast. When the public finds out what is being lost along with the big trees--the wild salmon and great bears--they will not tolerate it! Photo: Bernadette Mertens



Do timber companies believe they can get away with clearcutting all the ancestral lands of First Nations if they just leave a few token tufts of cedars that were "culturally modified" years ago? This practice is shown here, in 1995-96 logging by West Fraser along Devastation Channel. The cultural modifications include test holes, bark stripping and ancient stumps of single trees felled for canoes and longhouses. Other company tactics to appease First Nations include creating a few jobs for natives to restore ancestral salmon rivers after they have been wrecked by clearcutting and offering company-driven "partnership" logging schemes. Photo: Bernadette Mertens



Scotia River, North Coast. This image taken in 1997 shows little difference between the "NDP logging" of today and "Sacred logging" of previous decades. The Scotia is currently being logged out by Interfor, one of the largest multinational companies clearcutting B.C.'s coast. Once a magnificent salmon bear stronghold of the North Coast, this watershed is now a sea of stumps. There is no reprieve for the Scotia as Interfor logs its remaining rainforests far from the public's eye.

Photo: Ian McAllister



This is a 1997 aerial view of logging on Browns Lake on the North Coast. B.C.'s new Forest Practices Code encourages the dispersal of smaller clearcuts over a larger area, resulting in many more clearcuts and roads destroying more wilderness than ever before. Browns Lake is home to native trout and is a main tributary of the Ecstall River, the largest intact unprotected rainforest valley in B.C. Interfor is moving relentlessly into the Ecstall by systematically logging all the neighbouring valleys and tributaries.

Photo: Ian McAllister



Environmentalists were recently criticized for showing photos like this taken in the mid 1990s of logging done in the Knight Inlet region in the 1980s. It illustrates the fact that it takes 7 to 20 years for the big roots of tree stumps to rot out and the massive landslides to begin to occur. Steep slope logging, still legal under the B.C.'s Forest Practices Code, is happening right now all over the Coast.

Photo: Ian McAllister



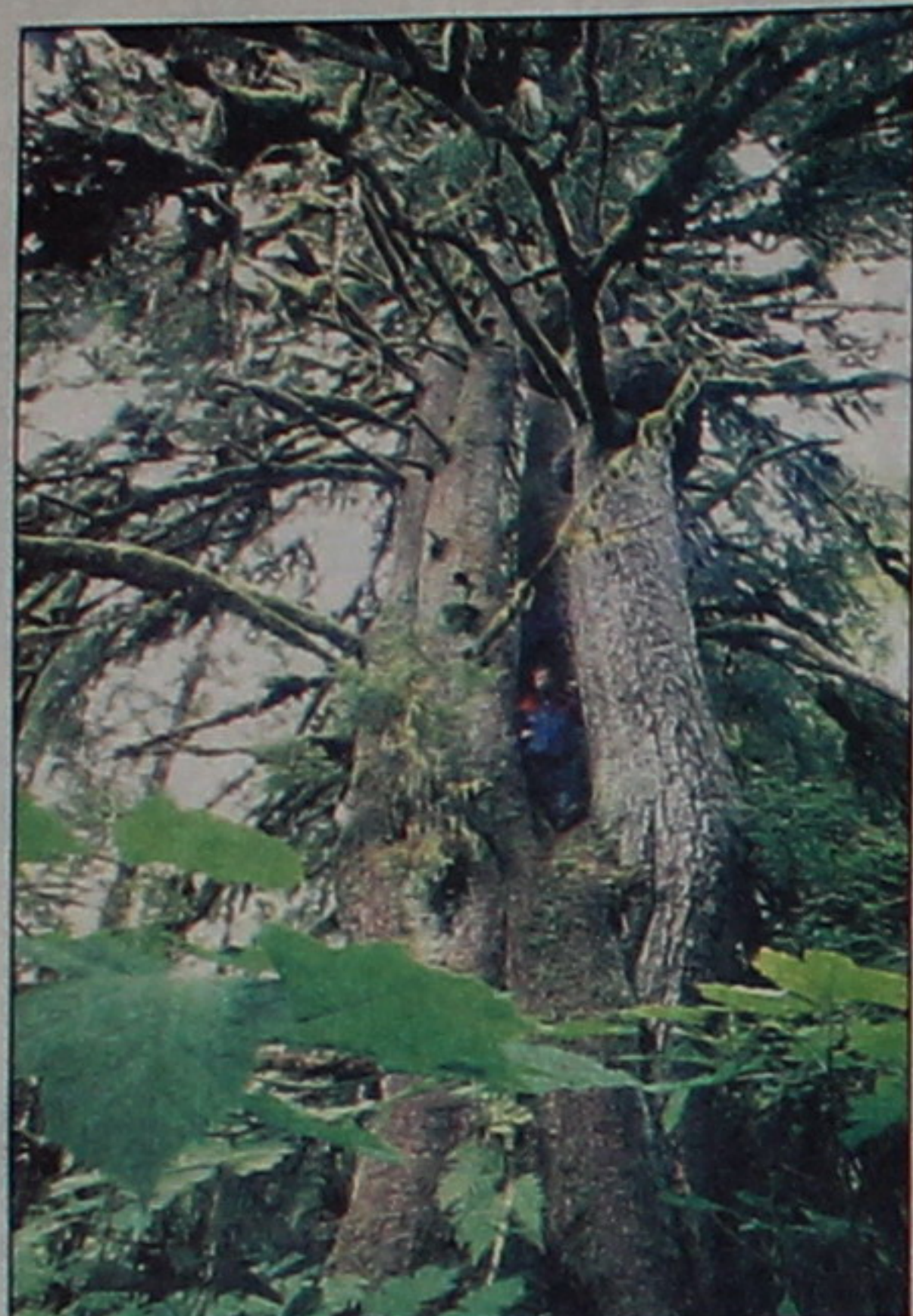
In the mid-1990s, while B.C.'s Premier at the time, Mike Harcourt, toured Europe proclaiming B.C. to have the toughest logging regulations and the highest environmental standards in the world under B.C.'s new Forest Practices Code, this logging was under way. In the high elevation, steep-sided valley of the Klattasine River in Bute Inlet on the South Coast, Interfor was clearcutting to the river's edge and dragging logs across it. Logging like this continues today, legal under the Code. Photo: Tim McAllister



This photo taken in 1996 of the north side of Douglas Channel shows typical logging along the fiords of B.C.'s coast. Hundreds of miles of shoreline have been degraded by these clearcuts, which have turned some of the most beautiful cruising coastlines in the world into some of the most despoiled. Clearcutting to the ocean shore is a logging practice still approved under B.C.'s new Forest Practices Code.

Photo: Ian McAllister

Proposed Protected Areas in the Canadian Raincoast



Sitka spruce thrive close to the ocean. Giants like this once grew in every valley. Photo: Ian McAllister

THREATENED AREAS (Imminently threatened)

- 1 Burton Creek
- 2 Johnson - Chambers Creeks
- 3 Khtada Lake
- 4 Ecstall River
- 5 Quaal River
- 6 Aaltanhash River
- 7 Khutze River
- 8 Kowesas River
- 9 Green Inlet
- 10 James Bay/Pooley Island
- 11 Ingram - Mooto Lakes
- 12 Skowquiltz River
- 13 Nusash Creek
- 14 Roscoe Inlet
- 15 K'Iskwatsta Creek
- 16 Four Lakes/Paradise Creek
- 17 Ickna Creek
- 18 Koeve River
- 19 Johnston Creek
- 20 Lockhart - Gordon Creek
- 21 Nekite River
- 22 Piper - Rhind Creeks
- 23 Takush River
- 24 Waump Creek
- 25 Ahta Creek
- 26 Upper Stafford River
- 27 Upper Elaho River
- 28 Sims Creek



Cartography by Baden Cross, Raincoast Conservation Society, with technical support from Chris Player and financial support from Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Clearcut data of the central and north coast provided courtesy of the Sierra Club of B.C. Copyright Raincoast Conservation Society, May 1997. Printed in Canada. All rights reserved.



On the eastern shores of the Pacific Ocean along the mainland coast of British Columbia, Canada lies the last great extent of ancient temperate rainforest left in the world. Conservationists have identified two areas that must be protected -- the Great Bear Rainforest and the Stoltmann Wilderness. The Great Bear Rainforest, with its many large pristine valleys is comprised of three areas: the Greater Ecstall Region in the north, the Knight Inlet Region in the south, and a large mid-coast wilderness region including the Spirit Bear Park Proposal, sandwiched in between.

Taken together these wilderness areas encompass more than 3.4 million hectares, an area nearly the size of Switzerland. They include the last large contiguous regions of intact temperate rainforest on the Canadian coast... and in the world.

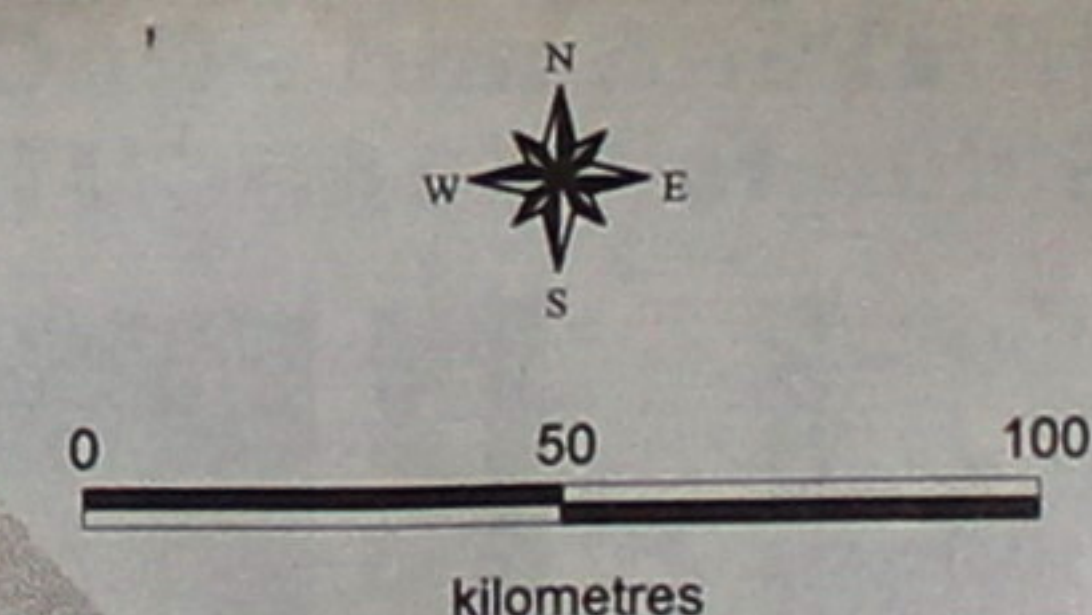
This map shows how much of the economic timber along B.C.'s mainland coast has already been clearcut (red) and the meagre extent of commercially valuable timber within the proposed protected areas (dark green). Less than 6 percent of the proposed protected areas have commercially valuable

forest. But this high value timber sought by industry grows in the salmon-rich valley bottoms which grizzlies need to survive.

Scientific studies show that over the centuries the salmon carcasses left on the forest floor have enriched the soils and enabled the trees to grow to valuable commercial size. Studies also show that grizzlies do not survive in logged-out valleys.

The Great Bear Rainforest and Stoltmann Wilderness present to us a one-time opportunity to establish a truly effective network of reserves that will protect B.C.'s grizzly bears and wild salmon for future generations. The cost of logging jobs must measure against the

- Ecologically rich heartland of the coastal temperate rainforest (forests of commercial value)
 - Forested areas of little or no commercial value (including outer coastal scrub, higher elevation mountain hemlock)
 - Non-forested areas (alpine tundra, rock, etc.)
 - Snow and icefields
 - Areas lost to clearcutting, second growth monoculture tree farms and other disturbances
 - Lands outside of proposed protected areas *
 - Existing protected areas
 - Proposed protected areas
 - Proposed Spirit Bear Park (within the Great Bear Rainforest proposed protected area)
- * Only logged areas shown



benefits in increased tourism and fisheries jobs. Protected from commercial clearcut logging and industrial mining, the Great Bear Rainforest and Stoltmann Wilderness will ensure the survival of a beautiful, highly biodiverse and complex rainforest ecosystem -- a priceless natural heritage of global significance.



Queen of all the wild rivers left on the Raincoast is the 84,000 hectare Ecstall. The region's largest unprotected river valley, it's endangered. Photo: Ian McAllister



Coastal Grizzlies need healthy wild salmon runs to survive. Photo: Ian McAllister



The Kiltuish River, with this scenic falls, feeds into the Gardner Canal. It is one of many magnificent rainforested salmon-bear valleys that Western Forest Products plans to log in the near future. Photo: Ian McAllister

Knight Inlet Region
Southern Extent of the Great Bear Rainforest

Stoltmann Wilderness

RAINCOAST
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

This map will be updated and improved based on the results of ongoing research and new data.

SPECTACULARLY SCENIC, most of the RAINCOAST is ROCK, ICE, ALPINE and BOG FOREST

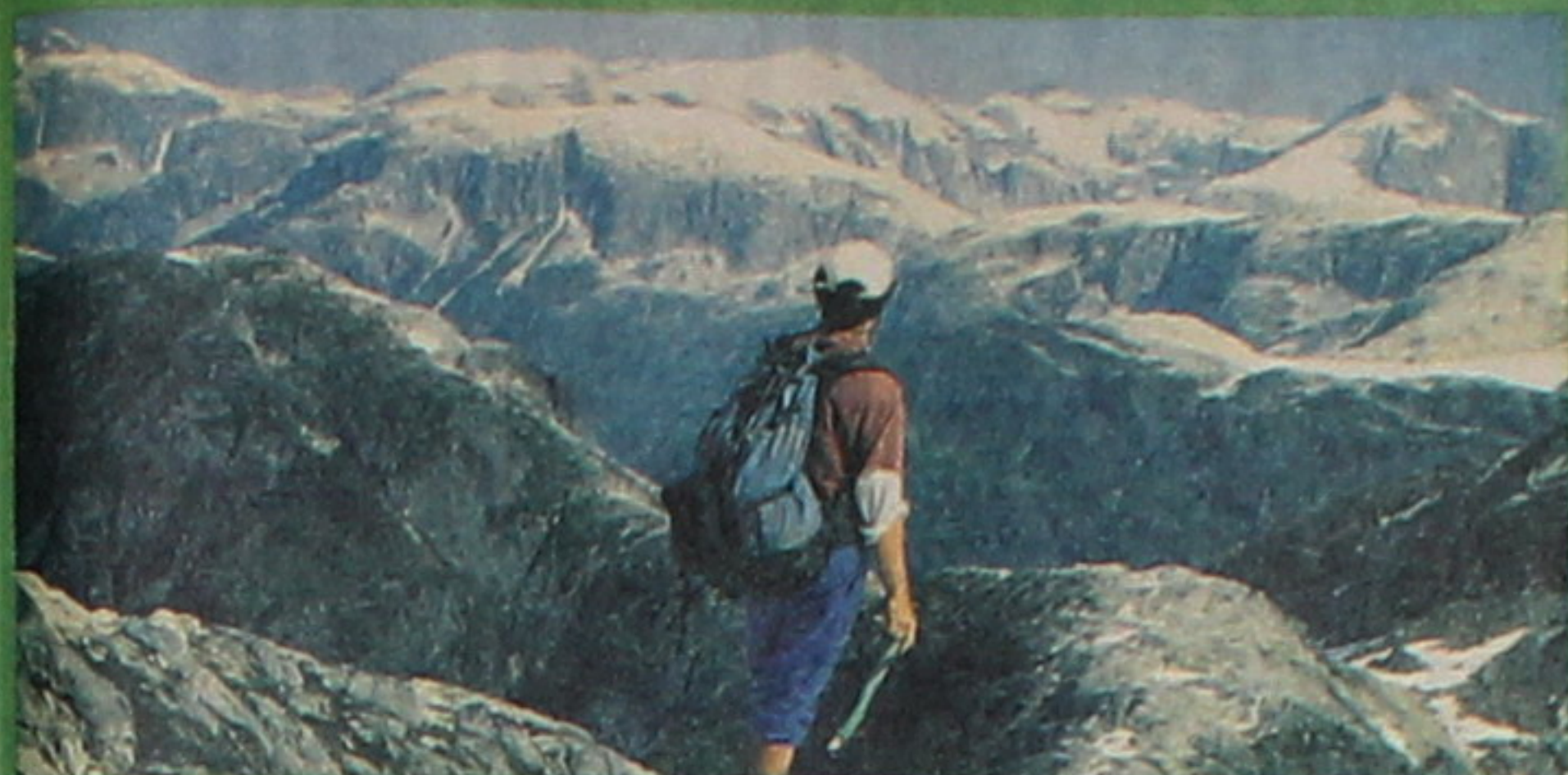
**From its rugged peaks
to its wild shores
Canada's Raincoast
is so vast that no one's
lifetime is sufficient
to explore it all!**



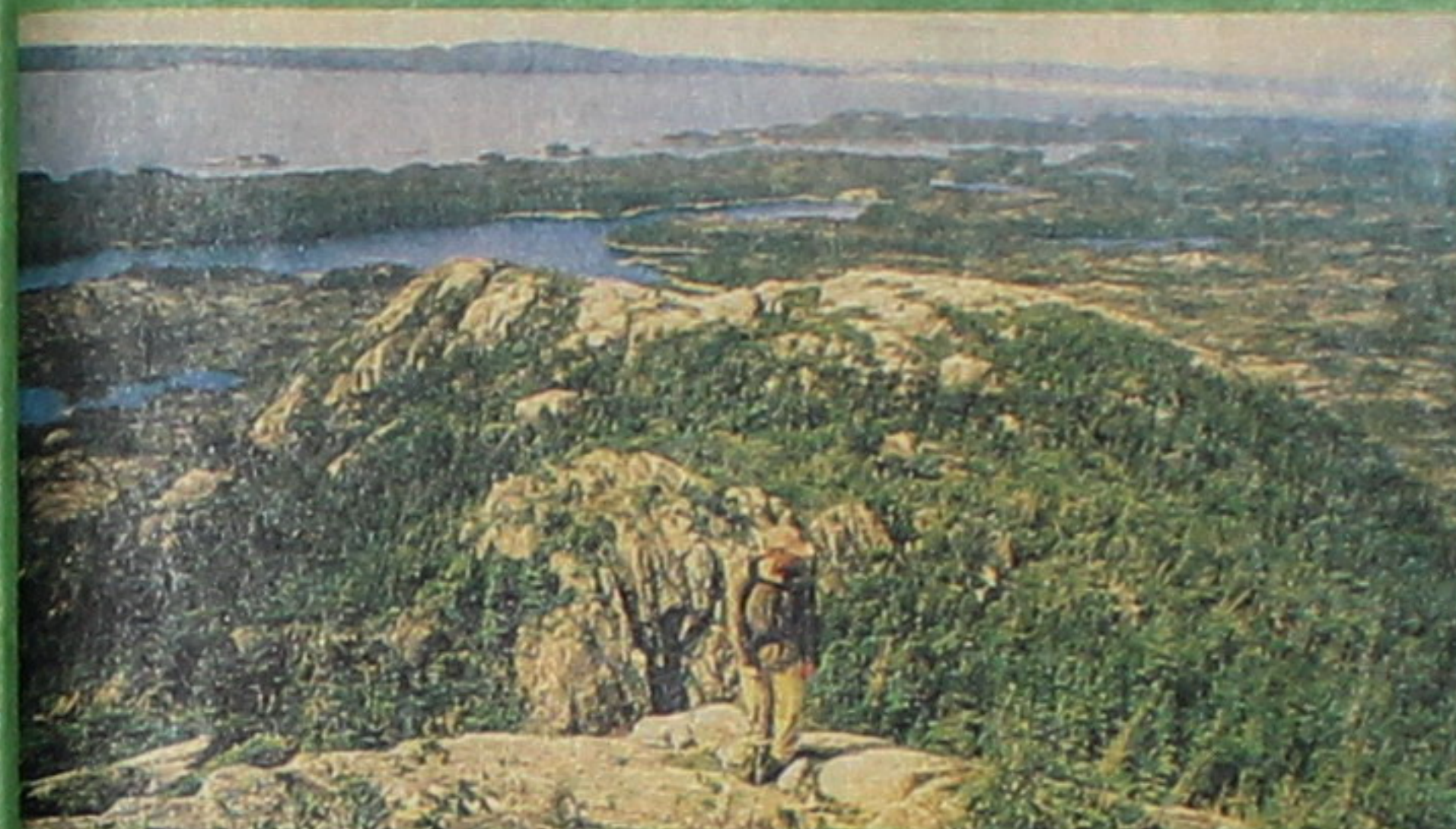
left - Sandy beaches and spits dot the Raincoast's beautiful barrier islands. Their alpine-like escarpments and scrub forests have great beauty but are of no commercial value.

below - all around the ragged barrier islands with names like Comanla, Pitt and Trutch, sea urchins, sea anemones, starfish, kelp beds and tidal pools grace the myriad little coves bathed in crystal-clear Pacific waters.

Photos: Bernadette Mertens



B.C.'s mainland coast is a land dominated by icefields and granite escarpments. Chiselled through time, its high country scenery is unsurpassed. As yet, only the most adventurous back country hikers have penetrated into the heart of this wild mountain vastness where the rainforest rivers flow out of the glaciers. Photo: Ian McAllister



Buffeted by relentless Pacific storms, the barrier islands along B.C.'s Raincoast lie windswept and rock-bound. Huge islands like Banks, Aristazabal, Calvert and Pitt have very little forest of commercial value. They are lands of boggy and curiously stunted scrub forests that harbour and protect little wildlife. But, scattered in isolated, oasis-like pockets, are hundreds of small salmon rivers shaded by corridors of spruce and cedar trees. They teem with wildlife including wolves.

It is the outer coast scrub forests and the high country rock and ice that the B.C. government is typically committed to protecting. Most of the wild river valleys with low-elevation rainforests that house virtually all of the biodiversity of B.C.'s Raincoast will not likely be considered for protection under the Local Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process that government is launching to designate new parks. A 12 percent landbase cap on parks condemns this process to failure. Government just approved logging in a number of prime grizzly bear-salmon valleys before the process has even begun. Photo: Ian McAllister

BEARS are being SLAUGHTERED by HUNTERS and POACHERS and DRIVEN OUT by HABITAT LOSS due to CLEARCUTTING

Grizzly bears on the Raincoast need clusters of wild forested valleys to survive. Most of their food is oldgrowth related or dependent. They use the ancient forests for protection from heat and cold and for safe hiding and denning. There are no grizzly-sized sanctuaries offering adequate long-term protection for the grizzly bears on the entire B.C. coast. The Khutzymateen River valley on the North Coast, Canada's so-called first grizzly bear sanctuary offers protection for bears while they use the valley but no protection in the surrounding watersheds where they traditionally range. The clearcutting of these other valleys will eventually lead to the demise of this northern grizzly population.

Clearcuts and logging roads create big problems for oldgrowth-dependent grizzlies. The inevitable siltation of rivers precipitated by the massive alteration and erosion of the landscape is killing wild salmon. Salmon are a principle food for the bears, especially in fall as they prepare for hibernation.

While habitat destruction is the main threat to grizzly bears, overhunting and poaching are accelerating the collapse of these unique coastal bear populations. The current population may be as low as 1000. Historically these rainforest habitats are estimated to have supported at least 5 or 6 times that number.

Coastal bears are easy targets when they feed on salmon or graze in the sedge meadows. Blinds, like the one shown on the right, are placed in trees over their feeding sites. Hunting of grizzlies is legal in B.C., even in many protected areas like Fiordlands Recreation Area on the Central Coast. When most of the grizzly bears were killed in Fiordlands, the B.C. Ministry of Environment helicoptered in about 17 "problem" bears they had captured near the town of Kemano.

The Environment Ministry's mismanagement of B.C. bears is a contributing factor in the disruption of the coastal bear populations. The government has no reliable estimates of the number of grizzlies surviving in the valleys. They have no idea how many are killed by poachers or by incidental killing. There are virtually no conservation officers in the field on the entire coast. Despite this, government has been issuing the same number of hunting permits it issued 20 years ago for much of the coast.

The B.C. Government may announce "no grizzly hunting" zones with the same fanfare they announced their Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy in the summer of 1995, a strategy focused on issues like human garbage management. Although stopping the hunting of grizzlies would be great, the slide towards extinction can only be prevented by protecting large enough areas of critical habitat—like all of the Great Bear Rainforest and the Stoltmann Wilderness.



The Raincoast grizzly bears are salmon bears. They die the slow death of starvation as salmon decrease due to logging-induced habitat loss and over-fishing. Photo: Ian McAllister



Grizzly bears, wolves and other species can be legally shot for sport in many of B.C.'s protected areas. Three bear-killing blinds like this one are found in Fiordlands Recreation Area on the Central Coast.

Photo: Ian McAllister



Coastal grizzly bears' principle fall food supply is wild Pacific salmon. 142 salmon stocks were recently identified as extinct—a disaster for the bears. Photo: Ian McAllister



Grizzly bear carcass, headless and pawless, killed by hunters or poachers in the Mussel River, Fiordland Recreation Area, where the public thinks that wildlife is protected. Here, in the fall, the bears are shot from blinds at point blank range as they fish for salmon just before hibernation. Photo: Ian McAllister



As grizzlies, including females with newborn cubs, emerge from hibernation in the spring, they risk being shot from blinds hidden above the sedge meadows. Photo: Ian McAllister

**WILDLIFE--
WOLVES, SPIRIT (KERMODE) BEARS,
GRIZZLY BEARS, MARTENS, EAGLES,
SALMON and hundreds of other species
living on the RAINCOAST
...some yet undiscovered and unnamed
must have
PROTECTED RAINFOREST WILDERNESS
to THRIVE**



From left to right, top to bottom:
Endangered Ahta River; Pine Marten--an oldgrowth forest
dependent species; spawned-out Sockeye Salmon in the
pristine Canoona Valley; Timber Wolf; Kermode (Spirit) white-
coated Black Bear; Bald Eagle; Grizzly Bear mom and cub.
Photos: Ian McAllister

WC and RCS oppose destruction of First Nations' aboriginal homelands and support native co-management of protected areas

The Wilderness Committee (WC) and Raincoast Conservation Society (RCS) hold the unswerving belief that securing social justice for First Nations is a prerequisite to achieving lasting environmental protection. We support the efforts of indigenous peoples to safeguard their traditional homelands and ensure the survival of their unique cultures.

We believe that the rights of indigenous peoples to their homelands are inalienable. We support First Nations' aboriginal title to lands and seas and urge the federal and provincial governments to negotiate just and fair treaties with First Nations.

Traditionally-based stewardship practices can serve as 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



The thousands of sites with pictographs (like the one shown above) and petroglyphs along with the countless culturally modified cedar trees attest to the thousands of years of use of the Raincoast by First Nations peoples. Photo: Ian McAllister

logging in their traditional lands, we will oppose these practices as we oppose ecosystem-destroying activities wherever they may occur under whatever authority.

We believe that all new protected areas established on the Raincoast must be created in consultation with the First Nations whose traditional territories are affected. The protected areas must be Tribal Parks or other designations that provide co-management for First Nations. In this way, First Nations can share in the economic benefits that protected areas bring--especially the recovery of fisheries and increased ecotourism.

Newly protected areas must be established under a status (like "park reserve") that does not prejudice the outcome of a settlement under the Treaty negotiation process that the Federal and Provincial governments are undertaking with First Nations.

Ecotourism means more jobs

Ecotourism is the fastest growing sector of the fastest growing industry in British Columbia--tourism. In 1995-96 tourism brought \$7 billion in revenues--half a billion more than the year before--into B.C.'s economy. Ecotourism, which offers nature-based experiences for ecology-minded travellers, currently represents nearly 15 percent of the overall tourism industry, and its share is growing. Within the ecotourism market there is increasing interest in experiencing First Nations culture and learning more about their traditional knowledge.

Given the phenomenal international interest in Earth's increasingly rare ancient temperate rainforests, the ecotourism potential of the mainland Raincoast is immense. Yet, no serious cost-benefit studies have been done contrasting ecotourism with the wilderness-destroying clearcut logging that forecloses sustainable, locally-based ecotourism.

Forestry jobs in the rural B.C. Raincoast only number in the hundreds. They are almost all held by drop-in outsiders who live in barged-around workcamps. Given the rarity of the Raincoast's commercial forests and the rapid rate of cut, these logging jobs are not sustainable. There are 223,000 tourism-related jobs in B.C., many in local, family-owned businesses. Government estimates that tourism can generate 25,000 new B.C. jobs over the next five years. But the ecotourism potential on B.C.'s Raincoast depends on whether or not we stop the clearcutting and this ecosystem's destruction.



The Maple Leaf, an eco-tourism charter sailboat plies the Raincoast. Here it stops by one of many unnamed falls in Kynoch Inlet on the Central Coast. Photo: Ian McAllister



By kayak, a perfect way to explore the Great Bear Rainforest wilderness. Nearing the Khutze River, bathed in morning mist. Photo: Peter McAllister



Planting 3 trees for every 1 felled in the ancient coastal rainforest will NOT replace the complex web of life destroyed by clearcutting

**Whether or not you take the time to write...
you are taking a stand**

Write two letters. Make your stand a positive one!

WRITE TO: Premier Glen Clark
Legislative Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4
(45 cents postage is required)

Let him know how you feel about his Government's current 12 percent limit on saving Wilderness—our priceless natural heritage. Ask him where he stands on protecting the GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST and the STOLTMANN Wilderness.

WRITE TO: Gordon Campbell, Leader of the Opposition
(same as the Premier's address above)

Ask him, if he is elected to form the next B.C. Government, would he increase the current government's 12 percent limit on wilderness preservation, and where he stands on protecting the entire GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST and the STOLTMANN wilderness.



from top to bottom: Ancient rainforest in the Eilerslie/Ingram-Mooto Lake region threatened by Western Forest Products' clearcut logging. Photo: Ian McAllister
Tree planter "renewing" the clearcut forest in Scar Creek, Homathko River on the South Coast. Photo: Ian McAllister
Mother Grizzly with three cubs in Fitz Hugh Sound, Central Coast. Will she and her cubs survive without your help to ban trophy hunting and poaching and halt the logging of their wilderness home? Photo: Ian McAllister

An INVITATION to SUPPORT our CAMPAIGNS to PROTECT the GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST...before it's too late!

- ☐ Yes, I want to contribute to your research and educational campaigns to protect the bears, salmon and ancient rainforests of Canada's Raincoast.

Here is my tax-deductible gift of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 other.

WCWC's Federal Reg. Tax No. is 0587113-21-28. I understand my donation will be shared equally by the Wilderness Committee and the Raincoast Conservation Society.

- ☐ Yes, I would like to order a copy of the **Great Bear Rainforest: Canada's Forgotten Coast**, a beautiful 144 page 11" X 10" hard cover book with 150 photo images, at your pre-publication special price of \$35 including tax and shipping (regular retail price \$39.95 plus GST and shipping). I understand the book comes out in September 1997 and this special price applies only to copies ordered through the Wilderness Committee.

- ☐ Please send me a copy of the Raincoast Conservation Society's award winning 10 minute video titled **Legacy. It reveals the** truth about what is currently happening to the ancient temperate rainforested valleys on Canada's "forgotten" coast. Here is \$15 to cover all costs including taxes.

- ☐ Please send me a copy of the Raincoast Conservation Society's alarming 19 page report *the Grizzly Bears of the Coastal Rainforest Valleys of British Columbia*. Enclosed is \$5 to cover all costs including postage and taxes.

- ☐ Sign me up! I want to [] renew my membership [] become a Wilderness Committee member. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee.

Name (please print) _____ Address _____

City _____ Province or State _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Please clip and return to: the WILDERNESS COMMITTEE, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1A4 or Call 1-800-661-WILD (9453)

