

CANADA'S

# Great Bear Rainforest

**ENDANGERED  
& UNPROTECTED**

Intact rainforest of Ingram Lake has been approved for logging by Western Forest Products.

## Western Forest Products and Logging in the Ingram-Mooto Watersheds of the Great Bear Rainforest

THE INGRAM-MOOTO IS A SERIES OF pristine lakes and ancient rainforest in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest on the west coast of British Columbia. In April 1998, Western Forest Products started road building operations and has plans for extensive clearcutting of this now contentious area.

### THE FACTS:

#### Ecology

- The Ingram-Mooto area is a unique series of four fresh-water lakes; Mooto, Ingram and Pollalie Lakes and the large adjacent Eilerslie Lake. Spiller Inlet, the channel leading into the Ingram-Mooto, is home to a rich and plentiful run of herring and is a favored fishing ground of the Heiltsuk First Nation. Herring are a primary food source for coastal salmon and another link in the web of life essential for salmon survival. Logging activity, logging debris and log dumps could threaten the health of these herring stocks.
- The tailed frog, classified by the British Columbian government as vulnerable to extinction, has been observed in the Ingram-Mooto watershed. The tailed frog lives in fast flowing, shallow streams in undisturbed forests. These streams typically have no riparian, or streamside protection under the Forest Practices Code, enabling companies to log right up to stream banks. This further jeopardizes the survival of this at risk species.
- Marbled murrelets, classified provincially and federally as vulnerable to extinction, feed in coastal waters and build their nests on mossy branches in nearby ancient rainforests. Field studies indicate that the Ingram-Mooto region has the capacity to support many breeding pairs of these seabirds, and many sightings have been made here, yet research has not been carried out to identify murrelet nesting trees. The areas in which murrelets are known to occur are currently scheduled for logging.

**GREENPEACE FORESTS CAMPAIGN**

## The First Nations

- The Heiltsuk First Nation has occupied this land for centuries. The Heiltsuk people now reside predominantly in the small town of Bella Bella. The area is rich with signs of extensive traditional use including fish traps, culturally modified trees and petroglyphs.

## The Logging Company

- Western Forest Products (WFP) and its parent company Doman Industries control 680,000 hectares of B.C. rainforest, making it the second largest company logging coastal rainforest. The company also has plans for extensive clearcutting in other areas of the Great Bear Rainforest including an area on Princess Royal Island that is proposed as a park to protect rare white 'Spirit' bears and grizzly bears in the area.
- In the mid-coast timber supply area where WFP is logging, the rate of logging is currently set at 47% above the yield considered to be sustainable.

## The Logging Plans

- A critique of the Ingram-Mooto Forest Development Plan (FDP) by a team of lawyers and biologists with the Sierra Legal Defence Fund (SLDF) found that the plan failed to comply with the requirements of the Forest Practices Code and its regulations. The SLDF team identified issues of improper stream classification and terrain stability to be of particular concern. The review revealed that the plan had been revised to downgrade streams from fish-bearing to non-fish-bearing. This enables WFP to log right down to the stream banks where diverse wildlife is often found.
- Despite numerous problems with clearcutting plans for this rainforest area, WFP has stated its intention to pursue ecological certification through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). WFP is attempting to influence the FSC process and have the clearcutting of ancient rainforest certified as ecologically responsible. To date, the FSC has never certified an old-growth clearcutting operation. WFP will not be successful in its attempt to convince customers it is behaving responsibly unless it dramatically changes its logging practices and refrains from logging the remaining pristine rainforest valleys.

Western Forest Products' road construction operation into Ingram Lake (Spring 1998). The road will provide logging access into intact rainforest valleys.



**O**n July 8, 1998 the Heiltsuk Hemas Council of Hereditary Chiefs issued the following statement: "We do not support the clearcutting of old-growth in the Ingram-Mooto. This is wrong. Western Forest Products is ignoring our request for a one-year deferral even though the Delgamu'ukw<sup>1</sup> and Gladstone<sup>2</sup> cases acknowledge that First Nations people have the right to financially share in the benefits of development in their homelands.....We have watched our resources and economic opportunities being taken away and yet we depend on these for our food and survival. Our salmon, abalone, halibut, cod, urchins, sea cucumbers and now our trees are being removed. We want the logging of the Ingram-Mooto and all removal of resources to stop until we can have a voice in determining what happens in our homeland. We owe this to our future generations and to the land and sea which provide for us. We want the logging of old-growth to stop for the sake of all British Columbians."

*Note: There is a diversity of views in this community.*

- 1 *Delgamu'ukw v. British Columbia*, December 11, 1997: Meaningful consultation with First Nations was one of the requirements set out in this landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision. It also confirmed, for the first time, that there was an undeniable economic element to Aboriginal title.
- 2 *R. v. Gladstone*, 1996: This Supreme Court of Canada decision was the first to confirm the existence of commercial Aboriginal rights.



Heiltsuk First Nation Hereditary Chief denounces road construction activities by Western Forest Products (spring 1998).



Active blasting and logging by Western Forest Products, Ingram Lake (spring 1998). Over 5 kilometers of road have already been constructed.

## The Rainforest

- Temperate rainforests are one of the most endangered forest types on earth. Globally, over 50% of these rainforests have already been logged and the Great Bear Rainforest is one of the largest remaining tracts of temperate rainforest left.
- Eighty per cent of Canada's large coastal rainforest watersheds have been logged or have roads built into them, and virtually all of what remains is scheduled for road-building or logging within the next ten years. British Columbia has protected only 6% of its low elevation ancient rainforests.

## SOLUTIONS

- According to a report by internationally renowned conservation biologist Dr. Michael Soulé, up to 45% of the temperate rainforest should be deferred from logging until we can determine exactly how much is needed to protect rare and threatened species from extinction. Otherwise, Dr. Soulé maintains, if B.C. continues with the policy of protecting only 12% of the land base, up to 50% of the species could be threatened with extinction.
- Greenpeace is calling for protection of the remaining intact rainforest valleys such as the Ingram-Mooto watershed, and an end to industrial clearcutting and the construction of new roads in B.C.'s ancient temperate rainforest.

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