

JOBS AND TREES

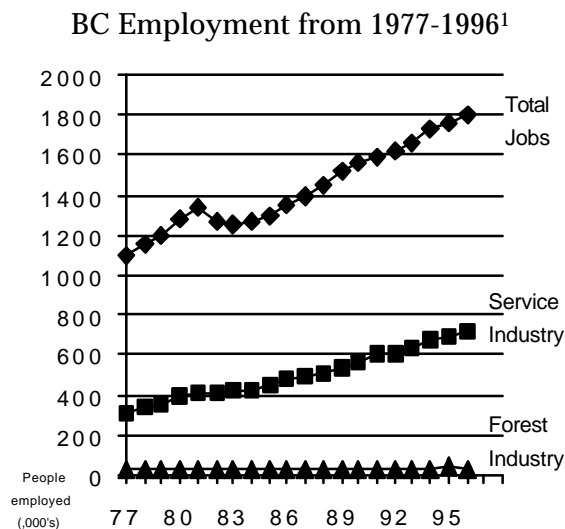
The Forest Economy in British Columbia

“We don’t have to choose between jobs and trees. If our forest industry was managed properly we would have plenty of both”

- Pulp, Paper and Wood Workers of Canada. Jobs, Trees and Us, 1993

THE BC ECONOMY IS NOT A LOGGING ECONOMY

The BC logging industry continually argues that logging is the backbone of the BC economy. While jobs in the forest sector are certainly important to many rural communities, government statistics show that in general, BC is not a logging economy:



While there has been a steady growth in overall jobs in BC, the forestry sector has

experienced no growth at all, therefore contributing proportionally less to the BC economy.

- The forest industry directly provides only 5.5% of all jobs in British Columbia.²
- Forestry accounts for just 8% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)³

Meanwhile, other industries in BC are on the increase:

- Tourism is now BC's single largest employer. By the year 2001, 25,000 new jobs are expected to be created in this sector.
- In the last two years, tourism has grown faster than the provincial GDP while forestry's position has contracted.⁴
- The contribution of hi-tech industries to the GDP has been growing at the rate of 20% per year.⁵

Tourism relies to a large degree on the natural beauty of British Columbia, while high-tech industry workers are attracted to BC in part because of the quality of life associated with a natural, unspoiled setting. The growth of these

¹ Statistics Canada Labour force survey, in BC Stats, January 1997

² Statistics Canada Labour force survey, in BC stats, January 1997

³ Chopping Up The Money Tree. Schwindt & Heaps. June 1996

⁴ 'BC Stats. British Columbia Economic Accounts, 1986 - 1995;

Tourism Related Employment 1984 - 1996; 1996 Financial and Economic Review. 1997

⁵ 'Here's a path out of the woods'. The Province. February 10th, 1998

industries is threatened by clearcutting and other poor forest practices.

FIRST NATIONS AND THE SALMON ECONOMY OF THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

"We want to let you know that the fish is the same as a bank. This is where we derive our income."

- Jim Pollard, Nuxalk Nation, presenting to the McKenna McBride Commission, 1912 - 1916

First Nations communities within the Great Bear Rainforest rely first and foremost on fishing for employment. Logging directly threatens salmon spawning habitat, and the associated economic benefits from fishing. In fact, 624 distinct races of salmon are considered at high risk of extinction and 142 races are already extinct in BC and the Yukon combined⁶. Logging is a significant factor in these losses.

"All the watershed is gone to logging, clearcut logging around the lake. There used to be 200,000 to 300,000 spawners. Now there's only 6,000 to 8,000 spawners. Since they started clearcut logging, there's been something wrong."⁷

- Ernest David, Elder, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Clayoquot Sound

In the Central Coast region of the Great Bear Rainforest:

- 403 full time jobs are derived from fisheries, 262 of which are related to salmon.⁸ While this figure is decreasing due to overfishing, it is still considerably more than the jobs derived from logging.
- The wholesale value of the commercial fishery is \$44 million annually.⁹
- The food fishery (catching fish for personal use only) is also a highly important and integral part of the local economy, although it has never been quantified.
- Sports fisherman generate another \$27.1 million annually.¹⁰

In Bella Coola, the largest town in the Central Coast region:

- Less than 10 First Nations people work in logging
- Unemployment in the community is 80%

LOGGING IN THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

"If resources continue to leave, if job loss continues due to distant shareholders, if what remains is unmerchantable, then the demise of this community is inevitable within a short period of time"¹¹

- Patricia McKim-Fletcher, Economic Development Officer, Central Coast Regional District

⁶ American Fisheries Association study on B.C. and the Yukon. 1996.

⁷ Fisheries for the Future. A Nuu-Chah-Nulth Perspective. 1996

⁸ Fishing for Answers: Central Coast Communities and B.C. salmon fishing. ARA Consulting. 1996

⁹ Socio-Economic Assessment of Timber Supply Scenarios: Mid-Coast TSA. March 1994

¹⁰ Socio-Economic Assessment of Timber Supply Scenarios: Mid-Coast TSA. March 1994

¹¹ Bella Coola Valley Community Forest Tenure discussion paper. First Draft. November 1996

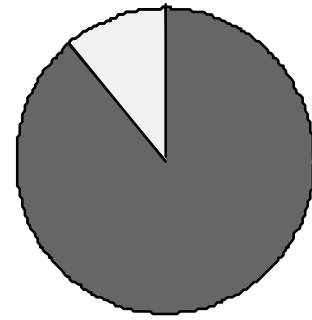
“Jobs should stay in the valley for all the locals to be able to work. Raw logs should stay in Bella Coola, not be shipped out.”¹²

- Head Hereditary Chief Nuximlayc, Nuxalk Nation

International Forest Products (Interfor) and Doman Forest Products are the two largest companies logging in the Great Bear Rainforest. They consistently claim that preservation of the area will devastate the local economy, yet both companies contribute little to the local economy. In the Mid-Coast Timber Supply Area (an administrative boundary encompassing two thirds of the Great Bear Rainforest) there are:

- 191 full time jobs derived from logging for central coast residents.
- 1,684 full time jobs go to non-residents. Most of the jobs go to mill workers outside of the area, and loggers mostly fly in from southern BC to logging camps for 10 day periods. They therefore contribute nothing to central coast communities. The reason loggers fly up from further south is that much of Vancouver Island and the Lower mainland has been overcut, and therefore the Great Bear Rainforest offers some of the last opportunities for logging on the coast.

Local people versus non-local people employed in the forest industry, for the Mid-coast TSA¹³



- Local people employed (11%)
- Non-local people employed (89%)

- The two largest logging companies in the Great Bear Rainforest (Interfor and Doman) do not operate mills within the region, so logs (and jobs) are transported 400 kilometers south to the Vancouver region.
- For example, Interfor sends out approximately 50 fully-laden log barges per year from the region. Each barge has, on average, the equivalent of 10 full-time year-long processing jobs worth of logs on board. (This figure does not even take into account the number of jobs that would be created if there was extensive re-manufacturing of milled timber into value-added products).
- Meanwhile an expansion of the Little Valley Mill in Bella Coola, a small, independently owned saw mill, will provide up to 90 jobs for local people, while using only 4% of the timber that is cut in the region. Much of the timber they will use is of low quality, yet the mill will turn it into high-value products, providing much needed employment for the local community.

¹² Message from Nuximlayc to general meeting at Lobelco Hall. June 9th, 1997.

¹³ Socio-economic assessment of timber supply scenarios: Mid-coast TSA. March 1994.

THE TIMBER IS RUNNING OUT

“We are overcutting what is the long-term sustainable yield”

- Forests Minister David Zirnhelt, July 1997¹⁴

“There are going to be job losses.”

- Forest Minister David Zirnhelt, July 1997

The Long Run Sustained Yield (LRSY) is a calculation that the Chief Forester of BC makes every five years. The figure does not take into account the needs of individual wildlife species for their survival. As it does not take into account non-timber values, the LRSY is far greater than the forest can withstand from an ecological point of view. However, BC logging companies do not even abide by the limits set by the Long Run Sustained Yield:

- In the past 30 years alone the rate of cut in B.C. has tripled.
- The LRSY for British Columbia is currently 51 million cubic metres, while the present amount of logging is over 71 million cubic metres.
- Overcutting in the Great Bear Rainforest is rampant, with logging companies overcutting the LRSY in the Mid-Coast by 47%.¹⁵
- A 1994 Environment Canada report found that all of BC’s unprotected, low-elevation, coastal commercial rainforest will be logged out in 16 years.¹⁶

¹⁴ ‘Report says logging firms wasting tonnes of wood’. Times Colonist. July 30th, 1997

¹⁵ Socio-economic assessment of timber supply scenarios: Mid-coast TSA. March 1994

¹⁶ The State of the Canadian Environment. Environment Canada. 1994

“I believe there were areas of the coast that were overcut.”¹⁷

- Canfor chairman Peter Bentley.

While the overcutting continues, BC is actually getting far less jobs per tree than other regions.¹⁸

Timber Cut (thousand cubic metres)	
BC	less than 1
Canada	1.5
USA	3.4
California	5.2

Rather than increasing the ratio of jobs per cubic metre, the trend for logging companies is to decrease jobs, through increased mechanization of the industry.

- For example on Vancouver Island, employment decreased by 4,000 between 1991 and 1995, while the amount of logging increased by 8% in the same time period.¹⁹

SHIPPING OUT THE JOBS

“It’s obvious we have to find ways to get more jobs from every tree. Diversification and value-added manufacturing are our best hope for the future”

- David Zirnhelt, Minister of Economic Development, 1993

Exporting raw logs, rather than milling them in BC where they create manufacturing jobs, is an unpopular practice in BC because it deprives

¹⁷ ‘Canfor to shut down Eburne mill, putting more than 200 out of work.’ Vancouver Sun. November 27th 1997

¹⁸ Jobs, Trees and Us. PPWC. 1993

¹⁹ The dirt on VIRT: Fact sheet #3’ June 1997, Sierra Club

workers of jobs. However, in January 1998, logging companies were lining up to apply for permits to ship raw logs out of BC. This comes at a time when the BC forest industry is extremely depressed due to a poor Asian market, with thousands of loggers out of work. BC mills lay idle and mill workers are unemployed while mills in other countries process BC's timber.

Most forest products exported from BC are only minimally processed (for example milled into two by fours, rather than made into window frames). Once arriving in other countries, more processing (and therefore more employment) is added. Once again, BC misses out.

For example:

- In November 1997, Western Forest Products shipped its first load of minimally processed lumber down to Argentina²⁰. It was shipped directly to PIH, a Canadian company operating the two largest saw mills in Argentina for remanufacturing.
- Sauder Industries (owned by Interfor Chairman William Sauder) operates a mill in Ferndale, Washington State, USA which remanufactures hemlock and fir into products such as fingerjointed mouldings and door jambs. Because they are tied to Interfor, they have a guaranteed access to quality high-grade timber from BC. The company employs 60 people, taking advantage of lower wages in the US, and effectively denying jobs to 60 workers in BC.
- Meanwhile, Interfor closed down its McDonald Cedar Mill in Surrey B.C. in October 1997, laying off 46 workers. The company promised to invest in value added jobs to offset some of the lay-offs, but announced in September that it would not build a planned remanufacturing section to its Flavelle Cedar mill in Port Moody, BC.

²⁰ 'BC wood creating jobs - not here, but in Argentina'. Times Colonist. February 5th 1998

ECONOMIC TRANSITION IS PART OF THE SOLUTION

"Owls versus jobs was just plain false. What we've got here is quality of life. And as long as we don't screw that up, we'll always be able to attract people and business"

- Bill Morrisette, Mayor of Springfield, one of Oregon's former lumber-dependent towns²¹

"It's make or break time for Central Coast communities. We need to diversify our economy or there will be no options for the kids here - they will leave"

- Larry Strandberg, Community Futures, Bella Coola

The problems facing the BC economy have already been successfully overcome in Oregon, USA. Oregon's economy previously emphasised timber, but in 1989 it launched 'Oregon Shines' a strategy designed to diversify its economy in order to protect itself from forest industry busts²². Instead of trying to cut logging costs (the path the BC government is taking), Oregon focused on attracting new investment and emphasising the quality of life and rugged beauty of the region. As a result, hi-tech industries have been experiencing unprecedented growth - some 60% in 1994-95 compared to only 20% growth in BC.²³

"The net result is that the region is successfully navigating from being dependent on a few extractive industries to having a modern, widely diversified economy"

²¹ BC - An economy in transition. BC Environmental Report. Spring 1997

²² 'Here's a path out of the woods'. The Province. February 10th, 1998

²³ 'High-tech, tourism feeling left out' The Province. February 10th, 1998

- Tom Powers, Economics Department, University of Montana, describing the economic transition of the Pacific Northwest states of the US²⁴

GREENPEACE IS PART OF THE SOLUTION

The Forest Stewardship Council

Greenpeace International was a founding member of the Forest Stewardship Council in the fall of 1993. Working with governments, logging companies and conservation groups around the world, the Forest Stewardship Council seeks to independently certify sound forest management practices based on acceptable ecoforestry practices. Greenpeace continues to participate in the process on an ongoing basis around the world, as well as in British Columbia where regional standards are currently being developed.

BC's First Eco-certifiable Logging.

In 1995, Greenpeace Canada teamed up with Ministry of Forests staff and Registered Professional Forester Herb Hammond to produce the first certifiable forest products in BC. A single-tree selection harvesting method of ecoforestry was employed near Vernon, BC, producing timber that is not only certifiable, but also creates up to 8 times as many jobs as conventional clearcutting.²⁵

The Economic Transitions Working Group

Greenpeace Canada was a founding member of the Economic Transitions Working Group in 1997. The goal of the working group is to develop a comprehensive overview of the steps that must be taken in British Columbia to diversify rural economies and decrease the pressure and dependence on BC's old growth forests.

In the Coastal Temperate Rainforest, Greenpeace Canada is calling for:

- no logging in the remaining pristine valleys
- no new roads in the temperate rainforest
- an end to clearcutting

In the longer time, Greenpeace is seeking a phase-out of industrial logging in ancient rainforests, and a shift toward logging in second-growth forests according to ecological principles.

Greenpeace supports First Nations' cultural use of the temperate rainforest and local community-controlled ecoforestry in second-growth forests and areas where some logging has already occurred.

Greenpeace Canada Indigenous People's Policy

Greenpeace Canada recognizes the inherent sovereignty of indigenous peoples and their governments as defined under public international law.

We acknowledge that the federal and provincial governments of Canada continue to disregard the titles and corresponding rights of indigenous peoples and their governments.

We believe that all governments, including those of indigenous peoples, have an obligation and responsibility to preserve the integrity of the natural environment and the diversity of life on Earth.

GREENPEACE

²⁴ Economic well being and environmental protection in the Pacific Northwest: A consensus report by Pacific Northwest economists. December 1995

²⁵ 'Clearcut-free? - Just Did It.' Greenpeace. 1995.