

FREE

Western Canada Wilderness Committee Education Report

Winter 88/89

Second Class Mail Registration No. 7980



CARMANAH

Protect this area

Protect this ancient forest forever

Will your children and grandchildren be able to experience and learn from this ancient forest in Carmanah Valley? Not if the logging industry has its way. The chronology on Page 2 explains why.



Carmanah park fight chronicled

From 10,000 years BP - Following the retreat of the last ice age, the processes of forest evolution in the Carmanah Valley proceeded undisturbed by humans. Native Indians used the resources of the valley on a limited basis, but their activities left no significant impact on the natural landscape.

Early 1900s - For a few hundred dollars, the logging industry bought the trees growing on 30 percent of land area in Carmanah, the first timber licences in the valley.

1955 - The B.C. government grants MacMillan Bloedel a tree farm licence which includes Carmanah Valley. In return, MB agrees to provide jobs and a mill and to log on a sustained yield basis.

1956 - MB timber cruisers inventory Carmanah Valley. One of them later recalls seeing world-record-sized Sitka spruce.

1984 - MB presents for public review its 1985 to 1989 management and working plan for TFL 44, showing no development in the Carmanah/Nitinat area. Other MB documents show no logging in Carmanah until 2003.

1985 - Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) publishes its *Canadian Landmarks* newspaper--the first public presentation of a proposal to preserve Carmanah.

1985 - MB shifts its harvest quota from other areas into the Carmanah/Nitinat area, revising its logging plans to include Carmanah without public knowledge or review.

1986 - MB obtains adjustment of Pacific Rim National Park boundary near Cheewat Lake to facilitate easy construction of an access road into the lower Carmanah watershed area.

April 1, 1988 - WCWC members Randy Stoltmann and Clinton Webb discover logging roads newly constructed to the edge of Carmanah and roadways surveyed into the



THERE IS MORE TO
CARMANAH THAN
BIG TREES

heart of the valley's spruce stands. MB development plans show proposed logging throughout the middle and lower Carmanah Valley in 1989, including the best spruce groves.

May 2 - Vancouver Sun runs headline reading, "Tree hunter's claim of forest giants sparks preservation plea"; the first major media mention of Carmanah Valley.

May 13 - Heritage Forests Society and the Sierra Club present MB, government and media with a brief entitled, *A Proposal to Add the Carmanah Creek Drainage With Its Exceptional Sitka Spruce Forests to Pacific Rim National Park.*

May 19 - MB voluntarily halts all road construction in Carmanah for one month to allow a study of the valley.

May 30 - Four WCWC volunteers begin trail construction in Carmanah Valley in pouring rain.

June 1 - MB asks WCWC to halt trail construction. WCWC does not comply and continues building trail.

June 10 - MB engineers discover a 95-metre-tall spruce, the Carmanah Giant, growing near Pacific Rim National Park. It is the tallest known tree in Canada and the world's tallest recorded Sitka spruce.

June 29 - MB proposes two reserves; a nine ha area to protect the Carmanah Giant and 90 ha encompassing some of the largest Sitka spruces in the mid-valley.

July 1-3 - WCWC completes first phase of trail building in mid-valley and hosts the Carmanah Caravan, a Canada Day celebration for hikers and campers, which attracts over 150 people to the valley.

July 15 - In the House of Commons, Bob Wenman, MP for Fraser Valley West, proposes an amendment to the boundaries of Pacific Rim National Park to include the Carmanah Valley within the park. Amendment fails.

July 22 - MB seeks a B.C. Supreme Court injunction to halt WCWC trail building in Carmanah Valley.

July 26 - B.C. Supreme Court dismisses MB's request for an injunction.

July 26 - The B.C. Forest Service requests that MB prepare a revised logging plan for Carmanah Valley by the end of September 1988.



View of Carmanah Canyon as seen from the trail to Canada's tallest tree.

Aug. 28 - WCWC trail crew reaches the Carmanah Giant.

Sept. 10 - MP Bob Wenman and Nitinat Indian Chief Peter Knighton officially open the Carmanah Valley trail.

Oct. 6 - MB releases revised plans for Carmanah. It now plans to clearcut all but two percent of the valley. The area proposed for preservation is increased from 99 ha to 175 ha out of the Carmanah's total area of 6,730 ha.

Oct. 27 - WCWC publishes this newspaper.

November - B.C. Forest Service begins its review of MB's new plans, requesting public comment.

January, 1989 - MB hopes to resume road construction and logging in Carmanah. WCWC hopes that political pressure persuades government to conduct an independent assessment of the ecological significance of Carmanah and its potential value to all Canadians as fully protected parkland.

Valley visitors express their views

"Totally rad!" - Alex Fraser, Santa Cruz, California, August 7, 1988

"Some day we'll learn that the survival of wilderness means the survival of man." Michael Hill, August 14, 1988

"M and B leave our land alone." Carolyn Knighton, Nitinaht, B.C.

"Clearcuts! Shame!" - Shirley Langer, Kingston, Ontario

PRESERVATION OF ENTIRE CARMANAH IS REASONABLE

These graphs show:

1. The percentage of B.C.'s forest land protected in existing parks and ecological reserves.
2. The conservationists' goal to double the protected forest land base.
3. How the preservation of Carmanah Valley relates to conservationists' goal
4. The difference between the conservationists' proposal and MB's proposal for natural forest preservation in Carmanah.

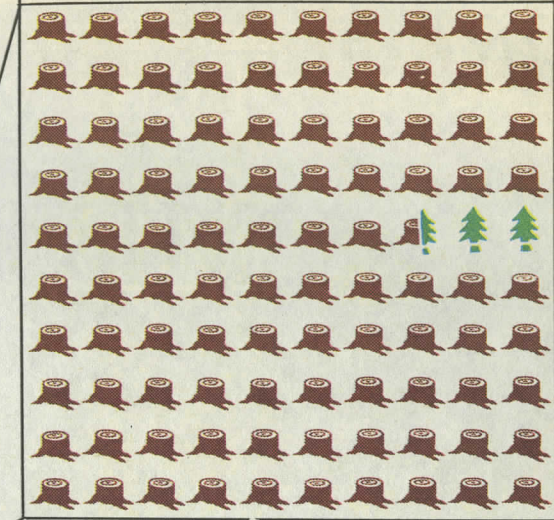
B.C.'s forest land base - 47 million hectares



Additional forest land conservationists want preserved and protected - 1,141,000 hectares



MB's Carmanah proposal







Each tree or stump represents 76 hectares

Conservationists' Carmanah proposal



Each tree or stump represents 76 hectares

-  UNPROTECTED FOREST - open for exploitation
-  PROTECTED FOREST - preserved in all kinds of parks and ecological reserves
-  PROPOSED ADDITIONAL FORESTS TO BE PROTECTED - a summation of all the forest lands found in current wilderness and park proposals including Meares Island, Stein Valley, Khutzcymateen, Stikine national park reserve, Chilcotin wilderness area, etc.
-  AREAS PROPOSED TO BE LOGGED OR ALREADY LOGGED - stumps in conservationists' proposal represent areas that have already been logged

Environmentalists want the whole 6,730 ha Carmanah watershed protected as a logical addition to Pacific Rim National Park. Why?

An analysis of the issue based on sustainable economics reveals that preserving the entire Carmanah valley is affordable and makes good long-term economic sense.

The Sitka's growing in Carmanah are the tallest spruces on record in the world. The ancient old-growth forest in this valley, taken in its totality, is perhaps Canada's finest left unlogged.

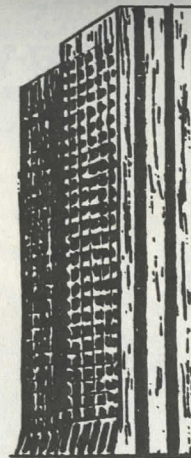
Preserving the entire ecosystem--the whole watershed--is the only long term ecologically sure way to protect the trees nestled within it.

As logging rapidly proceeds in B.C. and throughout the planet as a whole, we are losing, one by one, the ecological units and genetic resources which may be the only hope for survival of life on earth.

CREDITS

Photography: Gary Fiegehen, Joe Foy, Clinton Webb, Ken Lay / Writers: Joe Foy, Paul George, Randy Stoltmann / Editors: Adriane Carr, Arne Hansen / Production: Arne Hansen, Ken Lay / Design: Paul George, Ken Lay / Illustrations: Annette Shaw, Randy Stoltmann

We wish to thank everyone who gave so generously of their time and energy to produce this newspaper. Most of all thanks to the dozens of volunteers who built the excellent trail system in Carmanah, making it accessible to the public. Copyrighted 1988 WCWC, 103-1520 W. 6th Ave., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 1R2 - Ph. 604-731-6716



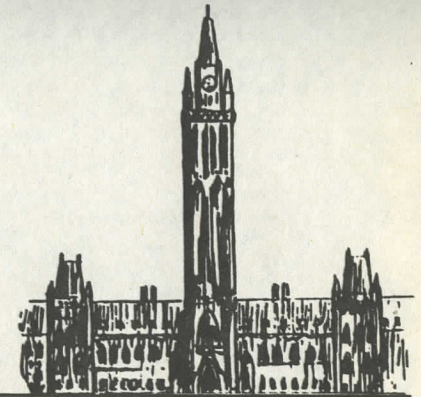
MacMillan Bloedel Bldg.
Vancouver, B.C.
340 feet, 104 metres



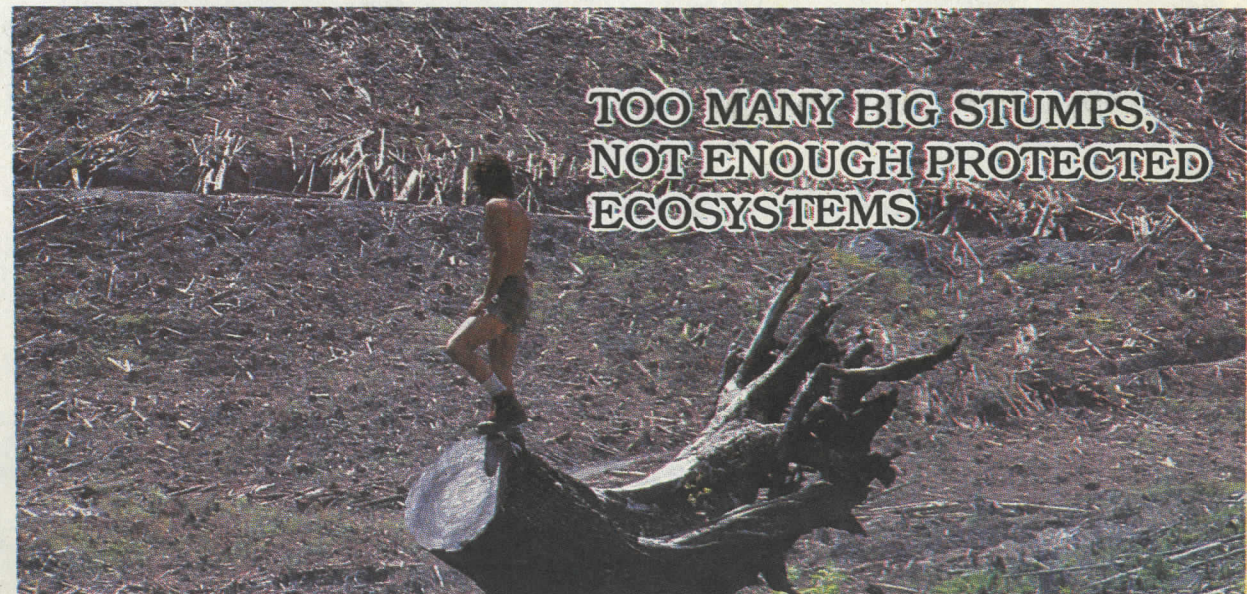
Two-storey house
25 feet, 7.7 metres



Carmanah Giant spruce
312 feet, 95 metres



Parliament Peace Tower
Ottawa, Ontario
296 feet, 90 metres



Clear-cut opening in the upper Carmanah watershed, part of about 150 hectares MB has already logged above the mid-valley where the spruce groves are found.

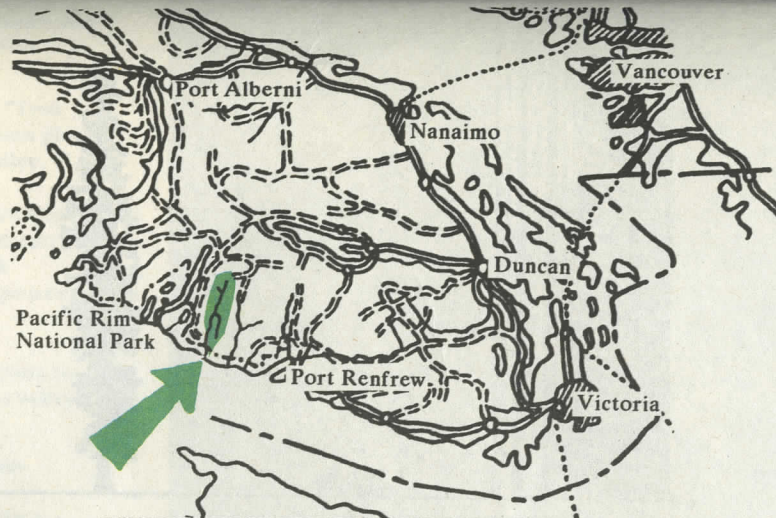


Do you approve of
MB logging practices?

Wanton waste and environmental degradation characterize MacMillan Bloedel logging near Carmanah. This industrial giant plans to do the same to all but two percent of the valley where Canada's tallest trees grow.

FACTS ABOUT JOBS VS. NATURE

WHERE IS CARMANAH VALLEY?



PLEASE HELP SAVE CARMANAH VALLEY

Yes! I would like to take part in saving this natural heritage treasure. Please use this tax deductible gift of \$ _____ for the WCWC Carmanah Valley preservation campaign.

Here is \$12 for a copy of the WCWC 30 minute VHS video, *Carmanah Forever*, narrated by Dr. David Suzuki. Price includes postage, handling and tax where applicable.

Enclosed is \$10 to purchase *Ancient Forests Forever*, a 24" by 36" full-colour poster of Carmanah's ancient rain forest. (see front page picture). Price includes postage, handling and B.C. tax where applicable.

Here is my \$4 to buy the WCWC Carmanah road access and trail guide map, so I can hike the valley and see the forest for myself. Price includes postage, handling and tax.

Count me in. I want to become a member of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. Enclosed is my \$20 annual membership fee.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Please use this coupon to help save Carmanah Valley. Your cheque or money order should be made out to Western Canada Wilderness Committee and sent to WCWC, 103 - 1520 West 6th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1R2

Printed as a supplement to *The New Catalyst* Winter 1988/89

- Carmanah Valley is crown land. It does not belong to MacMillan Bloedel Limited, B.C.'s largest logging company. MB only holds a forest harvesting tenure (Tree Farm Licence 44) there.
- Carmanah is 0.000007 percent of B.C.'s land base; 0.0003 percent of B.C.'s productive forest land base; 1.8 percent of TFL 44. It is 17 times the size of Vancouver's world famous Stanley Park. MB proposes to preserve two areas totalling less than one half the size of Stanley Park, only two percent of the valley.
- In British Columbia, every 10 days, an area of old-growth forest the size of the entire 6,730 hectare Carmanah Valley is clearcut logged. Waste levels of merchantable wood in the clearcuts is often higher than 15 percent.
- In the last 10 years B.C. has exported more than two times the amount of wood found in the entire Carmanah Valley as raw logs. The jobs lost in milling greatly exceeds those jobs which would be lost in preserving all of Carmanah.
- According to MB's own figures, if it reinvested more money in intensive silviculture in TFL 44 instead of taking record cash profits, the increased harvest of second-growth wood there would equal 11 times as much timber as is found in all of Carmanah Valley.
- Expert opinions in MB's studies (Folio II) warn that MB plans to log near the big trees and on the steep slopes of the watershed and that this may cause blowdown and erosion--in other words, its small reserves to protect Carmanah's giant Sitka spruce may fail.