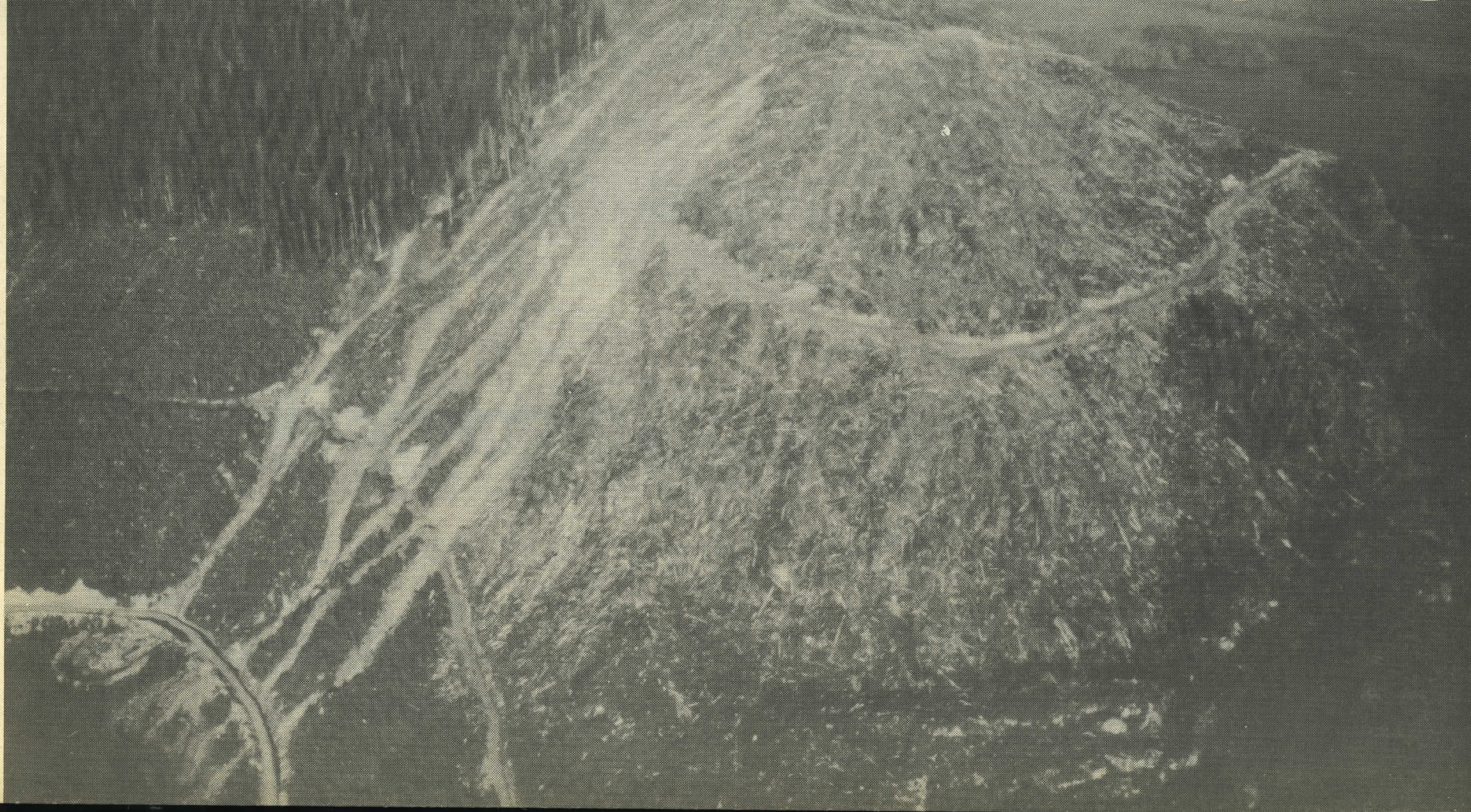


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CRISIS IN THE WOODS



Forestry in British Columbia is in crisis. For too long, there has been inadequate control on forest company activities.

The picture above was taken recently at Cypre River in Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It is typical of what happens when logging companies clearcut steep unstable mountainsides. Because of poor planning, much of the remaining loggable old-growth forest is found on rugged, unstable terrain, so that erosion problems will rapidly escalate unless these practices are stopped.

Now, for the first time, organizations like the Wilderness Committee are offering alternatives to the destructive practices of the past.

In the meantime, the provincial scale of the problem has been described in a March 1988 federal/provincial

Forest Resource Development Agreement report on soil degradation and forest productivity. In that report, the annual loss to the B.C. economy from soil erosion and soil compaction was conservatively estimated at \$80 million per year. In terms of wood production the estimated loss amounted to 400,000 cubic metres annually; enough to build 20,000 three bedroom houses.

The report also says "The annual (wood) productivity loss resulting from soil degradation is estimated to be increasing by 50,000 cubic metres or \$10 million per year. If present forestry practices continue, the annual loss may double in less than 10 years."

Costs of rehabilitating productivity on degraded forest land are estimated to be in the range of \$500 to \$5,000 per hectare according to the same report. This does not include the costs of habitat destruction, which is reducing or eliminating many essential species of plants and animals in B.C.'s forests.

SOME SOLUTIONS...

Seek out alternative forestry practices such as "New Forestry" and learn how they can be applied. (See Page 2.)

Find ways to promote sustainability in your country, your province and your backyard. (See Page 3.)

Support the Hazelton initiative, an example of New Forestry in action. (See Page 4.)

Learn how to work constructively within the law to promote positive changes in the forests through community involvement. (See Page 4.)



New Forestry means more jobs and a healthier environment

What is "New Forestry," and how can it help us to have a healthier environment?

To answer these questions, let us compare New Forestry with "Old Forestry," or with what might be called "Status Quo Forestry." There are three key differences between Status Quo Forestry and New Forestry. These are:

1. Status Quo Forestry involves setting maximized wood fibre production as the number one objective in forest stewardship, and then grafting on other considerations later. New Forestry turns this process on its head, so that wood fibre production is a by-product of the primary goals which are to sustain biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Having a landscape with the greatest possible variety of lifeforms in it, that is, a landscape that retains biodiversity, is emerging as the key characteristic of an ecologically healthy environment.

2. Status Quo Forestry is tree-based or stand-based. That is, it deals first and foremost with individual trees, or stands of trees up to about 100 hectares in extent. This contrasts with New Forestry which is primarily landscape based. This means that New Forestry, or "Wholistic Forestry" as it is sometimes called, deals with whole watersheds, whole landforms and whole ecosystems, however large or small they may be. In some cases, these landforms or ecosystems may extend over hundreds of thousands or even millions of hectares.

In dividing up the landscape into small, arbitrarily defined units, Status Quo Forestry has failed; not just to see the forest for the trees, but to see the whole forest at all.

3. Status Quo Forestry is based on cultural traditions concerned with controlling, conquering and taming wild forests, whereas New Forestry is based on an emerging culture concerned with the nurturing, valuing and celebrating of wild characteristics in all forests.

The ecosystem/economy link

Biodiversity in forests can be regarded as their (and our) key ecological asset. It, together with clean air, clean water and healthy abundant soil constitute the sum total of a forest's ecological capital - capital being "that which produces wealth." This is the goose that lays the golden eggs and some of these eggs have "forest products" and "forest sector jobs" stamped on them.

Since it's obvious that a healthy, biologically diverse forest can produce more wealth, jobs and golden eggs than a sick one, it becomes plain that ecological capital is ultimately the same thing as economic capital.

Adopting New Forestry principles such as sustaining biodiversity and the seeking of a "nature driven" economy will mean that, in the long run, we can have the best of both worlds - more jobs and a healthier environment. It will also mean that we will no longer be damaging the future ability of the forests to produce wealth and jobs. Our harvests will be no more than the ecological interest yielded by the ecological capital.

So the time to introduce New Forestry strategies and procedures is **NOW!** Immediate dividends would flow from the following New Forestry prescription:

1. Establish longer forest cutting cycles which allow forests to develop fully.



Mediterranean - the place from where many of our traditions and cultural values come. The timber barons of the day got very rich selling lumber to their defence departments to make huge warships called biremes and triremes according to whether they were powered by two or three decks of oarsmen. The manufacture of these colossal craft, made solely of wood, resulted in the clear-cutting of vast areas of the great Mediterranean forests. The timber barons evidently exceeded their AAC (ancient allowable cut!) because today there's hardly enough forest between Gibraltar and Tel Aviv to produce a small fleet of rowboats, let alone a single trireme.

The earthly remains of the ancient forests of the Mediterranean and the ghosts of the jobs they created can now only be viewed by divers, as they swim past the remnants of the ancient Greek and Phoenician navies that lie on the bottom of the sea.

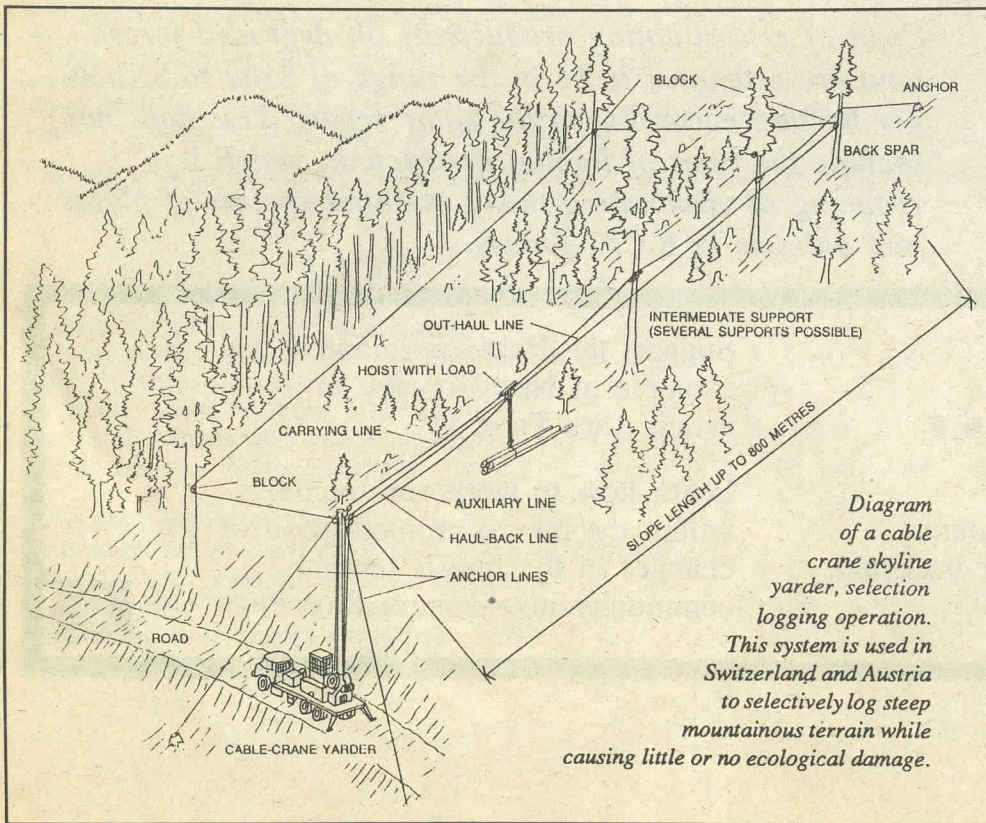
The barren, sunbaked, almost treeless shores of today's Mediterranean bear mute witness to what eventually happens when a civilization spends its ecological capital, as we are now doing in the forests of British Columbia, of Canada, and indeed of the entire planet, at this very minute.

1. Establish longer forest cutting cycles which allow forests to develop fully.
2. Abolish clearcuts which **DO NOT** mimic natural processes. (An exception would be where lodgepole pine is the only tree that will grow. In these cases we should limit clearcuts to 20 hectares.)
3. Introduce "green tree retention" logging (selection cutting), which **DOES** mimic natural processes.
4. Set aside biodiversity (wilderness) reserves as benchmark areas in which to learn forest repair techniques.
5. Use multi-species natural regeneration instead of plantations with one or two species.

A list of immediate benefits that would flow from the implementation of just the five measures listed (among the many others that could be recommended), would include more and better quality drinking water, a lowered contribution to the greenhouse effect, a decrease in insect and disease problems, more fishing jobs, more tourism jobs, more guide-outfitting jobs, more trapping jobs and more research jobs.

Lessons from history

In the long term, implementing New Forestry practices will mean higher allowable cuts of wood fibre and **MORE** forest industry jobs than there would otherwise be. How can this be, given that New Forestry undoubtedly means a considerable and immediate drop in the allowable annual cut (AAC)? To explain this, let us look back to the time, long ago, when there was a thriving forest products industry all around the shores of the



planet, at this very minute.

So, let's not end up like the dead civilizations of the Mediterranean who let their wealth slip through their fingers and who bequeathed to their descendants an impoverished, dried-up landscape.

In British Columbia, and wherever wild forests still exist, and wherever it is possible to rehabilitate the ravages of Status-Quo Forestry, we still have a chance to hang on to a big chunk of our real forest wealth. There's still a chance to calculate levels of logging and to implement types of forest practices that will ensure a better world for all lifeforms born and yet to be born, including our own descendants.

Forest of Couvet, Switzerland. This forest has been repeatedly selection logged with a cable crane skyline yarder. The forest and terrain are similar to many areas in coastal B.C. that are now being clearcut. (From Planning and Control in the Managed Forest by Hermann Knuchel.)



20 ways to sustainability

1. Establish a forest practices act.

- Forest practices that cause habitat destruction, reduced water quality or increased soil erosion must be defined in law and made illegal.

2. Conserve forests by establishing value-added wood products industries (e.g. furniture and guitars) close to the source of raw materials.

- As overcutting is gradually stamped out, it will be essential to find alternative employment for loggers and mill workers who assumed that they had jobs till retirement.

3. Switch from a world market based forest economy to an ecosystem based (green) economy.

- The conventional wisdom that dictates that it's OK to take advantage of market opportunities without paying too much attention to the long-term ecological costs must be seen to be conventional stupidity. The age of privatized profits and commonized costs must come rapidly to an end.

4. Reform the democratic system to allow forest-dependent communities a greater say in forest stewardship.

- As the drift to the cities continues worldwide, the small minority of people who actually live in the forests are becoming increasingly disenfranchised.

5. Following on from No. 4, establish elected community forest boards to review forest company plans and to make forest companies equally accountable to their shareholders and forest industry dependent communities.

6. Phase out administration units such as tree farm licences and timber supply areas as currently delineated and incorporate them into bioregions and sub-bioregions, which are naturally based landscape units.

7. Introduce forestry courses in schools for children of all ages.

- Knowledge of forests and forestry should be considered an essential part of the public and private school systems' curricula.

8. Encourage the legal profession to take on more cases that set environmental precedents.

- Our legal system evolves on the basis of setting precedents, so we have to encourage the setting of lots of green ones!

9. Adopt the native Indian tradition of having an identifiable responsibility seven generations into the future.



Vic Odlorne of Quesnel maneuvers his draft horse through an even-aged Douglas fir forest west of that forestry-dependent community. Horse logging is making a strong comeback in the Cariboo.

11. Understand the meaning of our current demands on global forests and the global environment.

- Paul Erhlich, the eminent population biologist, has estimated that at the level of the U.S. standard of living (which so many people seem to be striving for!), the Earth can sustain only 800 million people. At the current global population of 5.2 billion we'd therefore need five and a half more planets like Earth to realize that goal! Since it's unlikely that we will be able to come up with 5.5 spare planets, it seems obvious that our dreams of further economic development will have to be put on hold for a few millennia. Also, it is obvious that the U.S. standard of living is 6.5 times too greedy.

12. Establish a network of biodiversity reserves (wilderness areas) NOW.

- Wilderness is vanishing at the rate of tens of thousands of hectares per day, worldwide. We have only about 15

Wood-based job creation efficiency

years to make decisions on all the remaining wild forests of the world. By about the year 2005, wilderness will have passed from the Earth forever except within such existing and future biodiversity reserves as can be established and/or defended within that time.

13. Enact biodiversity legislation.

- Any act that may result in human-caused extinctions or extirpations must be treated as a major crime.

14. Concentrate on your own back yard, but help others to clean up theirs too.

- The great rainforest protector, Chief Paiakan of the Kayapo Indian tribe in Brazil, was shocked by what he saw when he flew over the Vancouver Island rainforests during the 1989 slash-burning season. "We appreciate your help in the Amazon, but you're much worse off than we are," he said.

15. Make forest companies pay for the damage they do to forests, property and human life in the course of non-sustainable forest practices.

- The B.C. Forest Service team that investigated the June 1990 debris flows that occurred 30 km. east of Kelowna, B.C., found that three of the five major factors that caused the slide, three deaths and extensive property damage were related to logging and roadbuilding practices. Included in their summary of causative factors were statements that the clearcut area increased the peak flow of water delivery by about 20 percent and that the source area for water drainage to the debris flow was increased 20 percent through road and skid trail construction.

16. Introduce "permaculture" principles to forestry and create "permaforestry".

- permaculture is revolutionizing our ideas about agriculture and growing food - it amounts to ecologically-based, environment-friendly farming. Permaforestry would maintain forests in a biologically diverse, healthy and productive state - permanently!

17. Eliminate "speciesism".

- We're working on racism and sexism but we need to pay more attention to speciesism. Since all species on Earth are equally important and have an equal right to exist, there is an urgent need to put a stop to the idea that humans are the most important species. Species other than ourselves are not just here to provide us with wealth and entertainment.

18. Carry out climatic research to determine how much forests contribute to rainfall and waterflow patterns.

- There is overwhelming evidence already that our current methods of interacting with our forests, particularly our tendency to remove them forever, is creating deserts and depriving us and all our brother and sister lifeforms of water, the essential element for life.

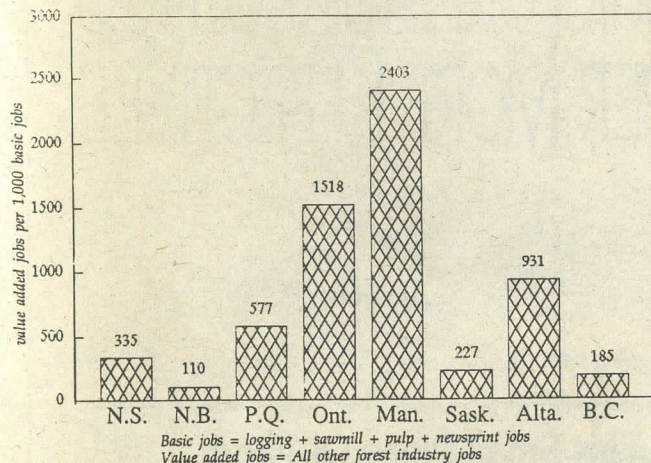
19. Realize that plantations are not forests.

- We must break out of the cultural mould that forces us to look no more than 20 or 30 years into the future. This makes it very difficult for forestry which, in B.C., should have a planning horizon of up to 400 years.

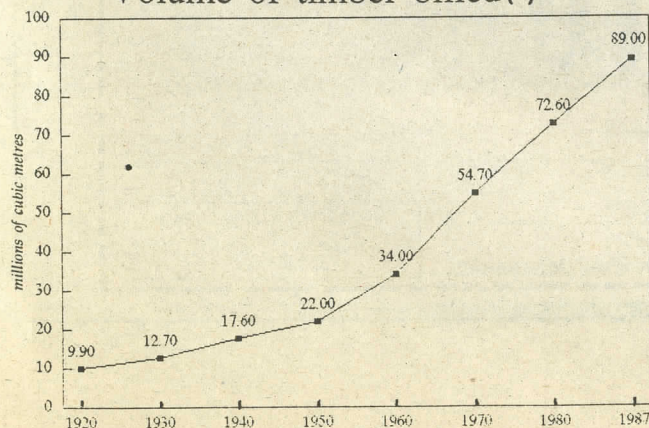
10. Do not allow corporate fibre farmers to appropriate the term "sustainable development" and apply it to their current vision of forestry.

- Contrary to the original intent of the Bruntland Commission, which was thinking mostly of appropriate technology, many multi-national forest companies are trying to sell slightly modified versions of their existing programs as sustainable development.

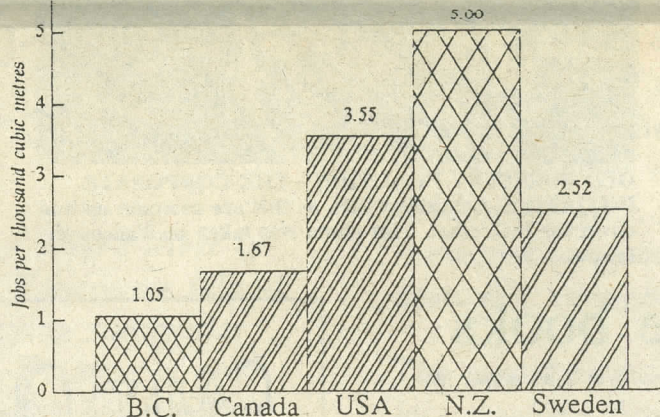
Canadian forest industry: Basic vs. value-added jobs



Volume of timber billed(*)



*not the same as volume of timber cut. Timber that gets cut but is left lying on the ground does not get inventoried.



- Trees in plantations are crops, like wheat or carrots, as the forest industry itself often likes to say. Any other lifeform in the forest that eats, chokes out or in any way disrupts the plantation profit curve is regarded as a weed or a pest and is liable to be shot or poisoned. This kind of approach to biodiversity is now known to be extremely imprudent and unwise. Alternative forest practices that really do maintain "forests forever" are available here and now to be implemented if we can develop the will to do so.

20. Beware of "false profits!"

- The profits currently posted by forest companies are actually huge losses when you subtract the cost of biodiversity loss, habitat destruction, soil erosion and pollution.

DO ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE ANYTHING POSITIVE TO SAY ABOUT FORESTRY?



YES! Send Me A Copy So I Can Say Positive Things About New Forestry Practices

- ☐ Here's \$10.95 for a copy of *Wildwood - A Forest for the Future* (Price includes postage, handling and tax.)
- ☐ Here's \$12.95 for a copy of *Tree Planning - A Guide to Public Involvement in Forest Stewardship* (Price includes postage, handling and tax.)
- ☐ Sign me up. Here's \$25 for an annual membership in the Wilderness Committee.

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Commission backs community involvement

The B.C. Forest Resources Commission (FRC), in its interim report released in late August of 1990, stated that "the Ministry of Forests can and should take immediate action to improve the workings of the existing timber supply area (TSA) committee structure." The FRC is a provincial government appointed body.

Seventy percent of B.C.'s wood harvest comes from the TSAs and it is plain that the Forest Resources Commission has heard, loud and clear, the call by British Columbians for increased community involvement in forestry planning.

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee has, through its community outreach Forest Watch Committee training program, been contributing to increased public awareness of forest practices that protect both local environments and local economies. The Forest Watch program was set up in response to an overwhelming public demand for information on how communities can empower themselves to protect their future and the future of their local ecosystems. The program has been in great demand and has graduated about 170 Forest Watchers in 10 separate communities as of August 1990.

The Forest Resources Commission, in recommending that "the Ministry of Forests should re-examine the purpose and makeup of, and commitment to, its timber supply area steering committees with a view to making these more effective," has established that it is no longer acceptable to confine membership on TSA committees to the ministries of forests and environment and the logging companies. In alluding to the membership question, the FRC is no doubt indicating that community representation should be included on the TSA committee. This is a good example of how meaningful positive change can be achieved through the sustained efforts of concerned

New Forestry - the Hazelton initiative

On Jan. 19 of this year, the village of Hazelton in west central British Columbia brought "New Forestry" into the spotlight of public scrutiny when the mayor of that community sent a draft Forest Industry Charter of Rights to every municipality and regional district in B.C.

Belying its name, the charter is, in fact, a bold initiative that was taken to assert the rights of communities to have more control over their local forest environments and local economies, in exchange for a commitment to wise, sustainable forest stewardship.

The charter was an attempt to stop the ravages of the world market and the insatiable appetites of urban consumers for natural resources, both of which are

threatening to suck dry the hinterlands of B.C. This is leaving rural dwellers with an increasingly degraded, and increasingly unpleasant environment to live in. These same powerful forces, set in an economic system where fewer and fewer corporations and individuals control more and more of B.C.'s total wealth, are bringing in escalated levels of automation, which in turn is taking away more and more small town jobs. Further repercussions of this process are the resultant damage to small businesses, which are the backbone of local economies.

The Hazelton initiative specifically advocates preservation of ecological diversity, as well as preservation of the integrity of aquatic ecosystems, water quality and viewsheds. It views as essential the control of corporate concentration and industrial pollution and it also recognizes that the settlement of native land claims is an essential ingredient of a sustainable future in B.C. Further, it asserts that devolution of power to local governments, will be essential to overcome the current hemorrhaging of the life blood of B.C. - its ecological capital - which is what the status-quo is causing.

As Alice Maitland, the mayor of Hazelton said in her covering letter to the charter: "The forest industry and Ministry of Forests have remained in an isolated limbo as other sectors of B.C. society and economy have evolved a more wholistic view of how environment, economy and politics should interact. Consequently, there is an almost daily confrontation between the public of British Columbia and those who are determined to clearcut, harvest community watersheds, pump chemicals into oceans, defeat park proposals and generally operate 'as usual' in a secretive and single minded manner."

Among the measures listed in the charter is a statement of the principal that conversion plant capacities must be matched to the ability of local timber to provide and preserve sustainable harvests. Increasingly, people in British Columbia are saying that they are proud to be preservationists- preserving the true basis of their local economy, which is the richness and variety of living things, and a pollution-



example of how meaningful positive change can be achieved through the sustained efforts of concerned citizens.

An excellent handbook for individuals interested in becoming involved in forestry matters is Tree Planning - A Guide to Public Involvement in Forest Stewardship by Joan E. Vance of the B.C. Public Interest Advocacy Centre. To get your copy see the order form at the end of this paper. Wholesale orders are also welcome. Call WCWC's Sue Currie at 683-8220.



OLD FORESTRY IN ACTION - THE CORPORATE INITIATIVE. Landslides such as this are common up and down the B.C. coast. This photo was taken on Vancouver Island.

the true basis of their local economy, which is the richness and variety of living things, and a pollution-free environment.

For more information on the Forest Industry Charter of Rights, write to:

Corporation of the Village of Hazelton
P.O. Box 40
Hazelton, B.C.
VOJ IYO

New Forestry reference books

The following excellent books are recommended for individuals who wish to delve deeper into the field of New Forestry.

1. The Redesigned Forest by Chris Maser (\$16.95)
-This is a thought provoking book by the guru of alternative forestry.
2. The Forest and the Trees - A Guide to Excellent Forestry by Gordon Robinson (\$23.95 including shipping.)
-Robinson is a respected U.S. forester with more than 50 years experience in forest stewardship.
3. Wildwood - A Forest for the Future by Merv Wilkinson and Ruth Loomis (\$10.95 including shipping.)
-This is the story of Merv Wilkinson and his Wildwood Woodlot. Merv is B.C.'s leading selection logging pioneer.
-David Suzuki says, "this little book is studded with nuggets of common sense and wisdom that expose how shortsighted current large scale forest practices are."

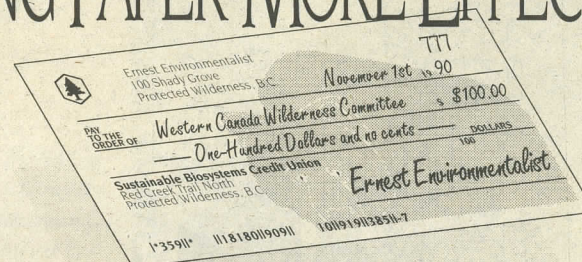
The books above are available by mail order from WCWC in Vancouver. See also the coupon on Page 3. For bulk orders contact Sue Currie at (604) 683-8220 or fax 683-8229.

Credits

Photography - Arne Hansen, Randy Stoltmann
Yarder sketch - Randy Stoltmann
Design - Arne Hansen, Ken McCormick, Kelly Pearce
Editing - Arne Hansen, Randy Stoltmann
Writing - Mark Wareing, Arne Hansen
Research - Mark Wareing, Ken Lay
Proofreading - Volker Bodegom

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