



Beautiful Clayoquot Sound

View of the pristine salmon-rich Clayoquot River, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Territory, from the Witness Trail--see article page 3.

Ancient Rainforests - Pristine Salmon Streams

Fifteen-year fight to preserve this precious heritage continues

Clayoquot Sound is at the centre of a long fight to protect the natural ecology of Earth's ancient temperate rainforests. This 262,000 hectare region of islands, salmon-rich rivers and rainforested valleys on the west coast of Vancouver Island is the largest expanse of low-elevation oldgrowth temperate rainforest left in North America. Of 170 large (over 5,000 hectare) watersheds on Vancouver Island, only twelve are still pristine. Six of these are in Clayoquot Sound. Four of these are big salmon streams--the Clayoquot, Sydney, Ursus, and Bulson--slated for logging. Concern over the fate of Clayoquot's pristine rivers and ancient rainforests has prompted a massive environmental campaign by local activists and major British Columbian, Canadian and international conservation groups.

Within the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council are the Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht and Hesquiaht First Nations, who live in Clayoquot Sound. They have been part of the efforts to bring about a profound change in how resources are managed and protected in order to keep Clayoquot Sound a wonderful place to live for future generations. Here is a chronology of key events in the history of the fight to protect Clayoquot.

8,000+ BC to Present - Aboriginal First Nations occupy Clayoquot Sound and sustainably use its resources.

1778 - Captain Cook "discovers" the First Nations of the west coast of Vancouver Island and their rich culture based on cedar and salmon.

1955 - New logging company MacMillan Bloedel (MB) granted perpetual Tree Farm License (TFL) with exclusive cutting rights over more than half of Clayoquot Sound.

1956 - Cutting rights in almost all the rest of Clayoquot Sound granted to British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP). Forest Minister of the day sent to jail for accepting bribes to grant this license. License subsequently sold to Fletcher Challenge and then, in 1992, to International Forest Products (InterFor).

1960s and 70s - Level of clearcutting in Clayoquot Sound continually increases to more than triple the initial rate of cut at time licenses granted. Evidence of damage--especially accelerated soil erosion--grows.

1981-82 - First Nations and Tofino residents organize to oppose proposed clearcutting of Meares Island. B.C. government establishes a *Meares Planning Team*.

1982 - Ahousaht First Nations oppose MB logging on Flores Island. Take MB to court to stop MB log booming in Steamer Cove, claiming bark and debris hurting their aboriginal herring roe fishery and shellfish beds. Judge says Ahousahts are right but rules in favour of MB.



Kanim Lake, a sockeye lake located near the mouth of Hesquiaht Harbour, Hesquiaht Territory, is still filled with deleterious suspended silt one month after January 1996 storm-induced slides. Note how slides originate from clearcuts and roads on the mountainsides above.

1984 - Government ignores *Meares Planning Team's* recommendation for substantial preservation of Meares and upholds the allocation of timber on Meares to industry. Cutting permits issued. First Nations and environmentalists blockade MB efforts to log.

1985 - Nuu-Chah-Nulth granted an injunction to halt MB's logging of Meares. Leads to court case (still unresolved in 1996) regarding aboriginal claim to Meares' forests. Meares is declared a *Tribal Park* by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. (Ahousaht First Nations signed a revised *Meares Island Tribal Park* declaration in 1991.) WCWC publishes and distributes its first book, *Meares Island - Protecting a Natural Paradise*, and 50,000 educational newspapers, *Meares Island - Peaceful Protest Halts Logging*.

1988 - Local residents blockade logging road construction along pristine Sulphur Passage--entrance to the Megin Valley, the largest unlogged coastal watershed left on Vancouver Island. Courts grant injunction to logging company. Thirty-five people are arrested, including Hereditary Chief Earl Maquinna George who stated he would not allow logging in the pristine Megin River. WCWC publishes and distributes 60,000

- continued on back page

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE CONTINUES

Hollywood and our woods

by Oliver Stone, writer and director

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Hollywood's involvement in the campaign to save Canada's remaining rainforests shouldn't surprise British Columbians. Your forests are pretty much the best of what's left of the world's temperate rainforest ecosystem. You should be proud to be stewards of this magnificent treasure and you must surely know that the global outcry over its devastation will only intensify if it is not stopped. It is time to recognize that massacring the planet's forests has been one of the most shortsighted, arrogant and stupid projects of human civilization.

Our planet's once-magnificent cloak of natural forests has been almost entirely destroyed. Less than a quarter of it remains intact! It's not that B.C.'s forests are being singled out by environmentalists, it's that there's not much left to save! There is simply no excuse to clearcut what's left of the planet's rainforests. We know better. It is our generation that will knowingly decide whether the planet's rainforests die. We will never be forgiven if we let them fall, nor should we be.

After all, if an industrialized country like Canada cannot protect a jewel like Clayoquot Sound, what hope is there for the Amazon? Opening 88% of the Amazon basin to industrial exploitation would be cause for global outrage so how can the B.C. government feel good about publicizing a "goal" of protecting a mere 12 percent of its rainforests?

Here in the "lower 48", our natural forests are all but gone. We have scarred, clearcut hillsides, and we have impoverished tree farms—we have killed the soul of our land. Those ancient forests have been exterminated and will probably never be seen again. We clearcut them and turn them into pulp and two-by-fours. This is the road British Columbia is following, and that is why Americans have a special duty to stop your politicians and logging companies from repeating the same horrendous mistakes we made here.

For years our governments and timber companies fed us the



Greenpeace activists unfurl banner on San Francisco tower to save Clayoquot.

Clayoquot Rainforest Coalition

During 1996 the international campaign to help save B.C.'s rainforests gained momentum. Its goal: to end consumption of disposable products made from ancient rainforests clearcut in B.C., especially Clayoquot Sound.

Leading the campaign is the U.S. Clayoquot Rainforest Coalition (CRC), headed by Greenpeace, Pacific Environment and Resources Center, Rainforest Action Network, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, which has Robert Kennedy Jr. on its legal staff.

CRC targeted Hollywood stars because of the large satellite film industry in B.C. It also targeted large paper consumers including Pacific Bell (PacBell), which buys phonebook-

GTE, our phone companies, print their yellow pages on pulped B.C. rainforest every year. American houses are built with B.C. timber. Our over-consumption of wood and paper is driving the clearcutting of B.C.'s remaining old-growth.

North American companies are literally cannibalizing the planet to feed our voracious consumption. But, as consumers, we have a right and a moral obligation to consider the effects of our purchases. We all refused to buy tuna that kills dolphins and we shouldn't be buying timber or paper that comes from the planet's remaining rainforests either.

Hollywood is constantly being courted to go to B.C. to film but governments have to realize that they can't have it both ways. In the modern world, you have to choose between attracting high tech industry or relying on nineteenth century models of resource exploitation. Isn't it hard to believe that it is almost the year 2000 but we still clearcut rainforests and turn them into products as crude as timber and phonebooks?

The logging companies and B.C. government keep saying things have changed in the woods. My office is inundated with hype about Forest Practices Codes and Protected Areas Strategies. But from what I can tell, these are trivial responses to a massive problem. Look at the bottom line: over 90% of the logging is still clearcutting, the rate of logging is the same or higher today than it was four years ago and in a best case scenario, a meagre 12 percent of B.C.'s rainforests will be protected.

I believe that most North Americans realize that we can't continue on our present course. Imagine if North Americans pulled together and decided that, while having wood is nice, it is not worth killing entire ecosystems. Imagine if we decided to reduce our consumption of wood and paper products. Imagine if we reduced it a lot, say by three-quarters or more. That would be a fundamental change in the way our society affects the Earth.

Critical places like the pristine areas of Clayoquot Sound and the rest of the temperate rainforests would no longer be under the threat of being chewed into pulp and lumber. The rate of logging could be slowed dramatically, old growth cutting could stop altogether.

Is it not time to realize that the world's remaining rainforests

For years our governments and timber companies fed us the same lines you are hearing now. In fact, many of the same P.R. companies that hid the logging companies' true agenda from us, are now employed by the MacMillan Bloedels and Forest Alliances of Canada.

Americans have other reasons to get involved besides trying to be decent neighbours. After all, borders are just lines on a map. All peoples of the world had a moral duty to fight apartheid in South Africa, and all peoples must fight to save the Amazon. If you think the clearcutting of British Columbia's rare temperate rainforests is less worthy of attention, you're selling yourself short.

Perhaps the most important reason for U.S. citizens to fight for Canada's rainforests is that we are complicit in their destruction. B.C.'s forests are being hacked into fields of stumps to feed American consumption. Pacific Bell and

targeted large paper consumers including Pacific Bell (PacBell), which buys phonebook-grade paper from MacMillan Bloedel (the major logging company in Clayoquot Sound), using it for throw-away yellow pages.

Besides encouraging celebrities like Oliver Stone to speak out, the CRC succeeded in getting an unexpectedly high 9 percent of PacBell's share-holders to support a resolution to stop using paper from clearcut rainforests.

The CRC also organized a number of California municipalities, including San Francisco, Berkeley and Santa Cruz, to unanimously pass resolutions opposing the use of clearcut rainforest paper and urging business to move toward ecologically sound alternatives.

Is it not time to realize that the world's remaining rainforests are too valuable to be clearcut? Governments can do far more to protect them. Logging companies can be forced to act according to conscience as well as profit.

I believe we all know what we are doing to the rainforests is a legacy from a time when we didn't know better. When future generations look back at us, will they see a people that stopped destroying rainforests only when there were none left to be destroyed, or a people that stopped destroying rainforests when they realized it was wrong?

WCWC Editorial Note: Stone's reference to the B.C. government's goal of protecting 12 percent of its rainforests is not correct. The B.C. government has committed to protecting 12 percent of B.C.'s land base. On Vancouver Island, meeting this goal has resulted in protection of less than 7 percent of the ancient rainforests.

Friends of Clayoquot Sound see destructive clearcuts continue in '96

by Maryjka Mychajlowycz, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Forest Watch

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound have done more than blockade logging roads in their efforts to save Clayoquot's ancient rainforest. Over the last two years this local environment group has mounted a Forest Watch program to document ongoing clearcutting in Clayoquot.

They have visited all the newest clearcuts and logging roads and see no evidence that logging has significantly changed despite Scientific Panel recommendations and the government's repeated assurances that logging practices in the Sound are now "the best in the world".

All the cutblocks recently approved by the local Central Region Board have involved clearcutting ancient rainforest. The largest is 14.7 hectares in size (30 football fields). Despite the catastrophic landslides of January, 1996, clearcutting continues on very steep slopes including in the lower Bulson watershed where previous landslides indicate slope instability. In Tranquil Valley, two cutblocks, although submitted as experimental selective cutting, lie on outrageously steep slopes of up to 95 percent.

The Bulson watershed is less than 2 percent impacted by logging. By government rules it meets "Pristine" watershed criteria and no logging should be allowed until full and thorough inventories are undertaken and further withdrawals made to fully protect all of its resources. That's why the Friends joined Greenpeace to set up logging blockades there in June.

Not only are better forest practices not coming fast enough for the Friends, they fear that the pace of destruction is picking up again. Since March, 1996 development plans to log five Clayoquot Sound watersheds have been submitted for public and government review.



"Science Panel" style cutblock R60, Rolling Stone Valley. Clearcut October 1995 by InterFor. Clearcut area 12.3 ha; total area 15.5 including road and uncut patch in middle.

ECOTOURISM - big part of a sustainable Clayoquot economy

by James MacGregor, President of Ecoplan.net Ltd. (Ecological Planning for the Environment and Tourism)

Ecotourism is a relatively recent travel sector that seeks to contribute to the protection of cultures and natural areas, provide economic benefits to local communities and operate in a manner that is environmentally responsible. Rapid growth has enabled it to assume close to 10 percent of the travel industry, placing its current value at several billion dollars.

Tourism growth in Tofino has been substantial. Studies conducted in the 1980s indicated that there were approximately 250,000 visitors per year to the Tofino area. In 1995, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve recorded 1,090,050 visitors.

Although several Tofino tour operators have recognized the potential of the region and developed whalewatching, sea kayaking, and wildlife viewing packages, tourism in Clayoquot Sound provides little or no benefit to the First Nations people of Opitsaht, Ahousaht, and Hotspring Cove. In fact they probably receive less than one percent of regional tourism revenues. They are also concerned about current lack of controls.

Tourism has a very good potential in this area if monitored very carefully. But it can also be very destructive to the environment that we live in. Joe Martin, Tla-o-qui-aht, owner-operator of Clayoquot Whaler, from speech at Symposium on Alternatives to Industrial Logging in Clayoquot Sound, July, 1995.

Clayoquot Sound's relatively easy vehicle and air access to the large ecotourism markets of the Pacific Northwest and northern California could generate millions of dollars for the First Nations of the region. However the potential benefits of ecotourism will only be realized if there are high quality, educational and environmentally sensitive tourism products. These must be innovatively packaged and provided by trained personnel who understand the needs of today's well-travelled ecotourists. In addition, a certain level of infrastructure is required such as eco-lodges, charter boats, interpretive centres, trails and rainforest walks.

If only 5,000 ecotourists (24 people per day over a seven-month season) take a three-day all-inclusive First Nations' packaged tour (e.g., staying at First Nations hotels and guest houses and going on First Nations' guided flights, boat trips and whalewatching, wildlife-viewing and interpretive hiking tours) at a reasonable rate of \$200 per day, it would generate \$3 million per year for First Nations businesses in Clayoquot Sound.

For info on Clayoquot Sound ecotours call:
Tin-Wis/Best Western Resort Lodge: (604) 725-4445
Tofino Chamber of Commerce: (604) 725-3414



Ahousaht First Nations village on Flores - start of Wild Side Heritage trail boardwalk.

Some Tourism Facts to Ponder

- Tourism is the province's largest employer. In 1995 it brought \$6.2 billion into the B.C. economy.
- A 1995 government study showed that B.C. parks brought into B.C. \$400 million--9 dollars for every one dollar spent on parks operations.
- *If intact views are preserved, it is projected that tourism will generate more jobs and more revenues within the entire Clayoquot Sound-Port Alberni Regional District than would continued logging.*
-Brian White, A Case Study: Tourism in Clayoquot Sound, 1993.

The backcountry/wilderness zone is fragile (and) rapidly diminishing...

Few other areas of the planet still are fortunate enough to retain high calibre areas of pristine country.

Adventure Travel in Western Canada: Product Development Strategy. Tourism Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, 1988, p. 20.

Western Canada Wilderness Committee has worked with the First Nations of Clayoquot Sound to build the ecotourism potential by constructing a system of trails that rivals the world-famous West Coast Trail in Pacific Rim National Park. This system includes the awe-inspiring 3 km. Meares Island Big Cedar Trail, the 29 km. mountain-top to valley-bottom Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail and the 16 km. beach-front to top-of-the-island Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail.

Visit Beautiful Flores Island

To visit Flores Island and the Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail (see story next page) call:

Ahousaht Band Office: (604) 670-9531
Atleo Air: 1-800-622-8536 or (604) 670-9663
Markosis Grocery: (604) 670-9695
Vera Little Guest House: (604) 670-9511

Walk the Meares Island Big Cedar Trail

Want to experience *really big* ancient redecidar trees? Walk the *Meares Island Big Cedar Trail* in *Meares Island Tribal Park* directly across the water (Browning Passage) from Tofino. The 3 kilometre circuit trail takes you past some of the oldest and largest lifeforms on Earth. The *Hanging Garden*



"Big Mother" redecidar on Big Cedar Trail.

Cedar, for example, is estimated to be more than 2,000 years old and is 18.3 metres (60 feet) in circumference.

Meares Island forms the forested backdrop and source of fresh water for the village of Tofino. It was first declared a Tribal Park by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in 1984. A court case launched by the Nuu-chah-nulth against MacMillan Bloedel regarding aboriginal rights to Meares has held logging at bay since 1985. But the still-unresolved legal battle also prevents the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations from further developing sustainable eco-tourism ventures in this remarkable part of their traditional territories.

The awe-inspiring *Big Cedar Trail* was first cleared by Tofino residents in 1981 to increase public support for preservation of the Island. A beautiful boardwalk to protect the sensitive soil, plants and tree roots was constructed to the Hanging Garden Cedar in 1993 by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations.

To book a short boat trip over to Meares Island to hike the *Big Cedar Trail*, phone John Tom's Water Taxi at 604-725-3747.

Hike the Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail

The 29 kilometre Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail was constructed during the summers of 1993 and 1994 by Western Canada Wilderness Committee volunteers under the guidance of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. The trail was built to garner public support for the preservation of the salmon-rich Clayoquot River, a pristine watershed that MacMillan Bloedel had already begun flagging for logging road construction and clearcut logging. Currently the valley is under moratorium until full and thorough inventories of all resource values, including spiritual, cultural, biological and recreational values, are conducted.

The Witness Trail winds through big-treed ancient forests, alongside lakes and rivers and over two mountain passes. A minimum of four days are needed to hike the route and experience the deep rainforest wilderness. A hiking map of the area can be purchased from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in Opiusht (604-725-3233) or from the Wilderness Committee in Vancouver (604-683-8220).



Thick, hand-split cedar treads cover "Witness Trail" boardwalk built by WCWC volunteers in 1993-94.

Ahousaht

WILD SIDE H



Youth experience life on the wild side

by Lisa Stewart

Published in *The Westerly News*, Thursday, July 4, 1996. Reprinted with permission of Lisa Stewart and *The Westerly News*.

The young people working on the Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail know where they will be when the last of the trail is cleared and the remaining boardwalk is hammered in place—at the top of Flores Mountain. But the trail project is about more than the trail itself - it's also about where 14 young people are in life and where they want to go when their work on Flores Island is complete.

Andrew Dick is one of the young people working on the eco-tourism project.

"I was born in Victoria, but lived all my life in Port Alberni," said Andrew during the lunch break for an open-house held recently as an introduction to the project.

His mother is originally from Gold River and his father from Ahousaht, but Andrew didn't spend much time in Ahousaht until he started work on the trail project in March.

At 22, Andrew is soft-spoken and perhaps a little shy, but as he talked about the last ten years of his life it became clear times had not always been easy.

"I basically grew up on the streets since I was 13," he said. "When I came here it shocked me how beautiful it is."

Sitting on the beach after a leisurely walk through a prime example of the area's coastal temperate rainforest, it was easy to understand why the area has had an effect on Andrew and the rest of the trail crew. For Andrew the experience has also reconnected him with his First Nations heritage.

"I faxed the application in just before the deadline," he says, "and was accepted". He remembers one of the requirements for the job was willingness to work hard. And, he says—"they weren't kidding."

"Two and a half months of rain," he says of this past spring that had drenched the coast with the most precipitation the area has experienced in 50 years. "People were getting sick. We were in mud up to our knees in some places. It was hard work."

But looking on the bright side he says the hard work makes the crew's accomplishment that much more impressive.

"And I lost a lot of weight!"

The trail will be 16 kilometres long when completed and the target date for the end of the project is August 23. At this point the crew has finished 8 kilometres of trail with almost 2

A project of vision and hope

- by Susan Jones, Project Coordinator

The dream of a world-class hiking trail on beautiful Flores Island began three years ago. Several of the Ahousaht women and I formed Walk the Wild Side, a First Nations women's eco-tourism initiative, to secure steady jobs and income for our community.

One cold morning in March of 1993 we put the call out over the VHF for help in clearing the Ahousaht's traditional route from their village to the wild side beaches of Flores Island. Fifteen men, women and children came to help clear the brush and fallen trees from the path. That first summer, our sweat equity and \$158 investment in a brochure and posters for all the tourist spots in Tofino resulted in \$19,000 worth of art sales, seabus rides and trail guide wages.

Within just one year tourist use had started to degrade the newly cleared trail. Our Walk the Wild Side guides estimated that over 8,000 people per year were walking, kayaking and boating to the beaches on Flores. Ahousaht elders were prepared to shut down the muddy trail unless measures were taken to protect the environment.

That summer (1994) I met for the first time Adriane Carr and Paul George, Directors of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. They agreed to help. Adriane



That summer (1994) I met for the first time Adriane Carr and Paul George, Directors of Western Canada Wilderness Committee. They agreed to help. Adriane and I worked closely with the elected Ahousaht chief at that time, Louie Frank, to develop a joint Ahousaht Band Council-Wilderness Committee proposal, the *Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail and Eco-Tourism Project*, to submit to Youth Services Canada (YSC) for funding. It took nine months to get YSC approval--with some pretty tense times thinking it wouldn't come through. When it did, it was the middle of winter.

In January, 1996, at the tail end of the biggest storms I've ever seen (the ones that generated over 100 landslides in Clayoquot Sound), Louie, Adriane and I journeyed to every community in the Clayoquot-Alberni district to tell people about the project and encourage youth to apply. By March we had received over 70 applications and hired five staff and twenty youth--ten native and ten non-native--who began to salvage wood from an old mill site and construct a boardwalk over the mucky Wild Side trail.

It was a profound moment on June 25, when I stood on the beautifully crafted boardwalk and joined the Ahousaht community celebration marking completion of the first 4 km. of the trail. "A powerful shared vision, hard work and hope," I thought, "that's what it takes to make things happen."

We haven't for a moment been able to stop fundraising for this project (trailbuilding is expensive!) But we found lots of great donors (see article far right). Most importantly, we found a source of strength in the people and especially the elders of Ahousaht, who offered advice and help every time it was needed.

For me, all the tough times are worth it to see the positive energy, dedication and inspiration in the faces of the youth working on the project, and to know that the community of Ahousaht will be able to use this trail to secure steady employment and protect their Island.



Susan Jones, Wild Side Project Coordinator.

has had an effect on Andrew and the rest of the trail crew. For Andrew the experience has also reconnected him with his First Nations heritage.

"It changed my life," he says of the experience. "I've learned a lot out here."

The learning, he says, is not only about First Aid or water safety or trail building or boardwalk construction or cooking for a large group--it's also about how to get along with a diverse group of people, how to work as part of a team, how to be patient and why it's important to follow through with a promise.

He learned of the opportunity through the Port Alberni Friendship Centre and since he wasn't working he applied to be on the crew.



Boardwalking, Hole-in-the-Wall section of trail.

"Working with the WCWC program has been most exciting for me. I certainly enjoy working with young people. It's a great feeling when we are able to work together in harmony. This program also makes me very aware of our outdoor surroundings, the upkeep of protecting and respecting our wilderness."

- Betty Keitlah, Ahousaht, Project Cook



"When I came out here I didn't know what to expect. What I found was a beautiful island. I have learned a lot, seen a lot and worked a lot. I had the opportunity to hike the proposed trail route and I am quite confident that it ranks with the best in Canada and probably the world."

- Regan Thomas, Project Participant from Port Alberni

Walk the Wild Side Trail

The Ahousaht Wildside Heritage Trail packs an awesome array of wilderness experiences along its 16 km. long route. The trail is located on the wild west coast of Flores Island, a region steeped in the history of local First Nations people. It traverses a dozen surf-swept sandy beaches and rainforested headlands and winds its way to the top of Flores Mountain, the highest point on the island. Although parts of the trail are under construction in 1996, you can still hike most of the route. The First Nations village of Ahousaht on the breathtakingly beautiful Flores Island is the gateway to the *Wild Side Heritage Trail*. The one-hour boat trip to Ahousaht from Tofino journeys through reefs, islands and inlets into the heart of Clayoquot Sound. See previous page for numbers to call to arrange your trip.

Bridge co



HERITAGE TRAIL

kilometres of boardwalk. For the rest of the trail only a small portion of the trail will be boardwalked so the hardest part of the work is over.

If the participants in the program develop a plan for their future either going back to school, starting a small business or choosing a field of employment—they will earn a program completion grant.

Andrew says he's decided to go back to school, likely to North Island College. And he thinks he'd like to study computers or work toward becoming a chef.

Sitting on the beach with over 200 friends, guests and trail crew members, munching on bannock and spring salmon just barbecued on a beach fire, soaking up the sun that's just broken through the clouds, waiting for the First Nations hosts to perform the traditional Ahousaht welcoming dance...Andrew can only smile.

"I sure lucked-out getting in on this."



Wild Side trail builders - June 25th celebration.



Wild Side trail goes through an ancient Sitka forest to top of Mt. Flores (left background).



WCWC Extends a Big Thanks to:

- The people of Ahousaht for their generosity, involvement and support of this project, including the individuals who donated fish and jam and the Ahousaht elders who gave of their wisdom and time.



Ahousaht Welcome Song starts trail celebration.



Boardwalk spans muddy area of traditional trail.

- WCWC donors who generously contributed to this project.
- Major project donors: Ahousaht First Nations, Clayoquot Interim Measures Agreement, Forest Renewal B.C., Long Beach Model Forest Society, MacMillan Bloedel, and Youth Services Canada.
- The many companies that have contributed goods and services, including Ahousaht First Responders, American Fabricators, Capers Restaurants, Common Loaf Bakeshop, Helly Hanson, Horizon-CRS Food Co-op, The Keg Restaurants, Marktosix Grocery, Stormtech (Oceanic Trading Company Limited) and Tofino Sea Kayaking.
- Workshop facilitators and resource people including: Ahousaht Holistic Society, Ahousaht RCMP, B.C. Parks, Centre for Coastal Studies, Joe Charumski (Health Officer), Abby Francis (Super-Host Program), Bruce Gunn (Ahousaht United Church Minister), Joe Martin (Skipper, Clayoquot Whaler), Evan Thomas (Skipper, Falcon Fisher), Dr. Nancy Turner (University of Victoria), Malcolm Valentine (MacMillan Bloedel), Chandra Wong (Long Beach Model Forest Tofino Interpretive Centre).
- And, of course, the project staff and youth participants who have worked so hard to make it a success, with a very special thanks to Susan Jones, project coordinator and Robinson Cook, master boardwalk carpenter.

Note: Donations to the Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail and Eco-Tourism Project are still needed and gratefully accepted.



Bridge construction near start of trail.

"Choosing the route was not an easy process. The Elders, Hereditary Chiefs and Band Council gave this matter a great deal of thought and attention. It was extremely important to the people of Ahousaht to choose a route that would show off the natural wonders of Ahousaht First Nations territory while safeguarding the environment and historical records from damage by well-meaning hikers."

- Chief Sid Sam Sr., Chief Councillor, Ahousaht First Nations.

From an article titled *Trail Route Chosen on Flores Island* in the Nuuchah-nulth's *Ha-Shilth-Sa* newspaper Vol. 23 - No. 6, June 3, 1996.



Completed bridge on trail by Ahousaht Village.



Renewed Interim Measures Agreement extends local community control while treaty negotiations continue

In March of 1994, the First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council's Central Region and the Government of B.C. signed an historic two-year Interim Measures Agreement (IMA). It sets out how decisions regarding resource development in Clayoquot Sound will be made while a treaty with the First Nations who have aboriginal title to the region is being negotiated.

Shortly after the IMA was signed, the Nuu-chah-nulth and the federal and provincial governments entered into treaty negotiations that are on-going at the present time.

The IMA clearly recognises the First Nation's authority in Clayoquot Sound. *"The Parties acknowledge that the Hawiñ (Hereditary Chiefs) of the First Nations have the responsibility to preserve and protect their territories and waters for generations which will follow."*

A key measure in the IMA is the establishment of a Central Regional Board (CRB) which reviews all resource development plans for Clayoquot Sound. The CRB is made up of five members and a co-chair appointed by the Province and five members and a co-chair appointed by First Nations. This new level of government not only gives First Nations virtual veto power over any development in the Sound but also involves local non-native residents in Clayoquot land use decisions. All decisions of the CRB are by consensus.

On April 24, 1996, a revised IMA was extended for another 3 years. The new Interim Measures Extension Agreement (IMEA) reconfirms the goals of maintaining the ecological integrity of Clayoquot, developing sustainable alternatives to ease the unemployment situation for First Nations, and protecting and conserving resources for future generations. Measures in the new IMEA include:

- incorporating the Scientific Panel Recommendations,



Kurt John from Ahousaht measures a CMT (culturally modified tree) with numerous 2 cm long chop marks. This cedar was aboriginally harvested years ago deep in the Ursus Valley.

including the recognition of traditional ecological knowledge. (Note: The Scientific Panel, an independent, 19-member panel of scientists and First Nations experts, completed a two-year study of how to sustainably log in Clayoquot Sound in a way that would not negatively impact on other resource values, including salmon. The panel's 128 recommendations were entirely accepted by the B.C. government, First Nations, logging companies and environment groups in July, 1995.)

- increasing local ownership in the forest industry.
- respecting and protecting aboriginal uses of resources in Clayoquot Sound, including protecting all Culturally Modified Trees.

- applying the concept of Tribal Park to certain select areas of Clayoquot Sound. The CRB may initiate new work with respect to the declaration and establishment of tribal parks.
- the CRB having a role in coordinating the proposed UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Designation for Clayoquot Sound.

The new IMEA also channels a big chunk of any future logging (an estimated 40,000 cubic metres from already developed watersheds in Clayoquot) into a "joint venture corporation" between MacMillan Bloedel and First Nations with the aim of reducing First Nations' unemployment and increasing First Nations' ownership in business enterprises. The Joint Venture Corporation must apply traditional native environmental and cultural knowledge, investigate locally-based value-added manufacturing and utilize ecologically-sensitive harvesting techniques designed to maintain old growth attributes and biodiversity.

The effect of the IMEA combined with initial implementation of the Scientific Panel recommendations has been to greatly reduce the rate of logging in Clayoquot Sound. The CRB has rejected and turned back for revision many cutting plans. While about 600,000 cubic metres of wood were taken out of Clayoquot in 1992 (about 20,000 logging truck loads), logging plans forecast less than 150,000 cubic metres (5,000 logging truck loads) for 1996.

These cut levels will undoubtedly have to be reduced even further to allow moratoriums on pristine areas to continue while intensive and thorough longitudinal inventories of all ecosystem values are conducted, under the guidance of the CRB and according to Scientific Panel recommendations, in all the pristine areas of Clayoquot Sound.

PRISTINE AND DISTURBED WATERSHEDS IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND NUU-CHAH-NULTH FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY

WATERSHEDS OVER 1000 HECTARES

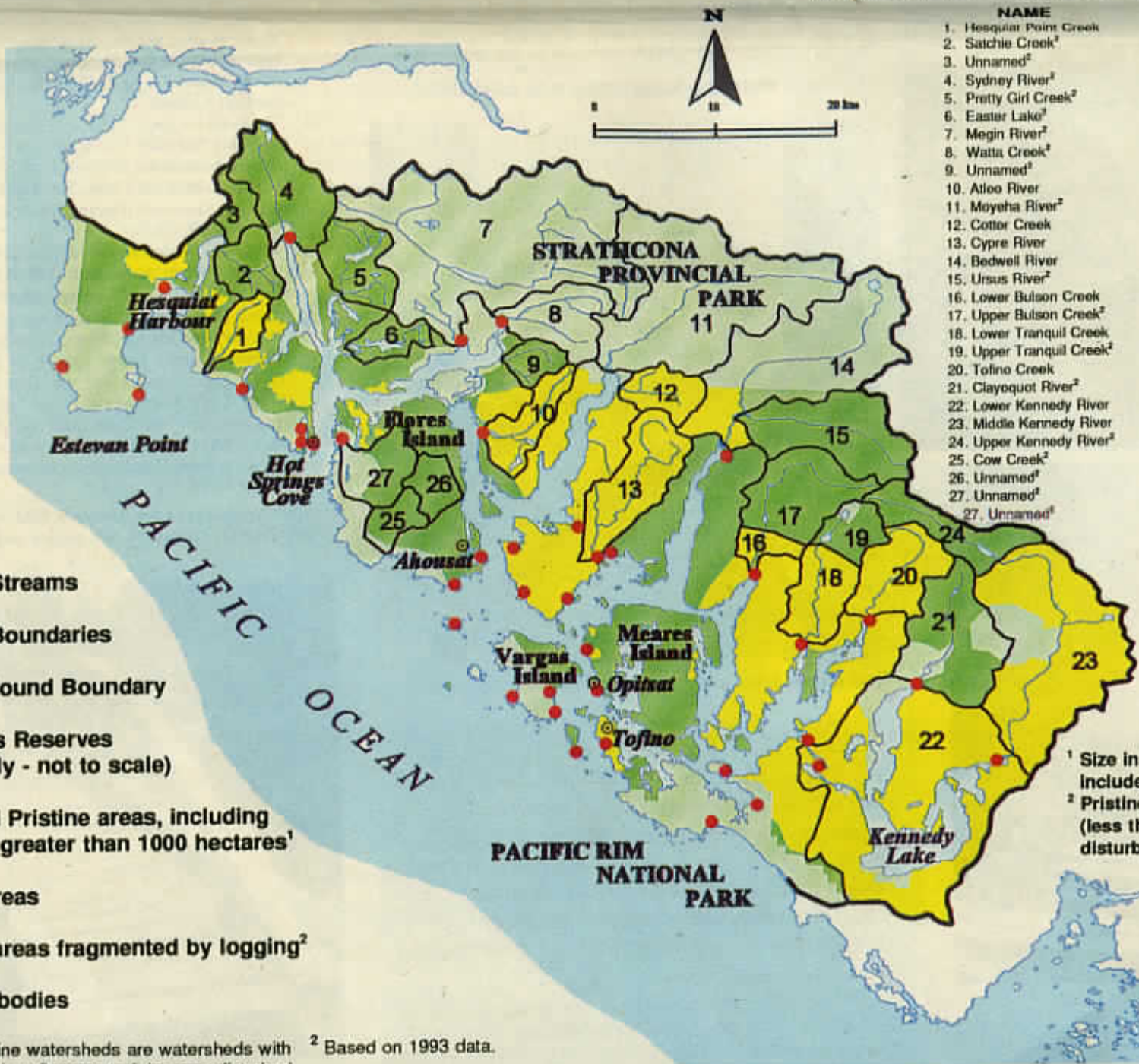
N

NAME

SIZE'

WATERSHEDS OVER 1000 HECTARES

NAME	SIZE ¹
1. Hesquiat Point Creek	1786
2. Saichie Creek ²	2598
3. Unnamed ²	1507
4. Sydney River ²	5693
5. Pretty Girl Creek ²	3828
6. Easter Lake ²	1827
7. Megin River ²	24425
8. Watta Creek ²	4276
9. Unnamed ²	1482
10. Atleo River	3092
11. Moyeha River ²	17927
12. Cottor Creek	2429
13. Cypre River	5895
14. Bedwell River	13774
15. Ursus River ²	7370
16. Lower Bulson Creek	3819
17. Upper Bulson Creek ²	5843
18. Lower Tranquil Creek	3819
19. Upper Tranquil Creek ²	2171
20. Tofino Creek	4758
21. Clayoquot River ²	7733
22. Lower Kennedy River	26768
23. Middle Kennedy River	16391
24. Upper Kennedy River ²	4072
25. Cow Creek ²	1638
26. Unnamed ²	1730
27. Unnamed ²	3206



LEGEND

- Rivers and Streams
- Watershed Boundaries
- Clayoquot Sound Boundary
- First Nations Reserves (location only - not to scale)
- Unprotected Pristine areas, including watersheds greater than 1000 hectares¹
- Protected areas
- Developed areas fragmented by logging²
- Major waterbodies

¹ Size in hectares includes water bodies
² Pristine watersheds (less than 2 percent disturbed by logging)

¹ Pristine watersheds are watersheds with less than 2 percent of the area disturbed. ² Based on 1993 data.

U.N. BIOSPHERE RESERVE STATUS FOR CLAYOQUOT SOUND?

by **Adriane Carr**, WCWC's Clayoquot Campaign Coordinator

In June of 1993, several months after the B.C. Government announced its disastrous two-thirds logging, one-third preservation Clayoquot Sound land use plan, every household in B.C. received a government newspaper trying to quell the controversy.

Highlighted as a measure to "Secure the Sound for Future Generations" was the following promise:

The government will vigorously pursue an international Biosphere Reserve designation for Clayoquot Sound. The mix of protected areas, special management areas, and sustainable working forest, makes the Sound an ideal candidate. Biosphere Reserve status would mean any logging in the Sound will be required to stand up to world scrutiny.

If the government hoped to entrench its 1993 land use plan as a Biosphere Reserve, it was mistaken. The U.N. Man and Biosphere Program that designates Biosphere Reserves would not accept an application for an area still fraught with conflict.

Biosphere Reserve designation cannot resolve land use controversies. However, by working out the details of a proposal, all stakeholders *could* come to an agreed-upon plan that would both solve the controversy and create the elements necessary for international recognition.

Many good steps have already been taken



Tofino, at the end of the Trans-Canada Highway, overlooks Meares Island Tribal Park with Mt. Lone Cone and Opitsaht Village in the background.

to deal with issues left unresolved by the government's 1993 Clayoquot decision.

In March of 1994 (and extended for another 3 years in April of 1996), an Interim Measures Agreement (IMA) was signed to address the concerns and needs of First Nations, establishing a local Central Region Board to manage land use and give First Nations a veto over development plans that might compromise their cultural or natural heritage prior to their treaty settlement.

In July of 1995, the government fully adopted the recommendations of a 19-member Scientific Panel of experts that

both detailed an ecosystem-based approach to logging and required moratoriums on all pristine watersheds to allow for three things: thorough inventories; further protection of all forest values (including biological, ecological, cultural, spiritual and recreational values); and time for Science Panel forest practices to "prove out" in the already-fragmented areas. The Science Panel's recommendations were endorsed by First Nations, logging companies and environment groups.

Together, the IMA, which establishes the type of local management required in a Biosphere Reserve, and the Scientific Panel, which establishes Biosphere Reserve-type requirements for ongoing research and ecologically sustainable resource use, could successfully shape a Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve plan.

What is a Biosphere Reserve?

The U. N. Biosphere Reserve Program was launched in 1976 in response to the growing threat to the biosphere.

The very resources upon which people depend for their lives are seriously threatened, and the speed with which the threat is growing is accelerating...Human use of the resources of this planet has to be limited to a level that can be maintained; beyond this, the human race is itself in danger.

*National Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves in Canada
Canada MAB Report 19.*

A U.N. recognized Biosphere Reserve is an area where local people and other stakeholders agree to long-term cooperative research and land use management that achieves a balance between protection of biodiversity and sustainable use. Land use is zoned within a Biosphere Reserve to reflect these complementary goals:

• **Core Area**

A Biosphere Reserve must have one or more core areas that conserve nature. They must be fully protected (e.g., National or Provincial Parks or legislatively established Tribal Parks) and large enough to sustain biodiversity.

• **Buffer Zone**

Areas must be designated surrounding the core area(s) to protect the integrity of the core. Use by people is restricted so that it does not negatively impact on the core (e.g. research, traditional

Comprehensive Clayoquot Inventories Need Time

Environmentalists rejoiced when they read the July 6, 1995 government press release

"Undisturbed watersheds will not be open to logging until comprehensive ecological assessments are completed and the recommendations can be fully implemented."

The Scientific Panel made it clear that these studies have to be holistic and integrative; encompass all forest values including biological, ecological, cultural, spiritual and recreational values; involve First Nations; and be based on long natural cycles such as storm events and fluctuations in wildlife. Scientific Panel reports specify 10 year and 100 year planning horizons. What a shock when the first supposedly comprehensive report on one of Clayoquot's pristine watersheds, the *Interim Findings Report to Support Planning in the Ursus Creek Special Management Area and Lower Bedwell River*, was released in April of 1996. Prepared by two government ministries (BC Environment and the BC Forest Service), it shows how little we know about the Ursus.

The only substantial work reported in this document was on marbled murrelets, a threatened seabird species that needs the thick mossy limbs of oldgrowth trees for nesting habitat. Independent researchers found that more than 25 percent of the known murrelets in Clayoquot use the Ursus. This is the highest density of murrelets on the entire B.C. coast. Contrast this with the bear study, done from a desk in Port Alberni; a Roosevelt elk study done from a helicopter and a recreational study done from air photos. The inadequacy of these studies is undoubtedly linked to the study team's timeline: the work had to be done in just one year. Driving the process was MacMillan Bloedel's desire to access timber in the Upper Bulson and its statement to the study team that the company's only viable road access to the Upper Bulson is via the Ursus.

If environment groups are to trust in the use of inventories to make final decisions about further protection of Clayoquot's pristine areas, they need assurance that the inventories will indeed be thorough and full, as called for by the Scientific Panel. The government's first Ursus report is not the way to go.



Tribal Park sign erected on Meares, 1985. The B.C. government has not recognized or established this park designation. The Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht *Meares Island Tribal Park Declaration* calls for total protection of Meares and spells out appropriate uses. First Nations' managed Tribal Parks could be land use designations within a Biosphere Reserve.

of what happens to Clayoquot's pristine areas is resolved.

What's happening now is continued controversy over Clayoquot's magnificent natural heritage. In June, 1996, due to MacMillan Bloedel's logging in the pristine Bulson Valley, Greenpeace and the Friends of Clayoquot Sound again mounted blockades.

Clayoquot's First Nations took the lead to try to solve this conflict. On July 6, 1996, they hosted an all-stakeholders meeting. The point of the meeting, as explained by Elected Chief of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Francis Frank, was *"how to work together within existing processes"* and get *"the environment groups and the companies to sit down together to resolve their issues"*. Key issues on the table were the quality of Science Panel inventories, entry into pristine areas and post-inventory decisions to protect more of Clayoquot.

The meeting was cause for some hope. Representatives of the logging companies and the local M.L.A., representing the provincial government, agreed to maintain moratoriums on Clayoquot's pristine watersheds while full inventories are conducted and also to abide by the Central Region Board's decisions (based on the results of the inventories) even if the decisions mean no logging. The M.L.A. for the region, Gerard Janssen, also noted that environmentalists should help set up and be involved in the inventory process.

WCWC trusts the outcome of the inventory process as long as it is driven by the vision of the Scientific Panel, not by the desire to log. If enough time is given to conduct the type of inventories that stand up to world scrutiny, and if First Nations are fully involved in the entire inventory process, we believe that the results will indisputably prove that Clayoquot's remaining pristine watersheds are of such importance to wild salmon and future generations that the CRB will decide to protect them.

This is an area where sustainable activities (e.g., eco-forestry) occur in harmony with the core and buffer zones.

Local people are strongly involved in land use management within a U.N. Biosphere Reserve. Typically, a local management board coordinates research, monitors activities and encourages cooperation amongst different groups and agencies.

To establish a Biosphere Reserve, a proposal, which must be ratified by all stakeholders, is forwarded to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program in Paris. Designation is conferred only when all of the conditions of a Biosphere Reserve have been met, including adequate core protection, local involvement in management, rules to ensure ecologically sustainable resource use and the cooperation of all stakeholders. There are currently 276 Biosphere Reserves in 71 countries. Canada has six.

We know where we come from. We know the names of the mountains, the names of the rivers, streams and lakes. We know where we have to go to get our herbal medicines... We are people who came from pristine forests where the rivers were over-flowing with fish. In 1996 there are people not able to go out fishing because of the fish stocks. What are the effects in the headwaters where the forests are gone? We want some lands where no human beings are going to go at all.
- Kla-Kisht-Ke-Is, Chief Simon Lucas, Hesquiaht First Nations, from speech in Tofino, July 6, 1996

Chronology of the fight to conserve Clayoquot Sound's ancient rainforest

(continued from page 1)

educational newspapers, *Time to sustain rather than destroy*, about Sulphur Passage. The road is eventually halted.

September 1989 - More than 200 people from Tofino and Ahousaht First Nations gather on a logging road in the Atleo River watershed in Ahousaht Territory in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the clearcut logging destruction of this salmon-rich stream.

1989 - B.C. Premier Bill Vander Zalm announces the formation of the **Sustainable Development Task Force for the Clayoquot Sound Area** in order to decide which areas should be logged and which should be protected. Environmentalists call for preservation of all pristine valleys and islands in Clayoquot Sound, with "ecoforestry" (single-tree selection logging) to be practised in the fragmented areas.

1990 - Task Force flounders because continued clearcut logging in areas considered prime candidates for preservation compromises the outcome of the process.

- WCWC publishes and distributes 150,000 educational *Save the Wild Side of Vancouver Island* newspapers and a beautiful 144-page coffee-table book entitled *Clayoquot - On the Wild Side* (currently out of print).

1991 - New Task Force formed. Logging in Clayoquot continues. Environment and tourism representatives eventually walk off this Task Force in protest.

April, 1993 - B.C. government announces its Clayoquot Sound land use decision. Most (over 70%) of the area's big-tree forests are to be clearcut. Megin watershed is preserved. Government creates a **Scientific Panel** to explore and recommend how Clayoquot Sound should be logged.

- B.C. Ombudsman says Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations not consulted properly regarding Clayoquot land use decision. Government and Central Region Nuu-chah-nulth begin negotiating an **Interim Measures Agreement**.

- Clearcut logging continues at a reduced rate in Clayoquot.

- Local people begin blockading MB logging operations near Kennedy Lake. People from across Canada come to support them. Over 900 peaceful protesters eventually arrested.

- WCWC begins construction of the *Clayoquot Witness Trail* in Clayoquot Valley with permission of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and raises funds so that Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations can boardwalk the *Big Cedar Trail* in Meares Island Tribal Park. WCWC publishes and distributes 200,000 newspapers *Save Clayoquot Sound - a heritage worth protecting*.

March 1994 - **Interim Measures Agreement (IMA)** signed



Pristine Ursus River, one of four large unprotected watersheds in Clayoquot, has steep mountainsides and many kilometres of excellent spawning channels. All 5 species of salmon spawn there. MB wants to hurry up studies and start road building in this pristine valley in 1997-98.

by B.C. government and Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region First Nations. Agreement gives First Nations right to review and veto proposed resource development plans in Clayoquot.

October 1994 - WCWC completes the *Witness Trail* in Clayoquot Valley and begins a joint research project in the Ursus Valley with Ahousaht First Nations.

January 1995 - Ahousaht First Nations and WCWC publish a 45 page report, *Preliminary Investigations of Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) by Aboriginal Use of the Ursus Valley in Ahousaht Territory of Clayoquot Sound*.

March 1995 - WCWC publishes and distributes 100,000 *Protect Ursus Valley - Ahousaht Territory* newspapers.

May 1995 - Ahousaht First Nations and WCWC conduct joint research expedition into Easter Watershed and Young Bay and publish a report titled *Preliminary Investigations of Cultural and Recreational Features of Easter Watershed in Ahousaht Territory of Clayoquot Sound*.

July 1995 - Government accepts all 128 recommendations of the Clayoquot Scientific Panel including a moratorium on logging in pristine watersheds so inventories of all values can be conducted. Panel details new logging rules that enviro-groups hope will "end clearcutting in Clayoquot."

October 1995 - Hereditary Chief Earl Maquinna George publicly states he will not allow logging or roadbuilding in the pristine Ursus River Valley.

January 1996 - Heavy rainfalls trigger over 100 landslides in Clayoquot Sound, most of them in clearcut areas.

February 1996 - Canada Youth Services funds joint Ahousaht Band-WCWC *Ahousaht Wild Side Heritage Trail and Eco-Tourism Project* to train youth in eco-tourism and clear an ancient trail to the outside beaches on Flores Island.

March 1996 - WCWC publishes *An analysis of the landslides which occurred during heavy rainstorms in Clayoquot Sound in mid-January 1996* concluding that landslides occurred up to 20 times more frequently in clearcut areas and logging-induced slides damaged salmon streams.

April 1996 - **Interim Measures Agreement (IMA)** renegotiated and extended for 3 more years.

June 1996 - Greenpeace and Friends of Clayoquot Sound blockade to stop logging in pristine Bulson Watershed. First Nations persuade them to suspend blockade and meet with logging companies to negotiate a solution to the conflict.

July 6, 1996 - All stakeholders meeting chaired by First Nations discusses future of Clayoquot's pristine watersheds.

WRITE AND LET B.C.'S NEW PREMIER KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT CLAYOQUOT SOUND

The Honourable Glen Clark
Premier and Minister Responsible for Youth
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
Canada V8V 1X4

Remind him of the 1993 promise made in a B.C. NDP government newspaper sent to every home in B.C. that "the government will vigorously pursue an International Biosphere Reserve designation for Clayoquot Sound".

Tell him how important it is to you that Scientific Panel rules are followed, especially in thorough inventories of all Clayoquot's values and in further decisions, based on inventories, to protect Clayoquot's ancient rainforests and pristine, wild, salmon-spawning rivers.



Rae Lake, a sockeye-spawning lake in Hesquiaht Territory, is choked with silt one month after a rainstorm. Note the extensive clearcut logging on the steep mountain slopes and multiple landslides originating from these disturbed mountainsides.

Yes! I will help protect Clayoquot's wild salmon streams and pristine ancient rainforests

- Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 (put in your own amount). Please use it for: (indicate one or more) () scientific studies () educational publications () eco-tourism trail projects with First Nations. WCWC's Rev. Canada Tax Reg. No. is 0587113-21-28.
- I want to join (renew my membership in) the Wilderness Committee. Enclosed is my \$30 annual membership fee. Members receive regular educational reports about how they can help protect threatened wilderness as well as a free copy of WCWC's beautiful annual *Endangered Wilderness* wall calendar.

Send me the popular *Flores Island - Treat with Care and Respect* poster (23 1/2" X 27") featuring Flores' Wild Side beaches with beautiful Mt. Flores in the background - \$15. a copy of your report on the massive landslides of January 1996 in Clayoquot Sound including 10 coloured xerox pages of photos of the damage caused by them - \$25. a copy of your 34" X 22" trail guide map to the 29 km. Clayoquot Valley Witness Trail - \$8. Prices include taxes and postage.

Name (please print) _____ Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Please send to the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 1A4



Credits

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Tel: (604) 683-8220 Fax: (604) 683-8229
E-Mail: wc2wild@web.net Home Page: <http://www.wch.net/wcwild/welcome.html>

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