



# British Columbia's Forests

## Ensuring Sustainability through Public Engagement

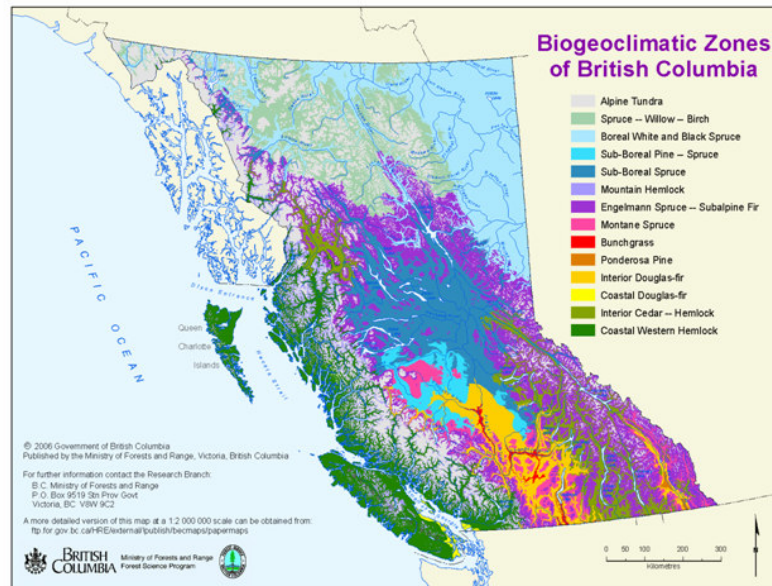
Jim Snetsinger  
Chief Forester  
British Columbia, Canada

February 2008



## British Columbia Forests

- 60 million hectares (149 million acres)
- Immense diversity
- Little forest conversion



# Role of the Chief Forester

- Independent
- Statutory decision maker
- Determines allowable annual cut
- Less than 1% harvested annually



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# Land Use Planning

- Land use planning
  - Respects all forest values
  - Involves all forest users
  - Ongoing public dialogue



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# Central & North Coast

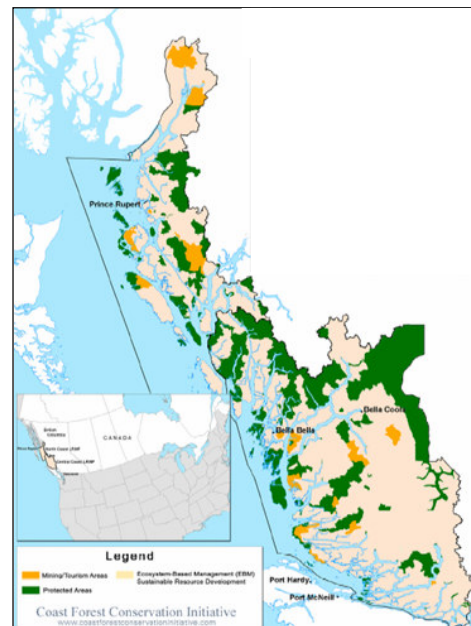
- 6.4 million hectares of Coastal BC
- Conflict to Consensus
  - Multi-stakeholder process
- Joint Solutions Project
  - Environmental Groups
  - Forest Companies



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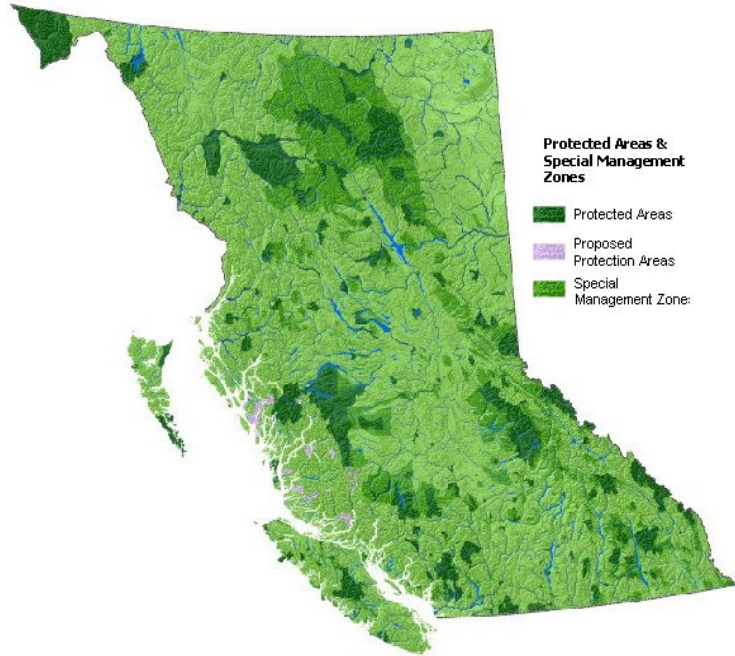
# Central & North Coast

- Provincial & First Nations Governments finalized plan February 2006
- On track for completion in 2009
- Full protection for more than 1/4 of region
- Additional 5% off limits to logging
- Ecosystem-based management



# Protected Areas

- 13.8% protected
  - 13.2 million hectares (32 million acres)
- Equally large area designated for special management



# First Nations

- Increased First Nations participation
  - Shared revenues
  - Access to tenure
- Ongoing consultation



## Mountain Caribou

- ❑ Science based recovery plan launched in the fall of 2007
- ❑ Supported by conservation organizations and by industry
- ❑ Multi-dimensional plan to manage challenging and overlapping threats
- ❑ 95% of most suitable winter habitat protected (2.2 million ha)



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## Forest and Range Practices Act

- ❑ Forest and Range Practices Act
  - Maintains high standard
  - Requires public input
  - Allows innovation
  - Companies accountable
  - Focus on results
- ❑ Tough enforcement
  - Highly trained staff
  - 15,000 inspections
- ❑ Independent Forest Practices Board



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# Voluntary SFM Certification

- Independent guarantee of legal and sustainable forest management
- Engages the public in discussions about sustainable forest management
- British Columbia is a world leader in third-party certification
  - 3 globally recognized programs
  - Almost 45 million hectares certified
  - Canada only country to have more area certified than BC province of BC



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# Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic

- Overabundance of mature pine
- Mild winters, dry summers
- Increased harvest
  - Speeds up regeneration
  - Recovers economic value
- Bioenergy potential



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# Bioenergy

- Opportunities to use fibre for green energy
- More fibre available
- Diversify industry



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# 2010 Olympics

- Opportunity to showcase
  - Versatility of wood
  - BC's quality products
  - BC's high environmental standards



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# Conclusion

- British Columbia's commitment to forest management:
  - Huge land base
  - Public ownership, public engagement
  - Innovative solutions for economic, environmental, social balance
  - Above and beyond with voluntary certification
  - Industry/government commitment to sustainable forest management
  
- More information available at MOFR website
  - Government of British Columbia [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)
  - Ministry of Forests and Range [www.gov.bc.ca/for](http://www.gov.bc.ca/for)
  - BC Market Outreach Network [www.bcforestinformation.com](http://www.bcforestinformation.com)
  - Forestry Innovation Investment [www.bcforestproducts.com](http://www.bcforestproducts.com)