

# Some highlights of the Haida Gwaii Land Use Plan

On December 12, 2007 the Land Use Plan for Haida Gwaii was signed by the Haida Nation and the Province of BC. Prior to the Land Use Plan, 23 percent of Haida Gwaii was protected. This plan sees an additional 25.3 percent of the islands protected from logging, bringing the total area to about 50 percent of the archipelago, including almost three-quarters of the ocean shoreline. The remaining forest land base will be subject to a new form of ecosystem-based management and shared decision-making between the Haida and the province.

- a) The Haida Gwaii archipelago is made up of several hundred islands measuring a bit more than 1,000,000 hectares (about 2.5 million acres). The islands are renowned for growing huge trees, especially spruce, cedar and hemlock.
- b) In the past century, more than 100,000,000 cubic metres of trees have been logged and shipped from Haida Gwaii. This is enough wood to circle the planet with a single six-foot-wide log worth over fifteen billion dollars *before* milling, manufacturing and resale.
- c) There are 222,000 hectares of forest classified as good and medium growing sites of which over two-thirds have been logged. Of the remainder about half is protected under the plan.
- d) Marbled murrelet nesting sites and cedar areas are reserved by Part 13 Order in Council for a period of up to two years while detailed landscape-level planning proceeds to implement an Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) system that works for Haida Gwaii.
- e) There are 1,068 different salmon populations on Haida Gwaii — 11 percent of the total known variation in Pacific salmon stocks in Canada, from just 1/100th of their range. Some salmon runs are believed to have inhabited local streams during and prior to the last ice age.
- f) The Land Use Plan protects streamside forest habitat important to salmon and bears with riparian reserves that are much larger than previous forestry regulations — extending up to two tree lengths (80–120 metres) on either side of “high value fish habitat” and containing an additional 60,000 hectares (6%) of the archipelago.

- g) Bear den trees used by the Haida Gwaii black bear (an endemic subspecies) are protected from logging.
- h) The islands and inlets of Haida Gwaii are ringed by over 4,600 kilometres (2,800 miles) of ocean shoreline, 74 percent of which is protected. About forty known ground-nesting seabird colonies and an undisclosed number of Peale's peregrine falcon nests are also protected.

|                                 |                |            |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Existing Protected Areas        | 226,000        | 23%        |
| New Protected Areas             | 254,000        | 25%        |
| PAs subtotal                    | 480,000        | 48%        |
| EBM reserves*                   | 38,000         | 4%         |
| <b>Total PAs + EBM reserves</b> | <b>518,000</b> | <b>52%</b> |

\* These are certain, mapped forest areas known to contain stands of cedar important for archaeology and contemporary cultural use, or they are nesting places for threatened species of murrelet, goshawk, heron and owl. The later three (goshawk, heron and owl) are fully protected as special habitat areas (100% retention), and all newly discovered goshawk nesting territories will be protected.

|   |
|---|
| Total HG coastline = 4,637 kilometers - 100%              |
| Previously protected coastline = 1,930 kilometers - 41%   |
| New LUP protected coastline = 1,518 kilometers - 31%      |
| <b>Total coastline protected = 3,448 kilometers - 74%</b> |

# HAAWA

**Haawa** to all Haida that contributed to the creation of the *Haida Land Use Vision* which was the foundation of the Community Planning Forum. Your dedication, knowledge and respect establishes a path that will be followed for many years to come.

**Haawa** to the Community Planning Forum members who sat for two years of meetings:

Small Business Forestry

*Stan Schiller  
Mike Hennigan*

Haida Cultural Values

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Forest-based Employment

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**Haawa** to everyone whose spirit has contributed in so many ways over the years to build an Islands Community based on co-operation, respect and responsibility. Haawa!