

Ministry of Forests and Range  
Government of British Columbia

## ***GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST, WORLD'S BEST MANAGED FORESTS SERVE AS STUNNING BACKDROP TO SUSTAINABLE 2010 GAMES***

During the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, British Columbia shines a spotlight on the best managed forests in the world, including the Great Bear Rainforest, a massive area of breathtaking beauty in which ecosystem-based management sustains both the environment and a vibrant forest sector.

- About 95 per cent of British Columbia's land base is publicly owned and managed by government on behalf of all British Columbians.
- British Columbia is a world leader in third-party forest certification, with over 54 million hectares (134 million acres) certified to at least one of three globally recognized programs.
- The Great Bear Rainforest, on British Columbia's north and central Pacific coast, contains one-fourth of the world's coastal temperate rainforest, covering 6.4 million hectares of incredible scenery and recreation possibilities.
- The Great Bear Rainforest is home to the world's greatest concentration of Kermode, or Spirit Bear, a black bear that has white fur due to a rare genetic trait. It is British Columbia's official mammal.
- The Rainforest is sustained through ecosystem-based management that British Columbia established through consultation with First Nations, communities, environmental groups, and forestry companies.
- In May 2007, this effort was recognized by the World Wildlife Fund's "Gift to the Earth Award" - their highest international accolade for conservation.
- Ecosystem-based management protects key elements of old-growth forests, wildlife habitat and First Nations cultural and heritage resources, including monumental cedar and culturally modified trees.
- The Province of British Columbia and the Council of the Haida Nation reached an agreement for Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands that balances social and economic values and industrial certainty with conservancy, similar to the Great Bear Rainforest.

### CONTACTS

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## VISUAL RESOURCES

- High-definition video of forest scenes, old growth, tree planting, harvesting, Canadian and international construction, exporting of wood products, are available by contacting **Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.** at 604-685-7507 or [info@bcfii.ca](mailto:info@bcfii.ca)
- Searchable database of thousands of forestry pictures – <http://imagelibrary.bcfii.ca/>

## WEB RESOURCES

- [www.naturallywood.com](http://www.naturallywood.com) – a wide range of factsheets on British Columbia's world-leading forest industry, sustainable forest management, and guides to buying and building green.
- [http://www.corporate.gov.bc.ca/bcspiritbear/more\\_about\\_spirit\\_bear.htm](http://www.corporate.gov.bc.ca/bcspiritbear/more_about_spirit_bear.htm) contains facts about the Spirit Bear with links to information about the Great Bear Rainforest.
- [http://www.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/successes/?102620/Canadas-Great-Bear-Rainforest-a-gift-to-the-Earth](http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/successes/?102620/Canadas-Great-Bear-Rainforest-a-gift-to-the-Earth) WWF International news release announcing the Gift to the Earth Award
- <http://www.forestbiodiversityinbc.ca> examines management for biodiversity objectives in the forests of British Columbia.
- <http://www.bcclimatechange.ca/bc> has an extensive section on forest management.
- <http://www.csasfmforests.ca> The Canadian Standards Association uses CAN/CSA-Z809 to designate Canada's National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management.
- <http://www.sfiprogram.org/> The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) label is a sign you are buying wood and paper products from well-managed forests, backed by a rigorous, third-party certification audit.
- <http://www.fscscanada.org/> Forest Stewardship Council is an international certification and labeling system that guarantees that the forest products you purchase come from responsibly managed forests and verified recycled sources.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- **Great Bear Rainforest to be saved as 'global treasure'**, Vancouver Sun, March 31, 2009  
<http://www.vancouversun.com/Great+Bear+Rainforest+saved+global+treasure/1445541/story.html>
- **Good News For Great Bear Rainforest**, Beautiful British Columbia Magazine, April 6, 2009  
<http://www.beautifulbc.ca/blogs/2009/04/06/good-news-for-the-great-bear-rainforest/>
- **British Columbia agreement is seen as a model for preserving the Amazon and other wildernesses**, **The Times (UK)**, February 8, 2006  
[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us\\_and\\_americas/article728425.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article728425.ece)
- **Canada creates massive 'working' park, United Press International**, February 7, 2006  
The creation of a unique 4.4 million acre environmental "working" park was announced Tuesday along British Columbia's southwest shores. The establishment of the Great Bear Rainforest ends 10 years of acrimony between environmentalists and logging companies, and will be managed and funded by loggers, environmentalists, native Indian groups and the provincial government, the Washington Post reported. Outside the core of the park, which is twice the size of Yellowstone Park in the United States, strict new controls will protect against exploitation of an additional 10 million acres. The land-use plan will allow limited logging, and environmental organizations will contribute \$60 million to help fund economic initiatives such as eco-tourism, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. reported. The U.S.-based Nature Conservancy decided to launch the fundraising for the Canadian project because of its size and the unusual conciliation of the final negotiations, officials told the Post. "This really represents conservation in the 21st century," said Steve McCormick, chief executive officer of the group. "To conserve globally important natural habitat worldwide on a scale that will be meaningful, we have to contemplate human use."

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### **For assistance or more information:**

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