



# PROTECTING THE **GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST**

Following controversial forest campaigns in the mid 1990s, four of Paper Excellence's coastal BC mills have been working to protect the Great Bear Rainforest through parks and protected areas and the new forest practice called Ecosystem Based Management (EBM). This work aims to bring the Great Bear Rainforest into low ecological risk while balancing the well-being of local communities supported by forestry employment.



## **WHO IS INVOLVED?**

Since 1998, four of Paper Excellence's coastal BC mills have been working with other forest companies and Greenpeace, STAND (formerly ForestEthics), and Sierra Club of Canada. We also work with First Nations and government in designing these new forestry approaches.

## **WHAT IS ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT (EBM)?**

EBM is an adaptive approach for managing forests that ensures the co-existence of healthy ecosystems and human communities. EBM in the Great Bear Rainforest is so advanced that it is serving as the template for parties trying to save North America's boreal forests.

## **WHY DOES EBM MATTER?**

EBM is amongst the most stringent and capable forest management approaches in the world. It means smaller areas of cutting in less sensitive areas. The Great Bear Rainforest is certified to the FSC standard.

## **WHAT'S CHANGED WITH EBM?**

- » Less Harvesting – A 35% drop in the allowable annual cut between 2001 and 2009
- » Smaller Harvest Areas – In 1996, 42% of cutblocks were less than 10 hectares in size; today more than 70% are less than 10 hectares
- » More Parks – 350% increase in parks and conservancies
- » More Old Forest – Secure 70% representation of old-growth forest across the entire planning area over time
- » More Protection – Of wildlife habitat, streams and wetlands
- » Only 0.15% of the forest is harvested each year ensuring sustainable forests and healthy ecosystems
- » Only 16% of the forest will be harvested in the next 250 years

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- » 25,000 sq miles of temperate rainforest about the size of West Virginia
- » 8,000 sq miles of intact protected forest
- » Some of the world's richest ecosystems are home to the unique Spirit Bear

## TIMELINE

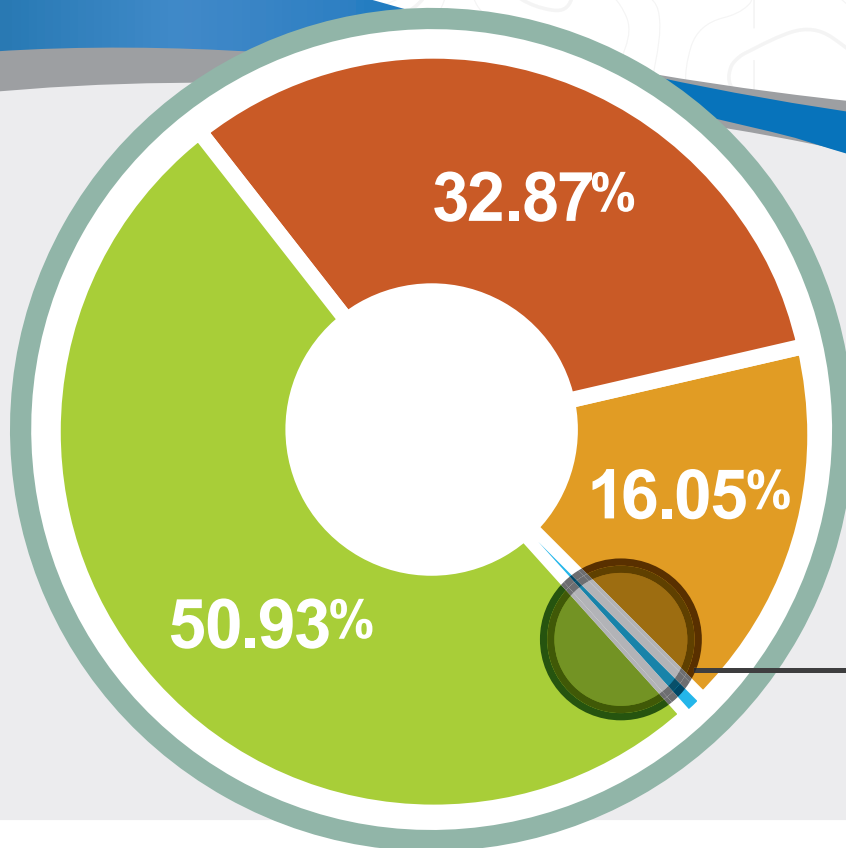
- 1990** – Environmental campaigns
- 1998** – Parties came together to find a solution
- 2004** – EBM posed as solution
- 2006** – Agreement signed to implement EBM
- 2009** – Completion of protection of GBR lands
- 2015** – Completion of EBM framework and programs
- 2016 and Onwards** – Implementation of EBM in the forest by licensee companies

Haida Gwaii  
(Queen Charlotte Islands)

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CANADA

GREAT BEAR  
RAINFOREST

Paper Excellence  
Head Office



## EBM LAND USE OBJECTIVES

- Area potentially harvested each year
- Area available for harvest in next 250 years
- Natural forested area
- Forested park & protected

● 0.15%

### RICHMOND HEAD OFFICE

2nd Floor, 3600 Lysander Lane, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada V7B 1C3  
1.604.247.4400 / info@paperexcellence.com / [www.paperexcellence.com](http://www.paperexcellence.com)



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