

Great Bear Rainforest: Progress Update

FEBRUARY 2024

COMMITMENTS DRIVEN BY COLLABORATION

Spanning more than 6.4 million hectares (ha) of temperate rainforest on British Columbia’s North and Central Coasts, the Great Bear Rainforest is a special area where, in 2016 after more than 20 years of discussion, the provincial government, First Nations, environmental groups and members of the forest industry announced an agreement on how the Great Bear Rainforest would be managed to balance environmental, social and economic values. The legal framework for the agreement was updated in 2023 by the provincial government and First Nations, with input from the forest industry and environmental groups.

The management framework developed by the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement is known as ecosystem based management (EBM) and supports two key objectives—low ecological risk and a high degree of well-being for local communities and First Nations.

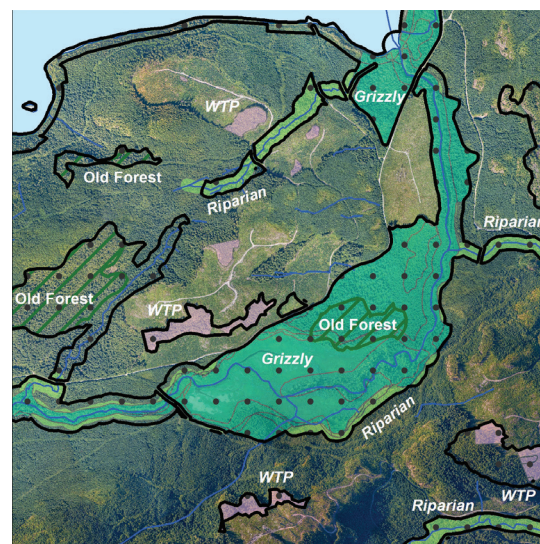
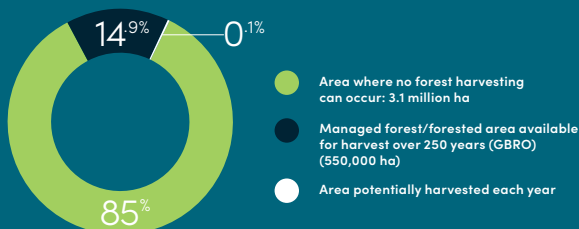
EBM aims to have fully-functioning ecosystems, protecting flora and fauna while allowing for some economic activity.

LANDSCAPE RESERVE DESIGN

Landscape Reserve Designs (LRDs) are built by specialized scientists, and identify spatially where environmental, wildlife, cultural and managed forest values will be managed on the land base. These spatial plans are required for each of the 180 administrative areas within the Great Bear Rainforest and provide critical direction to land managers on where forestry activities can take place.

Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) Area Classification

Of the total area of the GBR, 57% (or 3.1 million ha) is forest, with the remainder naturally covered with alpine tundra, rock, lakes and rivers and other land forms. The following chart illustrates how the forest area within the GBR is managed.



LEGEND

Managed Forest



Values

Grizzly

Riparian

Wildlife Tree Patch (WTP)

Landscape Reserve Designs are developed by scientists to identify and protect important environmental, wildlife and cultural values.

DESIGN COMPLEXITY

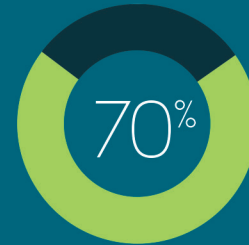
The process for establishing Landscape Reserve Designs (LRDs) is complex. Scientists create landscape designs based on analysis of data and field visits to identify old forest and sensitive ecosystems. In 2019, First Nations and the provincial government published a field guide which provides critical guidance in the identification of old forest and rare and endangered plant communities. Prior to the release of this guide, forest managers built strategies enabled legally through Forest Stewardship Plans to identify and reserve these features. Future plans will rely on the definitions and guidance in the field guide.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS DRIVING DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE RESERVE DESIGNS:

- » PROTECT AND MAINTAIN First Nation traditional heritage features, culturally modified trees, and traditional forest resources
- » ADDRESS ECOSYSTEM TARGETS FOR OLD FOREST
- » SEEK TO SIMULTANEOUSLY CAPTURE multiple cultural wildlife and other non timber values in the same location
- » WHERE THERE IS LESS OLD FOREST THAN REQUIRED TO MEET TARGETS, reserve younger stands that in time will become Old Forest
- » MAINTAIN THE ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION of the features included within the reserve, e.g. areas of biologically significant stands (such as riparian areas); areas that maintain landscape connectivity and interior forest condition
- » MAINTAIN THE 550,000 HA MANAGED FOREST TARGET, achieve the allowable annual cut, and commercial harvest opportunities.

Adapted from A Framework for Landscape Reserve Design in the Great Bear Rainforest, BC Ministry of Forests, Range and Natural Resource Operations, 2016.

GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST ORDER OBJECTIVE



OLD FOREST
RETENTION*

2.5 million m³

ANNUAL ALLOWABLE CUT

LOW

HIGH

Ecological Risk

Human well-being

*On average, over all Landscape Units in the Great Bear Rainforest

MOSAIC IN THE GBR

Mosaic's managed forest areas in the GBR are located in the southern end and cover approximately 1% of the GBR. This specific area has a long forest harvesting history and is closer to population centres, markets and timber processing facilities. Compared to other areas of the GBR, the amount of existing old forest in this area is low.

While there is a 70% Old Forest Representation Target (OFRT) across the GBR, the agreement specifies that some areas will not achieve this level of old forest representation. Where Mosaic operates, for several ecosystems, the established old forest target is 30%. The LRD process spatially identifies how the values, including Old Forest and economic opportunity targets, will be met simultaneously. LRDs in Mosaic's areas are complete and approved by the provincial government and the First Nations' Government to Government Working Group.



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MOSAIC
FOREST MANAGEMENT