

Great Bear Rainforest Progress Update February 2017

1st Anniversary of the Legal and Policy Framework

February 1, 2017 marks one year since the announcement of the Great Bear Rainforest Legal and Policy Framework by First Nations governments and the BC government, with the support of Greenpeace, Sierra Club BC and Stand (formerly ForestEthics) and five forestry companies (collectively known as the Joint Solutions Project). The table below provides an update on progress and delays in completing the Framework commitments as agreed to by the three environmental organizations and the five forestry companies a year ago.¹

2016 ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK COMMITMENTS²	
ACHIEVED 	NOT MET 
<i>New Legislation, Legal Objectives and Associated Policy and Guidance</i>	
Great Bear Rainforest Order (GBRO) proclaimed January 29, 2016 GBRO Background & Intent document finalized	Field Manuals for identification of GBR-specific Red-listed (at risk) and Blue-listed (of concern) plant communities, and old-growth forest (particularly important for reserve design in areas with endangered ecosystems)
Ministerial Direction given for Landscape Reserve Design Methodology and meaningful First Nations engagement	Designation of new protected areas (currently designated as the less-protected special forest management areas).
GBR Forest Management Act & associated regulations finalized	Biodiversity, Mining and Tourism Areas – Background & Intent document
Landscape Reserve Design Framework completed	Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Assessment of Inclusion/Exclusion of Community Forest Areas.
Landscape Reserve Methodology – Working Draft released	Landscape Reserve Design Methodology (to include finalized monitoring indicators)
Landscape Reserve Design Methodology Training Workshops delivered	Landscape Reserve Design Quality Assurance Terms of Reference
Forest Stewardship Plans consistent with new GBRO legal objectives submitted and approved	
<i>New Ecosystem-Based Management Institutional Mechanisms</i>	
Operational Implementation Committee Terms of Reference completed (including TOR for Landscape Reserve Design Steering Committees)	Collaborative Strategic Implementation Committee Terms of Reference
First Meeting of Operational Implementation Committee	Protocol for developing information to support future decision-making
	Protocol for Social Choice Criteria, Transparency and Review Mechanisms
	Adaptive Management framework
	Monitoring Success Framework
	Data Management protocol

Partial completion risks conservation gains

This legal and policy framework is the final stage in the full implementation of the award-winning Great Bear Rainforest Agreements. The Great Bear Rainforest Framework sets eighty-five percent of the region's coastal temperate rainforests permanently off-limits to industrial logging. The remaining 15 percent of the forest are subject to the most stringent commercial logging legal standards in North America. First Nations oversight of their lands has been strengthened and new community development opportunities have been negotiated as a result of the government-to-government implementation process.

The 2016 Framework includes a number of short, mid and long-term commitments, including a three month work plan to finalize outstanding implementation components and process agreements leading to a 5-year and 10-year review amongst the parties involved.

The table is a status update on short term (first year) commitments as of February 1, 2017. Completing all of the agreed-to commitments is necessary to achieve the ecological and community well-being goals and objectives required for the 2016 Framework, and to fulfill the announcement one year ago that we had achieved full implementation of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements. We emphasize that partial completion seriously risks the conservation gains of the visionary model. We are pleased that there has been progress on many items and we expect capacity and leadership from responsible parties to ensure completion of the much delayed commitments over the next few months.

¹Also committed to in a letter from the Province of British Columbia to the parties (June 2016)

² The table only covers short term (1 year or less) commitments made by forest companies and conservation groups and the province of British Columbia. It does not include government to government commitments made between the Province of British Columbia and individual First Nations.