
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Natural Resource Operations
Council of the Haida Nation

BALANCING ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES ON HAIDA GWAI

VICTORIA – Sustainably managing Haida Gwaii’s forest resources by balancing cultural, ecological, social and economic objectives is at the heart of a new land use order, Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson and Haida Nation President Guujaaw said today.

“The Land Use Objectives Order will help bring stability to forest companies and communities on Haida Gwaii by ending a period of land-use uncertainty,” said Thomson. “The result of successful co-operation between the Haida Nation and the Province, the order promotes effective, sustainable, responsible and respectful resource management.”

The order legally establishes ecosystem-based management on Haida Gwaii by setting new standards for the management of:

- Haida traditional heritage and forest features, culturally modified trees, cedar and yew.
- Aquatic habitats including fish habitat, active fluvial units, upland stream areas and sensitive watersheds.
- Forested swamps and several plant communities.
- Black bear dens, as well as marbled murrelet, goshawk, great blue heron and saw-whet owl habitat.

The land use objectives have been established under Haida Stewardship Law and B.C.’s land use objectives regulation. All existing forest stewardship and woodlot licence plans on Haida Gwaii will conform to the new land use objectives within six months of today’s date.

“It is only through this kind of co-operation, that we can protect Haida cultural values, look after the land, wildlife and waterways and still provide opportunities for a sustainable economy,” said Guujaaw, President of the Haida Nation.

“With cultural and biological riches beyond measure, there is no place in the world like Haida Gwaii,” said Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Barry Penner. “By working together, British Columbia and the Haida Nation are taking bold steps to balance priorities on the land and build lasting and comprehensive reconciliation.”

The land use order is based on a Strategic Land Use Agreement reached between British Columbia and the Haida Nation in 2007, following extensive government-to-government negotiations and a comprehensive planning process.

The Haida Gwaii Land Use Objectives Order can be found at:
<http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/nanaimo/haidagwaii/index.html>

-30-

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