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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Council of the Haida Nation

HAIDA GWAI/QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

As a strategic step towards the accommodation of Haida interests, the Council of the Haida Nation and the province and have agreed to co-manage a land-use planning process for Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands. A framework for the co-operative design and management of this process was signed by both parties Feb. 28.

The goal of the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands land-use plan process is to develop a balanced plan that protects environmental integrity, maintains spiritual and cultural values, enhances sustainable economic opportunity and fosters community well-being.

This plan will provide management direction for a wide range of resource values, and will be incorporated into the timber supply review process to determine allowable rates of timber harvest for the islands.

The plan area covers land and inland freshwater areas, but will not undertake marine or coastal shoreline planning below the high-water mark. This will be dealt with through a separate process.

The Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands land-use planning process is one of three areas included in the Coast Sustainability Protocol Agreement signed in April 2001 by First Nations, government, the forest industry, communities and environmental organizations. The protocol agreement includes a commitment to implementing ecosystem-based management, intended to ensure the co-existence of healthy communities and healthy ecosystems on the coast. The Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands planning process will have the benefit of reviewing independent, science-based information that is being developed by a coast information team with respect to defining ecosystem-based management.

Further information on the land-use plan and the process for selecting forum participants has been provided through a series of community open houses held in March in six communities.

DUU GUUSD AREA PROTECTED DURING LAND-USE PLANNING

The 150,000-hectare Duu Guusd area on the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands is of special significance to the Haida Nation, which declared it a Haida Tribal Park in 1981. It is being protected from logging while land-use planning talks continue about its designation by Cabinet.

By law, as part of the Queen Charlotte Islands timber supply area, the Ministry of Forests must consider the Duu Guusd area for harvesting unless instructed by Cabinet to exclude it. A designation by Cabinet under Part 13 of the Forest Act is a necessary precondition to such an instruction.

The Duu Guusd area was designated and removed from consideration for timber harvesting in October 1999 by the Ministry of Forests. The new designation was initiated by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management as it is responsible for land-use planning.

Visit the province's Web site at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/> for online information and services.

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