

# CLAYOQUOT SOUND TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

## PROGRESS REPORT

July 2006

*This watershed planning progress report is issued by the Clayoquot Sound Technical Planning Committee. Committee membership consists of representatives from the First Nations of Clayoquot Sound and technical staff from provincial agencies.*

### Watershed Planning Background

In May 2006, the *Hawiih* of the Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Toquaht and Ucluelet First Nations and the Province of British Columbia renewed the *Clayoquot Sound Interim Measures Extension Agreement: A Bridge to Treaty*. The Clayoquot Sound Technical Planning Committee takes direction from Interim Measures Extension Agreements (IMEAs) when working to complete watershed plans.

In 2003, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) completed the first three official watershed plans for Clayoquot Sound. In 2005, the TPC completed another 8 watershed plans. All plans were prepared in strict accordance with the IMEA - which requires the TPC to adhere to all Scientific Panel recommendations.

### The Clayoquot Sound Interim Measures Extension Agreement

In the *Clayoquot Sound Interim Measures Extension Agreement: A Bridge to Treaty* the *Hawiih* of the Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Toquaht and Ucluelet First Nations and the Province of British Columbia agreed to the following:

- “a government-to-government relationship exists between First Nations and the Government of British Columbia”
- “the *Hawiih* of the First Nations have the responsibility to preserve and protect their traditional territories and waters for generations which will follow”
- “conserve resources for future generations through the acceptance and recognition of traditional ecological knowledge in land and resource planning and management decisions”
- “incorporate the Scientific Panel Recommendations into the Crown’s land and management process”
- “plan the implementation of the Scientific Panel recommendations and other resource and land use planning initiatives agreed to by the Parties”
- “promote the conservation of resources in Clayoquot Sound, including the recommendations of the Scientific Panel”
- “assess the implementation of sustainable ecosystem-based forest management in Clayoquot Sound”

- “continue working towards local economic initiatives that will enhance community benefits”
- “ensure that the maintenance of visual attractiveness and ecological integrity is given high priority in any proposed plans regarding resource extraction or development in Clayoquot Sound”
- “respect and protect aboriginal uses of resources in Clayoquot Sound”
- “maintain respect for aboriginal heritage”
- “participate in the Clayoquot Sound Planning Process ...”
- “develop, monitor and adapt management processes to implement watershed plans resulting from the Clayoquot Sound Planning Process.”

Both Parties to the IMEA determined that “responsibility for completion of watershed plans and subsequent processes ... be assigned to a joint Clayoquot Sound Technical Planning Committee.”

### Contents

The Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices in Clayoquot	2
The Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve	2
Watershed Plans Summary	3
Reserves and Harvestable Areas	3
Watershed Plan Summary Map	4
Forested Land Base and Old Growth Forest	6
Culturally Important Areas for First Nations	7
Benefits of Clayoquot Sound Watershed Plans	8

## **The Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forest Practices in Clayoquot Sound: A Background**

An independent Scientific Panel was appointed by the provincial government in the mid 1990s to review forest practices in Clayoquot Sound. The Scientific Panel published their final reports with recommendations for creating sustainable forest practices in 1995. The Province adopted all the Scientific Panel's recommendations and ratified a planning framework with the Central Region First Nations in 1997. The watershed plans for Clayoquot Sound follow the full suite of recommendations developed by the Scientific Panel. The TPC was guided by two key Scientific Panel recommendations:

- "Adopt an ecosystem approach to planning, in which the primary planning objective is to sustain the productivity and natural diversity of the Clayoquot Sound region."
- "Harvesting is permitted only outside reserve areas which are intended to maintain long-term ecosystem integrity in the watershed, to protect First Nations' culturally important areas, and to protect recreational and scenic values."

*Harvesting is permitted only outside reserve areas which are intended to maintain long-term ecosystem integrity in the watershed, to protect First Nations' culturally important areas, and to protect recreational and scenic values.*

After TPC completion of the first three watershed plans, Ecotrust Canada and the UBC Centre for Applied Conservation Research coordinated a review by ten former Science Panel members, including the two co-chairs, Dr. Richard Atleo and Dr. Fred Bunnell. After their review, these individuals provided comments to the CRB, including:

- "We are pleased to find that the watershed reserve plans reflect an obviously sincere effort by the Technical Planning Committee to follow the spirit and intent of the recommendations of the Scientific Panel. All of us are pleased to state that the watershed plans are consistent with the philosophical approach presented by the Panel and seem to closely follow Panel considerations, with no skirting of issues, or skewing of interpretation to favour any particular interests."

- "We feel that the consultation process

outlined in these plans for culturally important areas is an excellent example of a process that could be quite transferable to other areas of the province."

- "The watershed plans clearly reflect the paradigm shift intended by the Panel and focus on retaining areas and elements rather than removing timber. The reserves are logical and orderly, and ..., go a long way to protecting ecosystem health and human values."

During the public review of watershed plans in 2005, three of the original Science Panel members recommended that development within undeveloped watersheds "be deferred until the new management regime we recommended [be] fully developed and tested." The TPC is aware that licensees have made management decisions with regard to this matter - for example, Interfor has volunteered to defer operations within the Sydney - Pretty Girl planning unit.

### **THE CLAYOQUOT SOUND BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

*Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They are internationally recognized, nominated by national governments and remain under sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.*

*The provincial and federal governments both actively supported Clayoquot Sound becoming a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2000. Each biosphere reserve must combine core protected areas with zones where sustainable development is fostered by residents and companies. The watershed plans clearly illustrate which areas constitute core protected areas and which areas support sustainable forest use - with specific guidelines to ensure that use remains sustainable.*

## Watershed Plans



Clayoquot River Watershed Plan Area

Watershed plans are intended to guide planning for sustainable ecosystem management in Clayoquot Sound. The watershed plans organize long-term sustainable ecosystem management principles into three broad planning themes: watershed integrity, biological diversity, and human values. Each plan identifies areas that will be set aside as reserves to protect a range of values. These reserves are designed to preserve the long-term ecosystem integrity of each watershed planning unit, protect First Nations' culturally important areas, and maintain recreational and scenic values. The plans also map and designate special management zones, and harvestable

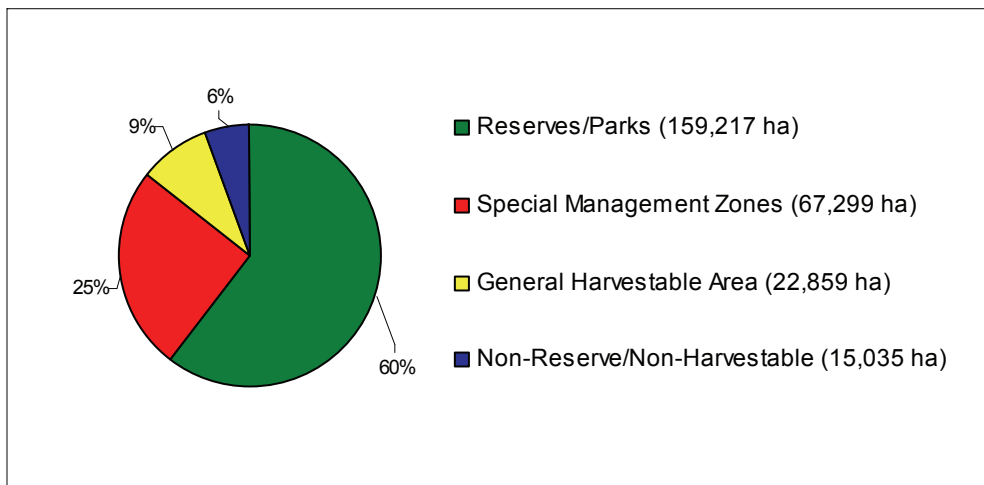
areas (land that falls outside of reserves and on which sustainable forest harvesting can take place). The watershed plans do not apply to provincial/ national parks, Indian Reserves, federal lands, municipal land, private land or Meares Island. The watershed planning area covers 264,410 hectares and includes all the watersheds within 14 planning units: Flores Island, Bedingfield, Cypre, Tofino - Tranquil, Sydney - Pretty Girl, Bedwell - Ursus - Bulson, Hesquiaht, Kennedy Lake, Upper Kennedy River, Clayoquot River, Fortune Channel, Megin, Moyeha and Beach.

**Over 60 percent of the watershed plan area (159,217 ha) is protected in reserves or provincial and national parks**

## Reserves and Harvestable Areas

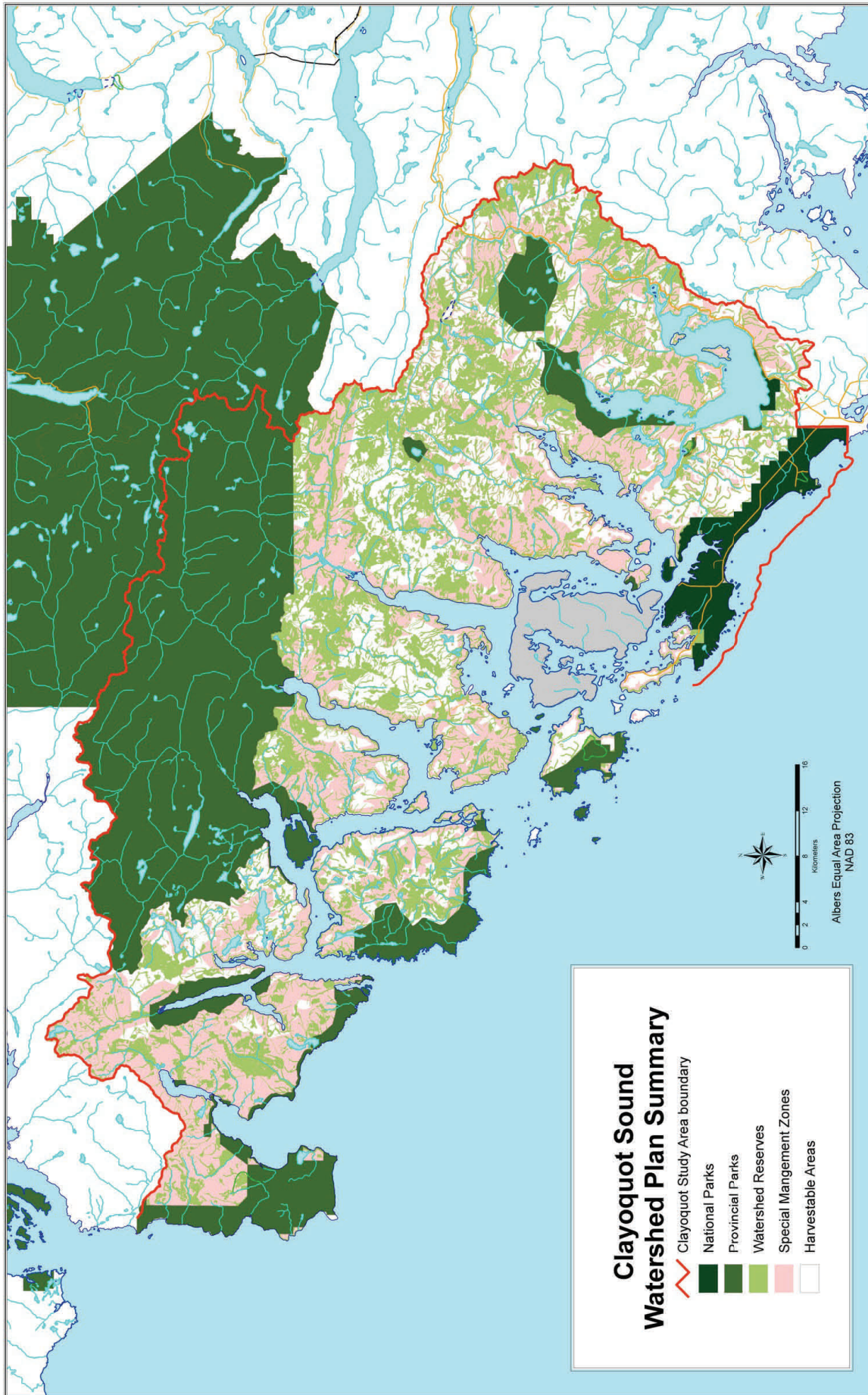
Watershed reserves are the cornerstone of the Scientific Panel's framework for sustainable ecosystem management. The watershed reserves, established by the TPC, protect watershed integrity, biological diversity and recreational resources. These strict reserves prohibit forest harvesting under most circumstances. Over 60 percent (159,217 hectares) of the watershed plan area is protected in reserves or provincial and national parks. The harvestable area in Clayoquot Sound consists of 90,158

hectares. Approximately 67,299 hectare or 75 percent of the harvestable area is designated as special management zones (SMZs) where management constraints apply. Forest harvesting in SMZs is subject to various management strategies designed to preserve hydrometric, ecological and human values - such as, First Nations' culturally important areas, and areas identified for their scenic, recreational and tourism values. Harvestable areas not within SMZs are subject to rate of cut limits and



Reserves and Harvestable Areas in Clayoquot Sound Watershed Plans





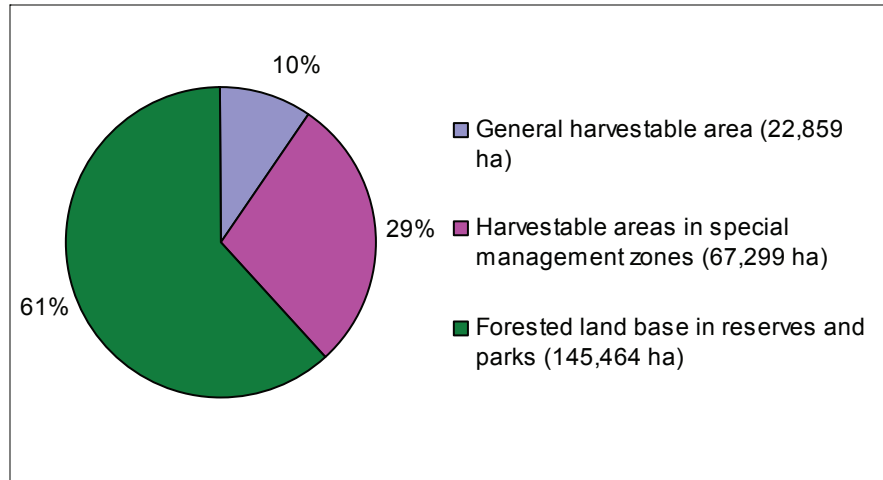
## Forested Land Base in Reserves and Harvestable Areas

The forested land base covers almost 90% (235,622 hectares) of the watershed planning area. Over 61% of this productive forest land base is protected in reserves or park. The remaining 39% is accessible for forest harvesting subject to limits and conditions that preserve the area's sensitivities.

Harvesting in special management zones and the general harvestable area must follow specific forest practices designed to ensure that all harvesting activity is undertaken in an ecologically sensitive manner.

One example of these practices is the application of the variable retention silviculture system. This silviculture system provides for the permanent retention of forest structures to ensure habitat for forest biota.

Forest harvesting in special management zones must follow specific standards and criteria to ensure that First Nation cultural values, scenic, recreational and tourism values are maintained.



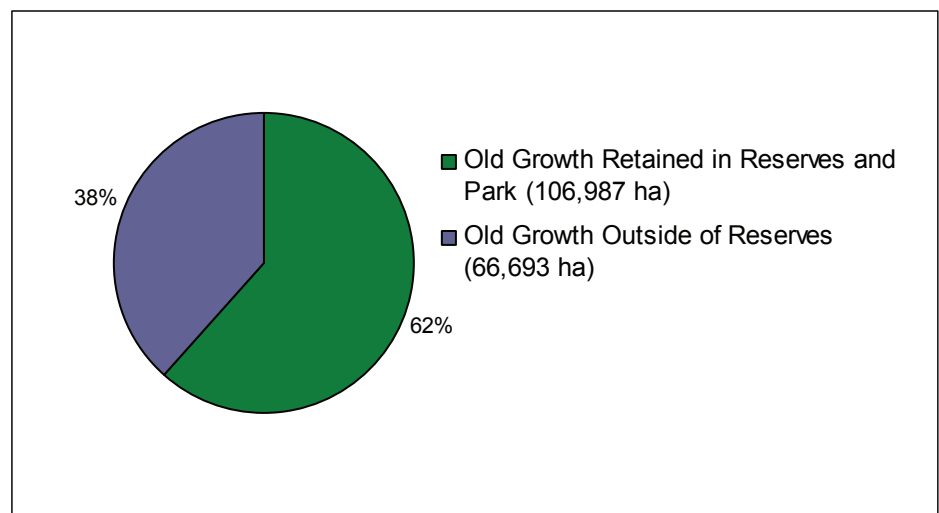
**The Forested Land Base : Reserves and Harvestable Areas**

## Protection of Old Growth Forest

The Scientific Panel recognized the importance of maintaining sections of older forests, and ensuring that these were large enough to maintain conditions similar to those in the interior of historic forests. Currently, approximately 73 percent (173,680 hectares) of the forested land base of Clayoquot Sound is covered in old growth forest over 141 years old.

Approximately 62 percent (106,987 ha) of this old growth forest is protected by watershed reserves and provincial and national parks. The amount of old growth forest is well above the minimum amount of 40 percent that was recommended by the Scientific Panel.

**62 percent of old growth forest is protected by watershed reserves and provincial and national parks in Clayoquot Sound**



**Old Growth Forest protected in reserves and parks**

## Culturally Important Areas for First Nations

The Scientific Panel stressed the importance of maintaining First Nations' cultural values, dedicating an entire report to an account of First Nations' perspectives and recommendations on how to incorporate these perspectives in planning and management of land, water and resources in Clayoquot Sound. Culturally important areas include sacred sites, historic areas, and areas in current use. The Panel recommended that these areas be identified by the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and that they must be protected in ways that are consistent with traditional knowledge.

Approximately 103,044 hectares of the Clayoquot Sound watershed planning area has been identified by the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations as having cultural significance. Consistent with traditional knowledge, culturally important areas are not designated as "reserves". Rather, the designation "culturally significant" indicates that a consultation process must be engaged with the appropriate Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation in order to initiate any development proposals. Please refer to section 2.3.1 of specific watershed plans for more detail. Based on the cultural significance and sensitivity of the areas in question, the consultation process will determine the compatibility of the development proposal with First Nations rights and interests. The process will also identify whether special conditions, considerations or procedures are recommended if the development proposal were to proceed.

## Protection of Scenic, Recreational and Tourism Values

### Scenic Values

The Scientific Panel acknowledged that "landscape appearance is important to Nuu-chah-nulth, other residents, and visitors to Clayoquot Sound, both for aesthetic reasons and as a potential indicator of the health of the forest resource."

Accordingly, the Panel identified the protection of scenic values as one component of the ecosystem management theme of maintaining human values.

In total, 92,381 hectares of the planning area have been assigned scenic class objectives. Of these, 43,923 ha (almost 48 percent) are located within parks and reserves.

The portion of scenic areas that are located within the harvestable area

will be managed in accordance with the assigned scenic class objective. Timber harvesting and road building operations within these scenic areas will be guided by the management criteria presented in Volume 1 of the Watershed Planning series.

### Recreation & Tourism Values

Marine and lake shores, as well as special features such as significant trails and waterfalls, are protected by reserve buffers of varying widths. Management zones adjacent to these reserves serve to maintain the integrity of the buffers.

In the Clayoquot Sound planning area, the management zones for recreation and tourism amount to

17,340 hectares. Of this, 50 percent overlap with the harvestable areas.

Forest practices and the application of the retention system in the management zones need to be designed to ensure the integrity of recreation and tourism values encompassed in reserves. Many (if not most) recreation and tourism features, settings and opportunities are valued for the visual enjoyment and experience they provide. For this reason, the visual impact of any forest practices must be managed and should remain minor within recreation and tourism management zones.

Clayoquot Sound—Scenic Classes by Area

Scenic Class	Reserves	Harvestable Area	Total* Ha
Natural - Appearing	17,408	11,793	29,651
Minimal Alteration	18,472	21,940	41,156
Small - Scale Alteration	8,043	13,200	21,574
TOTAL	43,923	46,933	92,381

\* Total Ha may include scenic class areas that are not located in reserves or harvestable areas.



## **BENEFITS OF CLAYOQUOT SOUND WATERSHED PLANS**

### **Ecological**

These plans define the application of sustainable ecosystem management - as defined by the Scientific Panel – in the specific geographic, physical, ecological and cultural context of each watershed planning area.

The plans afford protection for threatened, rare and endangered plant and animal species, such as the Marbled Murrelet, a coastal bird, and plant communities associated with Sitka spruce forests.

The plans ensure that representative examples of all ecosystem types occurring in Clayoquot Sound, including rare ecosystems, are protected in no-logging reserves.

The plans ensure that, in each watershed planning unit, old forests - including old forests with interior conditions, are protected from logging.

The plans prescribe limits to the amount of area that may be logged in each 5 or 10 year period in order to maintain the hydrological integrity of each area.

The provincial and federal governments both actively supported Clayoquot Sound becoming a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2000. Each biosphere reserve must combine core protected areas with zones where sustainable development is fostered by residents and companies. The watershed plans clearly illustrate which areas constitute core protected areas and which areas support sustainable forest use - with clear guidelines to ensure that use remains sustainable.

Ecological conservation, as addressed by these plans, includes landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.

### **Economic**

Each plan clearly specifies where logging can and cannot occur. In areas available for logging, the plans prescribe the condition and limitations that must be applied in order to maintain the integrity of specific ecological, cultural and scenic values. The plans thus provide clarity and certainty for forest companies operating in Clayoquot Sound, and will facilitate the preparation of forest stewardship plans under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

The protection to sensitive ecological, wildlife, scenic and cultural values afforded by the watershed plans will benefit the tourism and particularly the ever-increasing eco-tourism sector in Clayoquot Sound.

The framework and guidance for sustainable ecosystem management provided by the watershed plans will assist forestry operators in their efforts to obtain and retain forest certification under various systems, and will thus assist with the promotion and valuation of eco-forestry products derived from sustainable management of forests.

### **Social/Cultural**

For over a decade, First Nation governments have actively participated in all resource and land use decisions in Clayoquot Sound. FN co-chairs and representatives have been key to the success of the Clayoquot Sound Scientific Panel, the Central Region Board, the Clayoquot Sound Planning Committee, and the Clayoquot Sound Technical Planning Committee. These watershed plans acknowledge the strong relationship which has developed between the Central Region FN and the Province, and reflect the trust and capacity which has been built within and between FN and non-FN communities on the west coast.

Each plan incorporates information provided by First Nations on culturally significant areas, as well as procedures and protocols aimed at safeguarding these values in the face of proposed development activities. This sharing of cultural information by First Nations through the watershed planning process is testimony to the close relationship that has evolved in Clayoquot Sound.

The ecological and cultural sustainability that is built into the watershed plans will promote the long-term health and stability of both FN and non-FN communities in Clayoquot Sound.

The Government of British Columbia committed to full implementation of the Scientific Panel recommendations in 1995. These watershed plans are testimony that commitment continues to be honoured.

#### **Technical Planning Committee Contacts:**

*Rudi Mayser, Provincial Co-chair, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands*

*Jackie Godfrey, First Nations Co-chair Alternate, Central Region Chiefs Executive*