



**Friends of Clayoquot Sound**

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## Enviros and First Nation Win 5-Year Moratorium on Logging in Clayoquot Sound's Intact Upper Kennedy Valley

In fall 2006, BC Timber Sales, a branch of the provincial government, proposed a logging plan ("Forest Stewardship Plan") that includes the Upper Kennedy River in the northeast corner of Clayoquot Sound.

The Upper Kennedy is one of the intact old-growth valleys that Friends of Clayoquot Sound and allies have been campaigning for years to keep off-limits to logging. The ancient temperate rainforest of the Upper Kennedy is one of the few remaining undisturbed forests on Vancouver Island, an island where three-quarters of the original forest has been clearcut logged.

The Upper Kennedy is also one of the wilderness hearts of Clayoquot Sound. It lies adjacent to the intact headwaters of five other valleys. These headwaters, back to back, form one of the largest untouched areas in Clayoquot. The Upper Kennedy is a scenic wilderness of streams, lakes and massive ancient trees. It is a core area for biodiversity, with connectivity among six wild valleys. A spectacular hiking trail, the Clayoquot Witness Trail, begins in the Upper Kennedy.

Not surprisingly, the logging plan did not sit well with the environment groups working to protect Clayoquot's globally rare and ecologically precious intact valleys or with the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, whose traditional territory encompasses the Kennedy River. Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Greenpeace, ForestEthics, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defence Council and Tla-o-qui-aht lobbied BC Timber Sales and won a 5-year moratorium on logging in the intact headwaters of the Upper Kennedy. Four thousand hectares (10,000 acres) of magnificent, old-growth temperate rainforest are safe for another 5 years.

Deferral of logging in the intact Upper Kennedy also preserves options for the Tla-o-qui-aht, who are beginning to develop their own land-use plan for the entire Kennedy watershed.

Unfortunately, about 7,000 hectares of partially logged old-growth forest, further downstream in the Kennedy Valley, were not deferred and cutting is likely to begin next year. Friends of Clayoquot Sound will be monitoring BC Timber Sales activities to verify that the deferral area remains off-bounds to logging or road building for 5 years.