

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE

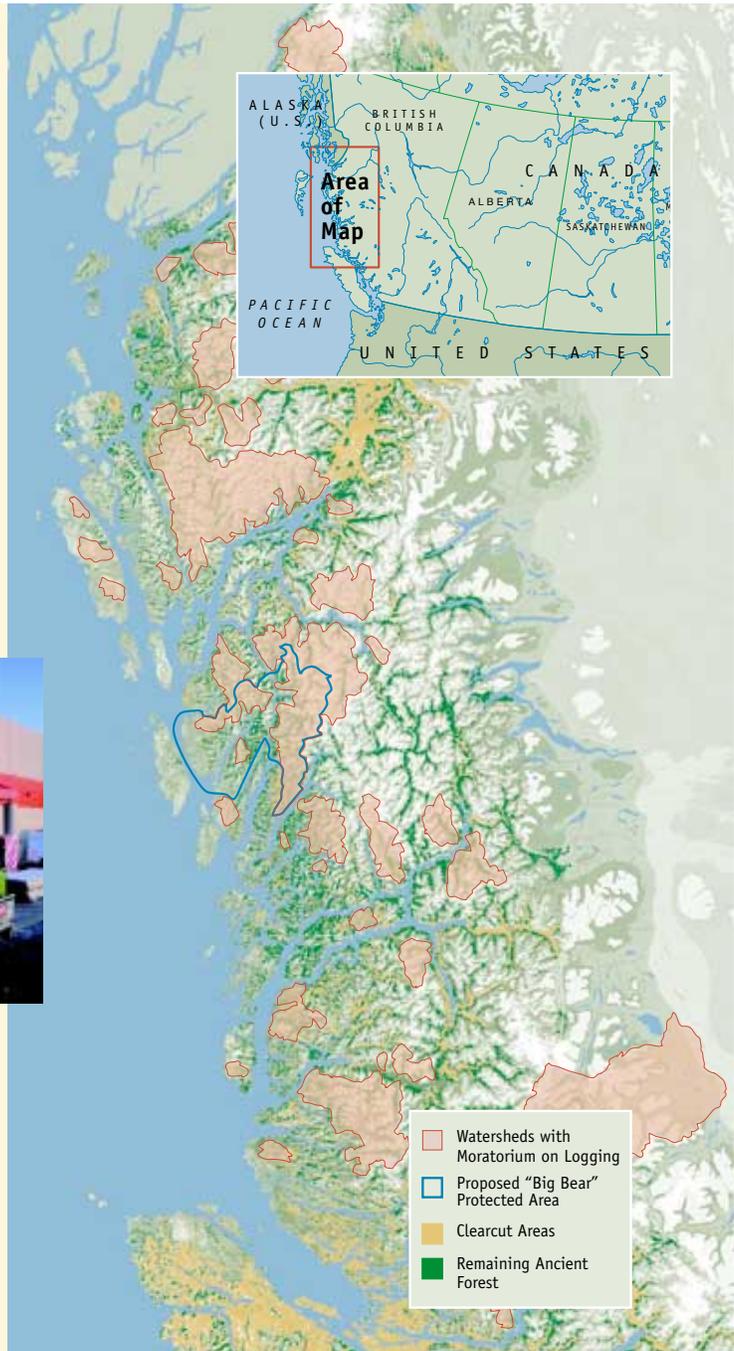
Since 1998, the RBF has devoted significant attention to protecting the pristine northern coastal region of British Columbia (BC) from industrial logging. This coast is home to 25 percent of the world's remaining coastal temperate rainforest lands and to the rarest and most biologically productive terrestrial ecosystems within temperate latitudes.

With RBF support and encouragement, environmental groups in British Columbia have made the coast their primary conservation objective. RBF grantees have used a variety of tactics to promote



Home Depot recently announced its commitment to purchasing sustainably forested wood products.

conservation of the BC coast. They have initiated litigation to develop new legal precedents on the rights of First Nations tribes to determine the fate of their traditional lands. They have also worked with First Nations tribes along the coast to build community-based consensus on the need for sustainable development models as alternatives to industrial logging. In addition, RBF grantees have stimulated market pressure by encouraging companies in the U.S. and Europe that purchase BC forest products to demand dramatically reformed forestry practices. RBF grantees have also developed media campaigns to educate BC's public about the coast—a place few of them have seen. As a result of these and other efforts, in 1999 Home Depot declared that it would no longer buy wood products from BC's old-growth forests and that henceforth it would require products from sustainably managed forests. Ikea followed suit a few months later, and several other large suppliers of building materials have made similar pronouncements since then.



A temporary moratorium on industrial logging in the northern coastal region of British Columbia has given RBF grantees and other conservation advocates a critical opportunity to work with First Nations tribes, government officials, and representatives of the forest industry to ensure the protection of rare temperate rainforest lands.



CROSS-REFERENCE: Promoting sustainable and responsible use of natural resources requires the involvement of environmental groups, industries, government agencies, and individual citizens and consumers. The growing need for such collaborative problem solving also informs the Fund's thinking about its Nonprofit Sector and Global Security programs.