



Forest Stewardship Within Pacheedaht Traditional Territory

Pacheedaht Nation exclusively occupied our territory prior to contact with Europeans by the continuance of Pacheedaht culture, which is based upon the relationship of Pacheedaht People to our territory:

- Maintaining a spiritual relationship with the beings and the spirits of the earth, the forests, the sea, and sky.
- Living within and managing the human use of Pacheedaht territory, and utilizing, conserving and protecting the terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to assure the well-being of present and future generations, in accordance with Pacheedaht customs, laws and traditions;
- Establishing trade relationships with other Indigenous Peoples, agents of nation states, and international trading entities; and;
- Governing Pacheedaht territory through the development and maintenance of institutions and laws related to lands and resources, including laws related to access and trespass.

Pacheedaht exercised, and to the extent possible, continues to the present to exercise the following practices, customs and traditions within Pacheedaht territory, which were integral to their distinctive society prior to contact with Europeans:

- Using, harvested, managed and conserved trees, including old-growth cedar from the forested areas of Pacheedaht territory for cultural, domestic and livelihood purposes;
- Developing a culture based upon the relationship of the Pacheedaht People to the land;
- Trading outside of the Pacheedaht territory, material goods manufactured from trees harvested from Pacheedaht territory, for commercial purposes; and;
- Managing and conserved the terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

No Treaty has ever been concluded between the Crown and the Pacheedaht at all, and in particular regarding, lands, waters, airspace, resources, governance, or taxation. In failing to do so, the Crown and others have interfered with the culture and livelihood of the Pacheedaht Nation.

Today, Pacheedaht Nation continues to rely increasingly on the stewardship of the forest, and we are currently taking the following steps to ensure that future generations may, also:

- **Pacheedaht Integrated Resource Stewardship Plan** – to be developed by our community, for our community - which will include the identification of special sites, traditional use areas, and areas where conservation will be practiced.
- **Timber Harvesting Deferrals** – suspension of third-party forest management activities within specific areas identified by Pacheedaht members for protection as an immediate interim conservation measure.
- **Land & Timber Tenure Acquisitions** – Pacheedaht are actively growing the areas and timber volumes under our direct ownership and/or control.

Pacheedaht intends to fully restore the rightful ownership and management of forest resources within the territory to the Pacheedaht Nation, is engaged in government-to-government discussions with the Crown to protect and advance Pacheedaht's interests, and is not seeking, and does not welcome or support unsolicited involvement or interference from others.

Pacheedaht Council & Chief. April 7th, 2021.