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## Huu-ay-aht First Nations Announces Old-Growth Interim Report

**(Port Alberni – September 7, 2023)** - Huu-ay-aht First Nations announces completion of an Old-Growth Interim Report that outlines the work completed to date on an Indigenous-led integrated stewardship approach to ecosystem health and biodiversity, including old-growth forests.

In partnership with Huu-ay-aht Forestry Limited Partnership, Čawak ʔqin Forestry, Mosaic Forest Management, the Old-Growth Interim Report is a step towards finalizing the Hišuk ma čawak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP). The HIRMP integrates a full range of values and stewardship measures across the entire Huu-ay-aht ʔahuuli (Traditional Territory).

As part of the HIRMP, the partners developed a draft design of the Małasap (to take a bite out of) Network that integrates old forests, riparian habitat, rare ecosystems, wildlife habitat and features, and cultural and traditional use areas to maintain connectivity across the ʔahuuli.

Through the Małasap Network, 19,819 hectares of old and recruitment forests were identified to align with important values within Huu-ay-aht ʔahuuli – 13,450 hectares being 250 years or older, and the remaining 6,360 hectares part of a long-term recruitment strategy.

Guided by the best science and data available, and Huu-ay-aht's values and principles, the interim report identifies over double the amount of old-growth forests and rare ecosystems in the ʔahuuli than what was established by the Old-Growth Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).

The HIRMP and Old-Growth Interim Report demonstrates the importance and value of taking a collaborative and holistic approach to implementing land and resource management that aligns with Huu-ay-aht values and its three sacred principles: ʔiisaak (Utmost Respect), ʔuuʔatuk (Taking Care of), Hišuk ma čawak (Everything is One).

The Hišuk ma čawak Integrated Resource Management Plan will be complete by March 2024.

### Quotes:

“Hišuk ma čawak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) represents the present and future needs of the ecosystems within the Huu-ay-aht ʔahuuli. Its namesake sacred principle, Hišuk ma čawak, acknowledges the many interconnected aspects considered and incorporated into the plan. We continue to ensure we are managing our lands in a sustainable way, so it is there for the next 7 generations. To do this, we value the partnerships we have that help us manage our lands and waters”.

- Huu-ay-aht Executive Councillor, Brad Johnson (Wiiheyakchikk)



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“We are making significant progress together in the development of the Hišuk ma c’ awak Integrated Resource Management Plan. The work underway considers present and future needs to ensure lasting benefits for generations to come and we look forward to continuing to contribute to the progress made through this innovative planning process led by the Huu-ay-aht First Nations.”

- General Manager, C’awak ʔqin Forestry, Geoff Payne

“Western is proud to support the development and implementation of the Huu-ay-aht-led Hišuk ma c’ awak Integrated Resource Management Plan. With each step forward, we are pioneering a collaborative and integrated approach to ecosystem health and biodiversity that draws on local understanding, data, and technology to achieve our collective values.”

- RPF, Chief Forester, Western Forest Products, Stuart Glen

“Our relationship with Huu-ay-aht is built on a strong commitment to collaboration. The HIRMP demonstrates the immense value of partnerships for a coordinated and modernized approach to collaborative land-use planning”.

- Senior Vice President, Corporate Engagement and Chief Development Officer, Domenico Iannidinardo

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**About Huu-ay-aht First Nations** - Huu-ay-aht First Nations is an indigenous community located on the west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia. It is a part of the Nuuchahnulth Nation, formerly called the Nootka. Huu-ay-aht is a party to the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, a modern treaty that grants its five member-nations constitutionally protected self-government as well as ownership, control, and law-making authority over their lands and resources. For more information, visit [huyuayaht.org](http://huyuayaht.org).

**About C’awak ʔqin Forestry** - C’awak ʔqin Forestry (Tsawak-qin Forestry Limited Partnership) operates TFL 44 and is a limited partnership between Huumiis Ventures Limited Partnership (wholly owned by Huu-ay-aht First Nations) and Western Forest Products Inc. TFL 44 covers roughly 137,000 hectares of land on west central Vancouver Island in the vicinity of Alberni Inlet and Great Central Lake.

**About Mosaic Forest Management Corp.** - Mosaic Forest Management Corporation is in the business of sustainable forest stewardship, managing private timberlands and public forest tenures in Coastal British Columbia for more than a century. Mosaic employs several thousand people directly and indirectly, and is strongly committed to achieving positive economic, social and sustainability outcomes from the working forest. For more information, visit

[MosaicForests.com](http://MosaicForests.com).



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**Resources:**

[Old-Growth Interim Report](#)

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