



Statement of Cooperation

The Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) was formed in recognition of the benefits of strategic and collaborative approaches to conservation in Coastal Douglas-fir and associated ecosystems. The CDFCP acts currently as a collaboration of agencies, organizations and land managers interested in promoting the integrity and health of Coastal Douglas-fir and associated ecosystems into the future.

Since time immemorial, First Nations have held, and continue to hold, significant cultural knowledge, rights and title, responsibilities and relationships to their traditional territories. The CDFCP acknowledges that Coastal Douglas-fir and associated ecosystems are situated in the unceded territories of 63 First Nations. First Nations leadership and participation are key to its effective conservation. We believe that by working together through shared stewardship, we can identify and reach our shared conservation goals. The [CDFCP Conservation Strategy](#) outlines the vision, goals, objectives and actions that will guide our work. It represents a collective step towards protecting the Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems (CDFAE) for generations to come.

This *Statement of Cooperation* provides a framework of values and commitments for collaboration amongst CDFCP members. The CDFCP values transparency, accountability, and translating commitments into action. Our activities are guided by relationship-building, research, evaluation, and ongoing learning. We welcome feedback from current and prospective CDFCP members that may improve our ongoing practices, including the wording of this statement.

1. Protecting CDFAE is a collective responsibility.

We respect diverse ways of knowing that include both western scientific and First Nations knowledge systems. We will engage in multi-disciplinary, multi-government and multi-agency collaboration and intend to engage and unite the unique knowledge sets, skills, capacities and resources of all our members.

2. First Nations are integral to the conservation and stewardship of CDFAE.

We acknowledge Indigenous rights and title and will seek to integrate Indigenous priorities and responsibilities in our work.

3. Biodiversity is worth protecting.

Biodiversity includes ecosystems, species and genetic variability and the interactions among them. It holds inherent cultural teachings, knowledge, values, and practices. Protecting biodiversity also protects social and economic values. Governments, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Indigenous Governments, communities and other organizations have made commitments to conserve biological diversity. We are committed to its conservation for future generations.

4. CDFAE are unique and special.

CDFAE are unique assemblages of species and ecosystems of incredibly rich biological, ecological and cultural diversity, that do not occur elsewhere in Canada. This diversity has international significance because of its limited range in North America, and the high number of species and ecosystems at risk. This area is also home to an increasing human population drawn by the quality of life and the mildest climate in Canada. It supports a wide range of human uses, including agricultural, forestry, mining, recreation,

tourism and cultural activities. Colonial land grants have resulted in most of the region being held in private land ownership, making biodiversity conservation a shared responsibility. We are committed to protecting CDFAE for their unique gifts.

5. The future integrity of CDFAE is threatened.

Although the region’s economic wealth has long been based on its abundant natural resources, many of these activities have harmed Indigenous communities and the ecological integrity of CDFAE. Climate change, human induced land conversion and other human activities continue to threaten the unique cultural and ecological elements of CDFAE. We will not take the future health of CDFAE for granted.

6. It is not too late to secure the ecological integrity of CDFAE for future generations.

Governments (First Nations, local, provincial and federal), NGOs, community groups and individuals are aware of the many conservation issues facing CDFAE and recognize the need to conserve these special ecosystems. There is adequate scientific information and cultural knowledge to make informed decisions. We are strongly committed to cooperation and partnership for the conservation of CDFAE.

7. We will amplify collective progress made to date.

Many programs and initiatives have conserved land that contain CDFAE, implemented successful stewardship projects, created conservation plans, produced research results and an array of informative publications. In our efforts to work closely together for the future of CDFAE, we will build on the conservation activities and working relationships that have already been established in the CDFAE program area.

Guided by the values and commitments set out in this Statement of Cooperation, we aim to collectively work towards practical and effective conservation of CDFAE.

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