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# EMERALD EDGE

## THE PLACE

The Emerald Edge is the largest intact coastal rainforest remaining in the world. It is a 100-million-acre band of living forest and ocean stretching northward from the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, through Canada's coastal British Columbia and the Great Bear Rainforest, to the panhandle of remote southeast Alaska. The mosaic of land and water that weaves through the Emerald Edge is a treasure unlike anything else in the world. Here bears, wolves and elk roam the forests and shores. Whales, including orcas, navigate the waters. Salmon begin and end their long journeys. Over 35 First Nations and tribes have depended on these forests and the ocean for millennia and are an integral part of this iconic region.



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## THE CHALLENGE

Today, this ancient place is on the edge of change. In parts of the region, salmon are scarcer, the forests are diminished and only patches of majestic old-growth forest remain. Widespread unemployment in some areas poses real threats to the landscape and the people of

the Emerald Edge. Despite these challenges, the Emerald Edge holds great promise for the kind of change our world needs in the 21st century. We need initiatives that benefit nature and people and conservation that works on a scale as grand as the place itself. We can only meet this challenge by working across borders and with a wealth of committed partners.



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## THE OPPORTUNITY

The Nature Conservancy has been working along the Pacific Northwest coast for more than 50 years. Thanks to our supporters and partners, we have made tremendous steps forward across the Emerald Edge. Most notably, in the Great Bear Rainforest, we helped secure a landmark

conservation agreement designating 5 million acres off-limits to logging and putting 19 million acres under strict management guidelines that balance the needs of people and nature. Much has been accomplished but we haven't yet achieved our great vision for this extraordinary place. Conditions are ripe now to extend this holistic approach along the length of the rainforest and its coastal waters.



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**“We have the opportunity to set the bar for the rest of the world...”**

—Doug Neasloss, Resource Stewardship Director, Kitsoo Band Councillor

## WORKING AT SCALE

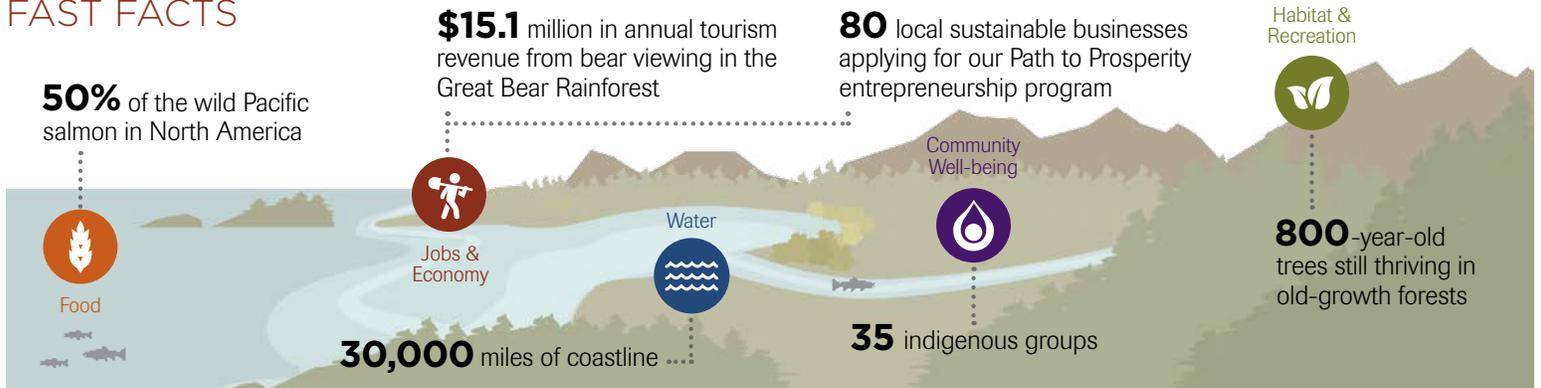
To truly make a lasting change, we must reach beyond state and national boundaries. To break the boom and bust economic cycle that has created such challenges for the people of the Emerald Edge, we must work together toward the common goal of a sustainable future, recognizing that success for conservation can't happen without the engagement of local communities.

## FROM WASHINGTON TO ALASKA, WE ARE:

- Restoring and sustainably managing old-growth forest systems for thriving communities
- Improving policies and practices to ensure a healthy living ocean
- Sparking entrepreneurship in rural communities and supporting sustainable solutions for diverse coastal economies



## FAST FACTS



## MAKE AN IMPACT

The Emerald Edge is changing the game in conservation. The Conservancy is working across the traditional boundaries created by people and our industries. We're treating people, the economy and nature as a whole and, where needed, making it whole again. Join us and become part of this historic opportunity.

The Nature Conservancy 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

[WashingtonNature.org/EmeraldEdge](http://WashingtonNature.org/EmeraldEdge)

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