

National Parks Act

Thence easterly across the road allowance and along the northerly boundary of section 10, in said township 3, to the northeast corner of said section 10;

Thence southerly along the easterly boundary of said section 10 to its southeast corner;

Thence easterly across the road allowance and along the northerly boundary of section 2 in said township 3 to the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of said section 2;

Thence southerly along the easterly boundary of the west half of said section 2 to the southeast corner of said west half;

Thence on a bearing of 180 degrees 07', a distance of 20.117 metres to a standard post on the northerly boundary of section 34, township 2, in said range 30;

Thence easterly along the northerly boundaries of sections 34, 35 and 36, including the road allowances, to the northeast corner of said section 36, in said township 2;

Thence southerly along the easterly boundaries of sections 36, 25 and 24, including the road allowance, to the southeast corner of section 24, in said township 2;

Thence easterly along the northerly boundaries of sections 18, 17 and 16, including the road allowances, to the northeast corner of section 16, township 2, range 29;

Thence southerly along the easterly boundaries of sections 16, 9 and 4, including the road allowance, to the southeast corner of section 4, township 2, range 29;

Thence southerly across the road allowance to the northeast corner of section 33, township 1, in said range 29;

Thence easterly across the road allowance and along the northerly boundary of section 34, in said township 1, to its northeast corner;

Thence southerly along the easterly boundary of said section 34 to its southeast corner;

Thence easterly along the northerly boundaries of sections 26 and 25, including the road allowances, to the northeast corner of said section 25 in said township 1;

Thence easterly across the road allowance and along the northerly boundary of section 30, township 1, range 28, to the northwest corner of said Indian Reserve;

Thence southerly along the westerly boundary of said Indian Reserve to its southwest corner;

Thence easterly along the southerly boundary of said Indian Reserve to its southeast corner, said corner being at the intersection of said limit and the left bank of said Belly River according to said plan no. 4513;

Thence generally northerly along said left bank, according to said plan no. 4513 in said Records and to plan 55466 in said Records, copy of which is registered as 6508 J.K. in said Office, to the point of commencement; as said parcel is shown on plan 50467 in said Records, a copy of which has been deposited under no. 171 J.K. in said Office;

Secondly, the whole of Parcel X and that part of Chief Mountain Highway right-of-way lying within the limits of said Indian Reserve according to plan RD 3817 in said Records, a copy of which has been filed under no. 2184 G.U. in said Office;

Said parcels containing together about 505 square kilometres (195 square miles)."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On debate the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West.

Mr. Wenman: Mr. Speaker, may I first express my appreciation for the courtesy of the House in giving consent to consider my motion. As we discussed this among ourselves in

the House, all members of the House of Commons are enthusiastic about the Carmanah watershed.

The Carmanah watershed partly in and adjacent to the boundary of the Pacific Rim National Park possesses the most significant ecosystem of Sitka spruce at least in Canada and perhaps in the world.

Sitka spruce are rare in Canada and they grow only on the West Coast. They present a majestic, striking example of Canadian forests. It is difficult to describe to you, Mr. Speaker, or anyone in the House a Sitka spruce tree of this nature. Perhaps I could suggest that Members look at the pillars in the Chamber and see that those pillars tower approximately 75 feet. If one were to put a Sitka spruce in place of that pillar, the pillar would only be part way up that Sitka spruce. If one were to take a Sitka spruce out to the tower in the Parliament Buildings that so many Canadians know and to the top of which they have gone, one would still look up to see the top of a Sitka spruce tree of the nature of the Carmanah giants.

Some people simply call them "big trees". To me they appear as living pillars holding up the sky; they are so tall as they reach forward and upward, there is no way to describe them. By this motion I want to be sure that all Members in the House of Commons, their children, and their grandchildren might have the chance not only to see the Sitka spruce but to know and feel them through the experience of a visit to that area.

Unlike West Coast valleys which are short and narrow, the Carmanah watershed contains 600 hectares of flat alluvial river bottom in the shape of an oval. It is approximately .8 kilometers by 7 kilometers and it is formed by the meandering Carmanah River. Ecologists recognize the uniqueness of this river bottom which provides the large number of Sitka spruce groves that contain approximately 2,000 of those West Coast giants.

Individual trees average 8 feet in diameter and 250 feet in height. The largest tree recently identified measures 12 feet in diameter across the bottom and towers 315 feet into the sky.

I would like to begin by crediting MacMillan Bloedel for being the first to identify officially the tallest Sitka spruce trees on record, possibly the tallest in the world, on June 13, 1988. Frank Hastings of MacMillan Bloedel measured, recorded and publicized the tallest of these giants which lie less than a mile from the famous West Coast Trail in the Pacific Rim Park. It is important to point out that MacMillan Bloedel immediately put a stop to all logging roads in the Carmanah area, upon the request of various interest groups and their own recognition.

● (1310)

In fact, we need to recognize that MacMillan Bloedel has been a responsible corporate citizen in setting aside 14,000 hectares of reserve parkland throughout the Province of British