Story Idea: Haida Involvement in Forestry

Summary: The Haida people have a long history of use of the forest. Historically, this was on a small scale as families harvested a few trees for building and carving. However, logging has become a big industry through the years, and the Haida Nation is gradually taking a more active role in managing forestry on the islands.

Facts:
- Many Haida people have worked for large logging companies in the past. At the same time, some Haida (and other locals) have objected to logging practices such as large scale clear cutting. This contrast has been evident in events such as the Lyell Island logging protest in 1985 where Haida people worked for the logging company that was being blockaded, others led and participated in the blockade, and some even arrested their relatives in their capacity as police officers.
- With changing government policies the Haida Nation has gradually taken more control over logging practices on the islands. A court case in 2004 established the need for the Crown to consult with First Nations prior to transferring or replacing Tree Farm Licences or other land use tenure.
- In the spring of 2005, the obligation to consult with the Haida was ignored when Weyerhaeuser Inc. transferred the rights to their Tree Farm License (on Graham Island) to another company, Brascan. This resulted in Haida-led blockades of logging roads on Graham Island for weeks in the spring of 2005.
- In 2010, Taan Forest was created as a division of Haico (Haida Enterprise Corporation) to manage Haida logging interests on the islands. In September of 2010, Taan Forest and BC Timber Sales signed a Cooperative Management Agreement to manage over 270,000 hectares of land. [www.taanforest.com](http://www.taanforest.com)
- Taan Wood, another division of Haico, was created at the same time as Taan Forest to manage value-added wood products from the island.

Suggested Itinerary:
Contact Taan Forest to discuss their work.

Talk with locals to learn about their opinions of current logging practices on Haida Gwaii. The communities of Sandspit and Port Clements which have historically been the main logging communities on the islands are great places to meet loggers and talk about the history of the industry and the wide variety of opinions around logging practices.

More Information:
Contact the Haida Gwaii Forest District (Ministry of Forests and Range) in Queen Charlotte for information on management of local forests: (250)559-6200.