



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2017

Restoration of the Quatse Estuary

February 27, 2017. Port Hardy, B.C. – *Ducks Unlimited Canada and their partners will be restoring part of the Quatse estuary, with the removal of the original log weir, and replacing it with a more fish and waterfowl habitat-friendly rock weir.*

The Quatse estuary is considered one of the top 10 estuary habitats on Vancouver Island, providing critical rearing and spawning habitat for Pacific salmon as well as wintering habitat to thousands of migratory birds. In 2013, the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations designated 388 acres of the estuary as the Quatse Estuary Wildlife Management Area, and manages the area through a partnership of organizations called the Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program. This partnership consists of the Province of British Columbia, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Nature Trust of British Columbia and Nature Conservancy of Canada, along with funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and Wildlife Habitat Canada. Other partners involved in our estuary work include the District of Port Hardy and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Part of the responsibility of the partnership is to ensure that the estuary is functioning to the best of its ability for fish, waterfowl and other wildlife in the area. Currently water retained in a lagoon behind the log weir can reach nearly 22 degrees Celsius in the summer months; well above ideal temperatures for salmon breeds that frequent the area. DUC wishes to reduce the temperatures in the lagoon by replacing the log weir with a rock weir, otherwise known as a Newberry weir. The rock weir allow an increase in tidal waters accessing the lagoon, which will lower temperatures and ease fish passage. DUC will also be completing a number of other smaller projects to enhance fish habitat in the area, such as planting of small trees and shrubs for shade.

DUC is scheduled to be on site March 1, 2017. Completion of the work may take until March 7, 2017. There could also be some restriction of public access to certain walkways and areas of the estuary. Once the project is complete, the quality of habitat for fish, waterfowl and other wildlife in the area should be greatly improved.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is the leader in wetland conservation. A registered charity, DUC partners with government, industry, non-profit organizations and landowners to conserve wetlands that are critical to waterfowl, wildlife and the environment. Learn more at ducks.ca.

For further information or if you would like to know how you can help the wetlands in your area, please contact:

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