

Key Habitat Conservation Priority  
**Georgia Basin**

**\$35 million**

REPRESENTING SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST PRODUCTIVE HABITATS, THE ESTUARIES OF THE GEORGIA BASIN IN B.C. ARE AT HIGH RISK OF LOSS DUE TO URBAN, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. DUC IS WORKING TO PROTECT THESE AREAS AND ENSURE THEIR LONG-TERM HEALTH.



**T**HE GEORGIA BASIN encompasses the Fraser River Delta and the east coast of Vancouver Island. Many waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway use British Columbia's Georgia Basin for migration and wintering habitat. An estimated 25 per cent of the Pacific Flyway's trumpeter swan population forages here in the winter. The complex of intertidal habitats, river deltas and adjoining floodplains, including agricultural fields, create estuaries that represent some of the world's most productive habitats. More than 300

species of birds, 42 mammal species and 20 reptile species live here.

Estuaries are also focal points for urban and industrial development, which are major threats to these habitats. Coastal land values have accelerated with urbanization and changes in agricultural practices, placing pressures on remaining natural (e.g. intertidal) and modified habitats (e.g. agriculture). All DUC programs are integrated with government and non-government organizations to most effectively leverage funding, expertise and other resources.



DUC HAS TARGETED MORE THAN 130,000 acres of habitat for protection within our conservation vision. Through our work with various levels of governments we will endeavor to effect policy changes that protect priority areas. This, along with direct land purchases, conservation easements and on-farm planning with landowners, will protect these diminishing areas and ensure their long-term health for wildlife and people. ✈

