

# Backgrounder

## Wetland Stewardship Partnership Wetland Action Plan July 2009

Wetlands are among the most biologically diverse, productive, and important life support systems on Earth. Valued not only for providing habitat to some 600 wildlife species, these ecosystems are critical to the environmental, social and economic health of B.C.'s towns, cities, and rural areas.

However, wetlands are at risk due to increasing pressures such as urban and commercial development, climate change and resource industry expansion. Accounting for less than 6% of the province's total land base, in some areas up to 85% of wetlands have been lost.

The Wetland Stewardship Partnership (WSP) is in the final stages of producing a dynamic, results-oriented strategy entitled *A Wetland Action Plan for British Columbia*. The action plan provides a context and rationale for the plan's goals and objectives with information on the status of and threats to wetlands in B.C., ecological values of wetlands, and goods and services provided by wetlands. The plan outlines specific objectives and actions, and evaluates current conservation initiatives.

### The goals of the *Wetland Action Plan*.

Goal 1	Promote and participate in strategic planning processes in British Columbia that encourage the conservation of wetlands.
Goal 2	Work with all levels of government to promote the effective use of existing tools and to promote stronger policies and legislation in support of wetland conservation.
Goal 3	Develop and promote the use of a wetland information base to assist in the implementation of plans, planning processes, legislation and policy.
Goal 4	Improve the development and delivery of public education and stewardship programs that encourage the conservation of wetlands.
Goal 5	Support the securement of priority wetlands through fee simple acquisition, conservation covenants, Crown Land reservations and protected areas.
Goal 6	Support the restoration and enhancement of natural wetlands and, where appropriate, the creation of new wetlands.

For more information:

Contact: Jan Kirkby  
Phone: (250) 616-3234  
e-mail: [info@bcwetlands.ca](mailto:info@bcwetlands.ca)



The WSP is a multi-agency group dedicated to the conservation of wetlands and other sensitive ecosystems. Partners include:

Environment Canada • Ministry of Environment • Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport • BC Hydro  
BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) • BC Wildlife Federation • Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC • Nature Conservancy of Canada • Nature Trust of B.C. • Pacific Salmon Foundation