

August 15, 2022

Re: Upcoming lowering of water levels and clearing in Watson Slough

We're writing to update you on our upcoming work in Watson Slough.

In 2017, the Peace River Regional District requested that we delay clearing Watson Slough until reservoir filling. In response to your request, we reviewed our clearing plans and determined that we could reduce the number of trees to be cleared at that time. As a result, approximately 10 per cent of the trees were cleared in early 2017 leaving approximately 90 per cent of the trees in place until the winter before reservoir filling.

To meet our projected in-service date of 2025, Site C reservoir filling could begin as early as fall 2023, making it time to begin clearing the remaining trees from Watson Slough. We need to remove as many trees as is feasible from the reservoir area, so they do not create a hazard to boats when the reservoir is filled.

We currently anticipate the following schedule of activities:

- September 2022: lowering of the water levels in Watson Slough.
- October 2022 – late March 2023: clearing the remaining trees in Watson Slough.

We recognize that wetlands like Watson Slough are important components of ecosystems, providing productive habitats for a wide range of plants and animals, including species at risk. We've partnered with Ducks Unlimited, which has extensive expertise in building and restoring wetlands, to identify more than 500 hectares of wetland compensation opportunities in the Peace Region. A 50-hectare Golata Creek wetland has already been completed and 175 hectares of wetland area are being saved in 2022 by conserving three wetlands that would have been lost had we not intervened.

For more information

[Watson Slough](#)

[Wildlife and vegetation](#), including wetland restoration.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

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