

## SITE C PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

# Watson Slough Clearing

As part of the Site C environmental management program, BC Hydro is committed to avoiding or reducing project effects to wetlands. Where effects cannot be avoided, BC Hydro will replace lost wetland habitats by improving existing wetlands, creating new wetlands with similar functions to those lost, and purchasing lands with wetlands and protecting them.

We are continuing to partner with Ducks Unlimited to identify additional opportunities to secure, enhance and manage wetland sites, looking first within one kilometre of the project area, followed by sites within the Peace region, and finally looking at other wetland opportunities outside the region.

## Cache Creek/Bear Flat Clearing

Clearing work in the Cache Creek/Bear Flat area is taking place in early 2017 to prepare the area for the realignment of Highway 29. This area includes the Watson Slough, a wetland area that will be lost to inundation when the reservoir for the Site C project is created in 2022.

In February 2017, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) requested that BC Hydro delay clearing Watson Slough until reservoir filling. In response to this request, BC Hydro reviewed its clearing plans and determined that it could reduce the number of trees to be cleared at this time. As a result, approximately 10 per cent of the trees will be cleared at Watson Slough in early 2017, leaving approximately 90 per cent of the trees in place until the winter before reservoir filling.

BC Hydro's revised clearing plan for Watson Slough will retain the wetland and its use by wildlife for a longer period of time. BC Hydro could not fully accommodate the PRRD's request due to risks to the construction schedule.



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## Protecting Bald Eagle Nests

No active Bald Eagle nests will be removed during Site C construction. BC Hydro will only remove or relocate Bald Eagle nests when they are inactive, as confirmed by a qualified professional, and in accordance with our Wildlife Act permit.

A "no-clearing buffer" will be implemented around each active nest. This buffer will be maintained for as long as necessary to avoid disturbance to the nesting birds.

BC Hydro will also install up to 38 artificial nesting platforms during the construction period. Where feasible and safe, nests will be removed intact and relocated and installed on nest platforms.