



DUC'S NATIONAL BOREAL PROGRAM HAS SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

Canada's boreal forest is part of one of the largest and most important ecosystems in the world. While Canada's boreal is largely undeveloped, industrial activity is expanding. Practical approaches based in sound science will help to minimize footprint intensity, accelerate reclamation and preserve biodiversity.

The National Boreal Program of Ducks Unlimited Canada works collaboratively with partners. We have significant experience working with governments, industry, Indigenous Peoples, academics and other stakeholders. Together we develop conservation solutions relating to boreal wetlands, waterfowl and other wetland dependent species.

We use a science-based approach to understand boreal ecosystems, address conservation challenges and meet shared goals. This approach provides the knowledge and tools necessary for DUC and our partners to develop, market and deliver conservation that works. We believe in planning, evaluating and adapting our conservation programs using the best information available.

The National Boreal Program uses three key strategies to conserve boreal wetlands. We support the development and implementation of sustainable land use, protected areas and wetland policy. These three approaches reinforce the program's balanced approach to conservation. We recognize that conservation challenges and opportunities will vary across industry and jurisdiction. Our goal is to conserve the cultural, sustainable economic and natural values of the boreal.

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Promoting and supporting sustainable land use is an important strategy for boreal wetland and waterfowl conservation. Waterfowl are spread at low densities across Canada's boreal forest. These low densities, coupled with the economic importance

of natural resource development, mean that protected areas alone will not be sufficient to conserve healthy waterfowl populations. Sustainable land use is an important complementary tool that will help conserve boreal wetlands and the services they provide while maintaining economic benefits and social values.

The boreal program works to achieve sustainable land use by informing, influencing and engaging in government policy and programs. It also informs and influences specific industry operating guidelines, standards and practices. We engage in land-use planning processes and promote the use of best management practices as mechanisms for promoting and implementing sustainable land use.



DUC is the country's leading wetland conservation organization. DUC's National Boreal Program works collaboratively with governments, industry, Indigenous Peoples, academics and others to address conservation challenges and meet our shared goals. The Boreal Program has 20 years of experience working with partners in Alberta's Green Area.



DUC'S WETLAND KNOWLEDGE EXPERTISE: GIS AND REMOTE SENSING

Understanding wetland type, extent, and ecological characteristics is important for making informed decisions around land use. DUC's National Boreal Program leverages GIS and remote sensing techniques to help our partners make more informed decisions, saving them time and money.

After 20 years of work in the boreal forest, DUC has extensive experience using GIS and remote sensing tools, products and applications. These techniques provide a spatial understanding of wetlands and their role on the landscape.

DUC is leading the effort to provide detailed and accurate wetland maps for large areas of the western boreal forest. Our Enhanced Wetland Classification inventory maps provide partners with valuable tools for working in wetlands and help DUC achieve its conservation goals.

DUC'S WETLAND KNOWLEDGE EXPERTISE: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) PROGRAM

DUC's BMP Program was developed to help industry's growing interest to implement practices that support responsible natural resource management that includes conservation of wetlands and the ecological services they provide to wildlife and society. We are working collaboratively with organizations to:

- ➕ identify and understand the potential impacts of industrial activities on wetlands and waterfowl habitat;
- ➕ collate and evaluate planning and operating practices; and
- ➕ use our collective wetland and waterfowl knowledge to help improve existing practices and develop new ones.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

Resource Roads and Wetlands Project

DUC worked with Louisiana-Pacific Canada, Weyerhaeuser Canada, Spruce Products Ltd. and FPInnovations and received



DUC's National Boreal Program recognizes that large parts of the boreal are working forests.

funding from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative to launch the Roads and Wetlands Project in Manitoba. The intent of the project was to build wetland roads that function as required and minimize impacts on wetland hydrologic processes. It resulted in the development of an operational guide and led to a national handbook to help educate foresters on how to build better wetland crossings in the boreal.

Forest Management and Wetlands Stewardship Initiative

DUC is working in partnership with forestry sector leaders to share knowledge and resources to advance sustainable forest management and wetland stewardship in the boreal forest.

Under the Forest Management and Wetland Stewardship Initiative, the partners are working collaboratively on priority projects that integrate wetland and waterfowl conservation into ongoing forest management planning and field operations. The coalition is establishing wetland conservation guiding principles and best management practices. These will support companies in achieving their forest management objectives and help them meet the criteria for forest certification programs.

Partners in the three-year initiative include Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., Canfor, the Forest Products Association of Canada, Millar Western Forest Products Ltd., Tolko Industries Ltd., West Fraser and Weyerhaeuser Company.