



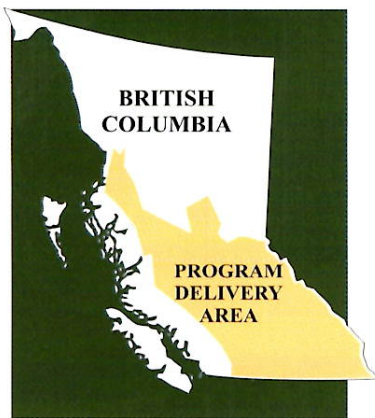
INTERMOUNTAIN

Wetland Conservation Program

Partnerships for Sustainable Land Use

Wildlife-Friendly Land-Use Practices for the Interior of British Columbia

An Initiative of:
**Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
Ducks Unlimited Canada**



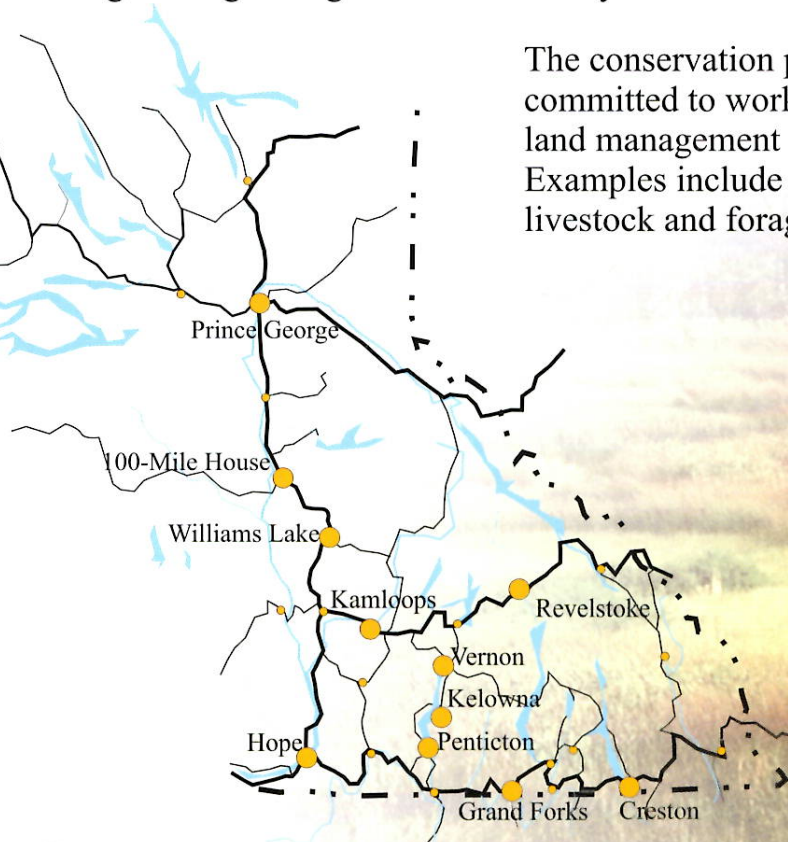
INTERMOUNTAIN

Wetland Conservation Program (IWCP)

The IWCP's goal is to protect wetland and riparian areas and provide wildlife throughout the plateaus and valleys of the Interior of BC. R vegetable-growing areas of the valleys are the main target areas.

The Intermountain program delivery area covers 390,000 square kilometers, only 4% of which are wetlands and lakes. Because of their scarcity, wetlands and the habitats surrounding them are increasingly valuable to the wildlife relying upon them.

The most productive wetlands are associated with rangelands and agricultural areas of the valley bottoms and low to mid-elevation benches. These are home to 26 species of ducks, as well as amphibians, fish, mammals and a variety of songbirds. These wildlife rely not only on the wetlands but also on good quality riparian and upland habitats surrounding them. These same habitats are important to the ranching and agriculture industry.



The conservation partners of the Inter committed to working with interested land management practices that are p Examples include the protection and/ livestock and forage production, and



Expanding urban populations cause towns and cities to encroach into nearby areas. These all have an influence on wetland habitats and the wildlife and people who depend on them. Conservation covenants and land purchases are potential tools to provide long-term formal security and habitat protection for these key areas.

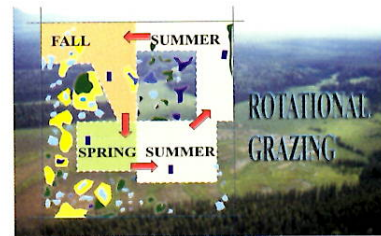


Wildlife research helps identify the needs of species which occur almost exclusively in the interior of BC. For example, over 60 % of the world's population of Barrow's Goldeneye nest in the BC Central Interior.

A Partnership Approach to Habitat Conservation and Sustainable Land Use in B.C.'s Interior

perennial or native grass cover for
angeland, forest lands and fruit and

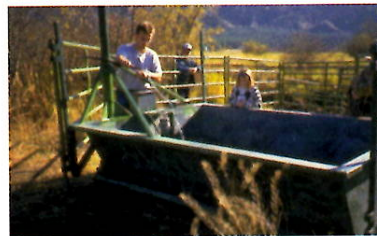
mountain Wetland Conservation Program are
landowners in key habitat areas and promoting
profitable and environmentally sustainable.
for restoration of natural habitats, management of
soil conservation measures.



Rotational grazing systems optimize livestock use of forages while ensuring healthy grasslands for livestock and wildlife such as ungulates, nesting birdlife and many smaller wildlife.

Stockwatering devices reduce livestock disturbance to riparian habitats and provide clean water for improved livestock weight gain.

Fencing riparian areas can be part of a comprehensive grazing management regime and can ensure reliable sources of clean water for livestock, the people in nearby communities, and fish & wildlife populations.



The documentation and evaluation of program initiatives ensures that wildlife, habitat, forage, and livestock needs are met effectively.



Rangelands in BC's Interior contain some of the province's most productive wetlands and riparian areas. These wetlands benefit 60% to 80% of BC's birds and mammals while providing important forage to the province's livestock herds.



The Need for Habitat Conservation in BC's Interior

The Intermountain Wetland Conservation Program (IWCP) covers a vast 390,000 square kilometers of British Columbia's interior. Climate varies from dry, semi-arid regions in the south to wetter, more temperate areas in the north. Productive valley bottoms give way to dry grasslands, forests and alpine meadows. However, despite the tremendous variety within this region, only 4% of the area is comprised of wetland and lake habitats. The health and sustainability of wildlife populations, fish stocks, amphibians, waterfowl, songbirds and the agricultural and ranching industries are closely tied to the health of these limited wetland areas.

Wetlands are often called the kidneys of the earth. They filter out suspended sediments that have been picked up through erosion, convert excess nutrients and fertilizers into lush vegetation, and release clean water to downstream users. They act as giant sponges, soaking up the excess water of spring runoff, and release it gradually into streams and underground aquifers. These functions are vital to the sustainability of resource-based industry, to fish and wildlife, and to the health of the human population.

The goal of the IWCP is to improve the landscapes encompassing our wetlands, lakes and streams. Working together, we can implement a variety of tools that benefit the landscape and the land user. New ideas and old can result in projects that demonstrate how habitat improvement and economic benefits can come together.



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