



October 26, 2015

Re: Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area Adjacent Landowners

---

This bulletin is intended to familiarize you with the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area and to provide you with the requirements for any work proposed below the Present Natural Boundary with the Strait of Georgia. The Wildlife Management Area (WMA) encompasses 1,024 hectares (2,529 acres) of Crown coastal foreshore, estuary and river habitat lying between Craig Bay and the Little Qualicum River estuary. This area was designated under Section 4(2) of the BC *Wildlife Act* in 1993 and is administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The WMA was established to protect the rich diversity of ecosystems and a wealth of resident and migratory animals and plant communities that occur on these beaches. This includes large flocks of Pacific black Brant geese that depend on stable, healthy shoreline ecosystems for resting and food on their migration north to breeding grounds in the Arctic.

Properties along the Parksville Qualicum Beach shoreline corridor offer world class views of the Strait of Georgia, relaxed lifestyles and a close connection with the environment. Owning waterfront property is not without its challenges, however as our shores, including the WMA, are increasingly exposed to the effects of climate change, especially erosion, storm surges and sea level rise. Where deep rooted shoreline trees have been removed to make way for urban development, the impact of more frequent and severe storms is often accelerated. This results in property loss which, in turn, triggers the construction of hard shoreline protection which, unfortunately, may accelerate erosion and loss of adjacent land and habitat loss. For these reasons, we recommend that landowners consider the use of low impact shoreline protection strategies when protecting their property, such as those recommended by Green Shores<sup>1</sup> which consider all shoreline values, including species and ecosystems and private property.

We would also like shoreline landowners to be aware that, prior to works being conducted, a General Wildlife Permit is required to gain motorized access onto the beaches of the WMA (within the intertidal zone). Applications for a General Wildlife Permit to conduct work within the WMA may be obtained from FrontCounter BC<sup>2</sup>. Trespass on the foreshore without proper authorization will be followed by enforcement actions. If you are contemplating work to protect your shoreline property, and you will require access below the Present Natural Boundary, please note the following:

1. All structures must be located on your property, at or above the **Present Natural Boundary** (best identified by legal survey).

.../2

---

<sup>1</sup> The Green Shores Initiative, The Stewardship Centre for BC: [http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green\\_shores/](http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green_shores/)

<sup>2</sup> FrontCounter BC: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/>

2. In addition to the information required in the General Wildlife Permit application, the following information is requested to facilitate our review:
- A detailed description of the proposed work, including materials and construction methods;
  - Proposed timing and duration of the work;
  - Photographs showing the existing and adjacent shoreline condition;
  - A drawing showing the proposed work and beach access in relation to property boundaries and location of the Present Natural Boundary;
  - A description of proposed mitigation to prevent impacts to shoreline ecosystems; and,
  - Proof that the applicant has reviewed the proposal with the appropriate local government.

Once we have received your application we may contact you for additional information or to discuss alternatives to minimize impacts to species and ecosystems in the WMA. Resident and migratory species use a variety of habitats within the WMA year round, so appropriate timing of work is considered on a case-by-case basis. In general, however, motorized access to the beach between October 1 and June 30 would not likely be supported since this is when sensitive species are present.

You should also note that the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach or Regional District of Nanaimo may require a Development Permit for proposed shoreline protection construction or maintenance in proximity to the Present Natural Boundary. Please contact the appropriate local government for more information concerning the Development Permit process that may affect your property.

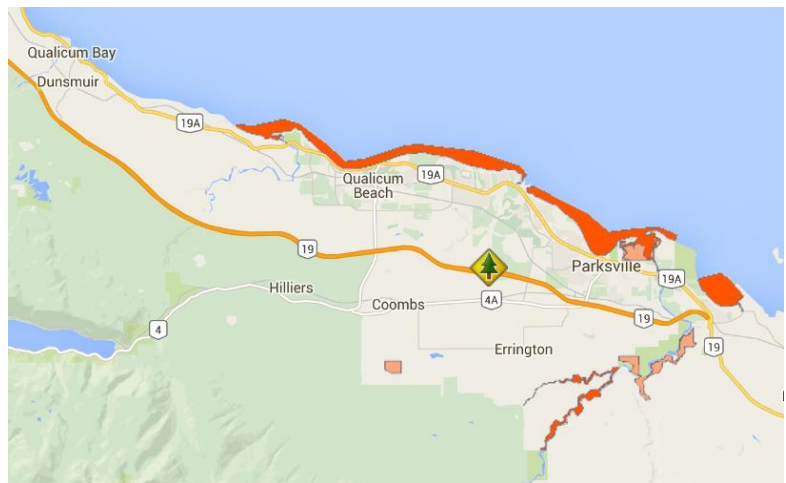
Additional information regarding the WMA, and how you can help to protect it, can be found at: [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/habitat/conservation-lands/wma/parksville\\_qualicum/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/habitat/conservation-lands/wma/parksville_qualicum/) or contact the ministry's West Coast Regional office through FrontCounter BC. Information may also be obtained by visiting one of the many interpretive locations throughout the Wildlife Management Area, or by attending events during the Brant Wildlife Festival<sup>3</sup>.

Thank you for helping us to ensure that the remarkable fish, wildlife and cultural values of the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area will be maintained for future generations.

Yours truly,



Ron Diederichs  
Ecosystems Section Head



Parksville Qualicum Wildlife Management Area shown in red (Source: Province of BC, 2015)

<sup>3</sup> Brant Wildlife Festival, <http://brantfestival.bc.ca/>