WHAT LIVES IN WETLANDS

might see in the Rithet's Bog wetlands:

Birds

Red winged blackbird.
Violet-green and Tree Swallows
Great blue herons.
Mallards.
American coots.
Migrating ducks in spring and fall:
Green winged teal, American widgeon, Northern shoveler, Northern pintail.

Mammals

Muskrat.
Mink.

Reptiles

Garter snakes are semi aquatic and can be seen swimming or near water.

Amphibians

Pacific chorus frogs are common, but shy. You might hear them but not see them.
Red legged frogs.
Long toed salamanders.

Insects

Butterflies.
Dragonflies and Damselflies.
Water striders.
Diving beetles.

WHAT WETLANDS DO

Regulate Flow

Wetlands collect and store water from heavy rainfall events. They then slowly release that water into downstream parts of the watershed. This prevents flash flooding and erosion damage. Rithet's Bog discharges water into Lower Gabo Creek, which then flows into the Colquitz River. The water retention capabilities of Rithet's Bog help protect salmon spawning and rearing areas in Colquitz River from flood and erosion damage.

Purify Water

Wetlands slow water flow which allows sediment to settle out. Wetland plants utilize nutrients and reduce nutrient loading on downstream sections of their watersheds. Some wetland plants such as cattail can purify water by absorbing pollutants, especially heavy metals, into their root systems.

Wetlands at Rithet's Bog

Rithet's Bog is not a single wetland. It is a complex of several different types of wetland. Rithet's Bog contains examples of all eight of the wetland types described on the other side of this sheet. All except the peat bog are visible from the perimeter trail.

The peat bog is only a tiny remnant of what was historically an extensive bog. We are working on restoring and expanding the remaining bog. It is not accessible to the public at this time.

To learn more about Rithet's Bog see:

www.rithetsbog.org

Rithet's Bog Conservation Society

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

2015-04-15

TYPES OF WETLANDS AT RITHET'S BOG

Rithet's Bog Conservation Society

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

MINERAL SOILS

Water source: Surface water
High nutrients
Neutral to slightly basic (alkaline) pH

Maximum water depth

1 to 2 m.	Less than 1 m.	Only floods occaisionally.
Soil saturated	Soil saturated	Soil wet but not saturated
SHALLOW OPEN WATER Plants - submerged: Duckweed, Smartweed, Pondweed.	**MARSH** Plants - emergent soft stemmed: Cattail, Bulrushes, tall grasses.	**WET MEADOW** Plants - non-emergent soft stemmed: grasses.
MUDFLATS Shallow open water areas that dry up in summer. Plants - non-emergent: Nodding beggerticks.	**SWAMP** Plants - emergent woody stemmed shrubs or trees: Hardhack, Willow, Cottonwood.	**SHRUB CARR** Plants - non-emergent woody stemmed shrubs: Hardhack, Nootka rose, small shrub willow.

ORGANIC (PEAT) SOILS

Ground water	Rain water
Moderate nutrients	Low nutrients
Neutral to slightly acidic pH	Acidic pH
Maximum water depth	Peat retains water like a sponge, floods in winter.
Less than 1 m.	
Soil saturated	Soil saturated
FEN Plants - emergent: grasslike: sedges, grasses, a few shrub willow.	**BOG** Plants - Acidophillic (acid tolerant): Peat moss (Sphagnum) Labrador tea, Bog cranberry.

This brochure summarizes information found in pages 1 to 21 of:

Understanding Wetlands
A Wetland Handbook for British Columbia's Interior

Published by
Ducks Unlimited Canada.