



## **Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance (WSDA)**

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### **WSDA Alliance Statement Regarding West Creek Headwaters**

Instead of draining the wetlands for industrial development, every effort needs to be taken to protect wetlands from drying up, or being drained. Conservation and enhancement of the wetlands will go a long way to ensure that we give endangered salmon a chance to survive. The destruction of salmon habitats would result in pushing this keystone species further into extinction. This can and must be prevented.

Nutrients from riparian vegetation and catchment characteristics in the wetlands that control hydrology and thermal regimes play an important role in smolt production of coho and other salmon species. Wetlands provide coho with rich foraging opportunities where there are lots of insects for them to consume and grow big enough to continue their journey out to the ocean to continue their life cycle.

The Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance joins in the groundswell of voices urging federal, provincial and municipal authorities to take every conservation measure to protect the wetlands. This would not only sustain a valuable fish habitat, it would also help sustain wild life which also depend on the wetlands – ducks, beavers, deer, coyotes, eagles and many other species.

As Robert Schaefer, Community Advisor of the DFO so eloquently stated, "... West Creek, and its tributaries should be protected as much as possible in order to continue to provide suitable spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, and also be protected to help maintain all the other biodiversity of life that utilizes the watershed."

Instead of destroying the wetlands, consideration must be given to attracting people to enjoy what Langley can offer in terms of restoring and protecting biodiversity, that in turn, helps curb climate change. Eco-tourism opportunities are real, and must be pursued as an alternative to adverse industrial development.

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