

Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

North Island Area

Cluxewe Salt Marsh & Estuary, Port McNeill



Cluxewe Beach Sunset: photo by Doug Levitt



Pacific Loons: photo by Doug Levitt

The Wildlife Management Area and Nature Trust lands at the Cluxewe River Estuary protect a unique combination of river estuary and salt marsh in close proximity. Large rafts of waterbirds, bear and Orca can be viewed from the beach.

[Photo Gallery](#)

Geographical Description	At the Cluxewe River 10 km west of Port McNeill on northeast Vancouver Island, at the separation of Broughton & Queen Charlotte Straits.
Area/ Trail Length	46 ha. Nature Trust of BC property. 137 ha. Wildlife Management Area.
Seasons to Visit	Year round. Late fall & winter for waterbirds. Spring for nesting songbirds.
Habitat	Salt marsh, estuary, sandy spit.
Viewing Highlights	<p>Bald Eagles can be seen all year, and at least two nest sites are found in the Cluxewe area. Great blue herons and kingfishers are also year round residents. Many seasonal waterfowl like Trumpeter Swan, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Surf Scoter and Harlequin Duck can be viewed from the Cluxewe spit.</p> <p>Black Bears, Black-tailed Deer, River Otters, Mink, and bats are common and occasionally wolves are seen. Cougars are in the area but rarely visible. Marine mammals, including orca, are sometimes viewed from the beach.</p> <p>Pink and coho salmon spawn August-October.</p>

Other Features	Across from Pulteney Point Lighthouse on Malcolm Island.
Main Access	10 km west of Port McNeill. Map
Secondary Accesses	
Cautions	Black Bear frequent the area. Occasional non-resident Grizzly Bear have been seen in the area.
Jurisdiction	Nature Trust of BC; BC Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations.
Regulations	
Facilities	Gas & groceries available in Port McNeill. Camping available at Cluxewe Resort, owned by Kwakiutl First Nation.
Other Recreational Activities	Kayaking, fishing.
Other Connections	A map with directions to trails is available at the Cluxewe Resort office.
History	The Nature Trust of BC acquired 46 ha. in 1981. The WMA was designated in 2001.
FMI Links	Vancouver Island North Trails Nature Trust of BC Cluxewe Wildlife Management Area Cluxewe Resort