



Welcome to Laughlin Lake



You are standing at Laughlin Lake, a 27 acre parcel of land that includes an 11 acre shallow water lake. In 2001 this land was bought and protected with conservation covenants by the Galiano Conservancy Association, with assistance from Habitat Acquisition Trust, the Islands Trust Fund, Mountain Equipment Coop and Environment Canada's Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative.

Wetlands are The Vital Organs of Terrestrial Ecosystems.

Freshwater ecosystems make up a mere 1% of the Southern Gulf Islands land base. Laughlin Lake is the largest lake on Galiano Island.



Pacific tree frog

It's a Lake, It's a Field, It's a Lake...

Laughlin lake's recent history, say the last 150 years, is the story of beaver dams vs human ditches. Human influences on the area have included agriculture, logging, gravel mining, development (roads and residences), and now conservation and ecological restoration.



beaver

The East end of the lake has seen the most severe human disturbance. Ecological restoration work began in this zone during the summer of 2000. Ecological Restoration is the process of assisting nature to heal land that has been damaged, degraded or destroyed. Our restoration activities have included....

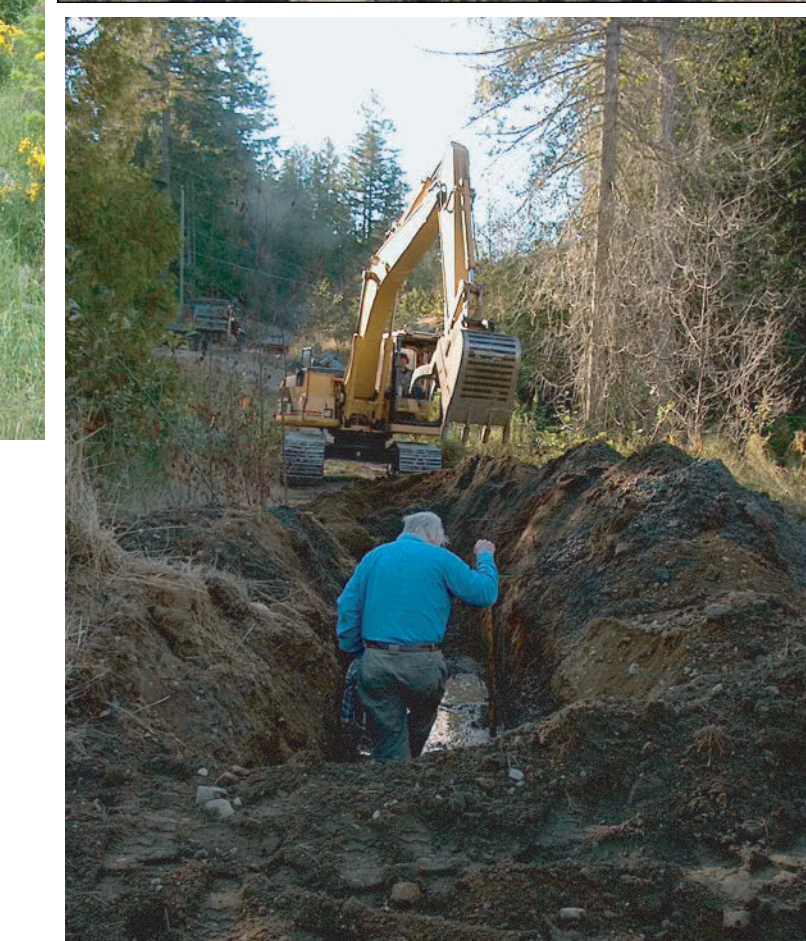
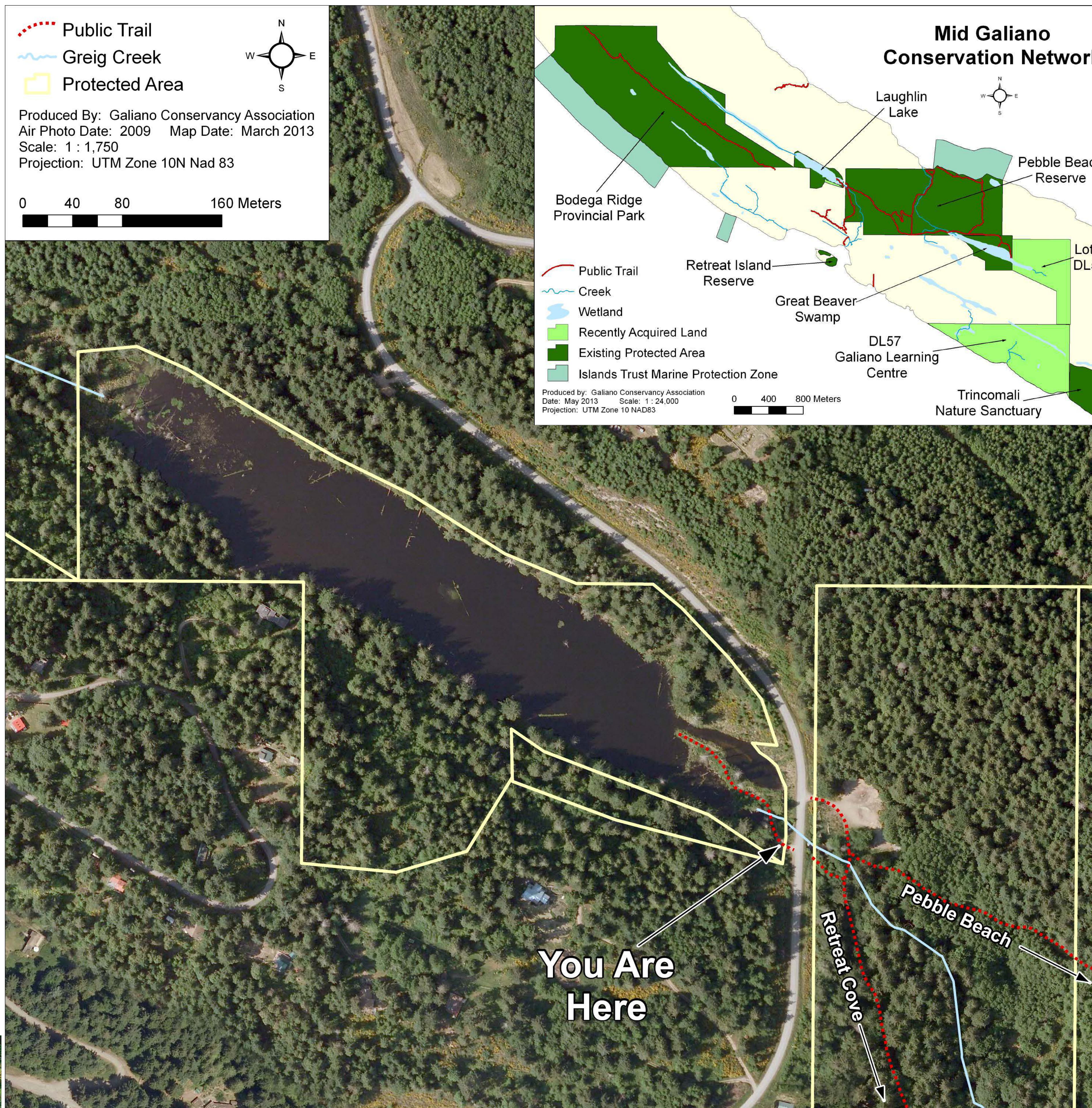
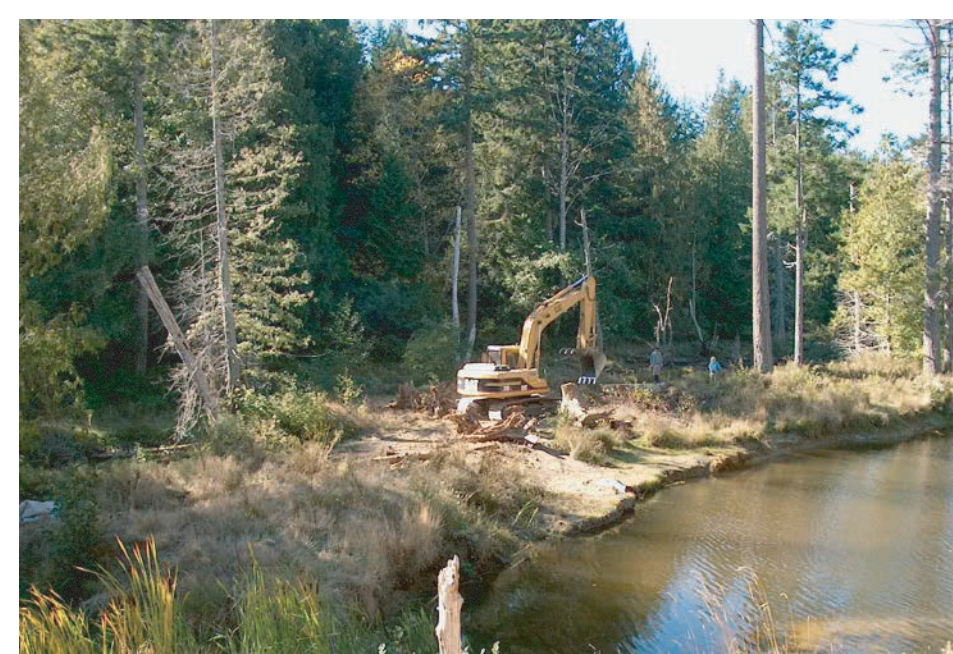
....Scotch broom removal....

There's No Room For Broom!!



Invasive plant species like Scotch broom fill the disturbed riparian zone, stalling natural succession and slowing recovery of native plant and animal diversity.

...Road and landing restoration....



.....Installing a stand pipe to provide the fire department emergency access to water ...

....Planting native vegetation to speed up the healing process....

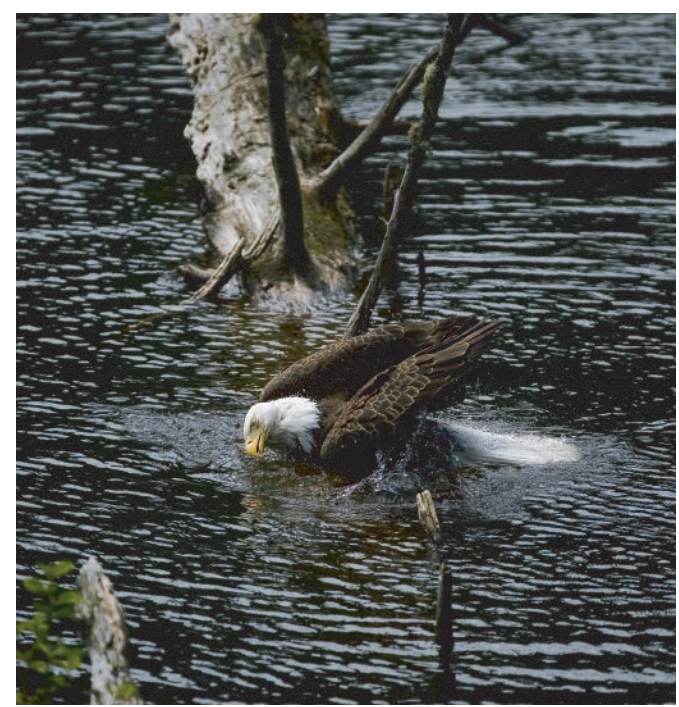


...Building a footbridge over restored stream channel.

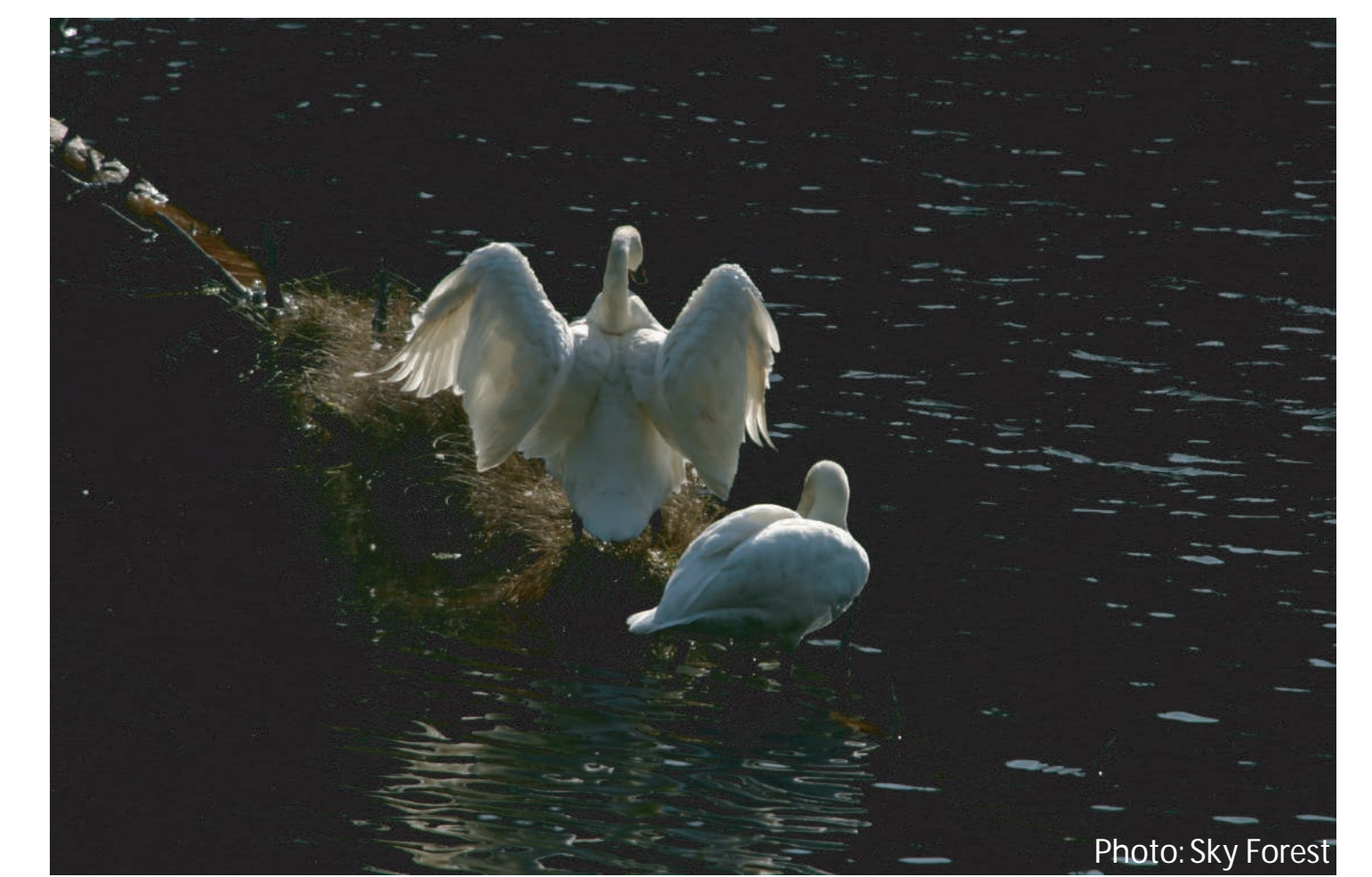


"Restoration ecology is experimental science, a science of love and altruism. In its attempts to reverse the processes of ecosystem degradation it runs exactly counter to the market system, to land speculation, to the whole cultural attitude of regarding the Earth as commodity rather than community. It is a soft-souled science." Stephanie Mills (author "In Service of the Wild")

Wetlands are hotspots for biodiversity, they also slow down water runoff helping to recharge groundwater. Although without fish, Laughlin lake is frequented by many animal species from rough-skinned newts and red-legged frogs (federal species of special concern), to bathing bald eagles and foraging blue herons (federally listed as vulnerable). The lake is a migratory stopover for trumpeter swans, a splendid hopping ground for Pacific tree frogs and a nesting area for many species of water-fowl.

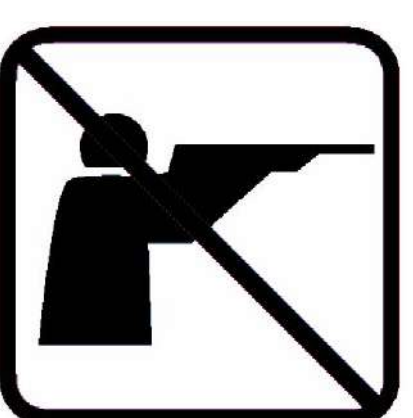


bald eagle



trumpeter swans

Enjoy your visit to the lake; use at your own risk. Please respect this special place and kindly pack out your trash, take only pictures and observe the following:



For more information contact the Galiano Conservancy Association : Ph. 250-539-2424 or visit our website

www.galianoconservancy.ca

