

Superb waterfowl habitat

The Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area (NWA), located northeast of Teslin, contains an internationally important fall staging area for migratory waterfowl. As water levels drop, thousands of ducks, geese, swans and shorebirds stop here to feed on exposed mud flats before they continue on their long journey south.

In 1995, the Nisutlin River Delta NWA was established as part of the land claims settlement with the Teslin Tlingit Council. The NWA is managed to protect wildlife and their habitats while also recognizing and protecting the Teslin Tlingit's traditional and current uses of the land.



The boundary of the NWA includes the lower reaches of the Nafasin River (Nisutlin River) and a major portion of the delta. NWA boundary signs are posted only at main entry points.

Contacts

The Nisutlin River Delta NWA is co-managed by Environment Canada, the Teslin Renewable Resource Council, the Teslin Tlingit Council, and the Yukon Department of Environment.

Teslin Renewable Resource Council

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Publications

Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area Management Plan. 2004.
Canadian Wildlife Service, Whitehorse, Yukon.

The Yukon Department of Environment has several publications regarding wilderness travel and wildlife, including *Into the Yukon Wilderness* and the *Yukon Wildlife Viewing Guide*.



Environment
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

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de la faune

Cameron Eckert



Yellow Warbler

Moose

Rob Florkevicz



Wildlife haven

The Nalasin River (formerly known as the Nisutlin River) valley and delta provide excellent winter range for moose, and are important early spring feeding areas for cow moose and their calves. Grizzly bears, black bears, wolves and a wide variety of furbearers also live in the area. The river valley supports one of the largest concentrations of breeding Trumpeter Swans in Canada and provides nesting habitat for thousands of ducks, geese and songbirds. Salmon spawn in the river tributaries and the rich supply of nutrients flowing from the river delta to Teslin Lake support lake trout, Arctic grayling, burbot and northern pike.

What can I do? How do I get there?

The delta is a popular place for waterfowl and moose hunting in the fall (federal, territorial, and Wildlife Area regulations apply), as well as wildlife viewing, canoeing and camping during spring and summer. You can access the area by boat or aircraft. If you have several days, you can travel down the Nalasin River (Nisutlin River) from an access point 68 kilometers up the South Canol road. For shorter trips, travel up Nisutlin Bay from the boat launch located under the Teslin bridge. Motorized boats are allowed, but personal watercrafts (JetSki, SeaDoo), airboats and hovercrafts are prohibited. Commercial, industrial, and research activities require a permit.

Travelling safely and respectfully

The Nisutlin River Delta NWA is an undeveloped wilderness area with no staff, facilities or services. Potential dangers may include: unpredictable weather, hazards related to river travel and boating, encounters with wildlife. Visitors need to be self-sufficient, well equipped, and experienced in wilderness travel. A satellite phone and emergency numbers are highly recommended, and tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. This is a user maintained area. Please keep your campsites clean, pack out your garbage, and bury human waste. Keep your campfires small and respect campfire restrictions that may be in place (1-800-826-4750 Fire Information line). There are some cabins, fish camps, and heritage sites within the area that belong to the Teslin Tlingit. Please do not disturb these sites.



Lesser Yellowlegs



Bald Eagle



Dragonfly



American Wigeon



Yellow-rumped Warbler



River Valley Habitat

Photos: Cameron Eckert



The Nisutlin River delta