

ONE WITH NATURE

Outdoor Education Project

Crown Land Applications
1415403, 1415404, 1415322

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Outdoor Education • Safety • Environmental Responsibility

Purpose of This Document

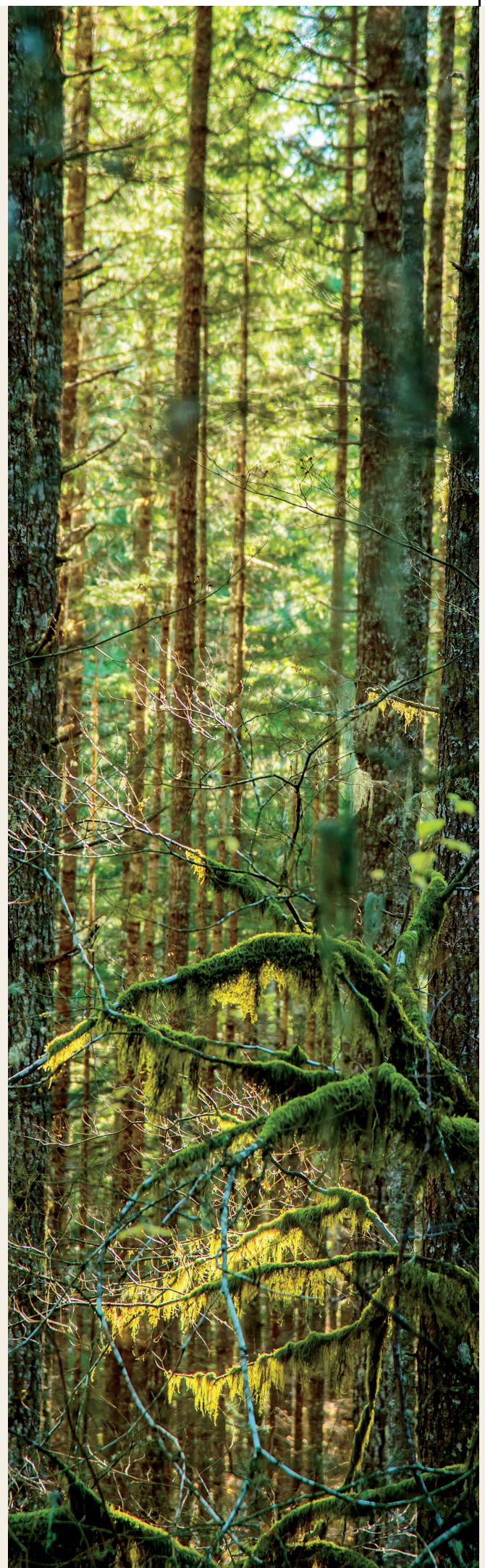
This document provides a clear and transparent overview of the proposed outdoor education project.

It is intended to explain the purpose of the project, how it is designed to operate, and the approach taken to environmental and land stewardship. The information presented here is meant to support open and informed discussion.

The project is not presented as a fixed or final plan. It is a working concept that remains open to feedback, adjustment, and improvement based on the perspectives and concerns of those involved in the review process.

The intention is to ensure that the project is clearly understood, and that any potential impacts, concerns, or opportunities can be discussed directly and respectfully.

The goal of this document is clarity, transparency, and respectful dialogue.





Who We Are

ONE WITH NATURE is a small outdoor education school based in Victoria, British Columbia.

The focus of the school is practical, hands-on training in wilderness survival, safe outdoor travel, and environmental awareness.

Programs are designed for youth, families, and adults, with an emphasis on developing real-world skills that improve safety, decision-making, and confidence in natural environments.

The approach is based on structured learning in real conditions, where participants gain a practical understanding of terrain, weather, and environmental impact.

The work is guided by a simple principle:

People who understand nature are far less likely to damage it.

The objective is to provide education that not only improves individual safety, but also reduces the unintended impact that unprepared individuals can have on natural environments.

First Nations Approach & Respect

The project recognizes that the proposed area is located within the traditional territories of First Nations, and that the land holds cultural, historical, and environmental significance.

The intention is to approach this project with respect, openness, and a willingness to listen and learn throughout the process.

The project is not presented as a fixed plan. It is structured to allow for adjustments based on feedback, concerns, and guidance.

There is an interest in understanding how the land is used, what areas may be sensitive, and how activities can be adapted to avoid conflict with those uses.

The project is also open to the possibility of learning from traditional knowledge and primitive skills, where appropriate and only with permission and guidance.

Any inclusion of such knowledge would be approached carefully, with respect for its origin, context, and ownership.

The intention is to ensure that the project does not interfere with existing relationships to the land.



The Problem

Outdoor recreation in British Columbia has increased significantly in recent years. More people are entering natural environments without prior experience or practical training.

At the same time, Search and Rescue incidents have increased, and preventable situations continue to place pressure on emergency services and volunteers.

Many individuals entering wilderness areas lack basic skills such as navigation, risk assessment, and environmental awareness. This often leads to unintended consequences, including personal risk and environmental damage.

**This is not a problem of access to nature.
It is a problem of a lack of practical education.**

Without proper knowledge, people can unintentionally put themselves and the environment at risk.





What This Project Is

This project is a small-scale outdoor education initiative focused on practical training in wilderness environments.

It is designed to operate with limited infrastructure and small group sizes.

The proposal includes a defined Intensive Use Area, which serves as a base for instruction, and a larger Extensive Use Area, where no construction or land modification is planned.

Programs are delivered in small groups, typically consisting of 8 to 10 participants, to ensure a controlled and low-impact presence on the land.

Activities include navigation, environmental awareness, shelter building using natural dead materials, and fire safety training conducted only in a designated fire pit, and only outside of fire ban periods and when conditions allow.

The focus of all activities is education, with an emphasis on minimizing environmental impact and improving safety in natural environments.

This project is not a resort, not a large-scale development, and not high-volume tourism.

Why Crown Land

Access to appropriate land is one of the main challenges in delivering meaningful outdoor education.

Programs of this type require space, natural conditions, and the ability to operate without heavy infrastructure.

Private land that meets these conditions is limited and often cost-prohibitive. In most cases, the cost of acquiring or leasing suitable private land would significantly increase the cost of programs.

As a result, outdoor education delivered on private land often becomes restricted to smaller, higher-cost programs that are not accessible to a broader range of participants.

Crown land provides a practical alternative that allows programs to operate in natural environments while maintaining reasonable costs and limited infrastructure.

This makes it possible to offer programs that remain accessible to youth, families, and local communities, rather than becoming limited to those with greater financial resources.

Access to Crown land allows this type of education to remain accessible, practical, and grounded in real environments.





Why Wilderness

Outdoor safety and survival skills can only be effectively learned in real environments.

Controlled or urban settings do not provide the conditions required to understand how natural systems behave.

Wilderness environments introduce variables such as terrain, weather, navigation challenges, and limited resources.

These conditions are essential for developing practical awareness, decision-making, and risk assessment skills.

Without exposure to these real conditions, training remains theoretical and does not prepare individuals for actual situations in the outdoors.

Learning in a wilderness environment allows participants to understand how their actions affect the land, and how to move through it with minimal impact.

This type of education is not focused on recreation, but on building awareness, responsibility, and respect for natural environments.

Real environments are necessary for developing real understanding.



Rotational Use Approach

The project is designed around a rotational use approach, rather than continuous use of a single location.

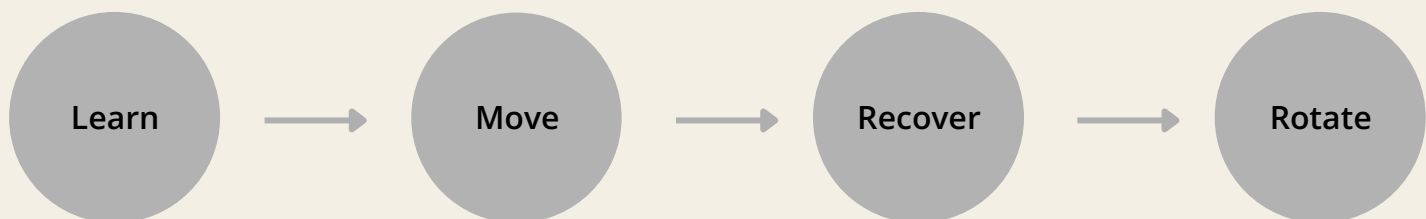
Activities are distributed across a larger area, allowing different parts of the land to be used at different times.

This approach reduces repeated use of the same location and gives the land time to recover naturally between activities.

Movement is an essential part of the program structure, meaning that participants do not remain in one area for extended periods.

This approach aligns with low-impact outdoor practices and is intended to maintain the natural condition of the land over time.

The intention is to move through the land, not to concentrate activity in one place.



Environmental Responsibility

Environmental responsibility is a core part of how the project is designed and operated. All activities are structured to minimize impact on vegetation, wildlife, soil, and water systems.

Participants are trained to use only natural dead materials when practicing skills such as shelter building, and are instructed not to cut or damage living trees.

All waste generated during programs is packed out, and no chemicals, pesticides, or non-biodegradable materials are used on site.

Activities are planned to avoid sensitive areas, including riparian zones, wildlife habitats, and locations where environmental disturbance could occur.

Any fire-related training is limited to a single designated fire pit and is conducted only outside of fire ban periods and under controlled conditions.

Water sources are not used or altered, and no modifications to streams or natural drainage systems are proposed.

Participants are trained to recognize wildlife presence and to avoid disturbance by maintaining distance and adjusting movement through the environment.

The objective is not only to minimize impact, but to teach participants how to avoid causing it.





EcoVillage Construction Principles

Any structures proposed as part of the project are guided by a minimal-impact approach, with a focus on reducing physical presence on the land.

Structures are limited in size and number, and are intended only to support basic educational activities rather than long-term or intensive use.

Construction is based primarily on natural materials and simple methods, avoiding large-scale infrastructure or permanent alteration of the landscape.

Placement of any structures is planned to avoid sensitive areas and to use natural openings where possible, reducing the need for vegetation removal.

Development is intended to occur gradually, allowing adjustments to be made over time based on environmental considerations and feedback.

Where required, structures can be modified, relocated, or removed, ensuring that the land can return to its natural condition.

The approach is based on minimal footprint, careful placement, and reversibility.

Minimal • Adaptive • Reversible

Alignment with Provincial Stewardship Principles

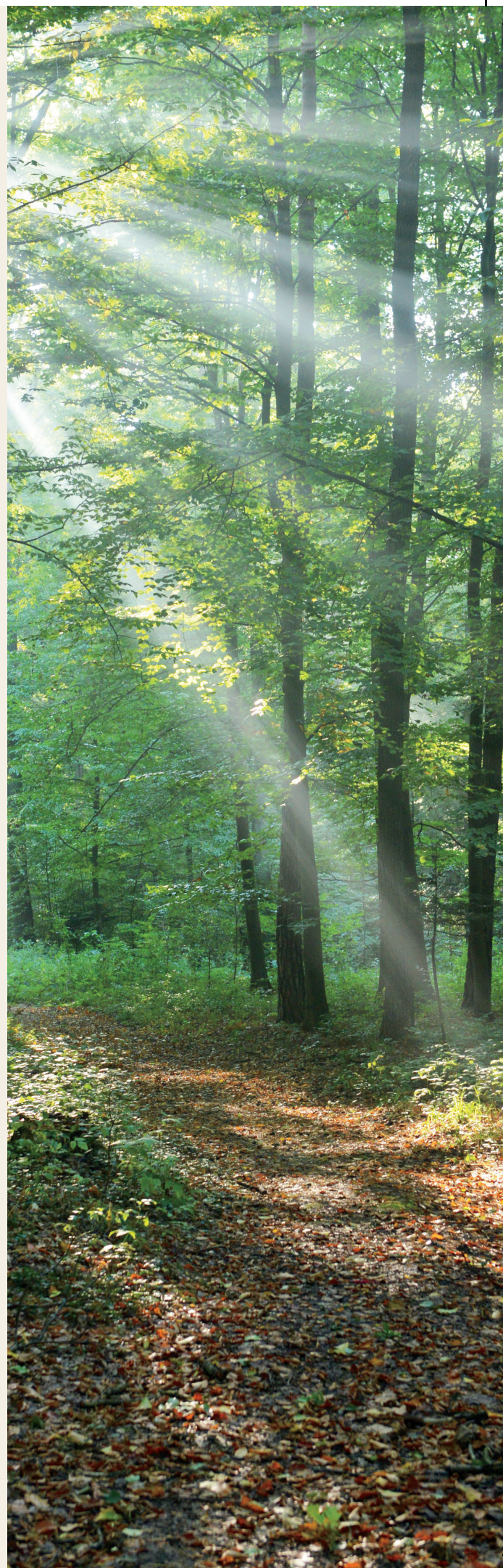
A small-scale contribution aligned with broader stewardship goals

The project approach is consistent with provincial priorities related to environmental stewardship, responsible land use, and wildlife habitat protection.

Its focus on low-impact use, education, and adaptive management reflects broader objectives of maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting responsible use of natural environments.

The approach is also aligned with principles reflected in initiatives such as land use planning and the Together for Wildlife Strategy, including stewardship, collaboration, and informed decision-making.

The intention is to contribute positively to these objectives at a small and practical scale.



This project is based on a simple idea:
education plays a key role in how people interact with natural environments.

The intention is to provide practical knowledge and skills that help individuals move through the land safely and responsibly, while reducing unintended environmental impact.

The project has been designed with a focus on minimal footprint, adaptability, and respect for the land.

All feedback, concerns, and perspectives are valued, and are an important part of ensuring that the project is approached in a responsible and appropriate way.

Understanding our connection to nature is the first step toward protecting it.

ONE WITH NATURE • Outdoor Education

