

Environmental Impact Plan

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Prepared By:

Date:

Environmental Stewardship

As described in the ACMG Core Guiding Skills Manual and summarized below:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Research rules, regulations, restrictions, and closures.
- Ensure all participants have the appropriate permits, insurance, and have read and signed all the necessary documentation.
- Educate clients on best environmental practices.

Choose Durable and Resilient Surfaces to Travel and Camp

- Travel on pre-established trails and roadways where possible and use hardened surfaces such as rocks, sand, and gravel when travelling off trail.
- When travelling in areas of vegetation, spread out group members to lessen the impact and avoid walking on fragile plants and wet meadows.
- When camping, position the sleeping, kitchen, food storage, and bathroom areas at least 60m apart from each other and use established campsites, where applicable.

Dispose of Waste Responsibly

- Pack out food wrappers, scraps, and any other garbage.
- When cooking, use a strainer to capture larger food particles when draining pots and washing dishes, and pack out the strained items. Grey water should be disposed of at least 60m away from water sources and scattered widely.
- Where facilities do not exist for human waste, use a disposal method that reduces human, animal, and insect contact, accelerates decomposition, protects water quality, and can be disguised or deposited away from where people travel. An accepted method is digging a cat hole 15-20cm deep in organic soil at least 60m from camp, cooking areas, and water sources, and covering it up when finished. In some locations, toilet paper and human waste will need to be packed out and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Protect the Natural Experience

- Strive to preserve the backcountry in its natural state by leaving things as they were found.

Reduce Campfire Impacts

- Ensure that fire building is permitted based on the hazard ratings and land manager regulations.
- Fires should be built sparingly, using existing fire pit where possible, and in lower elevation areas.
- Always supervise a fire and extinguish it completely when leaving.

Keep Wildlife Wild

- Reduce the chance for animal conflicts and the habituation of wildlife by viewing wildlife from a safe distance and leaving if the animal appears stressed, agitated, or aggressive.
- When camping, secure all food and attractants in a safe location and store food in bear caches where possible. Never feed animals.

Respect Other Users

- Be considerate of other people and their needs when encountered on a trip.
- Leave campsites, huts, facilities, climbing areas in better condition than when you arrived.

Promote Environmental Protection Through Education

- Model best practices and use the role of educator, not enforcer, to help change a person's damaging behavior.

Protect Routes and Trails

- Mark trails in sensitive and highly used areas and discourage shortcuts.
- When building or bolting new or existing rock climbing routes, research and respect local ethics, land-manager guidelines, and best practices. Consult the local climbing community and first ascensionist whenever possible.

Participate in Environmental Restoration

- Contribute to restorative efforts wherever possible through advocacy, or by volunteering time to help maintain trails, infrastructure, or cleanup.

Report Observations

- Report observations to the proper authorities wherever possible. This could include information on current conditions, wildlife observations, damage to infrastructure and trails, destruction of the environment, negative user behaviors, and safety concerns.

Reduce the Impact of Mechanized Use

- Be aware of the negative impacts and emissions caused by mechanized travel and select objectives and modes of transportation that strive for fuel efficiency and minimizes carbon footprint.
- When traveling in helicopters or using drones, choose flight paths that minimize the interference and trip experience of other backcountry users and avoid paths that put stress on wildlife.

Land Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is located on the traditional and ancestral territory of many peoples, including Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Territories. These sacred lands are a gathering place for the Blackfoot Confederacy of whom the Kanai, Piikani, and Siksika are a part of; the Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Stoney Nakoda and the Tsuu T'ina Nation. This land is also home to the Metis People of Alberta, as well, has long been important to the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc First Nations.

I wish to make this acknowledgement as an act of gratitude to those whose territory we reside, recreate, work, and/or are visiting, and as a step in the journey of reconciliation.