

# CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES



*BC Parks will uphold this trust by:*

**T**he principles are founded on the knowledge that British Columbia is the most geographically and biologically diverse province in Canada. BC Parks has statutory obligations for the protection of the natural environment: the preservation and maintenance of recreational values and to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, species features and phenomena. BC Parks therefore, has a commitment to protect, present and manage, for all time, the natural and cultural heritage conserved in the provincial protected areas system. The lands, and cultural and natural values which are protected in British Columbia's protected areas system are dedicated to the people of British Columbia, Canada, and the world.

- 1.** Conserving and managing representative examples of British Columbia's ecosystems within the provincial protected areas system designated by government.
- 2.** Maintaining essential ecological processes and variety in nature through the conservation and management of complete and functioning ecosystems.
- 3.** Conserving variety in nature (biological diversity) at all levels, giving rare, threatened, and endangered species special management attention.
- 4.** Showing leadership in cooperation and coordination with other agencies, aboriginal people, and the public to protect and manage lands and natural and cultural values within, and adjacent to, the province's parks and ecological reserve boundaries.
- 5.** Recognizing a limited knowledge and understanding of ecosystems, natural processes will be allowed to predominate whenever possible.
- 6.** Encouraging environmental learning and the sharing of knowledge within and between BC Parks' staff and the public, and working toward the resolution of issues through conservation.
- 7.** Giving priority to conservation in BC Parks' planning and management through: environmental evaluation, sound decision making, and by encouragement and support of research and education.
- 8.** Respecting aboriginal peoples' traditional harvesting and cultural activities in parks and ecological reserves, and seeking a special relationship honouring their cultural heritage.
- 9.** Practicing recycling, re-using, and reducing consumable goods and products in all aspects of parks and ecological reserves operations, and selecting environmentally friendly products and practices whenever possible.



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Ministry of Environment,  
Lands and Parks