

Protocol regarding

SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES

**Between the
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Environmental Stewardship Division
and
The Wilderness Tourism Association (WTA)**

WHEREAS The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Environmental Stewardship Division (WLAP ESD) is committed to developing partnerships that share the responsibility for stewardship of the environment with parties who share similar stewardship interests including;

- The maintenance and restoration of the natural diversity of ecosystems, fish and wildlife species and their habitats,
- The enhancement of parks, fish and wildlife recreational opportunities and,
- Working collaboratively on environmental stewardship activities including specific projects that will support mutual environmental stewardship goals.

NOW THEREFORE In striving to co-operate on shared stewardship interests, WLAP-ESD and The WTA should work towards meeting the following principles;

- Recognition of the important role that nature-based tourism operators are playing in environmental stewardship,
- special recognition for operators who are able to show that they work towards an environmental, social and fiscal triple bottom line,
- collaboration in the area of environmental stewardship,
- an ecological approach to environmental management,
- an adaptive management approach including learning opportunities related to the interaction between tourism and environmental values,
- sharing and commitment of expertise and resources, when available, to develop and implement projects and activities that will contribute to their common goals,
- working, in a cooperative manner that includes open and positive communications,

- sharing of knowledge and information gained through this partnership with other interested commercial recreation operators, stakeholders, communities and agencies,
- promoting and improving knowledge of the parties management priorities and issues and
- promoting public outreach initiatives related to tourism and environmental values.

In order to ensure success of stewardship partnerships the parties agree that;

- projects utilizing these principles should have a specific plan, agreement or contract detailing activities, time lines and responsibilities,
- previously approved and current provincial, regional and local level projects that involve WTA members are recognized and that best management practices are incorporated when developing new projects,
- projects should strive towards meeting the objectives stated in the WLAP ESD Business Plan,
- projects considered should be ones that are listed as priorities by WLAP Regional Managers and WTA members,
- any BC Park specific project should be compatible with the approved management plans and annual park operating plans and
- tracking and monitoring of projects will be done to allow for the development and implementation of guidelines and best practices.

The parties agree to work through the following contacts for project discussions:

- WLAP ESD Regional Managers for projects dealing with compliance issues, wildlife sightings for specific species, wildlife studies, training and education projects as well as issues relating to observe, record and report, unsuitable park uses, park damage and boundary integrity issues; rain/snow events and water sampling.
- WLAP ESD Regional Managers and The Conservation Officer Service, for projects dealing with potential compliance issues related to damage to habitat, unlawful harvest of fish and wildlife and unlicensed angling/hunting activities.
- WLAP Environmental Protection Division, Regional Managers and The Conservation Officer Service for issues related to the discharges of waste to the environment.
- WTA Environmental Committee members.

DATED AT _____

This _____ day of _____, 2005

Nancy Wilkin, Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Province of British Columbia

Brian Gunn, President
Wilderness Tourism Association