



Wilderness Ethics

Basic Mountain Operations Course

**Law Enforcement Mountain Operations School
Okanogan Integrated Border Enforcement Team**

Targeted Learning Objectives



The student will:

- ▲ Understand and demonstrate minimum-impact behavior during recreational and tactical situations.
- ▲ Understand and demonstrate how to alter minimum-impact behavior during emergency situations.



Leave No Trace



Center for Outdoor Ethics

Mission: To promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. It is focused specifically on human-powered recreation.

What is good for recreational users is even more important for covert law enforcement operations.



For more information on Leave No Trace, please visit www.lnt.org or call 800-332-4100.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

(More on this in Survival & Nav classes)



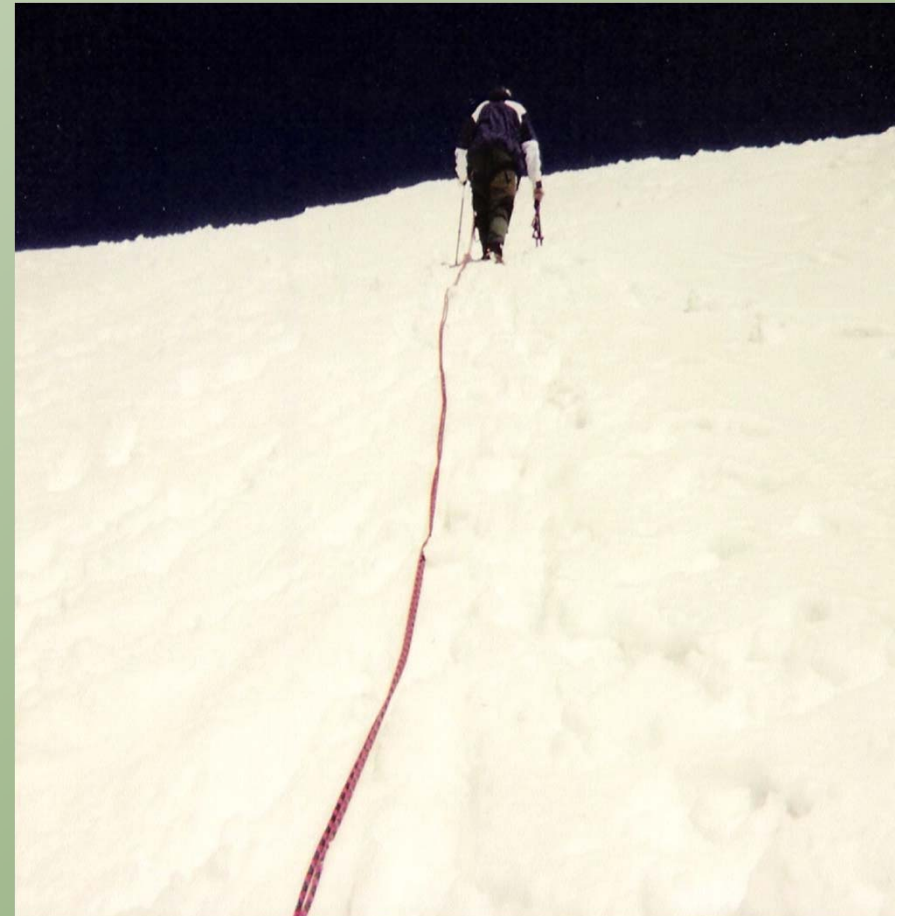
- ▲ Know your abilities.
- ▲ Choose your route wisely.
- ▲ Have adequate gear and know how to use it.
- ▲ Plan meals well (no leftovers, minimal garbage).
- ▲ Leave trip info.
- ▲ Know local regs.
- ▲ Avoid crowds.



2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces



- ▲ Sand, rock, gravel, ice, and snow are good.
- ▲ Good campsites are found, not made.
- ▲ Concentrate use in heavily impacted areas (single file on trails; go through mud, not around).
- ▲ Disperse use in pristine areas to minimize impact (don't walk single file).



3. Dispose of Waste Properly



- ▲ Pack it in, pack it out.
- ▲ Pick-up micro-trash.
- ▲ Wash away from water and camp. Soap??
- ▲ Don't pee on plants or near water / camp.
- ▲ Use established toilets or a cat hole.
- ▲ TP: natural vs. artificial, burial vs. packing out.



Human Waste in Winter



- ▲ Can't bury in frozen ground.
- ▲ Snow melts out, leaving mess behind.
- ▲ Burning not practical.
- ▲ Pack out waste & TP.
 - Doubled zip-locks.
 - Paper bag with a PVC tube.



4. Leave What You Find



- ▲ Take nothing but pictures.
- ▲ Don't contribute anything to nature.
- ▲ Don't damage anything; plants, rocks, etc.
- ▲ What if everyone took only one little thing....



5. Minimize Campfire Impacts



- ▲ Check local regulations and fire danger levels.
- ▲ Use a stove.
- ▲ Use established fire pits or mound fire.
- ▲ Rock rings??
- ▲ Use small, dead and down wood (no smoke or charred remains).
- ▲ Disperse ashes.



6. Respect Wildlife



- ▲ This is their home; put yourself in their shoes.
- ▲ Avoid contact or influencing behavior.
- ▲ Flight or warning calls can alert others to your presence.
- ▲ Don't feed.
- ▲ Store food properly.
- ▲ Don't camp near water or trails.
- ▲ Obey game laws.



7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



- ▲ Do unto others...
- ▲ Minimize noise.
- ▲ Minimize lights.
- ▲ Use subdued colors for clothes & tent.
- ▲ Find an unobtrusive campsite.
- ▲ Yield the right of way to faster travelers and stock animals on trails.



Emergency Considerations



- ▲ Leave No Trace principles can be altered (not abandoned) to fit desperate situations.
- ▲ Do whatever you need to do in order to survive, but don't be wasteful about it.
- ▲ Try to work *with* nature, not against it.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare



- ▲ The usual advice applies, but is even more critical.
- ▲ This is the time to **STOP**.
- ▲ Don't get more lost or make the situation worse.
- ▲ Initiate emergency procedures per trip plan.



2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces



- ▲ Durable surfaces are usually the easiest to travel upon.
- ▲ Consider whether you are trackable.
- ▲ Mark your backtrail with cairns, flagging, etc.



3. Dispose of Waste Properly



- ▲ Before you discard anything, consider any possible uses.
- ▲ All sanitation aspects still apply; bury human waste.
- ▲ Discarded trash may help you to be tracked, but be purposeful (not random) while littering.



4. Leave What You Find



- ▲ Take only those things you need to get by.
- ▲ Don't harvest more than you can use.
- ▲ Take items (such as evergreen boughs) from several sources instead of just one.
- ▲ Preserve plant foods by drying.



5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- ▲ Safety is still paramount.
- ▲ Build only as large as is necessary.
- ▲ Beware of possible consequences!
- ▲ Extinguish completely!
- ▲ Burning live plants may be justified for smoke.

6. Respect Wildlife



- ▲ Don't harvest more than you can use.
- ▲ Try to kill humanely.
- ▲ Use all parts fully:
 - Bones, skins, organs, sinew
- ▲ Dry surplus meat into jerky.



7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



- ▲ Don't make your rescuers' jobs more difficult or dangerous. Be a cooperative search target.
- ▲ If safe to do so, just sit tight and signal for help.
- ▲ Disregard the usual advice about keeping a low profile and try to be bright and loud.
- ▲ Don't forget to play well with others in your party. Stress can bring out the worst in people.





*Being a ghost in the woods is an
important skill to master.
It will make you a more effective
officer and could even save your life.*



**The wilderness belongs to our
grandchildren.**

**Let's make sure they inherit a world
worth having.**

Questions?

End of slideshow.

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