

2022 CANADIAN  
LAND TRUST  
SUMMIT

SOMMET NATIONAL  
DES ORGANISMES DE  
CONSERVATION 2022

October 24 to 26 | Ottawa | 24 au 26 octobre

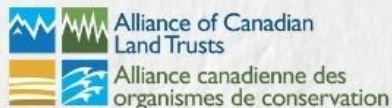
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LLANO\_Climate Adaptive Planning Tool BC

# Addressing Unplanned Outdoor Recreation Use on Conservation Lands

Howard Harshaw

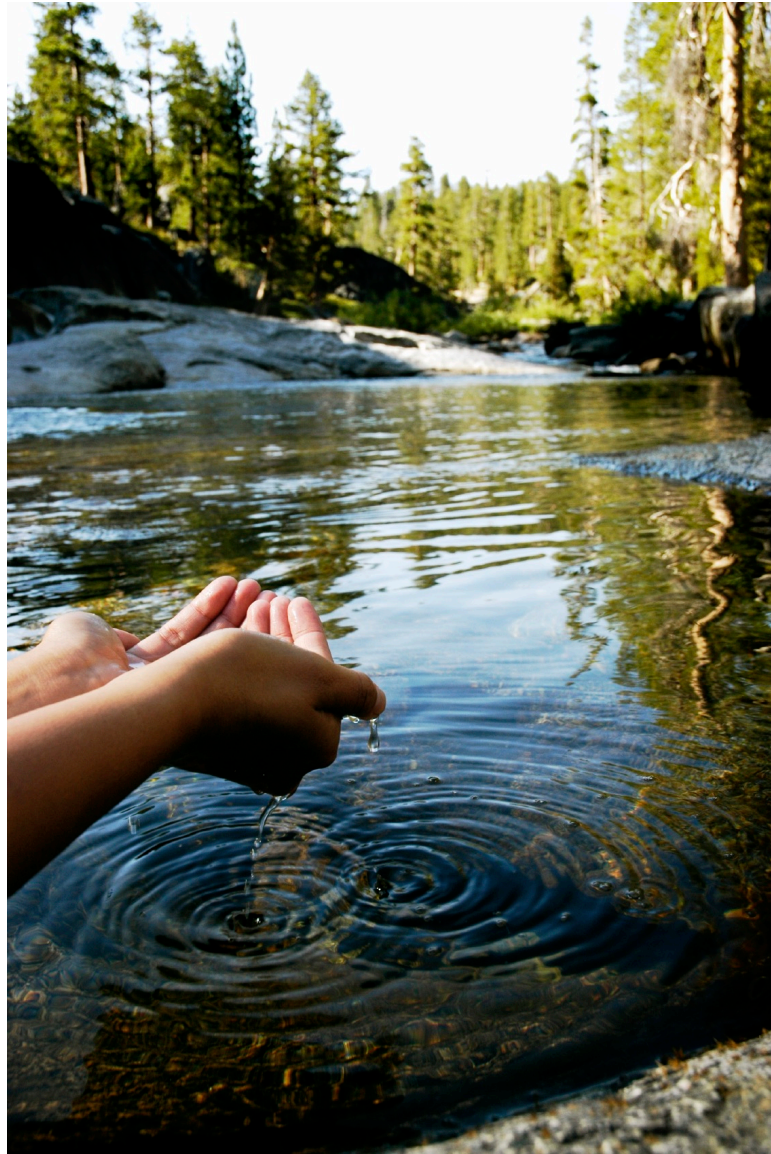
Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation

University of Alberta

Canadian Land Trust Summit

October 26, 2022





## The Human Dimensions Approach:

1. How and why do people value nature?
2. How do people want nature to be managed?
3. How do people affect, and how are they affected by, nature and natural areas management decisions?
4. How to best incorporate people's preferences into natural areas management and planning?



No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.

- Sir David Attenborough

- ❖ Recreation activities act like windows to the environment. (Bryan, 2000)
- ❖ Understanding this interface is important in addressing growing public concerns with, and expectations of, land-use management.





“The most effective management is of human impact.”  
(Mangel *et al.*, 1996, p. 341)

## Outdoor Recreation Impact Myths

- ❖ Recreation impacts are neutral or benign.
- ❖ Recreation use can be dispersed
- ❖ Cumulative effects difficult to gauge.
- ❖ Consumptive *vs.* non-consumptive use



# Human Activities Can Affect Key Ecosystem Attributes

1. Functional ability (capability to perform key actions);
2. Composition/population structure (# species, abundance, density, age classes, size classes, distribution)
3. Structure (spatial arrangement); and
4. Successional patterns.





## Undesirable change

- ❖ “Alteration of the resource base that results in the degradation of soil, vegetation, wildlife and water resources.

(Hammitt & Cole, 1998)

## Recreation Ecological Impact

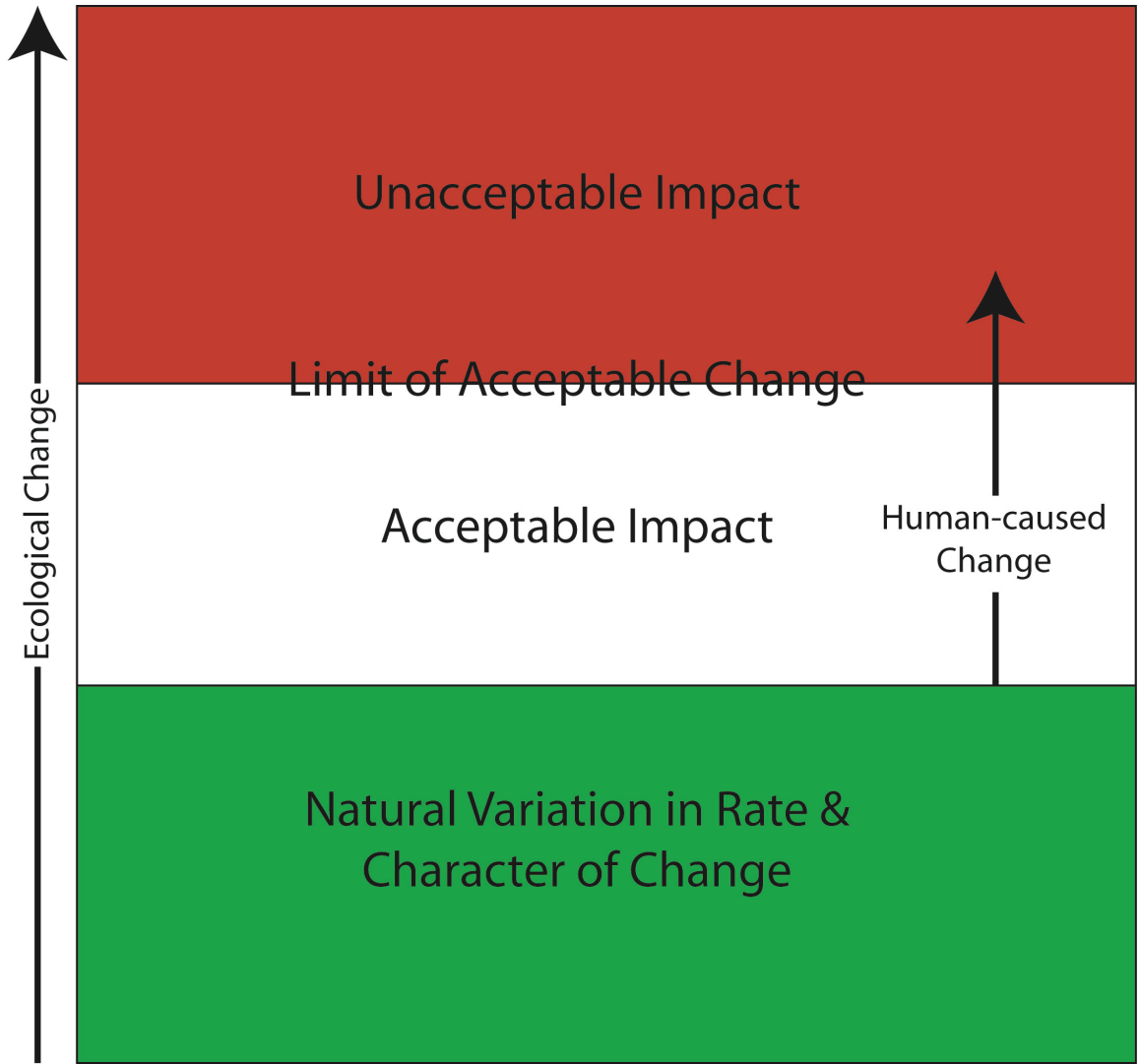
- ❖ An objective description of the environmental effects/disturbance of recreational use to natural areas.

## Direct Impact

- ❖ Observed change is a direct result of recreation use.
  - ▶ Vegetation loss due to trampling.

## Indirect Impact

- ❖ Observed change is an indirect result of recreational use.
  - ▶ Vegetation loss reflects poor growth & reproduction in soils that have been compacted by recreation use.

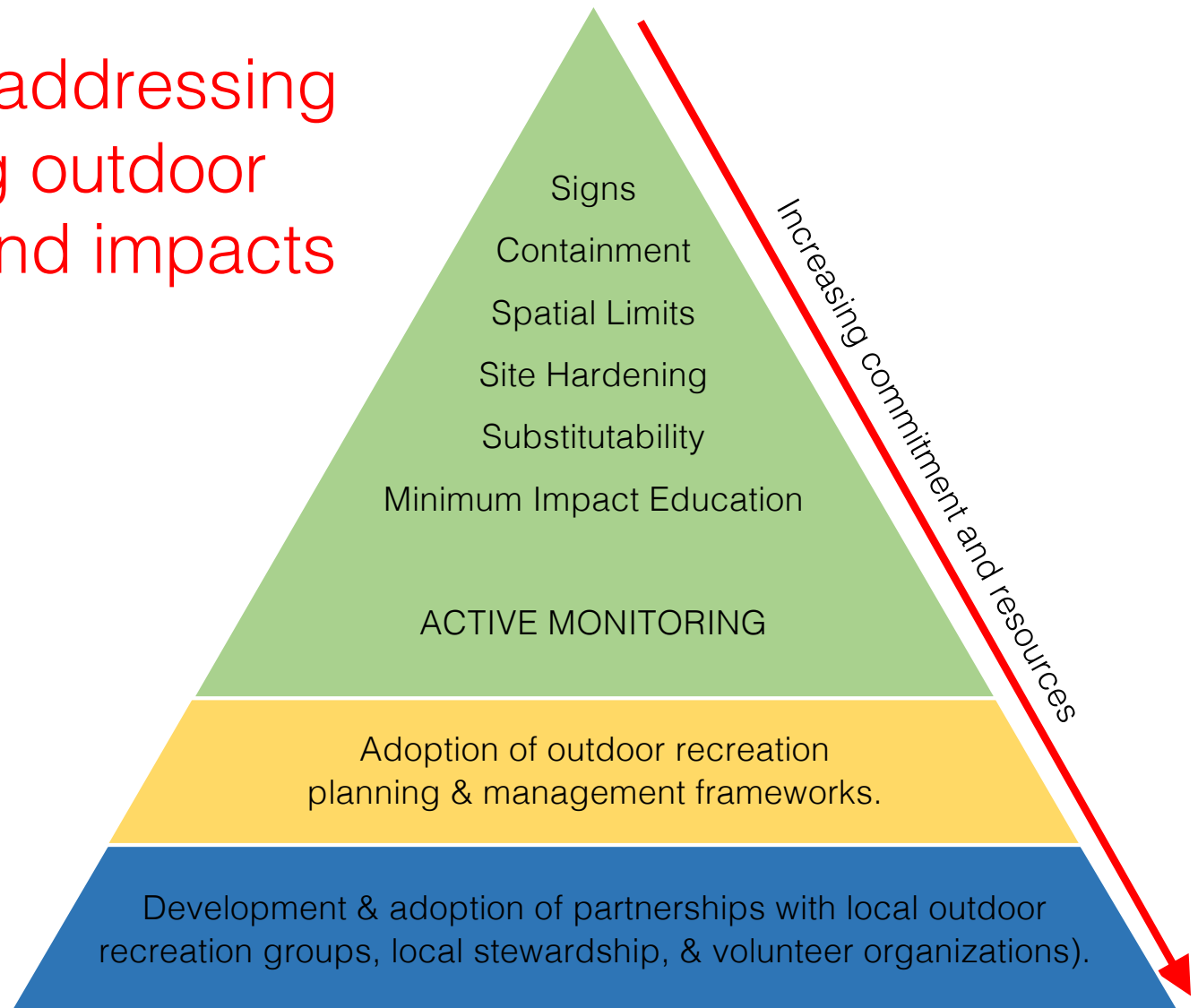




Incorporate **adaptive management** approaches into outdoor recreation / people management:

- ❖ Inventory resource & social conditions:
  - Engage visitors about behaviours, preferences, and attitudes.
- ❖ Monitoring a critical piece of management.

# Approaches for addressing and managing outdoor recreation use and impacts





## Plan for people.

- ❖ Protect resources
- ❖ Engage visitors about conservation.

## Develop & adopt outdoor recreation management / planning approaches.

- ❖ Inventory & monitor conditions & use.





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