

Contact us

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You can also call us at 1-800-661-0408, or visit our website at
www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca

Other important contacts

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Other web sites of interest:

BC Curriculum Connections to WILD, WET, and more:
www.hctf.ca/wild/educator

EE North www.eenorth.com

Environmental Education Association of the Yukon
Wild Education www.wildeducation.org

EECOM: The Canadian Network for Environmental
Education and Communication www.ecom.org

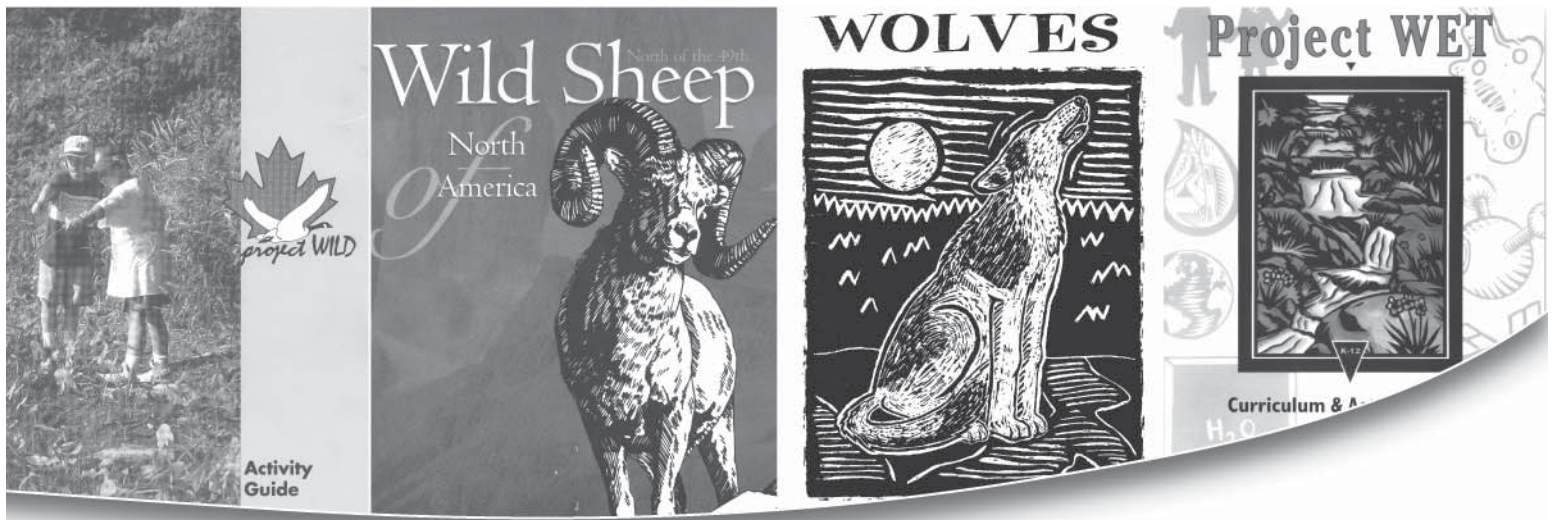
Climate Change North www.climatechangenorth.ca

Parks Canada Teacher's Corner www.pc.gc.ca/education

Hinterland Who's Who? www.hww.ca

An Educator's Guide to Environment Yukon 2005-2006





Introduction

What is Environment Yukon? What are our responsibilities?

Also known as the Department of Environment, our “ministry” in the Government of Yukon is responsible for managing and preserving what many Yukoners value most highly: the environment and its wildlife.

We’ve grown over the years from being simply a wildlife management and enforcement agency into a dynamic organization with a broad range of responsibilities including: environmental protection; parks, campgrounds and protected areas; water quality; wildlife viewing; rare plants and animal species; and of course, education and outreach.

Why are we involved in education and outreach? What is EnviroWild education?

It’s a cliché, but true: it’s more effective to educate and change people’s behaviour than to legislate and enforce. This approach is considered important enough to have several staff at Environment Yukon dedicated to education and outreach, including those in the Wildlife Viewing and Conservation and Youth Programs.

We do “Environment” and “Wildlife” education — or EnviroWild education. In order to keep you, the Yukon teacher, informed about the latest opportunities available to you, we’ve re-established a network of EnviroWild contacts in Yukon schools. Call us for the name of the contact in your school.

Here’s how Environment Yukon can help you:

Guest Speakers: You know the value of a good classroom interpretive talk... our Department has many knowledgeable staff to assist you. Call the Innovators in the Schools office at 668-8739 to make arrangements.

Resource Guides for Educators: It all started ten years ago with Project WILD... now there are many, many more special learning guides on a variety of topics available to Yukon teachers. See inside for more details...

Publications: You are probably familiar with some of the 100 free publications that our Department offers to the public. Many are suitable for classroom use. A partial list appears inside.

Consultation: Looking for teaching ideas on a particular environmental, wildlife or conservation subject? We may not have all the answers, but we’ve collected a lot of ideas and materials over the years. Our library expands regularly! Contact us at the coordinates listed inside...

Special Events: We take a lead role in several events with a school component, including the Celebration of Swans, National Wildlife Week, Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month, Wild Discoveries events and Oceans Day. See inside for more details...

Youth Programs: Environment Yukon offers a number of special programs for youth, including the Conservation Action Team summer camp for Grades 6 – 9, the Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (a job experience program for students 16 years and up) and Hunter Education and Ethics Development workshops. More inside...

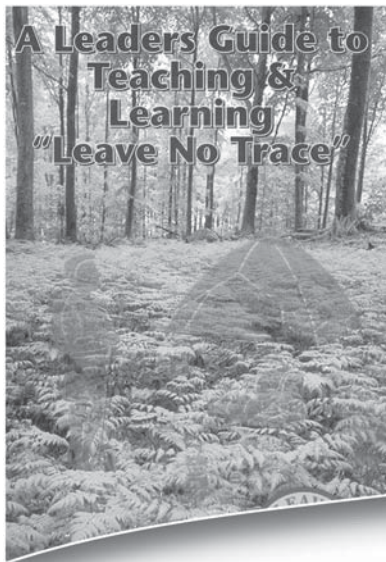
Resource Guides for Teachers

Here’s a little info about each of the learning resource guides we offer. Many are cross-referenced to the Learning Outcomes in the B.C. IRPs (see “Links” section for on-line access). For more details on any of these, or to arrange a workshop, call the Conservation Education Coordinator at 667-3675.

Below Zero (K – 12): The long-awaited cold weather companion to Project WILD, just recently published and available to teachers through a hands-on workshop. Full of activities that focus on wildlife in the cold, and that can take place in the outdoors in winter.

Project WILD (K – 12) The classic wildlife and environmental learning guide, tried and true, with well over a million educators trained in North America. Available through an in-service or after-hours workshop.





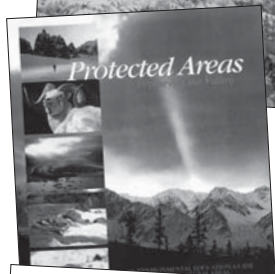
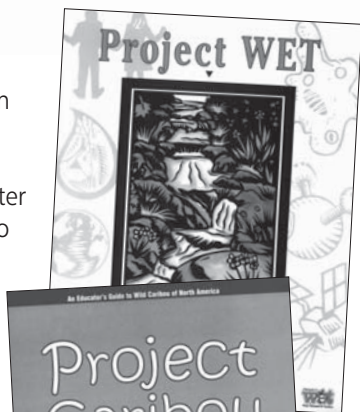
Project WET (K – 12) This mega-guide (516 pages and 91 fun activities!) aims to “facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources”. Teachers are required to take a hands-on workshop.

Project Caribou (K – 12) This made-in-the-North resource gathers the best of materials and activities focusing on caribou, symbol of the northland (150 pp). Downloads and info at www.projectcaribou.net.

A Leader's Guide to Teaching & Learning "Leave No Trace" (5 – 9) Environment Yukon is actively promoting the “leave no trace” or “LNT” ethic. This guide is full of ideas and activities for sharing LNT with your class. Workshop required.

Protected Areas: Preserving Our Future (5 – 9) Innovative activities help the learner discover the why's and how's of creating protected areas in the Yukon. In one lesson, overlay maps help students make informed decisions about protection in two study areas: Kluane and Tombstone. A video is also included. Look for a copy in your school.

Wolves: A Yukon Learning Resource (K – 10) All about wolves and how they fit in their ecosystem. Activities are divided into primary, intermediate and high school levels. One unit gets students to critically examine media reports about wolves.



Wild Sheep of North America (K – 10) A resource about wild sheep in the Yukon and elsewhere. Like all of the resources listed here, up-to date information is complemented by hands-on activity ideas. Complements Project WILD.

Backyard Biodiversity and Beyond — Yukon edition (4 – 7) A Yukon-specific adaptation of a BC-developed resource about a critical global issue. A limited number of copies are available for individual teachers.



Special Events:

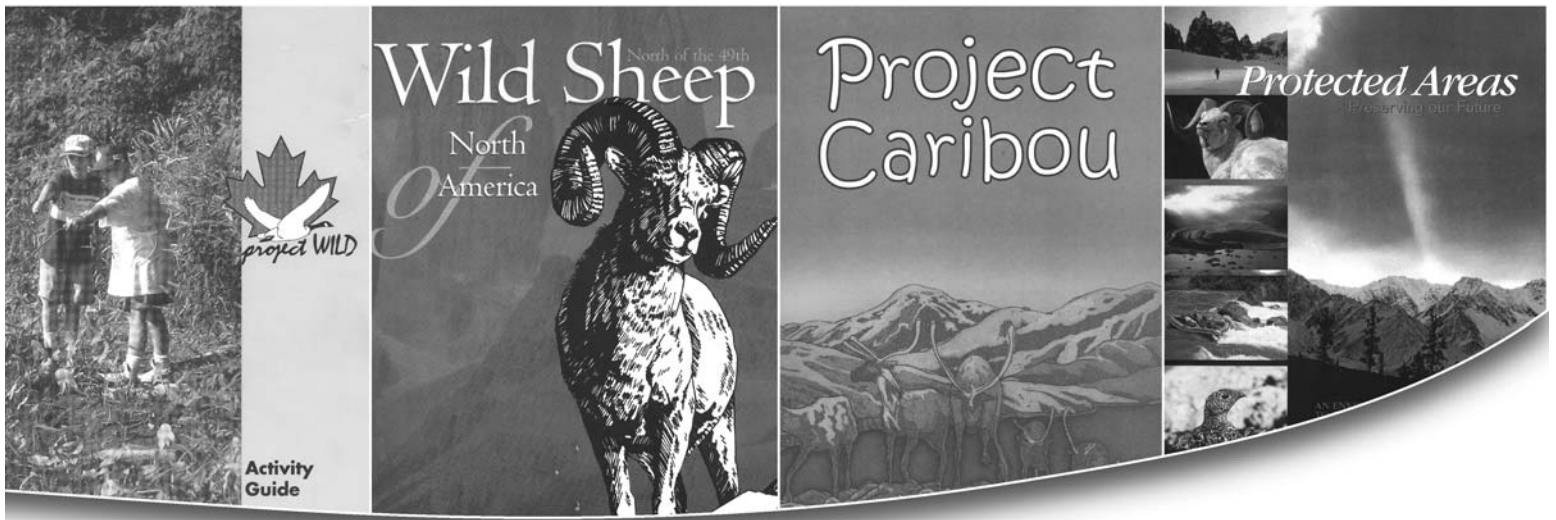
Yukon

Celebration of Swans (April 15 – 23, 2006) It just gets bigger and better every year! And the swans keep coming back! Our Wildlife Viewing staff offer interpretive events and school activities April 10 – 28 at the Swan Haven Interpretation Centre south of Whitehorse. Book early for your class! Deadline April 5. *Service disponible en français — 667-8291*. Other Celebration of Swans important dates: Swan Haven youth art submission deadline: March 29, Celebration of Swans: April 15 – 23, Swan Haven Interpretation Centre open: April 1 – 30. Swans of Kluane in Burwash Landing: early June.

Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month (April) Preserving biodiversity is one of the most critical issues of our time... and Yukoners can play a part! YBAM brings many celebrations, including Earth Day (April 22) under one umbrella. Do some activities from the Backyard Biodiversity & Beyond learning resource and celebrate life!

Wild Discoveries (Yearly basis) Walks, talks, and guided trips on various wildlife and environmental talks are coordinated under this program. A calendar of events comes out on a regular from June to September. Call Wildlife Viewing for more info at 667-8291, or see our website anytime.

www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/viewing



Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month (YBAM): all April

Faro's Crane and Sheep Viewing Festival: May 5 – 7

Weekend on the Wing Birding Festival,

Tombstone Park: June 9 – 11

Environmental Education Association (EEAY)

Sharing Meetings: October 13, January 19, April 20

National and International

National Wildlife Week (April 9 – 15, 2006) For the last decade, the Department has sent out National Wildlife Week posters and teacher's kits to schools. Special events and talks are often planned.

Oceans Day (June 8) Celebrate the world's oceans and the end of the school year at the same time! If you are interested, there are teachers' kits and posters available. Contact us early!

National Forest Week: September 24 – 30 2005
www.canadianforestry.com/html/outreach/forest_week_e.cfm

International Migratory Bird Day: May 7

Earth Day: April 22

World Environment Day: June 5

Publications

The following is a list of publications of most interest to Yukon teachers. For a complete list, or to obtain copies of any of those found below, phone 667-3415, or fax 393-7917.

- Attracting Winter Birds* — hand-out
- Be Bear Aware* — pamphlet
- Be Bear Aware* — colouring book, 20 pages
- Bird Checklists* — Yukon, Whse, Faro/Ross River, pamphlets
- Birds in Origami* — 4 styles, hand-out
- Flora Collection Project* — Grade 5, workbook
- Home for a Song* — birdhouse building, hand-out
- Home Inventory: Hazardous Household Waste* — booklet
- How to keep bears out of your yard* — pamphlet
- Into the Yukon Wilderness* — 24 pages
- Official Bat-House Builder's Guide* — handout

Project Caribou

Protected Areas

Preserving our Future

Porcupine Caribou - Deer of the North — pamphlet

Spring Birds at Swan Haven — booklet

Swan Haven Birding Passport — booklet

WILD Yukon — newsletter

Wildlife of the Yukon — Chris Caldwell colouring poster

Wildlife in Whitehorse — pamphlet

Wildlife Viewing Guide — 60 pages

Yukon Amphibians — booklet

Yukon Butterflies — booklet

Yukon Rare Plants and Birds — pamphlet

Yukon 2002 State of the Environment Report — 60 pages

Yukon Moose — 32 pages

Wildlife Series on the web:

<http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/mammals.html>

Youth programs

see <http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/cons/cat.html>

Conservation Action Team (CAT): This popular summer camp program, for students finishing Grades 6 – 9 in the spring, will be entering its 17th year of operation in 2006. Participants travel around the Yukon for 7 – 10 days. Almost all gear is supplied and cost is minimal. Application deadline May 8.

Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (Y2C2): In operation for almost as long as CAT, this work experience program for students aged 16+ offers environmental learning and a decent wage. Students work on a variety of conservation projects around the territory. Application deadlines: Crew Leaders (post-secondary students, early April); Field Workers May 19.

Hunter Education and Ethics Development (HEED):

All hunters born after 1987 must attend a free 20-hour HEED workshop. These held throughout the year in most Yukon communities, depending on enrollment, but also available for students during school hours. Topics include firearm safety, wilderness survival, wildlife identifications, hunting regulations, wildlife management and outdoor ethics. Call Hunter Education Coordinator Larry Leigh at 667-5617.