

Crown Land Application Management Plan

To complete this plan:

1. Review the [application checklist](#) and [guidance document](#)
2. Describe your project in detail in the form below (you may be required to use a qualified professional to complete the plan)
3. Submit your plan with your application through [Virtual FrontCounter BC](#).

Please note:

- If we need more information, we will contact you. Applications not meeting application requirements within the requested timeframes may be rejected.

1.0 Background

The Application for Crown land tenure requires general information about your proposed activity.

1.1 Project Overview

Describe the intended use for which authorization is requested, including construction and/or phase development details, and decommissioning information (if applicable). Provide general information on activity purpose, location, size, timeframe, and main features. Be sure to include any proposed mitigative measures for impacts.

NOLS is a non-profit organization that teaches outdoor skills, leadership and wilderness ethics. NOLS Pacific Northwest operates in BC as a Society (BC Society# S-0032383). NOLS has a License of Occupation and File #1412379, that is up for renewal. NOLS has operated on Crown Lands in the BC Coastal Range since 1988 and along BC Central Coast since 1995. NOLS would like to continue operating sea kayak courses in British Columbia Coastal waters. NOLS currently holds permits with the Ministry of Environment and Parks Permit# 104284, that includes various Central Coast Conservancies. Ministry of Environment and Parks #102546 for the Squamish and Desolation Sound region. Ministry of Forest Lands, and Natural Resource Operations License of Occupation #516786 for the Waddington Range.

NOLS has historically offered sea kayak trips in the Central Coast Region and West Coast of Vancouver Island and Vancouver Island East- North. Central Coast trips have paddled to/from Bella Bella and/or the surrounding islands. NOLS courses have also sea kayaked round trip from Telegraph Cove often circumnavigating Gilford Island (Vancouver Island East -North). New is a proposed Sea Kayak expedition, the Inside Passage, that would paddle the entire British Columbia Coast from Washington to Alaska.

Group size is typically 10 students and 2 instructors. The largest NOLS Pacific NW Sea kayak course is 14 people.

NOLS expeditions are self-supported. Kayaks can carry up to a month of supplies. Fresh water is obtained from freshwater creeks. The Inside Passage trip would be 3 months in length with about 50 days spent in the coastal waters of BC (the rest of the time would be in Washington and Alaska). Given the length of the expedition, it will require resupplies of food and camp fuel. NOLS will contribute to the local economy purchasing food supplies along the route. NOLS supports BC paid campgrounds, water taxi services, BC Ferries and BC grocery stores. NOLS also visits cultural museums such as those in Campbell River and Alert Bay bringing business to local communities.

NOLS recognizes that many other commercial and non-commercial users rely on Crown Land for a variety of purposes. To mitigate potential overuse issues and conflicts with other users, NOLS has developed strategies to minimize impact through careful use and selection of terrain, selective group management practices, low-impact travel, utilizing off-season times, and through dispersed use of available camp locations along the coast.

Description of Experience Being Offered

NOLS sea kayak expeditions are:

- Activities are non-mechanized and non-consumptive
- Low impact travel and camping practices are strictly adhered to.
- No alterations, structures, trails or modifications to the land base are required
- Sea kayaking practices are in accordance with British Columbia and US industry standards
- Students are educated in safe and responsible use of resources
- A strong environmental ethic surrounds all activities, including respect of wildlife values
- The presence of NOLS instructors enhances safety for all Crown Land users in the area

Sea Kayaking Program

Sea kayaking programs typically range in length from 3-4 weeks. The Inside Passage trip would be about 50 days. The emphasis is on developing solid paddling skills, hazard awareness, group management and an appreciation of the surrounding natural world. Kayak programs include a NOLS Sea Kayak Instructor Course in April/May or September, 1-2 summer 30-day kayak courses, 1-2 fall semester courses and one Inside Passage mid-May-June (once every other year).

Sea Kayak Curriculum includes the following:

- A variety of basic and advanced strokes and braces
- Capsize recoveries in single and doubles and other rescue practices
- Navigation techniques
- Knowledge of tides and currents
- Weather and ocean hazards and awareness
- Techniques for leadership and safe group travel on the ocean
- Practice in rough water
- Use of safety/emergency gear
- Kayak expedition planning
- Coastal camping techniques

Instructors must meet exacting standards before they are certified to work for us, and we are confident that our expectations meet or exceed those that Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship has of permittees.

All our instructors have current first-aid training. The minimum we accept is an 80-hour Wilderness First Responder Course.

1.2 Investigative Work

If any preliminary investigative work has been carried out, with or without an investigative authorization, provide details on work completed, incomplete, or on-going. Be sure to describe the activity, its status, and any comments/milestones.

Activity	Brief Description	Complete/ Incomplete/ Ongoing	Comments
NA			

NOLS is a member of BC Marine Trails and has consulted their member map.

BC Marine Trails is a non-profit organization working together to help secure long term public access to the BC Coast. From BC Marine Trails:

“Our mission is to work with First Nations and stakeholders to build, protect and promote a public network of marine trails allowing safe recreational navigation of the BC Coastline with minimal impact on the environment. The BC Marine Trails work is guided by a three-pillar-approach: First Nations Engagement, Protecting Our Coast, Building Safe and Contiguous Trails”

1.3 Engagement with First Nations

- Describe your engagement with First Nation communities or groups regarding your proposed activities.
- Include the name of the First Nation(s) and its representative(s)
- Detail your discussion of potential adverse effects from the proposed activity and any discussed mitigation measures.
- Provide information on First Nations agreements undertaken.

Engagement with First Nation communities or groups and proposed activities

NOLS respects and strives to uphold the Coastal Guardian’s Environmental Laws. Our operations will respect First Nations and their hereditary and traditional rights to the land. NOLS will respect closures to culturally significant sites. The applicant is aware of the importance of the coastal areas to the First Nations and welcomes with respect, any input from First Nations who have interest in the application area. NOLS will abide by First Nations requests when camping or passing through their territory.

NOLS has engaged with some First Nations via phone and or email. NOLS also goes directly to the First Nation’s websites to research closures and areas allowed to camp. NOLS follows and respects the laws and regulations of these communities. For example, The Kitasoo Xai’xais Nation provides the following map on their website:
<https://klemtu.com/wp->

content/uploads/2024/02/Camping_2024.pdf?utm_source=convertkit&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=%F0%9F%8C%B1%20April%20Newsletter%20-%2017329278

Include the name of First Nation (s) and its representative(s)

NOLS currently has Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Permit #104284 which includes traveling in the territory of The Wuikinuxv Nation. The Wuikinuxv have asked NOLS to notify them whenever NOLS enters or exits Wuikinuxv traditional territory. Our contact is Calen, who we email when we enter and leave Wuikinuxv.

Calen → referrals@wuikinuxv.net

Kwakiutl First Nation

Contact: Ruby Mannila

bandsa@kwakiutl.bc.ca

250-949-6012

5/5/2025 emailed Ruby after phone call and sent site maps of camps in Kwakiutl Territory per her request. Also provided information on NOLS and our kayak program. Maps sent: Songhees Creek, Goletas Waterfall, Peel Island and Graeme Point

Detail your discussion of potential adverse effects from the proposed activity and any discussed mitigation measures.

NOLS practices minimum impact camping, respects cultural sites and abides by all closures of areas on First Nations land. Therefore, NOLS does not anticipate adverse effects from sea kayaking and minimum impact camping. If any First Nations have concerns, we will follow any mitigation measures requested.

First Nations agreements undertaken

First Nations agreements are an ongoing project. NOLS will update our permit administrator with additional First Nation contacts and agreements.

2.0 Location

A [General Location Map](#) and a Detailed Site Plan are required to be uploaded with the application.

2.1 Description

Provide a general description of the location of the project. Be sure to note:

- Traffic patterns and volume
- Parking
- Any other significant details related to your activity

NOLS has operated sea kayak courses since 1995 in British Columbia. Our current License of Occupation includes what was previously referred to as Kayak Zones 1, 5, and 7. NOLS is not asking for renewal of Kayak Zone 5 which used to include part of the West Coast of Vancouver

Island. NOLS is asking for a renewal of campsites in Kayak Zones 1 and 7. Additionally, NOLS would like to operate an Inside Passage Sea Kayak trip which requires an expanded tenure. The Inside Passage Sea Kayak trip would paddle the British Columbia Coast from Washington to Alaska. The Inside Passage trip would be one group of max 10, doing a one-way trip once every other year. Included with this application are campsite lists, site maps and general map for each region NOLS would like to operate in. The regions are broken down as North Coast (part of this map/list includes Central Coast), Central Coast, Vancouver Island East which is further broken down into Vancouver Island East-North and Vancouver Island East- South. Most sites would be visited 3 or fewer times a year.

2.2 Location Justification

Tell us why you need this type of activity at this location. For example, is the activity close to a highway for easy truck access?

The Central, North Coast and Vancouver Island's coastal waters offer an incredible wilderness classroom to learn and recreate. Due to highly mobile and specific needs of the field activities offered, and to minimize user conflicts and environmental impacts, a wide variety of locations are used. In addition, weather and sea conditions play an integral part in determining where and how far groups travel. For these reasons, flexibility and a wide choice of locations is crucial to successful operations.

2.3 Seasonal Expectations of Proposed Use

Let us know what times of the year you're proposing to use the land. Ensure you reference appropriate [timing windows](#) for projects in or around water.

Construction/ Operations	Brief Description	Season/ Timing	Comments
Sea Kayaking and camping	Minimum impact camping Sea kayaking	spring/summer/fall May- October	Specifics below
Kayak Instructor Course	3-week sea kayak course Central Coast, Vancouver Island East-North	April, May or September	10 students, 2 guides sea kayak instructor training max one course a year
SKP	4-week sea kayak course Central Coast	June and July	14 ppl maximum (3 guides to keep 1:5 guide client ratio) maximum 2 trips or less a summer
Alumni Inside Passage	Inside Passage Sea Kayak Expedition 50 days paddling BC Coast. Vancouver Island East-South, Vancouver Island East-North, Central Coast and North Coast	May-late June/early July	Max 8 students, 2 guides 3-month sea kayak expedition, paddling Inside Passage from WA to AK once every other year. Estimate about 50 days of the 3 months in BC.

NWS Northwest Semester	3-week sea kayak course Central Coast, Vancouver Island East-North	September- October	10 students, 2 guides 2 trips or less in the fall
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2.4 Historical Use

Has the land, or portions of the land been previously developed? Provide as much detail as you can, adding this detail to the maps if necessary.

Suitable campsites along the coast are sparse, with many suitable sites are already hardened from historical use of other users. NOLS practices Leave No Trace. Most places are wilderness camping on beaches or durable ground. NOLS uses tents and does not plan to make any improvements. NOLS respects archaeological sites and closures.

Many of the proposed campsites for NOLS use are listed on the BC Marine Trails map/website. From the BC Marine Trails website "Our Trails Development work enables recreationists to navigate the coast safely and respectfully. We do everything from site assessments and safety mandates to gaining social license over coastal access points. We also install things like tent platforms, food caches and composting toilets. All of this is necessary to keep sites sustainable and is made possible through donations, membership fees and the help of our dedicated volunteers."

Therefore, BC Marine Trails has made some improvements to campsites to help care for the environment, make campsite sustainable and to help protect these special places. NOLS does not make any improvements to campsites but will use existing tent pads.

3.0 Infrastructure and Improvements

3.1 Facilities and Infrastructure

Detail any new and existing facilities, infrastructure, or processes proposed and any ancillary uses. Provide details of planned construction methods, materials, and construction scheduling. Identify mitigation for potential issues. Outline your plan for long term maintenance of improvements, decommissioning, and/or required remediation.

Facility/Infrastructure/ Process	Construction Methods/Materials	Construction Schedule	Long Term Planning
N/A see comment below			

NOLS Sea Kayak Operations are conducted in a minimum impact style and there are neither permanent facilities utilized nor improvements or modifications of any kind. Campsites are rock, sand, forest duff or existing "hardened" sites, with no permanent structures or pads required.

3.2 Infrastructure/Access

Identify existing and proposed roads used to access the site.

Include information about:

- Types of roads and vehicles expected to use them

- Anticipated traffic volumes during construction and operation
- The use of roads by season
- Connections that:
 - Need either a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure [permit for connection](#) or
 - [Use of a Forest Service Road](#).
- Any road use agreements

Roadway/ Proposed Connection	Existing Road Classification	Road Permittee Information and Road Use Agreements	Traffic Volume for Construction and Operational Phases	Mitigation of Traffic Effects
N/A				

3.3 Utility Requirements and Sources

Describe utility requirements and potential sources, include agreements in place or underway allowing access to utilities. Utilities include power generation, electrical or gas transmission or distribution lines, and telecommunications.

N/A

3.4 Water Supply

Identify water requirements for construction and operation phases.

Construction/ Operation Phase	Water Source(s) (e.g. Surface Water, Ground Water, etc.)	Source/Location	Infrastructure Description	Agreements*
N/A				

*Agreements outside of [Water Sustainability Act Authorizations](#), such as Municipal water supply.

3.5 Waste Collection Treatment and Disposal

Identify any waste disposal (note septic system required), sewage, sanitation facilities, and refuse disposal proposed. Include agreements in place or underway such as regional health board sewage disposal permits.

Construction/ Operation Phase	Discharge distance to closest body of water (lake, well, etc.)	Volume of daily discharge	Infrastructure description	Agreements

N/A				

NOLS follows the BC Marine Trails Code of Conduct <https://www.bcmarinetrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Long-Form-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

NOLS packs out all garbage; the group carries food waste and any trash in the kayaks. NOLS will use existing pit toilets and outhouses for human waste. When a toilet is unavailable, best practice is to dispose of human waste below the high tide line and ensure tidal flush sweeps it out to sea. Alternatively, where shellfish will be contaminated, pack out or discharge waste mid channel.

Due to potential unknown archeological sites along the coast and out of respect for First Nations, this protects potential unknown archeological sites by not digging cat holes in the uplands/forests. From the Environmental Laws BC Coastal First Nations Field Guide (p80): "A person must not damage, dig in, or alter, or remove an object from a site where humans may have lived or used the area". https://coastalfirstnations.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/CFN_Field_Guide.pdf

3.6 FireSmart

Identify any proposed actions to incorporate [FireSmart](#) best practices in the tenure area.

NOLS practices Leave No Trace Camping. Campfire bans are followed, and camp stoves are used.

4.0 Environmental

Describe significant impacts and proposed mitigation for each of the following:

4.1 Land Impacts

4.1.1 Vegetation Removal

Is any timber removal required? To cut timber on Crown land once your tenure has been issued, you may require an [Occupant Licence to Cut](#).

N/A

Are any areas of vegetation to be cleared, outside of timber removal?

N/A

4.1.2 Soil Disturbance

Will there be any areas of soil disturbance, including grubbing, excavation, contouring, and levelling?

N/A

Is the area to be excavated a [brownfield](#) site or have the potential to be [contaminated](#)?

N/A

Any ground-disturbing activities have the potential to impact [archaeological](#), paleontological [fossils](#), or historical artifacts. Have you considered these [potential impacts](#) or taken any action to identify them? You may be required to hire a professional to assist with your investigations.

Our group will be instructed to not collect any archaeological, paleontological fossils, or historical artifacts. We will avoid walking, camping or disturbing any obvious midden or historical house sites. Each season we will reach out to First Nations for guidance on which culturally significant sites are closed to visitors.

4.1.3 Riparian Encroachment

Will any works be completed within or adjacent to the riparian zone of any water body? The [Riparian Areas Protection Regulation](#) may affect your development if it's within 30 metres of a watercourse and you intend to:

- Disturb soil
- Remove plants
- Construct or install works for flood protection
- Develop drainage systems or service sewer or water systems

N/A

4.1.4 Pesticides and Herbicides

Will [pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides](#) be used during construction, operations, or maintenance?

N/A

4.1.5 Visual Impacts

What impacts will your activity have on [visual quality objectives](#). Could it impact sight lines from surrounding areas likely to be used for scenic viewing?

N/A

4.2 Atmospheric Impact

4.2.1 Sound, Odour, Gas, or Fuel Emissions

Will your activity cause any of the following to disturb wildlife or nearby residents?

- Sound?

- Odour?
- Gas?
- Fuel Emissions?

No, NOLS respects wildlife and other visitors. Our educational curriculum includes learning about wildlife and environmental issues.

4.3 Hydrology

4.3.1 Drainage Effects

Will the project result in changes to land drainage?

N/A, no

4.3.2 Flood Potential

Will the project result in a potential for flooding?

N/A, no

4.4 Fish and Wildlife Habitat

4.4.1 Disturbance to Fish/Wildlife and Fish/Wildlife Habitat

What effect will your activity (construction or operations phase) have on [wildlife or wildlife habitat](#)?

NOLS follows Marine Regulations to not disrupt wildlife while kayaking. For example, staying 400m from all Orcas and 200m from all other whales. On land proper food storage measures such as storing food in kayaks or hanging food when possible, are taken to prevent wildlife including bears and wolves from accessing human food. If evidence of recent bear activity at a camp location, NOLS will typically paddle on to another camp to give the bears their space. NOLS follows the guidelines in The Wildlife Guidelines for Recreation and will check for updates prior to trips. Fishing is not the primary focus of a NOLS paddling trip - however if NOLS participants do fish, they will have the appropriate license and follow all DFO fishing regulations, First Nation Area Closures and Rock Fish Conservation Area closures. NOLS will report any infractions to the DFO Incident Reporting Line: 1-800-465-4336. Species at risk and best management practices can evolve over time and NOLS is committed to protecting the environment including wildlife and natural resources.

Will the activity (construction or operations phase) occur in and around [streams, lakes, estuarine, or marine environments](#)?

Sea Kayaking will occur in marine environment. This is a human powered, quite activity with wilderness camping. No construction will take place. NOLS respects wildlife and follows marine regulations.

Is the construction or operation of your activity likely to increase erosion or sedimentation?

N/A

Will the construction or operation of your activity require [water diversion](#)?

N/A

Will the activity threaten or endanger [species at risk](#) in the area?

No, NOLS follows Marine Mammal Regulations. Current closures and restrictions are looked up prior to every sea kayak trip.

5.0 Socio-Community

Describe significant impacts and proposed mitigation for each of the following:

5.1 Land Use

Describe the current community setting or any locally known areas in use on, or near, the activity area.

Wilderness camping is our main use. Respecting other visitors is a priority. If another group of kayakers was at a camp, we will paddle on if weather allows to give other visitors their own wilderness experience. NOLS will pass through small communities where resupplies would take place and at the beginning and end of trips. NOLS brings business to local communities.

5.1.1 Land Management Plans and Regional Growth Strategies

Are there any plans, strategies, or use restrictions that could limit or prevent your activity? They include:

- [Land and resource management plans](#)
- Coastal plans
- Provincial or regional growth strategies
- [Local government plans](#) with zoning, or management policies or use restrictions in place that could limit or preclude your proposed use of the land?

Refer to the [Union of BC Municipalities](#), and check the websites of the municipality, regional district, or other organization with jurisdiction that includes your activity area.

No. The Central Coast Land Management plan recommends tourism and recreation activities.

5.2 Socio-Community Conditions

5.2.1 Adjacent Users or Communities

Is the project likely to restrict public access, or the ability of adjacent landowners or tenure holders to access their property or tenures?

No

5.2.2 Public Access

Will the project result in changes to public access?

No

5.2.3 Existing Services

Describe any increased demand on fire protection, health facilities, or emergency services. Include proposed management or mitigation measures.

NOLS Leaders have first aid and emergency response training. See included Risk Management documents for more details.

END OF FORM