



BC Parks



AGES 6-8

# CONNECTING WITH PLACE

- » EXPLORE CULTURALLY MODIFIED TREES
- » LEARN TO SPOT ANIMAL SIGNS
- » PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN OUR PARKS





# WELCOME TO BC PARKS

## Connecting with Place

Welcome to BC Parks! We protect and manage our beautiful provincial parks for future generations, and we're so happy you're here!

*Did you know that certain trees like to grow in certain places? Western red cedars, for example, like to grow in cool places with rich, damp soil. What kind of place are you in today? Is it dry or damp? High in the mountains or down by the ocean? Close to the city or deep in the backcountry? Let's go on an adventure and find out what makes the park you're in today so special!*

## JERRY'S RANGERS

Is your child eager to learn more about BC Parks and how to care for them? Check out the Jerry's Rangers program, an interpretive program for children ages 5+ available in select provincial parks. The program encourages children to connect with the land around them, fostering the next generation of park stewards. Participants can earn a Jerry's Rangers certificate by completing different activities to collect 6 stamps. Find the certificate at the back of this booklet!

For more information and to find out where the program is offered, check out [bcparks.ca/jerrysrangers](http://bcparks.ca/jerrysrangers)



## For parent/guardians:

This booklet is designed to help you guide your child's experience in a provincial park. It provides activities and ideas to enrich your visit, while leaving space for your child to take the lead. As an adult, enjoy the role of a co-learner and wear the hat of a "gentle guide", rather than an "expert". Child-led adventure is where the magic happens - follow where your child's interests are, and you may be amazed at the connections you make in the park today!

If you don't finish the booklet, don't worry! Save it for your next park visit - the activities can be done in provincial parks and protected areas across BC.



# WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS

Choose A Nature Name

- 1) Think of one of your favourite BC animals, plants or natural phenomena. Pick something in the wild that you love.
- 2) Now choose an adjective (a descriptive word) to add to it to make your Nature Name.

Here are some ideas: Magnificent Cloud, Fabulous Fern, Dazzling Leopard Frog. Write and/or draw your Nature Name on your very own wooden medallion below!



**ACTIVITY:** Who are you here with? Draw a picture of the people in the park with you and add in what you notice about the environment (trees, plants, animals, weather, etc.) around you!

CONNECTING WITH PLACE

2

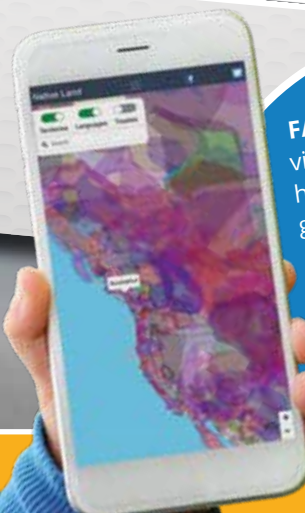
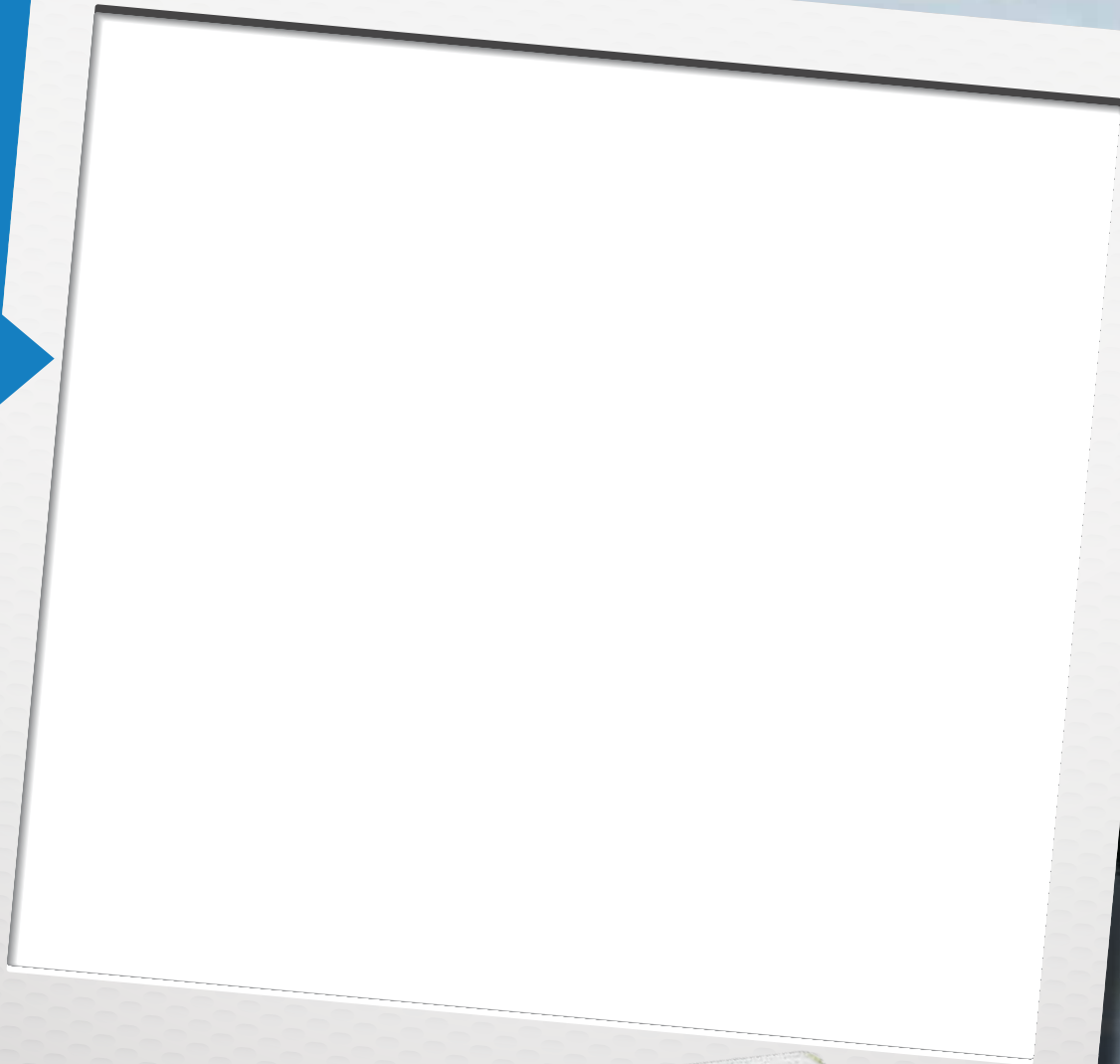
# WHERE ARE YOU?

## Acknowledgement & Gratitude

We are so happy you are here to enjoy BC Parks' many natural and cultural features.

Take a deep breath.  
Look around you.  
What are you grateful  
for today? What is  
something that makes  
you happy here in the  
park?

Draw a picture of or  
trace something in  
the park that makes  
you happy.



**FAMILY FUN:** Consider visiting [maps.fpcc.ca](http://maps.fpcc.ca) to hear pronunciations and greetings in each of the Indigenous languages spoken by First Nations peoples across the province when you get home. Learn more about the Traditional Territory that the park is in by visiting [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca)

Please note: These websites are not directly affiliated with BC Parks.



# BRITISH COLUMBIA

## DID YOU KNOW

there are 7 Indigenous language families (and 34 different languages) spoken in BC?



Dease  
Lake

Fort  
Nelson

LANGUAGE:  
Tse'khene  
Danachea  
English: Hello  
PRONUNCIATION:  
(dan) (a) [che] (a)

Tse'khene

LANGUAGE:  
Dakelh  
Hadih  
English: Hello  
PRONUNCIATION:  
[ha] (dih)

Dakelh

Kitimat

Sandspit



Secwepemctsin

YUKON

ALBERTA

USA

Kamloops

Vancouver

Tofino

Victoria

LANGUAGE:  
Secwepemctsin  
weyt-k  
English: Hello

PRONUNCIATION:  
[wey](t-k)

**Activity:**  
a big province!  
Where are you?  
Draw an 'X' in  
the area of the  
park you are  
visiting.

CONNECTING WITH PLACE

4



# LEARNING TO BE RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE

Design a sticker to share one of the following principles of responsible recreation:

**Parks are not self-cleaning** - Pack your garbage out with you.  
*Why? Wildlife can be attracted to the smell of garbage. They can eat it and get sick! Eating garbage can also mean that wildlife starts to connect humans with food, and wild animals are meant to eat wild things!*

**Nice people make nature nicer** - Stay on the trail.  
*Why? Staying on the trail helps protect plants and animals alike. Some animals and plants are very sensitive, and could take years to recover from feet that step off the path!*

**If everyone took something, there'd be nothing left.**  
*So? The beauty of BC parks is there for everyone to enjoy. Leave flowers and other plants to grow after you go!*

**Wildlife is meant to be wild** - Give them space.  
*Why? Remember that the parks are wildlife's home. Keep yourself and wildlife safe by giving them space - make noise and travel in groups to let wildlife know you're coming.*

**Forests are not firewood** - Use supplied firewood only in designated areas.  
*Why? Dead wood is an important part of the habitat for many plants and animals. It will also break down and add important organic matter (think garden mulch) to the soil.*



Your design:



# HEADING OUT FOR A HIKE

Imagine you are headed out on a hike. Are you ready? Do you have everything you need? Every safe hike starts with being prepared.

Match the safety sentences below to check if you're ready:

Protect yourself from the sun  
by remembering to put on... **1**

To help you signal for help,  
you should always carry... **2**

To help you find your  
way, you always need... **3**

Stay fed and hydrated,  
you should carry extra... **4**

An orange garbage  
bag can act as... **5**

The weather can  
change quickly, so  
you need to pack... **6**

If you get lost  
you should... **7**

Don't eat... **8**

Remember to let  
animals know  
you're coming by... **9**

When choosing which  
way to go, always stick to... **10**

**a**  stay put

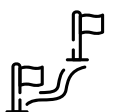
**b**  extra clothes

**c**  food and water

**d**  wild plants

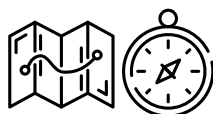
**e**  a whistle

**f**  shelter

**g**  marked trails

**h**  sun protection

**i**  making noise

**j**  a map

## Check the list:

Do you have what you need? Check off the items you have from this list of essentials, and help the adults you're with to keep everyone safe! Essential means something you really need - these items are important to have with you for any outdoor adventure:

- ☐ Fire-starting kit (waterproof matches or lighter)
- ☐ Pocket knife
- ☐ Extra food and water
- ☐ Emergency shelter (orange tarp etc.)
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp

- ☐ Spare clothing
- ☐ Signaling device (whistle or mirror)
- ☐ Navigational/communication aids (maps, compass, cellular phone etc.)
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Sun protection



# WILDLIFE DETECTIVES

**ACTIVITY:** Pick a trail or area to explore. You are a wildlife detective on the hunt for signs that animals have been here! As you hike, notice the animal signs around you, and try to guess what creatures created them. Gather clues and use this checklist to help you solve the mysteries!

Possible Clue	Could it be...?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
small hole in the ground	the burrow of a rodent (like a squirrel, mole, or ground squirrel) or a snake?	<input type="checkbox"/>
larger hole in the ground	a marmot or fox den?	<input type="checkbox"/>
tree leaves, shrubs, or bark eaten (more than 2 meters above the ground)	a munching deer, goat, or elk, that stood on its hind legs to reach the food?	<input type="checkbox"/>
tree bark eaten up high	a munching porcupine?	<input type="checkbox"/>
pile of bark, wood chips, or shavings on the ground and large holes in a tree above	a large woodpecker looking for bugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>
series of a small holes, often in a circle around the tree	a thirsty sapsucker or hungry insect?	<input type="checkbox"/>
bushes and trees cut down, and chewed-through trunks	a beaver gathering building supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>
pile of seeds or cones	a hungry chipmunk or squirrel?	<input type="checkbox"/>
claw marks on trees	a bear, lynx, or cougar marking its territory?	<input type="checkbox"/>
small holes and designs in leaves	some munching insects?	<input type="checkbox"/>
scat (poop / animal droppings)	an animal marking its territory?	<input type="checkbox"/>
shed (dropped) reptile skin	left behind by a snake who outgrew it?	<input type="checkbox"/>
shed (dropped) antlers	left behind by a deer or moose?	<input type="checkbox"/>
animal tracks	left behind by an animal passing by? (Which type of animal? How did it walk?)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Look for a patch of snow, mud, sand or soil with tracks.

Can you find 5 sets of tracks and follow them?

How about 20 sets of tracks? Where are they going?





## Wings, Paws or Fins?

Where do mammals, amphibians, insects, fish and birds live? What materials do they use to make their homes? Where do they choose to live?

**ACTIVITY:** Choose to think like **a bird, a bear, or a frog**. Would their homes be in the same place? Would a home in a pond use the same materials as a home in a tree? Why or why not?

List some of the materials you would need for your home:

---

---

Look around you, and notice where the best spot would be for your chosen creature's home\*. Maybe you can already spot the home of a creature!

\*If you can't find the best spot for your creature, imagine where they might be happiest.

**Draw your creature's home here:**



Earn the Naturalist Stamp for your Jerry's Rangers certificate by completing these activities!



**REMEMBER:** Animal homes come in all shapes and sizes. Be careful not to disturb their living space by poking sticks into holes or covering up openings.



# ENJOYING BC'S BEAUTIFUL BIODIVERSITY

## Celebrating Biodiversity

**Biodiversity** is a pretty big word for a pretty big idea: the number, type, and differences of all the living things in an area.

Biodiversity is so important — it lets lots of different plants and animals live together in balance. Large protected areas like provincial parks help protect this balance.

That's why you see more plants and animals here in the parks than in your backyard!

**Activity:** Choose two areas in the park that are different from one another. Take time to explore both, recording (writing or drawing) the differences you see. Compare how many different species you can see in your two areas in the park:

**Location 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

What is today's date? \_\_\_\_\_

What time of day is it (morning, midday, evening, night)? \_\_\_\_\_

What's the weather like (rainy, snowy, sunny, cold, windy, hot)? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the land look like (flat lands, mountains, seashore, forest, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kinds of coniferous trees (trees with cones)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kinds of plants? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kinds of deciduous trees (trees with leaves)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many mammals (e.g. squirrels, seals, whales, marmots, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many birds? \_\_\_\_\_

How many insects or bugs? \_\_\_\_\_

How many fish? \_\_\_\_\_

How many types of fungi or mushrooms? \_\_\_\_\_

**Location 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

What is today's date? \_\_\_\_\_

What time of day is it (morning, midday, evening, night)? \_\_\_\_\_

What's the weather like (rainy, snowy, sunny, cold, windy, hot)? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the land look like (flat lands, mountains, seashore, forest, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kinds of coniferous trees (trees with cones)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kinds of plants? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kinds of deciduous trees (trees with leaves)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many mammals (e.g. squirrels, seals, whales, marmots, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many birds? \_\_\_\_\_

How many insects or bugs? \_\_\_\_\_

How many fish? \_\_\_\_\_

How many types of fungi or mushrooms? \_\_\_\_\_

**NURSE LOGS:** Giving back to the Forest

In forests across BC, fallen trees covered in moss and little plants are a familiar sight. These old trees, starting to rot or decompose, are called nurse logs. As they rot away, they provide nutrients or food to a new generation of plant life.



What was the most surprising living thing you noticed? Sketch/draw it here.

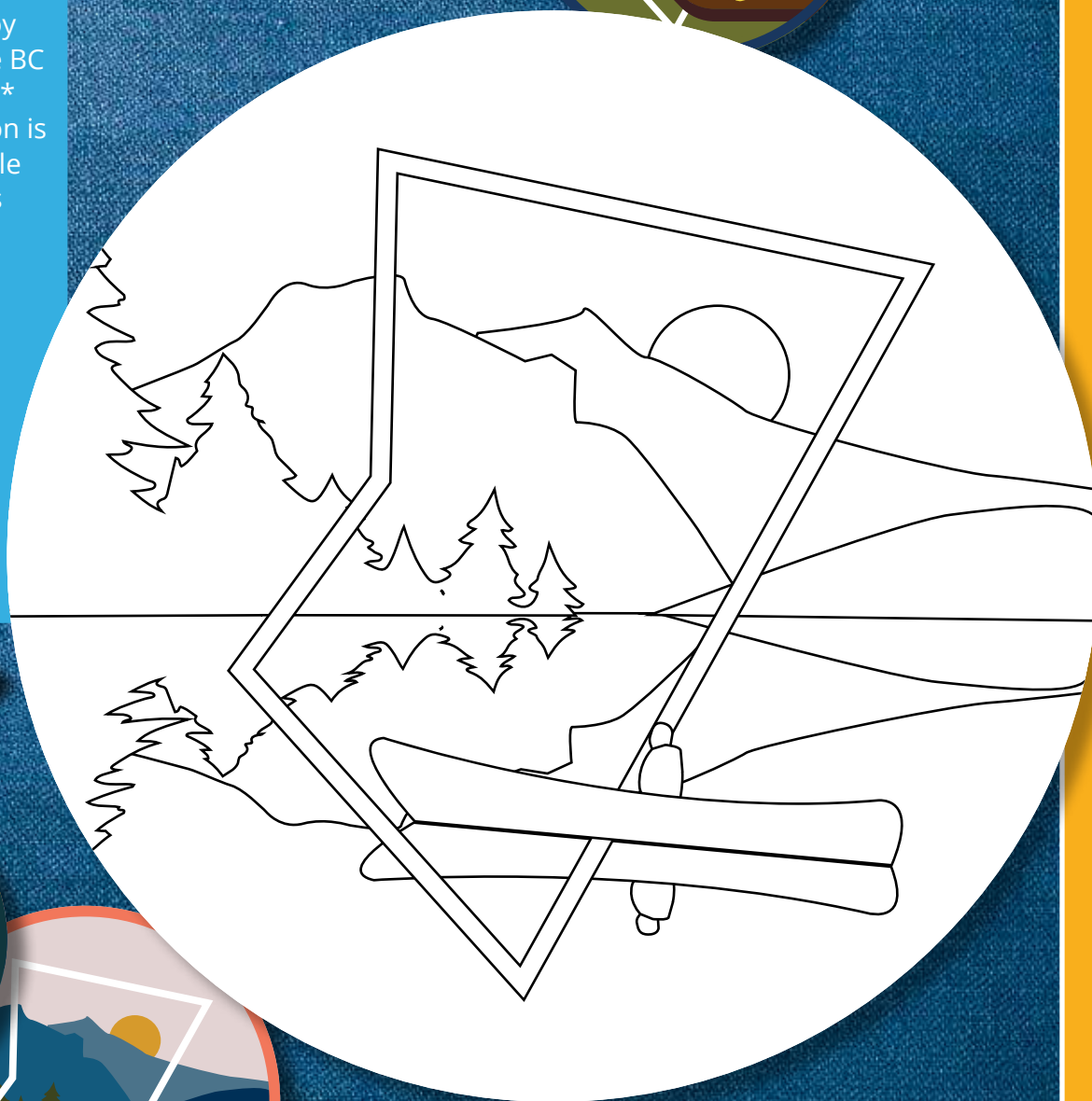


# PROTECTING BC'S COLOURFUL PARKS

BC Parks are home to an incredible amount of animals, plants and history! You can support parks across the province for you and your loved ones to explore and enjoy with the help of the BC Parks Foundation\*.\* BC Parks Foundation is the official charitable partner of BC Parks

Take a moment to colour some of the many treasured outdoor parks and protected areas featured on the BC Parks Foundation patches.

BC  
PARKS  
FOUNDATION



CONNECTING WITH PLACE

10

# OPENING UP OUR SENSES

British Columbia is the most biologically diverse province in Canada. This means we have the biggest number and variety of plants and animals growing and living in BC!

## Senses Scavenger Hunt

Take a look at the many different living things all around you in the park!  
Use your senses to search and find:

Remember to leave things as you find them! Check the boxes, and leave the items where they are.



- ☐ something tiny
- ☐ something white
- ☐ something heart shaped



- ☐ something that snaps
- ☐ animal sound
- ☐ something loud



- ☐ something bumpy
- ☐ something wet
- ☐ something prickly

Careful!  
Touch items  
gently, and only  
touch something  
you know is safe to  
touch!



- ☐ find a flower with a scent
- ☐ find something with a dry smell (tree bark)
- ☐ find something with a fresh smell (notice smells in the air)

Earn the  
Observer Stamp  
for your Jerry's  
Rangers certificate  
by completing this  
activity!







## CELEBRATING CULTURALLY MODIFIED TREES

### Did you know?

Many plants that you will see in the park have been used by Indigenous communities for thousands of years and continue to be harvested and used today. In BC you can find **culturally modified trees (CMTs)**.




Why are these trees modified\*? The bark or wood from cedar trees is harvested and used for traditional purposes, like weaving and carving.

\*Modified means the living trees continue to grow after part of their bark or wood is removed carefully, in ways that have been passed down through generations and generations.



**ACTIVITY:** Can you match the harvest technique with one of the traditional uses for cedar?

### How to recognize a CMT:

-  Strips of bark have been removed → used in clothes, hats and baskets
-  Planks split off from living tree → used for baby's cradle, cooking box, drum, house, coffin
-  Stumps or trees in various stages of construction → crafted into canoes, house, to display crests



Tree bark

used in clothes, hats and baskets



Wood planks

tree harvested and crafted into canoe, house, to display crests



Tree stumps

used for baby's cradle, cooking box, drum, house, coffin

# TAKING A FOCUSED MOMENT

-  Find a quiet place to sit.
-  Take a deep breath. What does the air smell like around you?
-  Close your eyes and listen carefully. What do you hear?
-  Find something that is safe to touch. How does it feel?
-  You are in the middle of a habitat, home to many animals, plants, fungi, and microbes. How many different species do you think live around you?



## Tuning In

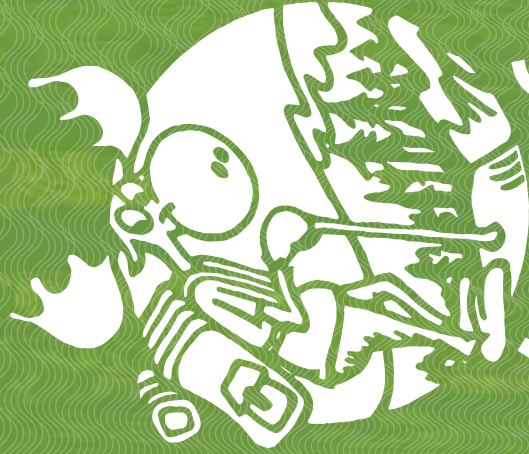
Look around you and find something that catches your eye. Maybe it's a special insect, plant, rock, tree or creature to sit and observe.



Draw something you noticed with your senses:







**JERRY'S  
RANGERS**

We ♥ BC Parks!

# CERTIFICATE

Once all six stamps have been collected, this certificate signifies that

\_\_\_\_\_ is part of the BC Parks Jerry's Rangers team!

Jerry's Rangers are always working towards becoming better stewards  
for the beautiful natural parks spaces across British Columbia.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

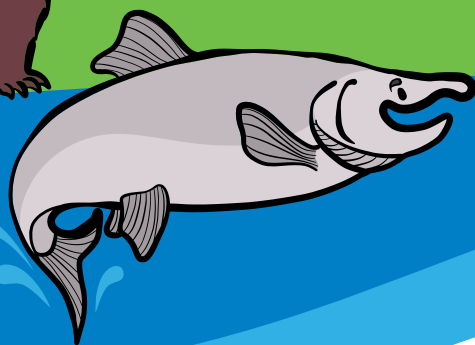
Date: \_\_\_\_\_







*"Thank you for visiting!  
There's always more to see and  
experience in the provincial  
parks - see you again soon!"*



## BC PARKS LICENCE PLATE PROGRAM

Show your pride in British Columbia's natural beauty with a park-themed licence plate! Each BC Parks licence plate supports our provincial parks and protected areas. All net proceeds from the sale and renewals of BC Parks plates are reinvested back into provincial parks to support programs and projects related to conservation, community engagement, and Indigenous relations.

This project was funded by the Licence Plate Program.



# BC Parks

This material is owned by the Government of British Columbia and protected by copyright law. It may not be reproduced or redistributed without the prior written permission of the Province of British Columbia.

*Printed on 100% recycled paper with environmentally friendly inks.*

Design by Animikii and Rivers to Ridges Inc. Copyright © 2020, Province of British Columbia. All rights reserved.