



Toitū te whenua

Mission

To promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation.

Background

Leave No Trace (LNT) New Zealand seeks to educate and challenge the New Zealand public and visitors on how and why to minimise their environmental impacts while enjoying natural and cultural heritage areas.

LNT language is used internationally and aims to develop people's environmental ethics. Rather than a set of rules, LNT promotes ethical choices through a framework of seven principles.

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

► PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Plan ahead by considering your goals and those of your group. Know before you go- get local information, skills and gear you need to make your trip a success.

► TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE GROUND

Some areas are more fragile than others. Choose to camp and travel on the most durable surface you can, the best ones are tracks, gravel, snow and most grasses. Impacts on fragile natural features caused by travel and camping can take many years to heal.

► DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Pack it in, pack it out. As users of the outdoors we all have a responsibility to clean up after ourselves. Rubbish and toilet waste are unsightly and can introduce unwanted organisms into the environment. Lead by example, if you see rubbish, pick it up.

► LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

People visit natural areas for many reasons; such as exploring nature's mysteries and surprises. When we leave natural objects and artifacts as we found them, we pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow. Many sites of spiritual and cultural significance to Māori are interwoven with the natural environment.

► MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF FIRE

Local regulations and conditions change depending on time of year and location. Lightweight stoves, fire pans and mounds mean campfires are no longer essential for cooking or comfort. Wildfires are often caused by carelessness and the natural appearance of many recreation sites has been damaged by campfires, visual scarring and stripping vegetation for firewood.

► RESPECT WILDLIFE AND FARM ANIMALS

Know when animals are particularly vulnerable, such as breeding times, and change your behaviour with them by observing from a distance. Avoid feeding animals either deliberately or accidentally by leaving food or rubbish lying around. Farming is a big part of New Zealand's culture and economy, know how to move through farms without disturbing farm animals.

► BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

We all go into the outdoors for different reasons, so we must share. Think about others, respect their activities and what they might be trying to get out of their recreational experience.

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