



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

SISOOPS304A Plan for minimal environmental impact

Release: 2

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Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to plan outdoor activities to ensure that minimal environmental impact occurs. The planning requires consideration of the appropriate combination of an activity with a setting. This involves the learner making informed decisions about the selection of settings and the conduct of the activity during the planning phase.

For Indigenous contexts, the delivery and assessment against this competency standard must comply with community protocols and guidelines and be supported by elders and custodians of country.

Application of the Unit

This unit applies to those who work in a range of roles and settings across the sport and recreation sector.

This may include those working for private outdoor adventure companies, volunteer organisations, not for profit organisations or government agencies.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of endorsement.

Pre-Requisites

Nil

Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.

1. Identify interrelationships between the natural environment and human activity.

- 1.1. Source information on ***ecological systems*** and their interrelationship to the activity setting.
- 1.2. Determine ***human impact*** of outdoor recreational activity on ecological systems and their interrelationships.
- 1.3. Consult with appropriate ***authorities*** to identify sensitive areas within the setting and aspects unique to it.
- 1.4. Liaise with ***stakeholders*** to identify ***parameters of use***.
- 1.5. Identify implications of parameters of use for planning of outdoor recreation activities within the setting.

2. Prepare a minimal impact plan for the activity and setting.

- 2.1. Analyse current environmental ***management strategies*** for the site implemented by resource managers.
- 2.2. Identify and assess the ***characteristics of the setting*** according to the proposed outdoor recreation activity.
- 2.3. Identify other uses of the setting, the relationship to current management strategies and the implications for offering appropriate recreation opportunities.
- 2.4. Identify ***minimal impact practices*** and procedures to reduce ***impact on the natural environment*** according to ***relevant legislation*** and ***organisational minimal impact policies and procedures***.
- 2.5. Develop and document a ***minimal impact plan*** for the activity according to relevant legislation and ***resource management principles*** for the setting.

3. Implement and monitor minimal impact plan.

- 3.1. Explain aims of minimal impact plan to activity participants.
- 3.2. Communicate ***unique aspects*** of the setting and

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- specific impacts likely to occur during an activity to participants in the activity.
- 3.3. Conduct activities according to minimal impact plan, relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures.
- 3.4. Monitor effectiveness of minimal impact plan.
4. Evaluate minimal impact practices.
- 4.1. Identify *techniques* to determine the nature and degree of impact.
- 4.2. Evaluate the effectiveness of personal minimal impact practices using basic techniques.
- 4.3. Modify impact reduction strategies, where necessary, after evaluation.

Required Skills and Knowledge

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- communication and interpersonal skills to:
 - consult with authorities, landowners and or custodians regarding strategies to minimise the impact of outdoor activities on specific environments and settings
 - convey information to participants about participating in activities responsibly so that environmental impact is minimised
- problem-solving skills to:
 - identify and match strategies for minimal environmental impact within an outdoor activity to a particular environmental setting
 - develop sustainable solutions that meet the needs of all stakeholders
- language and literacy skills to:
 - read and analyse relevant legislation and organisational policies and procedures
 - develop and document an environmental minimal impact plan
 - source information on ecological systems
- planning and organising skills to:
 - plan goals and strategies to achieve minimal environmental impact for an outdoor activity
 - monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the plan.

Required knowledge

- legislation and organisational minimal impact policies and procedures relating to environmental protection and cultural and heritage protection for the activity area and location to enable outdoor recreation activities to be undertaken responsibly
- area restrictions and resource management requirements to enable compliance during outdoor recreation activities
- biological systems, their interrelationships and terminology used in relation to these to enable understanding of potential causes and consequences of environmental impact
- specific problems of fragile environments or threatened species to enable planning for minimal impact
- environmental management practices used by resource management authorities to minimise impact and factors affecting land management planning, such as limits or parameters of acceptable change to enable identification of appropriate strategies and development of appropriate minimal impact plan
- cultural protocols for making contact and communicating with people and organisations to enable effective consultation in relation to any specific cultural requirements for site access and protection
- roles and responsibilities of resource management agencies.

Evidence Guide

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Overview of assessment

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Evidence of the following is essential:

- plans outdoor recreation activities that balance the need to minimise environmental impact of recreational activities with appropriate activities and opportunities
- applies contingency management techniques to deal with concerns over the degree of impact following recreational activities
- adopts and models a responsible attitude towards the natural environment throughout activities.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure planning for minimal impact of outdoor activities by implementing environmental management strategies appropriate to local environments on sufficient occasions to demonstrate competency and consistency of performance.

Assessment must also ensure access to:

- an outdoor environment or site with access to land management personnel, stakeholders and participants
- documentation such as organisational minimal environmental impact procedures and practices and relevant environmental protection legislation.

Method of assessment

A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- direct observation of the candidate's ability to implement minimal environmental practices while planning for an outdoor activity
- oral and written questioning to assess knowledge of key environmental management practices to minimise activity impact appropriate to the locality or site of the outdoor activity
- third-party reports from a supervisor detailing evidence of the candidate's planning and implementation of minimal environmental impact practices during an outdoor activity
- a portfolio of evidence of minimal impact plans for specific activities and settings.

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended, for example:

- SISOODR302A Plan outdoor recreation activities.

Range Statement

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

Ecological systems may include:

- marine
- flora
- fauna
- wetlands
- community
- biosphere
- cycles
- food chains.

Human impact may include:

- introduced species
- loss of habitat
- removal of species
- pollution
- physical damage
- alteration to the environment
- noise
- conflicts with other recreational users
- damage to cultural heritage
- crowding.

Authorities may include:

- cultural custodians
- local, state or federal government agencies.

Stakeholders may include:

- authorities
- landowners and or custodians
- relevant state and local government bodies
- land managers.

Parameters of use may include:

- times and duration
- number of users at any one time
- type of activities permitted
- restricted access.

Management strategies may include:

- dispersal of use
- concentration of use
- site hardening or shielding
- zoning
- size limitations
- noise restrictions

- Characteristics of the setting*** may include:
- speed restrictions
 - biological
 - social
 - managerial
 - access regulations.
- Minimal impact practices*** may include:
- avoidance of sensitive areas
 - appropriate site and route selection
 - limited party size
 - removal of rubbish
 - appropriate sanitation practices
 - use of fuel stoves
 - use of low impact equipment
 - keeping to marked tracks or routes
 - appropriate washing procedures
 - respect and protection of heritage and cultural sites
 - campfire management and rehabilitation.
- Impact on the natural environment*** may include:
- soil
 - plants
 - water
 - geology
 - wildlife.
- Relevant legislation*** may include:
- occupational health and safety
 - permits or permission for access
 - environmental regulations
 - marine regulations.
- Organisational minimal impact policies and procedures*** may include:
- restricting access
 - limiting group size
 - seasonal restrictions
 - use of permits
 - protocols for consulting stakeholders
 - codes of Ethics and Conduct
 - heritage and cultural site protocols and guidelines.
- Minimal impact plan*** may include:
- activity aims to achieve minimal impact
 - management strategies to achieve minimal impact.
- Resource management principles*** may include:
- economic
 - environmental
 - social.
- Unique aspects*** may include:
- caves

Techniques may include:

- archaeological, heritage and cultural sites
- local traditions
- protected areas
- delicate or fragile formations and strata
- flora and fauna with restricted distribution.
- identifying the extent or spatial scale of the impact
- identifying intensity or severity of the impact
- identifying duration of the impact
- gauging stakeholder feedback or concerns.

Unit Sector(s)

Outdoor Recreation

Competency Field

Field Operations