

LEE-ANNE WALKER
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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Operate a successful private nature tourism and consulting **business since 1995**
- **Experience in project management** from idea conception, fundraising, implementation, monitoring to reporting
- Indepth **knowledge of the natural heritage, human history and communities** of the Rocky Mountain and Columbia Basin region
- Dedicated to **community-based participatory research**
- Developed and practiced **presentation and group facilitation skills**
- Contributor of **environmental management solutions** to issues
- Innovative **communicator** using a variety of written and oral techniques to translate complex messages for general audiences.
- Professional **interpretive naturalist** and **environmental educator** with 25 years experience.
- Creative **planner** directed at turning challenges into positive outcomes.
- **Collaborator** using strong leadership skills, team building strategies, creative ideas, setting goals and open communication to motivate other team members.
- Highly **self-motivated** with an **entrepreneurial spirit**.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **Master of Arts in Environment and Management.** Royal Roads University, 2009
- **Bachelor of Arts,** Recreation Administration (Honours in Heritage Interpretation). University of Alberta, 1985

WORK HISTORY

Interpretive Naturalist/Lead Guide, *Fernie Nature Tours* 2002 to Present
Proprietor and lead guide for this front country, nature/heritage based tourism company offering snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, hiking, nature-based education programs and guided bus tours. www.fernienature.com

Consultant, *Walk About Interpretation* 1995 to Present
Consulting company specializing in community-based participatory research, heritage interpretation, planning, tourism product development, environmental education, professional facilitation, economic development, feasibility studies and staff training.

Environmental Education Program Manager, *Wildsight* 2000-2006
Developed and managed Classroom with Outdoors and Winter Wonder, ecosystem awareness field trip programs to grade K-7 students throughout the Columbia Basin and Southwestern Alberta.

Tourism Development Coordinator, *TASK* 1995-1997
Assisted non-profit groups to develop tourism projects in the Kootenays by providing professional advice, organizational and project assistance, government liaison and networking opportunities. Responsible for Board communications and relations. Participated in Kootenay regional tourism and heritage planning.

Visitor Services Officer, *Frank Slide Interpretive Centre* 1983-1992
Managed a team of staff coordinating the development and delivery of visitor programs, special events, and liaison activities with community groups to integrate cultural programs within the Crowsnest Pass

SELECTED - PRIVATE CONTRACTS COMPLETED 1996-2009

Community-based Participatory Research

- Completed my MA Thesis targeted at the Columbia Basin Watershed Network titled “Community-based water monitoring: bridging citizens with decision makers”

Facilitation and Planning

- National database of member sites for the Great Canadian Fossil Trail
- Fernie Trail System public consultation and trails plan
- BC Premier’s Summit on Economic Opportunity – Kootenay
- Columbia Basin Trust public input for their Regional Plan and Symposium
- Regional consultation workshops for Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- Forest Renewal BC Regional public input process and strategic planning
- Business and Marketing Plan for the Creston Valley Wildlife Centre
- Elk Valley Outdoor Adventure Database for three Chambers of Commerce including interactive computer listing of 600 things to see and do in 38 activity areas and community signage

Community Economic Development

- East Kootenay facilitator for the Columbia Basin Trust *Rural Economic Development Program*. Assisted communities with tourism product development, buy local campaigns and strategic planning.

Natural History & Interpretation Instruction

- Provide natural and human history instructional services to the College of the Rockies for the *Mountain Adventure Skills Training Program* since 1996.
- Facilitator for Act Now BC *Science in Action* program in East Kootenay schools.
- Instructor for BC Wildlife Federation *Wetland Education Program* in the East Kootenay region.

- Teacher and mentor for *Wild BC* resources.

Environmental Education Coordination

- Analysis of CBT School and Non-School based Environmental Education Program
- Developed and deliver Mountain Parks Heritage Interpretation Association guide certification course for Waterton Lakes National Park.
- Developed a pilot field trip program for post secondary and grade 7 students on *Perspectives of Land Management* for Waterton Lakes National Park.
- BC Parks - developed and delivered curriculum linked extension programs in Elk Valley/South Country schools and with community residents.

Visitor Program Management

- As a BC Parks contractor from 1996-2003, developed and delivered guided hikes, amphitheatre programs, mountain bike tours, children's programs, activity nights, and other special events at Kikomun Creek and Mount Fernie Provincial Parks.

Design and Development of Interpretive Signage, Brochures and Exhibits

- Nature Conservancy of Canada – *Morrissey Old Growth Cottonwoods Trail*.
- For BC Parks - Moyie Lake Provincial Park interpretive signs, *Touch the Trench* travelling display and interactive computer terminal, Wasa Lion's Park Way interpretive signs, Mount Fernie guided post in-place brochure and sign, Kikomun Creek Provincial Park Great Northern Rail Trail interpretive signs, map and brochure.

Writing

- MA Thesis "Community-based science: bridging citizens and decision makers together for sustainability solutions"
- '*Step-by-Step Guide to Heritage Tourism Development in the Kootenays*' for the Tourism Action Society in the Kootenays. This tool walks community groups through the steps required to develop a tourism product e.g. interpretive centre, arts facility, tourist attraction, regional agritour.
- Numerous press releases and articles for local and national press
- Local nature column in the Fernie Free Press and Fernie Fix

PAST CLIENTS

- Act Now BC
- BC Habitat Conservation Trust Fund – Wild BC
- BC Wildlife Federation
- City of Fernie
- College of the Rockies
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership
- Elk Valley Chambers of Commerce
- Forest Renewal BC
- Government of BC – Ministry of Environment, BC Parks

- Government of Canada – Parks Canada
- Inghams Travel
- Island Lake Resort Group
- Mountain Parks Heritage Interpretation Association
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Resorts of the Canadian Rockies
- Tourism Action Society in the Kootenays
- Wildsight

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- *Volunteer* – BCWF Wetlandkeepers Laroux and West Fernie Wetland Restoration 2004 - Present
- *Volunteer Leader* – Fernie Nature Club 2007-Present
- *Volunteer* – Elk Valley Stewardship Atlas/Community Mapping Project 2004-Present
- *Young Naturalist Club Leader* – Federation of BC Naturalists 1999-Present
- *Chair* - Columbia Basin Environmental Educators Network 2004-2007
- *Coordinator* of BC Rivers Day – Elk River Clean Up 2004-2005
- *Regional Director*, East Kootenay Environmental Society 1997 to 2002
- *Parent Helper*, CL Salvador/Max Turyk Elementary School 1999-2005
- *Member* of the Elk River Heritage Designation Committee 1996
- *Project Volunteer*, Fernie Downtown Revitalization 1995-1996
- *Trustee*, Fernie Library Board 1994-96
- *Member*, Griz Days Committee 1994
- *Chair*, Crowsnest Pass Environment Education Committee 1991-1992
- *Training and Awards Chair*, for both the National and Alberta Section of Interpretation Canada 1990-1994

INTERESTS

Sports – downhill/cross-country/skate skiing, ski touring, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking, white water rafting, hiking, horseback riding, ice hockey, mountain biking, cycle touring

Natural History – Avid birder and wildlife viewing, flower identification, and nature appreciation

Other Interests – traveling, community volunteering