

Julian Harrison Hut Management Plan 2017

The Varsity Outdoor Club of the AMS

Published February 2nd, 2017 by George Hill (Huts Coordinator).



Photo: Adrian Armstrong 2013

FOREWORD

Founded in 1917, the Varsity Outdoor Club at the University of British Columbia is a student-led club of 600-1000 members, dedicated to enjoying outdoor activities in a self-propelled and environmentally respectful manner. The club has changed a lot over our last 100 years, with early membership requiring individuals to “ascend to the peak of a mountain equal in height to Grouse”. The first hut built by the VOC was on Hollyburn mountain in 1922, with a second hut built on Grouse in 1924. In the 1950’s, VOCers relocated their efforts and built a hut on Mount Seymour, and established the Roland Burton “Sphinx” Hut in Garibaldi Park. With transportation and highway improvements, the club then focused on the Whistler area in the 1960s. In 1982, we built Brew Hut, and shortly after in 1983, the Julian Harrison Hut. In 1999, Brian Waddington “Phelix” Hut was built.

Membership today is open to anyone and everyone who wishes to be a member and we welcome those of all abilities and experience levels. Although some of our earliest huts are no longer in commission, we continue today to maintain Burton, Brew, Harrison and Waddington Hut as we have previously over the last 20-60 years. In addition, the VOC has made contributions to the maintenance of Lizzie Creek Cabin. Further, we apply for grants and permission to manage the trails that lead to these huts. We aim to provide safe access and habitation of these emergency shelters and intend to continue to do so over the coming decades.

As we move into our centennial year (2017) we are proud to continue maintaining these huts, to provide backcountry access to our many club members, and to encourage and teach sustainable and ethical environmental practices. I am sincerely pleased to recommend this management plan to the public and therein, our commitment to ensuring Julian Harrison Hut will be available for public enjoyment and recreation for many years to come.



Cora Skaien, Ph.D Candidate

President, The Varsity Outdoor Club of the AMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Initially called the Meager Hut during the planning phase in 1983, the hut was renamed the Julian Harrison Hut shortly after Julian Harrison (VOC President 1973-1974) was tragically killed in an avalanche in California in April of that year. The tenure to build Harrison Hut was granted in the fall of 1983. After approval, the Hut was erected on thanksgiving weekend that same year.

The purpose of the hut is to provide shelter to non-motorized users in both summer and winter, and is designated as an emergency shelter. The cabin is left unlocked and open to all – there is no reservation system other than an informal registration webpage to help coordinate use. It is a user maintained facility, in that there are no permanent staff on site and the hut users must bring their own food, fuel and bedding.

The Varsity Outdoor Club is currently the curator of a recreational trail (under the Recreation Sites and Trails Program) from the end of the Pika Spur (also known as R02918 PERKINSML) to the Hut. We will continue to maintain this trail, and use it as access to the area.

General maintenance will continue to be performed on the hut in accordance with this management plan. Previous maintenance work completed on the Hut have been the decommissioning of an old outhouse pit, the construction of a new outhouse pit and structure, and the installation of a more energy efficient wood burning stove and chimney. The Varsity Outdoor Club will continue to maintain the hut to its current standard.

The inclusion of an outhouse in this area contributed to the local environmental quality by concentrating human waste in an area that will best minimize environmental impacts. We estimate our outhouse receives less than 10 liters/year of human discharge to the ground. The outhouse is currently built in a location where seepage to natural water courses is reduced and decomposition is favorable.

Due to the efficiency of the new wood stove and the excellent insulation of the Hut, little wood is required to heat the hut. Wood is obtained from deadfall trees that block the trail to the Hut, and from deadfall nearby. After 30 years, this method of obtaining wood has proved sustainable in the current environment.

The VOC encourages backcountry users to dispose of their waste in a responsible fashion with leave-no-trace ethics. This hut supports non-motorized backcountry recreation, and is of high value to the non-motorized backcountry community. The hut receives more than 85 user nights per year.

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	ii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iii
PART 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.1.1 Objective of the Plan.....	1
1.1.2 Public Comments on this Management Plan	1
1.1.3 Overarching Recreation Philosophy	1
1.2 Management Framework.....	1
1.2.1 Decision Making Process for Management of the Site.....	1
1.2.2 Collaborative Partnerships.....	1
PART 2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HERITAGE VALUES	2
2.1 Location.....	2
2.2 Geography.....	3
2.3 Historical Context.....	3
2.4 Current Uses	4
2.5 Hut Drawings and Dimensions.....	4
2.5 Hut Condition and Integrity	4
PART 3 MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION	7
3.1 Management Policies.....	7
3.1.1 Key Recreation Principles.....	7
3.1.2 General Site Management.....	7
3.1.4 Environmental Protection	7
3.2 Management of Human Uses	8
3.2.1 Visitor Management.....	8
3.2.2 Commercial and Non-Government Activities	8
3.3 Public Awareness and Support.....	9
3.3.1 Implementation and Consultation.....	9
3.4 Implementation Plan.....	9
3.4.1 Record Management.....	9
3.4.2 Visitor Management.....	10
3.4.3 Site Improvements.....	10
APPENDIX A: HARRISON HUT SITE PLAN	11
APPENDIX B: HARRISON HUT DIMENSIONS.....	13
APPENDIX C: MODIFICATIONS.....	15

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Objective of the Plan

The objective of this plan is to provide a comprehensive vision for the management of Harrison Hut that protects historical values, conserves the natural environment, and coordinates public use and enjoyment. Fairness, equality, and conservation shall guide all objectives and policies of this management plan.

1.1.2 Public Comments on this Management Plan

On January 23rd, 2017 members of the Varsity Outdoor Club. Were invited to comment on this management plan.

1.1.3 Overarching Recreation Philosophy

The Varsity Outdoor Club has a longstanding commitment to the encouragement of self-propelled and environmentally conscientious wilderness adventure, education and sustainability. The overarching recreation philosophy of this plan aligns with this commitment and further delineates that impacts to the natural environment and fragile arctic ecosystems be minimized in regards to all policies outlined within this management plan.

1.2 Management Framework

The Julian Harrison Hut since its inception has been granted a Community Facility License of Occupation Tenure by the Provincial Government of British Columbia. The Varsity Outdoor Club's role is to ensure the implementation of this management plan in line with the objectives, philosophies and policies presented in this document. The table below shows past Tenure numbers of this site that are known to the VOC:

Tenure	Term	Start Date	End Date
Licence No. 240245	10-year term	May 15 th , 2007	May 15 th , 2017
Licence No. 238705	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

1.2.1 Decision Making Process for Management of the Site

The Provincial Government of British Columbia is responsible for the approval of this Management Plan as it is submitted by the Varsity Outdoor Club with the Community Facility License of Occupation Tenure Renewal Application. Activities within the tenure boundaries shall be managed in accordance with this plan and will be authorized by the Varsity Outdoor Club President and Huts Coordinator. When preparing changes to this management plan, stakeholders shall be given opportunities to participate and provide comment.

1.2.2 Collaborative Partnerships

The construction of the Julian Harrison Hut was a Varsity Outdoor Club venture and was constructed by 30+ volunteers over Thanksgiving in 1983. In August of 2010 a massive landslide cut away from Mount Meager and destroyed the road access to the old trailhead at Meager Creek Hot springs. In 2014, the Varsity Outdoor Club in partnership with Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia and the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, worked collaboratively to re-establish access to the Hut in the form of a new 12km trail. The collaborative project-oriented partnerships formed assisted the Varsity Outdoor Club in its on-going management of Harrison Hut in accordance with this plan.

PART 2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HERITAGE VALUES

2.1 Location

Harrison Hut is located by Overseer Mountain as a part of the Meager Creek Valley, 50km west-north-west of the village of Pemberton.

2.1.1 *Harrison Hut Tenure Polygon*

The specific coordinates of the old pre-2017 tenure polygon are:

» Corner	Latitude °N	Longitude °W
» North West	50.52055	123.43315
» North East	50.52055	123.43245
» South West	50.52010	123.43315
» South East	50.52010	123.43245

However, for some unknown reason, Harrison Hut and both outhouse sites both lie outside of this polygon. It is the recommendation of the VOC for the polygon be revised to the coordinates as listed below to reflect the correct positioning of the buildings. This polygon maintains the 0.25ha size but is repositioned so that the current position of the Hut lies in the center of the tenure:

» Corner	Latitude °N	Longitude °W
» North West	50.52088	123.43221
» North East	50.52088	123.43151
» South West	50.52043	123.43221
» South East	50.52043	123.43151

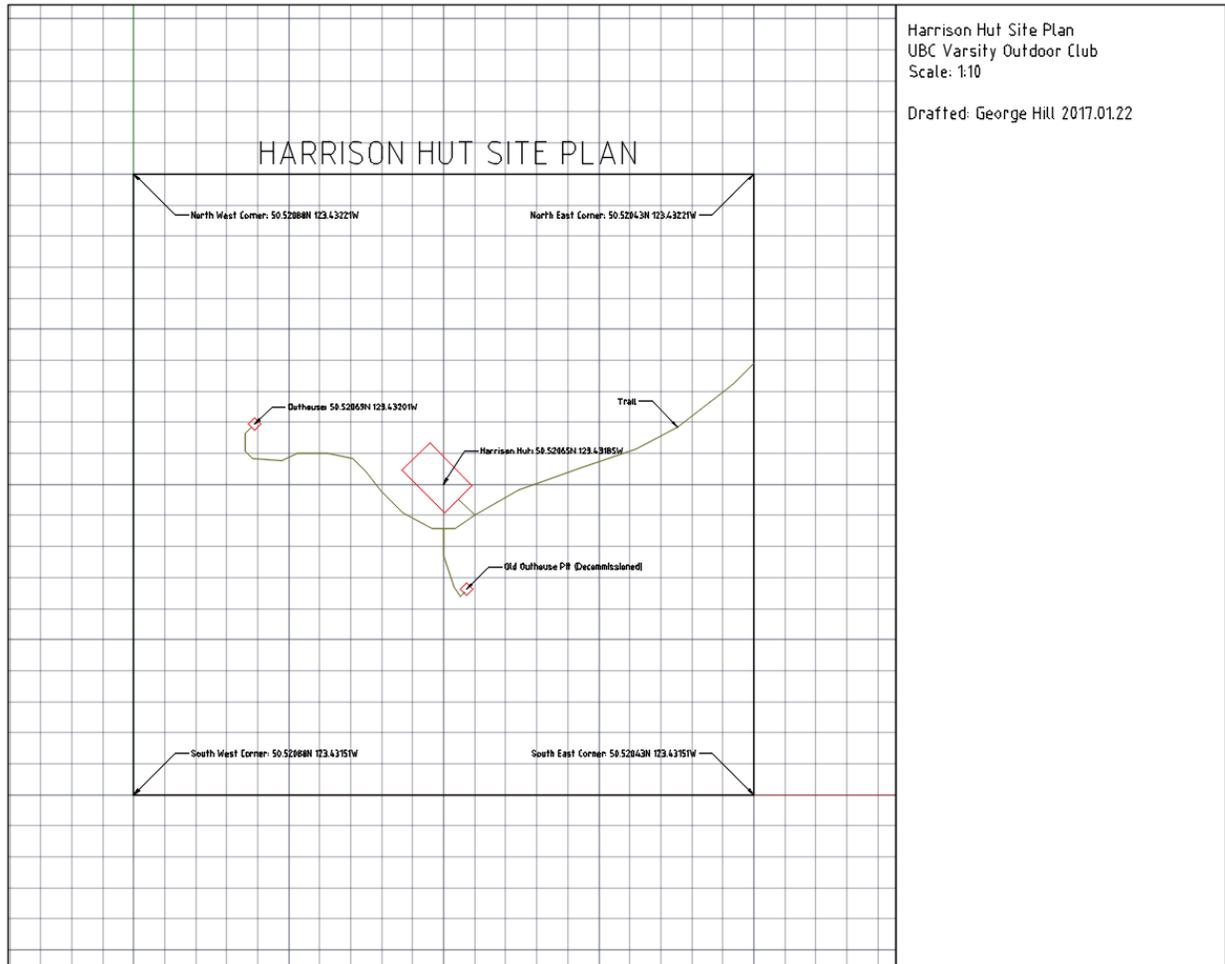
2.1.2 *Structure Coordinates*

There are two structures within the new tenure polygon: Harrison Hut and an outhouse.

» Structure	Latitude °N	Longitude °W	Elevation
» Harrison Hut	50.52065	123.43185	1725m
» Outhouse	50.52069	123.43201	1724m

2.1.3 *Site Map*

The following image is a snapshot of the Harrison Hut Site Plan. The site plan is not to scale in this document. The formal to-scale document is attached in Appendix A.



2.2 Geography

Harrison Hut, at 1725 m, sits at the treeline for this area. This alpine environment supports a variety of animal and plant life. Some of these animals include grizzly bears, black bears, mountain goats, lynx, deer, wolves, pikas and a variety of birds. Plant life in the alpine is abundant but fragile. The growing season is short and plant life develops slowly.

The hut site is perched on an old large lateral moraine, near a tributary to Barr Creek. This rocky location is ideal for a hut site as it keeps users away from fragile alpine meadows, thereby minimizing the environmental impact.

2.3 Historical Context

Harrison Hut was built in memorial of Julian Harrison (VOC President 1973-1974) who was tragically killed in an avalanche in California that same year. Thirty VOC volunteers contributed to its erection in 1983. The location was chosen due to its relatively easy access at the time from Meager Creek Hot Springs, and the high value winter recreation around Overseer Mountain and the Pemberton Icefield.

In August of 2010 the Meager Landslide occurred and washed away the access to Meager Creek Hot Springs. The subsequent geological analyses of the Meager Creek valley showed major instabilities and therefore the Hot Springs were indefinitely closed and the access never rebuilt. For this period, the Hut no longer had access.

In 2014, the VOC in partnership with BCMFLNRO, MEC and the FMCBC built a new 12 km trail into the Hut, effectively re-establishing access.

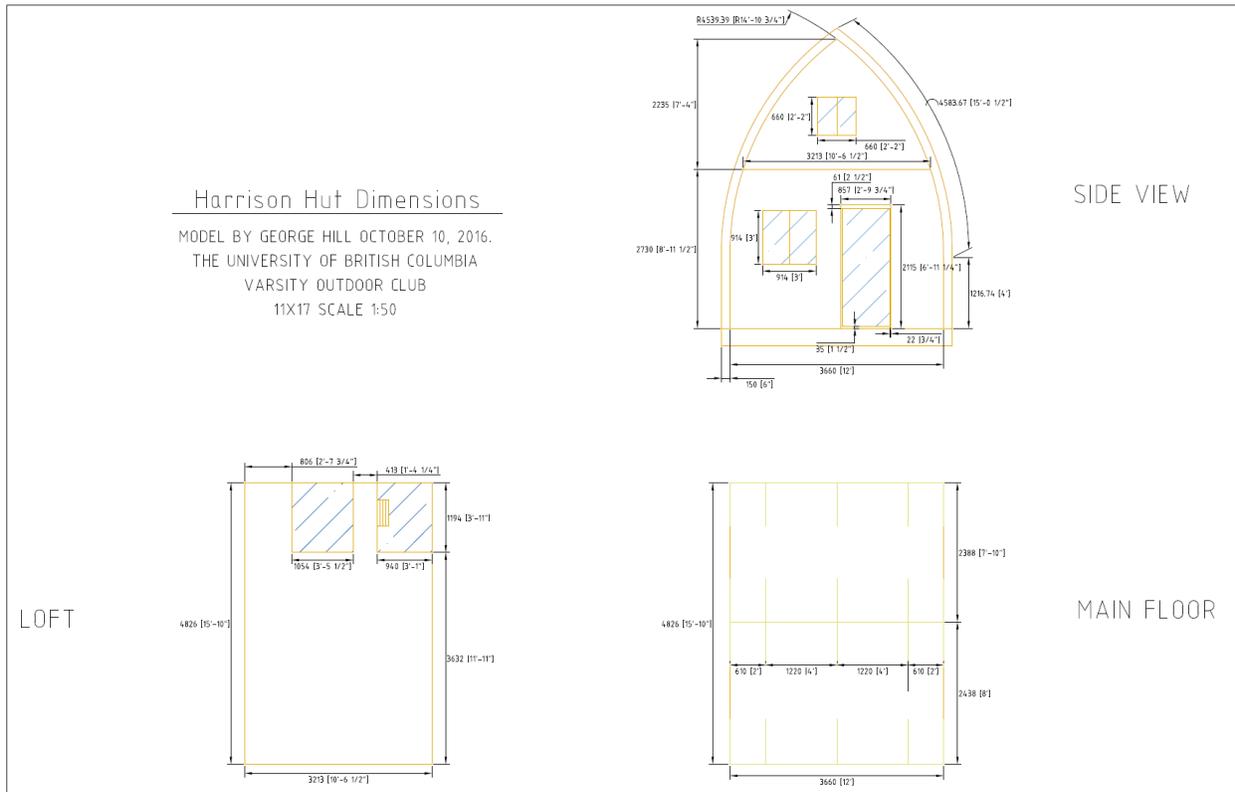
2.4 Current Uses

Harrison Hut is currently designated an emergency shelter, open to any member of the public who may need shelter. Uses of the hut include:

- » Sleeping
- » Cooking
- » Socializing
- » Education
- » Environmental Conservation

2.5 Hut Drawings and Dimensions

The following image below is a snapshot of the formal as-built drawings of Harrison Hut. Note that this image is not to scale. For the full drawing, see Appendix B.



2.5 Hut Condition and Integrity

The table in this section outlines the current conditions of the various aspects of the site and the relative importance in regards to the framework of this management plan.

The following terms will be used to evaluate the condition:

Good	In working condition, structurally sound, weather/animal proofed, no repairs needed.
Fair	In working condition, structurally sound, may not be weather/animal proofed, may have cosmetic damage, may need minor repairs.
Poor	Not in working condition, may not be structurally sound, damaged, disturbed, requires repair.

The following terms will be used to evaluate the importance:

High	Features are of high importance with respect to this management plan to be kept to a good condition or better
Medium	Features are of medium importance with respect to the to this management plan and should be kept to a good condition. However, a fair condition is acceptable.
Low	Features of low importance with respect to the to this management plan and should be kept to at least a fair condition. If the feature is poor, it should be scheduled for improvement soon, but is not an imminent requirement.

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Importance</i>
<i>Crossing of Barr Creek tributary near the Hut</i>	Fair – The crossing currently consists of a series of large boulders. Throughout non-peak flow periods this crossing method is adequate. In periods of high flow the crossing may become slippery and hazardous.	Medium – As a riparian area, methods to reduce human impact and increase safety during high flow periods would be of value.
<i>Trail within Site Plan</i>	Good – Trail within the site plan is gravelly, has good drainage and avoids environmentally sensitive areas.	Medium
<i>Outhouse Structure</i>	Good – The old outhouse was recently decommissioned and the pit filled in. A new outhouse structure was built and is structurally sound with no issues.	High

<i>Outhouse Pit</i>	Good – The old outhouse was recently decommissioned and the pit filled in. A new outhouse pit was built in a location that will minimize seepage into riparian areas and minimize environmental impact.	High
<i>Hut Foundation</i>	Good	High
<i>Hut Substructure</i>	Good	High
<i>Hut Flooring</i>	Poor – Marmots have been able to access the underside of the Hut and have been eating the plywood flooring.	High – With only a minimal thickness of flooring left in certain locations it is important from a safety perspective to have new flooring installed.
<i>Hut Structural Members</i>	Good	High
<i>Hut Door</i>	Fair – Door is not weather tight.	Medium – For better insulation of the Hut and therefore minimizing wood burning required. Additionally, protects the longevity of the interior of the Hut by preventing the seepage of moisture into the Hut.
<i>Hut Interior</i>	Good	Low
<i>Hut Loft</i>	Good	Low
<i>Hut Chimney</i>	Good – Chimney installed in accordance with the BC Building Code.	High – A properly installed chimney will increase efficiency and minimizing wood burning required.
<i>Hut Wood Stove</i>	Good	High – A properly installed wood stove will increase efficiency and minimizing wood burning required.
<i>Hut Windows</i>	Good	High – Properly installed windows will improve insulation and reduce wood burning required. Additionally, protects the longevity of the interior of the Hut by preventing the seepage of moisture into the Hut.
<i>Hut Lighting</i>	Poor - Coleman white fuel lamps are currently used to light the hut. As white fuel is highly flammable and a non-sustainable energy source it is desirable for alternative light sources to be investigated.	Low
<i>Site Grounds</i>	Good	Medium

PART 3 MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Management Policies

3.1.1 Key Recreation Principles

Policy (1) Site management will encourage environmental conscientious activities.

The Varsity Outdoor Club seeks to encourage self-propelled and environmentally conscientious wilderness adventure, education and sustainability.

Policy (2) Site management, where possible, will seek to increase wilderness safety through education.

Where possible, management decisions will be made such that wilderness safety through education is promoted. This can include keeping accurate and up to date records of the site, having maps and guidance resources available to users (at the VOC Clubroom, the VOC Website or at the Hut) and through the promotion of community dialogue.

Policy (3) Wilderness safety and recreation is conducted by the adventurer.

Management decisions although, promoting wilderness safety through education, are not responsible for actions taken by individuals in their own pursuit of wilderness recreation.

3.1.2 General Site Management

Policy (4) Site management will work towards the long-term conservation of the site.

Harrison Hut is a distinct A-frame cabin that has been designed to withstand the adverse environmental condition experienced at the site. Management plans will seek to conserve the historical state of the Hut while the Hut meets the key recreation principles. All management documents will be conserved and archived for future management guidance.

Policy (5) Site management, will hold the safety of site user's paramount to key recreation principles.

The VOC, through this management plan, will seek to maintain site facilities such that the facilities adequately and reasonably protect its users from hazards and harm. Such activities include discouraging use of flammable liquids, ensuring the adequate maintenance of wood stoves and chimneys, ensuring the structural stability of facilities, and providing route finding knowledge. Due to the dispensable nature of emergency food, first-aid equipment, and fire extinguishers, the VOC cannot guarantee these resources will be available.

Policy (6) Site monitoring will be conducted regularly.

The VOC, through this management plan, will regularly assess the condition of site facilities for compliance with this management plan. Such activities include annual workhikes to provide previously assessed improvements and gather information on further site conditions that need to be addressed.

3.1.4 Environmental Protection

Policy (7) Management will comply with federal and provincial acts and regulations for environmental protection.

This management plan will make decisions in compliance with federal and provincial environmental acts and regulations for management decisions made irrespective of location.

Policy (8) Environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized.

Management decisions will seek to avoid or minimize environmental impacts resulting from those decisions. Such decisions include the determination of hut locations, trail locations and outhouse locations; the proper signage and notices advising users of environmentally sensitive areas; the promotion of sustainable energy sources; the reduction of waste and pollution and; the prevention of the interaction of fauna with human facilities. Opportunities to reduce burning shall be pursued.

Policy (9) Burning shall only be permitted in designated locations

For the protection of the sensitive alpine environment around the site, burning is only permitted within the wood stove provided at the site.

Policy (10) Only deadfall timber shall be permitted for burning.

For the protection of the sensitive alpine environment around the site, only deadfall timber shall be permitted to be burned. Chopped wood may be hiked/sledded/helicoptered into the site if, and only if, the wood has been sustainably sourced.

Policy (11) Human waste facilities will be designed for the best possible reduction in environmental impact.

To encourage decomposition, toilet paper shall be burned in a separate fire safe container before being either deposited into the pit, carried out, or buried in a separate environmentally safe area that will reduce the environmental impact of the waste. Outhouses will strive for human waste only and will be located to minimize seepage and encourage rapid decomposition. Pits, when full, will be decommissioned for the best possible decomposition of the waste and for the minimization of the environmental impacts. All human waste facilities will be adequately secured against intrusion by local wildlife.

Policy (12) Zero-waste policy. "If you bring it in, pack it out."

Without first the express permission of this management plan or the VOC, no natural or human produced materials may be left at the site. This includes food, plastic wrapping, cans, bottles, fuel, appliances, tools and other garbage. There are two exceptions to this policy that are not mentioned elsewhere. Firstly, wood brought in for burning may be left in the appropriate location indicated by the VOC.

3.2 Management of Human Uses

3.2.1 Visitor Management

Policy (13) Harrison Hut is classified as an emergency shelter. "There is always room for one more".

As an emergency shelter, no visitor shall be turned away or forbidden from taking shelter in the Hut or at the site, unless said user is endangering the safety of the fellow visitors.

Policy (14) As the licensee and manager of the site, the VOC reserves the right to request priority for visitation space at the Hut.

As the enforcer of this management plan and the owner of facilities located on the site, the VOC reserves the right to request priority for visitation space at the Hut. This policy will not contravene policy (13).

Policy (15) Donations for the continued maintenance and management of the site are encouraged.

The management of wilderness huts can be a costly endeavor. The VOC kindly requests that public users contribute to the management through a \$10/night donation. VOC members contribute directly to the management of VOC managed wilderness huts through their membership fee (as of 2017, \$40 for student members and \$60 for associate members).

Policy (16) Visitor access will be reported and visitor impacts monitored

Visitor usage of the site will be recorded with the best reasonable methods possible. Registration for visitation of the Hut's is encouraged to coordinate shared use of the facilities. Impacts by visitors will be annually monitored and acted upon in accordance with this management plan.

3.2.2 Commercial and Non-Government Activities

Policy (17) Authorized commercial and non-government activities will be permitted

If commercial or non-governmental use of the site is desired, the activities must be in accordance with federal and provincial law, this management plan, and with the acting VOC President.

3.3 Public Awareness and Support

3.3.1 Implementation and Consultation

Policy (18) Stakeholders should be encouraged to contribute

Any stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the development and the active implementation of this management plan.

Policy (19) Progress on the implementation of this plan will be reviewed yearly

This management plan will be reviewed yearly and published within the club and available to the public January 1st of each year henceforth.

3.4 Implementation Plan

3.4.1 Record Management

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Section/Comments</i>
<i>GIS Data Collection</i>	Complete a detailed survey of the site plan and the area in near proximity of the site.	Planning	Section 2.13
	Post a laminated and framed 092J11 map sheet at the Hut.	Planning	Policy (1) and Policy (2)
<i>Archival Recording</i>	Maintain the VOC Journal Library at the Hut	On-going	Policy (1), (2) and (4)
	Set aside a new designated space in the VOC clubroom for the archival of management documents.	Planning	Policy (4)
	Assimilate all electronic management documents into a single repository.	In-progress	Policy (4)
	Annual update of the Management Plan to be published by January 1 st of each year.	On-going	Policy (19)

3.4.2 Visitor Management

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Section/Comments</i>
<i>Usage Tracking & Coordination</i>	Develop a new hut registration system for better tracking of use and better coordination of use between users	Planning	Policy (16)
	Improve donation payment options for users.	In-progress	Policy (15)
	Protect the condition of historical journal logs. When journals are full, copies should be made for the archive.	Planning	Policy (4)
<i>Visitor Education</i>	Provide educational materials at the Hut	On-going	Policy (2)
	Provide a comprehensive wiki page for the site	On-going	Policy (2)
<i>Visitor Feedback</i>	Develop a method of user feedback for the improved condition and management of the facilities.	In-progress	Policy (18)

3.4.3 Site Improvements

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Section/Comments</i>
<i>Hut Flooring</i>	Re-build floor of the Hut and protect the underside of the hut from wildlife intrusion.	Design	Section 2.5 Policy (5) Policy (8)
	Install a steel door insulated with Styrofoam to increase the weather proofing of the Hut and prevent intrusion of rodents into the Hut.	Design	Section 2.5 Policy (8)
	Install solar panel and low energy LED lights to allow for the elimination of white fuel Coleman lamps.	Ready for Installation	Section 2.5 Policy (5) Policy (8)

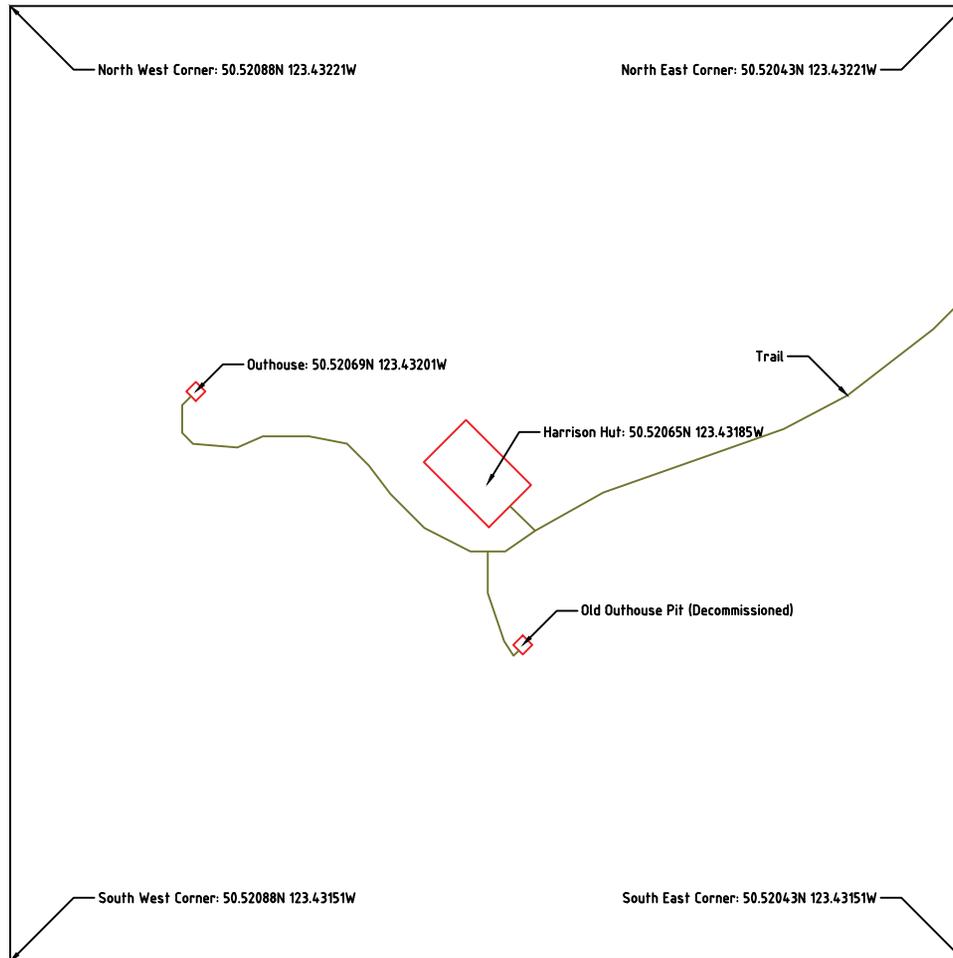
APPENDIX A: HARRISON HUT SITE PLAN

The full, to scale Harrison Hut Site Plan is shown on the following page.

Harrison Hut Site Plan
UBC Varsity Outdoor Club
Scale: 1:10

Drafted: George Hill 2017.01.22

HARRISON HUT SITE PLAN

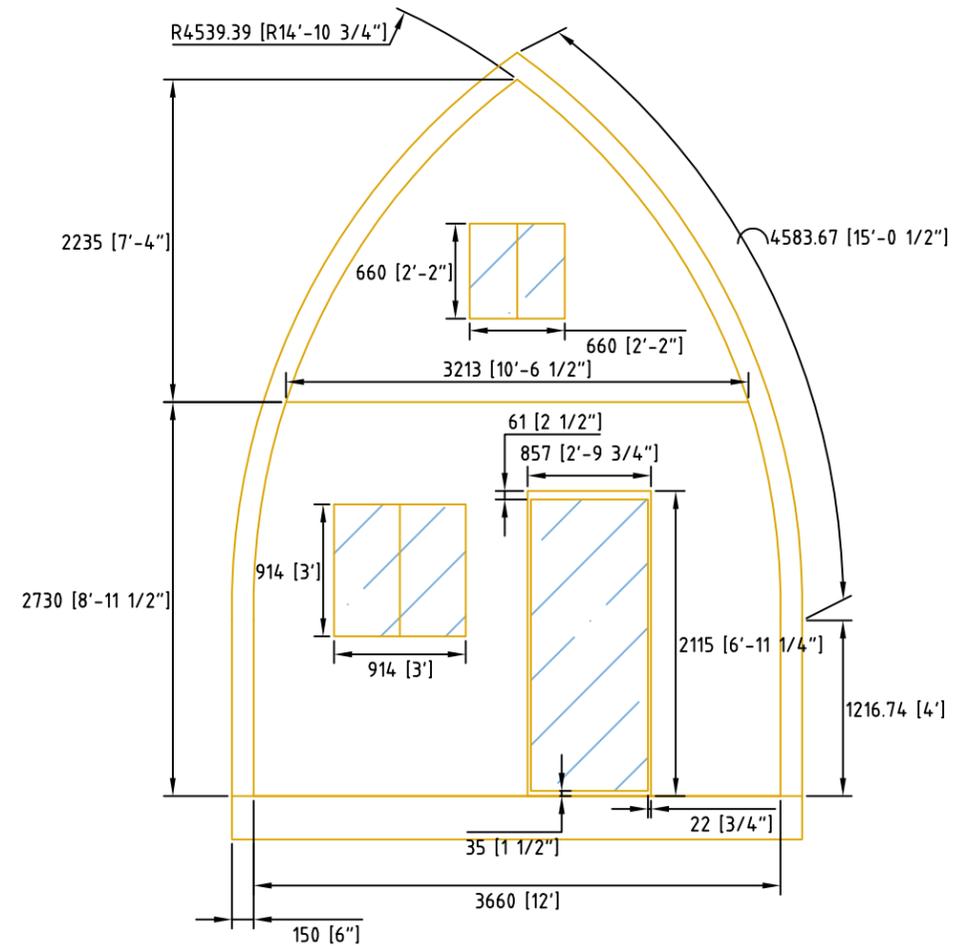


APPENDIX B: HARRISON HUT DIMENSIONS

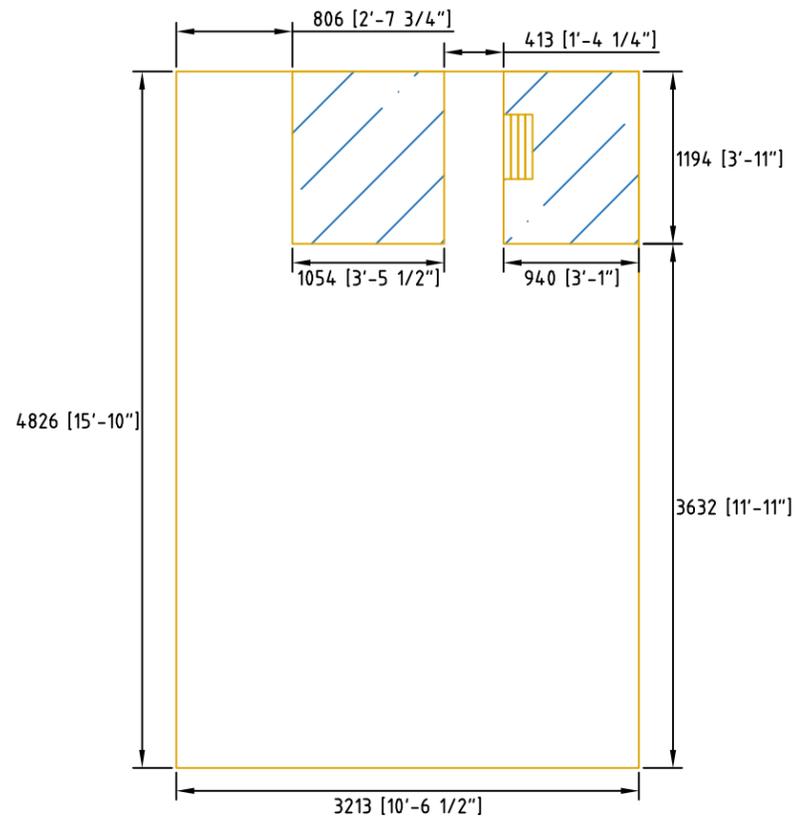
The full, to scale Harrison Hut Dimensions are shown on the following page.

Harrison Hut Dimensions

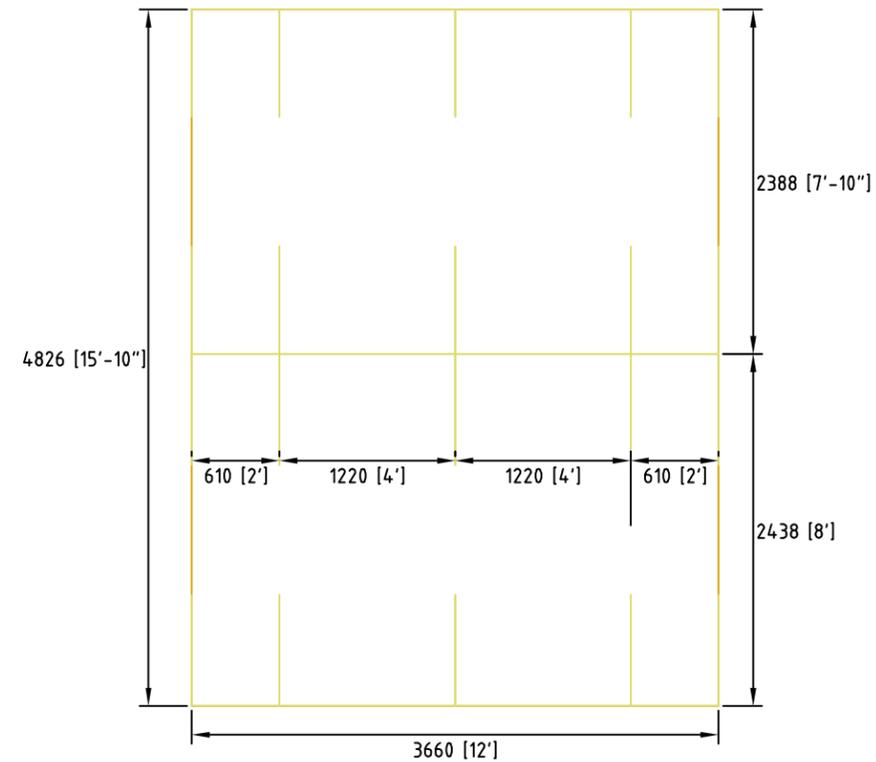
MODEL BY GEORGE HILL OCTOBER 10, 2016.
 THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
 VARSITY OUTDOOR CLUB
 11X17 SCALE 1:50



SIDE VIEW



LOFT



MAIN FLOOR

APPENDIX C: MODIFICATIONS

All modifications to this document should be recorded permanently here.

<i>Modification</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Modifier</i>	<i>Section/Comments</i>
<i>1st Draft</i>	To outline the policies and procedures implemented by the VOC as the active manager of the Harrison Hut site.	George Hill 2017.01.23	Entire Document
<i>Foreword</i>	Foreword to introduce the document.	Cora Skaien 2017.02.02	Foreword
<i>Final Draft</i>	Comments from 1 st Draft implemented. Spelling and grammar reviewed.	George Hill 2017.02.02	Entire Document
<i>2017 Management Plan Published</i>	Final grammar and spelling checks. Printed copies executed and signed by VOC President	Cora Skaien George Hill 2017.02.02	Entire Document