

## WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL UNIFYING CONCEPT

All ecosystems are composed of interdependent biotic and abiotic components that change over time.

1. **OBSERVATION** skills are emphasized throughout the week. Students use sensory awareness to notice similarities and differences in their surroundings. As they increase their observation skills they become more adept at identifying flora and fauna.
2. **APPRECIATION** of nature and respect for life is fostered through positive experiences in the outdoors.
3. **CHANGE:** All things are constantly changing. Natural history, geologic history, succession, and the past and present use of the environment by humans may be used as examples of change.
4. **ADAPTATION:** All living forms have structures and behaviors that enable them to live in their environment. Those individuals best adapted to their environment have a greater chance of survival.
5. **CYCLES AND RECYCLING:** All natural things are part of a cycle. Water cycles, rock and soil cycles, and food cycles may be used to teach this concept. The procedures for recycling our natural resources are also discussed and demonstrated.
6. **INTERDEPENDENCE:** A sound environment must have a healthy balance of all its components. When one part is disturbed, everything is affected.
7. **ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Daily living has an impact on our natural environment. Personal choices can increase or decrease that impact. Through exploring differing views of current environmental issues, the students become more aware of their impact and begin to take responsibility for their actions.