

# Understanding the Diverse Values of Nature

## Intrinsic Values

Are about the importance of nature to itself, regardless of human interests. This includes things like ecosystems or species that deserve protection for their own benefit.

## Instrumental Values

Are about how nature helps us reach our goals or fulfill our interests as something useful to people.

## Relational Values

Are about the connections and meaning people find in their relationships with nature, as well as with each other through nature.

## Winter

### Intrinsic

- Natural forests are home to many plants and animal species.

### Instrumental

- Natural areas offer chances for eco-friendly tourism and recreation.

### Relational

- Indigenous elders teach youth land-based survival skills, like reading animal tracks.



## Spring

### Intrinsic

- Wetlands are home to over 600 kinds of plants, animals and insects.

### Instrumental

- Wetlands reduce flooding by soaking up water from heavy rains.

### Relational

- Children learn to care for other species through observation and hands-on learning.



### Intrinsic

- Old growth forests are ancient, complex ecosystems
- Freshwater ecosystems contain an elaborate web of life.

### Instrumental

- Forests can be managed for wood and other non-timber products, like mushrooms.

### Relational

- Natural places inspire a feeling of belonging to the bigger picture of life.



## Fall



### Intrinsic

- Flowering plants begin the pollination cycle that provides food for many animals.

### Instrumental

- Green spaces help cool neighborhoods supporting people's health and well-being.

### Relational

- Community gardens build connections to nature and community spirit.

## Summer

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