

3) Size and Configuration

The third protection standard relates to the size and configuration of pristine areas. Principles of island biogeography provide the basis for standard-setting, whereby one large "circular" site, such as an intact watershed, is preferable to tiny unconnected, linear sites. Adjacent land use also needs to be compatible with protected area goals, especially in smaller sites. Some proponents (for example, WWF) believe that one large wilderness area along with one or more smaller sites, which adds representative elements missing from the large wilderness areas, will likely be needed to ensure pristine areas representation for each natural region.

STEPS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE PRISTINE AREAS SYSTEMS COMPLETION

If the pristine areas values associated with the Canada's natural regions are to be representatively and adequately protected to the minimum 12% target level by the year 2000 AD, a sequence of steps must be undertaken by individual federal/provincial/territorial governments. These are as follows:

1. **Endorse Pristine areas Systems Completion**- based on natural regions representation to the minimum of 12% of the national land base by 2000 AD.
2. **Identify/Map Landscape Regions.**
3. **Identify Sub-units** - within landscape regions requiring representation.
4. **Undertake Gap Analysis of Unrepresented Regions/Sub-regions.**
5. **Develop Pristine areas System Plan** - which identifies candidate sites (and preliminary boundaries) for unrepresented regions/sub-regions.
6. **Place Interim Development Freeze On Candidate Areas and Buffers** - pending completion of site assessment/ negotiations.
7. **Identify/Assign Responsibilities for Systems Completion** (on overall, component and site basis) - to appropriate government agencies as well as NGO's and the private sector.
8. **Prioritize Candidate Sites Protection** - by level of imminence for loss; extent of the bioregion still intact, and the amount that the bioregion that has already been protected.