

recreational, educational, cultural, tourism and health benefits that protected areas can provide.

Land use activities and traditional cultural uses that have changed a landscape and have acquired significance in their own right, may be recognized and respected.

The Protected Areas Strategy respects the treaty rights and Aboriginal rights and interests that exist in British Columbia. Aboriginal peoples may use protected areas for sustenance activities and traditional ceremonial or spiritual practices, subject to conservation objectives.

Developments within protected areas should be fully compatible with the principles of maintaining ecological integrity and minimum intervention with natural processes.

Recognition and special consideration will be given to existing tenures, licences, authorizations, and public use where uses are compatible with the objectives for which the area was established.

Protected areas are not islands; they exist as part of larger ecosystems and cultural landscapes. Therefore, management decisions, both inside and outside of protected areas, should be coordinated and integrated to the greatest extent possible while recognizing that resource development activities outside of protected areas are appropriate and necessary.

Protected areas are a public trust and opportunities for the public to provide input into the planning and management of protected areas system and individual protected areas must not be abridged. Planning and management should be done in partnership with key public stakeholders and government resource agencies. Protected area management plans will be established through an open public process.<sup>35</sup>

Designated wilderness areas are part of provincial forests that are set aside as wilderness by an Order in Council. Nondesignated wilderness areas are provincial forest lands allocated to wilderness through integrated resource management plans.<sup>36</sup> Logging, mining, hydroelectric development, power lines and other rights of way, tourist resorts, marinas, and other developments are not allowed in protected areas. Grazing, hunting, fishing, horse and pack animal use, water control structures, lodges and cabins, off-road activities, motorized activities, watercraft, aircraft access, scientific research, and ecosystem and habitat restoration are permitted, subject to the provisions of the relevant management plans.<sup>37</sup>

### **Land Use Planning**

In 1992, the B.C. government established a Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) to give provincial residents an opportunity to participate in the formulation of land-use plans for their regions. Regional plans were formulated for