



A framework for an ecosystem approach to management. The modules are linked and often employed simultaneously or in unison to develop and deliver ecologically based programs (e.g., wilderness protection). Source: P.A. Gray and R.J. Davidson, "An Ecosystem Approach to Management: A Context for Wilderness Protection," in *Proceedings: Wilderness Science in a Time of Change*, D.N. Cole and S.F. McCool, eds. (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ogden, Utah, 2000.)

Ecosystem Approach in Canada

Are we using an ecosystem approach to management in Canada?

Yes, in part. All sectors of Canadian society have begun to shape programs that reduce or eliminate impacts of some human activities on ecosystems. For example, the community of South East False Creek in Vancouver, British Columbia, has developed sustainable planning guidelines in the context of the larger ecosystem in which Vancouver is situated (see feature on sustainable communities). The establishment of new parks and other protected areas in support of a commitment to retain parts of ecosystems in their natural state also represents important examples of actions that contribute to an ecosystem approach to management.

Canada has come a long way in establishing the partnerships required for an ecosystem approach. Managing within an ecosystem context transcends the boundaries of political jurisdictions. It also requires partnerships among governments, the private sector, and communities. Cooperation has been essential in such a vast country where the Constitution does not specifically refer to the environment. Responsibility for the environment is shared by the federal government, 10 provincial governments, three territorial