

## ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE NATIONAL PRISTINE AREAS STRATEGY

The National Pristine areas Strategy Project should respond to the following issues:

### 1) The Standardization of Pristine areas Criteria:

Because bio-regions are defined by natural rather than human processes, integration of the various federal/provincial/territorial pristine areas programs is desirable. Therefore it is recommended that a multi-level government examination be undertaken to:

- standardize and develop science-based criteria to determine candidate area representativeness for individual bio-regions.
- standardize the criteria used to identify the boundaries of natural regions. This is especially important for natural regions which span more than one jurisdiction.

### 2) Resources for Acquiring Pristine areas:

A survey of resources and instruments available to government for use in acquiring pristine areas should be undertaken including:

- conservation tax reductions/write-offs.
- discounts on government-provided services (e.g. reduced power rates) in exchange for land/rights donation.
- land and resource rights trades.
- government acquisition of rights as opposed to fee simple ownership.

This project should incorporate a think-tank brainstorm session comprised of a small grouping of pristine areas, land tenure and government services specialists drawn from government, academia, the private sector, and the NGO conservation community.

### 3) Transfer Costs:

Investigation should be undertaken to determine strategies to reduce or eliminate federal-provincial transfer costs associated with pristine areas acquisition.