

urgently required. The proposed National Pristine Areas Strategy is intended to enable this.

ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL PRISTINE AREAS STRATEGY

The National Pristine Areas Strategy would be designed to achieve representative protection on a natural regions basis, of at least 12% of the national land base (and including marine regions representation), by the year 2000 AD. The strategy would be developed by the federal government both to ensure completion of its pristine areas system and also to facilitate the completion of the various provincial/territorial pristine areas systems.

This Strategy would incorporate the following elements:

- 1) pristine areas **Goals and Objectives**
- 2) definition of **Programs and Tasks** to achieve goals/objectives
- 3) delineation of **Government Roles**: federal/provincial
- 4) identification of **Federal Agency Responsibilities**
- 5) **Timeline** of strategy activities
- 6) **Funding and Staffing** allocations.

The major reservation associated with proposing such a National Preservation Strategy stems from the concern that it could get bogged down, even as the remaining area of pristine landscapes continues to diminish. Therefore, **given the rate of loss of intact natural areas in Canada, the first priority in developing and implementing this Strategy is to remember the urgency of the task at hand. Clearly time is of the essence.**

It is proposed that the mandate for developing the National Preservation Strategy be assigned to the Canadian Parks Service working with the assistance of the Canadian Wildlife Service. These agencies could link with provincial/territorial governments possibly utilizing the forum of the combined Councils of Canadian Environment and Wildlife Ministers. Supplementary funds above normal agency budgets should be provided, although the emphasis should be on efficient, cost-effective and prompt Strategy development.