

to be able to assume the full range of responsibilities associated with managing pristine areas, as well as the cooperative identification and planning of prospective pristine areas must all be pursued.

ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR

Most of the attention on pristine areas systems completion in Canada has been focused on Crown lands. However, in the southern part of the country, particularly in the most settled areas, much of the lands are in private ownership. Due to the cost of acquisition, this situation could preclude opportunities to preserve representative samples of intact natural regions here. Yet given that these regions are amongst the most heavily altered in the nation and that the remaining preservation opportunities are often very limited, protecting sites in such locations should be considered a priority.

To do this there is a role for private sector involvement in natural regions preservation. Donations of lands (fee simple) and rights (e.g. easements; long-term leases) to government provide an obvious means to achieve protected status. Additionally managing privately-held lands in public land trusts and through conservation organizations such as the Nature Conservancy are other important options. Furthermore, individual land owners (e.g. farmers) can be encouraged by government to maintain critical portions or all of their land in unaltered state.

However, if such private conservation initiatives are to be encouraged, governments must adopt preservation-supportive taxation and other programs as incentives. At the very least citizens must not be penalized for maintaining intact stands of old growth forest, native grasslands, natural shorelines and river ways as they now can be. Rather they should be encouraged in such taking such conservation initiatives, for in so doing they are making a long-term contribution to society.

A review should be undertaken of the incentives which government can provide (taxation; discounted service charges; etc.) to encourage private land preservation. This exercise should also assess those disincentives which currently mitigate against preservation and suggest the means that these might be removed or altered.