

3) Link Pristine Areas Systems Plans

Given that the criteria used to define landscape bioregions currently varies by jurisdiction, the natural regions maps developed by individual governments do not mesh. This lack of integration stems from the fact that the responsibility for land resources (including pristine areas) is constitutionally allocated to individual provinces. Consequently, the development of pristine areas systems plans and definition of landscape bioregions have been undertaken by and within a provincial perspective. To complicate matters, the federal government (Canadian Parks Service) uses its own natural regions map, not the provincial and territorial maps, for planning the national parks system.

Now that the need for landscape preservation is recognized to be nationally and regionally important, the importance of standardizing the landscape region criteria upon which pristine areas systems are developed is key, especially for bio-regions that traverse more than one province/territory. One possible means for doing this might to be to build upon the ecozone/ecoregion mapping system developed by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas. This approach provides different levels of detail that correspond with the national (ecozones) and provincial (ecoregions) planning requirements and links into an international ecological classification system.