

B.9.13 General Ecosystem Health

This section is intended to address broad issues and intent related to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem health that are related to issues not described in the foregoing sections (i.e. B.9.1 through B.9.12). These include species, habitats or features not belonging to groups or types previously covered in the plan.

Issues:

- Reduced habitat effectiveness, connectivity and carrying capacity, habitat loss including alienation, and declining habitat suitability, are related to various factors including:
 - Expanding infrastructure and settlement
 - Recreational use
 - Industrial developments
 - Access development and use
 - Catastrophic climatic events
 - Noxious and invasive weeds
- Introduction of non-native species leads to changes in species composition and may negatively impact native terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna

Intent:

- Maintain and restore healthy, functioning ecosystems that are essential to the diversity, abundance, distribution and life histories of fish, wildlife, vegetation and water resources
- Maintain biodiversity in the plan area
- Apply an ecosystem-based approach to land and resource planning and management
- Consumptive uses (e.g. hunting, angling, water allocation, waste emissions) of environmental values will be regulated within the priority to maintain healthy, functioning ecosystems and populations
- Where private lands provide an important contribution to the maintenance of terrestrial or aquatic values, coordinate public/private land planning and management and encourage appropriate conservation measures on private land
- Discourage the introduction of non-indigenous flora and fauna
- Manage deciduous-leading stands for biodiversity
- Maintain the integrity of alpine environments to support species dependent on alpine habitats

Economic benefits and opportunities:

- Businesses that depend on fish, wildlife and wildland characteristics
- Healthy communities
- Sustainable natural resources

Measures of success:

- Healthy, functioning ecosystems
- Reduced introduction of non-native species

- Alpine-dependent species are sustained
- Ecosystem values are not fragmented by private lands