

ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(INSTALLATIONS, LOGISTICS, AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(MANPOWER, RESERVE AFFAIRS, INSTALLATIONS
AND ENVIRONMENT)

SUBJECT: Implementation of Ecosystem Management in the DoD

I want to ensure that ecosystem management becomes the basis for future management of DoD lands and waters. Ecosystem management is not only a smart way of doing business, it will blend multiple-use needs and provide a consistent framework to managing DoD installations, ensuring the integrity of the system remains intact. Ecosystem management of natural resources draws on a collaboratively developed vision of desired future ecosystem conditions that integrates ecological, economic, and social factors. It is a goal-driven approach to restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems and their functions and values using the best science available. The goal is to maintain and improve the sustainability and native biological diversity of terrestrial and aquatic, including marine, ecosystems while supporting human needs, including the DoD mission.

Ecosystem management will include:

1. **Ecological approach:** The DoD will continue to shift its focus from protection of individual species to management of ecosystems.
2. **Partnerships:** The DoD will form partnerships to achieve shared goals. Ecosystems cross political boundaries, making the need for cooperation, coordination, and partnerships essential for managing ecosystems.
3. **Participation:** Public involvement, communication, and incorporation of public needs and desires into management decisions will be emphasized.
4. **Information:** The best available scientific and field-tested information will be used in making decisions and selecting the most appropriate technologies in management of natural resources.

Environmental Security  Defending Our Future

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Department of Defense Ecosystem Management Principles

Components of ecosystem management:

Ecosystem management is a goal-driven approach to environmental management that is at a scale compatible with natural processes; is cognizant of nature's time frames; recognizes social and economic viability within functioning ecosystems; and is realized through effective partnerships among private, local, state, tribal, and federal interests. Ecosystem management is a process that considers the environment as a complex system functioning as a whole, not as a collection of parts, and recognizes that people and their social and economic needs are a part of the whole.

Goal:

The goal of ecosystem management is to preserve, improve, and enhance ecosystem integrity. Over the long term, this approach will maintain and improve the sustainability and biological diversity of terrestrial and aquatic (including marine) ecosystems while supporting sustainable economies and communities.

Principles and guidelines:

1. Maintain and improve the sustainability and native biological diversity of ecosystems. Ecosystem management involves conducting installation programs and activities in a manner that recognizes, restores, and sustains the composition, structure, and function of natural communities that comprise ecosystems, in order to ensure their sustainability and biological diversity at landscape and other relevant ecological scales.
2. Administer with consideration of ecological units and time frames. Ecosystem management requires the consideration of effects of installation programs and actions at spatial and temporal ecological scales that are relevant to natural processes. A larger geographic view and more appropriate ecological time frames should assist in analysis of cumulative effects on ecosystems that may not be apparent with smaller and shorter scales. Consideration of sustainability under long-term environmental threats, such as climate change, is also important.
3. Support sustainable human activities. People and their social, economic, and national security needs are an integral part of ecological systems, and management of ecosystems depends upon sensitivity to these issues. Actions should support sustainable development by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7. Rely on the best science available. Ecosystem management based on scientific understanding of ecosystem composition, structure, and function.
8. Use benchmarks to monitor and evaluate outcomes. Accountability measurements are vital to effective ecosystem management. Implementation strategies should include specific, measurable objectives and criteria with which to evaluate activities in the ecosystem. Clear, specific accountability systems, including those in appropriate budget structures, should be developed to ensure timely, effective implementation of the strategies. Efficiencies gained through cooperation and streamlining should be included in the objectives.
9. Use adaptive management. Ecosystems are recognized as open, changing, complex systems. Management practices should be flexible to accommodate the evolution of scientific understanding of ecosystems. Based on periodic reviews of implementation, adjustments to the standards and guidelines applicable to management activities affecting the ecosystem should be made.
10. Implement through installation plans and programs. An ecosystem's desired range of future conditions should be achieved through linkages and subsequent adjustments and implementation of DoD plans and activities.