

Traditional Management Approach

Focus on commodities and resource extraction

Focus on equilibrium, stability, and climax communities

Spatial/temporal scale: site and project specific

Reliance on federal agency managers and decision makers

Predictability and control (deterministic approach - belief that ecosystem process would be linear

Reliance on rationality and science

Confrontation/Polarization common/focus on single issue

Top-down, command-and-control management

Ecosystem Management Approach

Focus on commodities, amenities, and ecological integrity of the ecosystem

Focus on dynamics and resiliency, shifting mosaic

Spatial/temporal scale: holistic, landscape level assessments that include long-term outlook

Inclusion of stakeholders in decision making

Uncertainty acknowledged and flexibility valued - belief that ecosystem process are stochastic and that management actions often have unintended consequences – cautionary approach important

Incorporation of different 'ways of knowing', such as traditional knowledge

Focus on consensus-building and partnerships: public involvement increases likelihood of management decisions being socially acceptable and successfully implemented; multiple issues; partnerships

Adaptive management process with a focus on learning