

Place-Based or Ecosystem Management

Since the late 1980s, many environmental managers, scientists and natural resources policy analysts have advocated a new, broader approach to managing lands and natural resources called "ecosystem management." Ecosystem management integrates scientific knowledge of ecological relationships within a complex sociopolitical and values framework toward the general goal of protecting native ecosystem integrity over the long term. The phrase "place-based" is derived from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's statement that it had been "program-driven" rather than "place-driven" in concentrating its efforts on issuing permits, establishing pollutant limits, and setting national standards rather than the overall environmental health of specific ecosystems.

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