



Principles of Stewardship

The *College of Applied Biology Act* sets out that one of the purposes of the College is to protect the public interest by upholding the principles of stewardship of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and biological resources. The responsibility of College members is to practice science-based stewardship within the tenets of the College Code of Ethics.

The College of Applied Biology defines stewardship as: the management of impacts on ecological systems and their components with the goal of maintaining resilient ecosystems into the future.

The College has identified six principles of stewardship to guide members' practice of applied biology. These principles together form the underlying goals that frame the work of College members. The principles are numbered for ease of reference and do not indicate a hierarchy of importance.

Principles of Stewardship:

1. Take a comprehensive, holistic view

Ecosystems are considered as a whole, and terrestrial or aquatic ecosystem management is based on a comprehensive view of the ecological systems and their components

2. Maintain resilient ecosystems

Ecosystem structure, composition and function are maintained within a range of biological diversity and complexity that enables resilience in the face of the combined incremental effects of environmental change or disturbance

3. Minimize harm, improve and enhance

Harm to the ecosystem is minimized while opportunities are sought to maintain, improve or enhance ecosystem function

4. Assess alternatives

Alternative management strategies are weighed over a range of spatial and temporal scales by considering reasonably foreseeable outcomes, consequences, combined incremental effects of environmental change or disturbance, and risks and uncertainties

5. Maintain future options

Future options are maintained for managing ecosystem values over a range of spatial and temporal scales

6. Learn and respond

Stewardship is informed by science and requires both learning from experience and responding to uncertainty, environmental changes, and changes in knowledge