

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The five Principles allow natural processes to prevail to the greatest possible extent, given the overall Goal. The management strategies link the Goal and Principles to specific implementation programs. Monitoring of water and ecosystem processes will guide these management strategies.

1. Adaptive management

The GVRD will manage the watersheds through an adaptive approach, in which incremental steps will be taken and periodically assessed to ascertain whether they are consistent with the Goal and Principles of this Plan.

2. Water infrastructure development consistent with the Goal

In constructing works within the watersheds, the GVRD and other utilities (e.g. BC Hydro, Centra Gas) will have regard to the Goal and the Principles of this Plan.

3. Restoration of natural systems

The GVRD will, over time, re-establish the natural regimes that existed in the watersheds prior to their disturbance by human activity if the disturbance is impacting water quality, including watercourses, roads and cleared areas.

4. Support for natural processes consistent with water quality, safety and environmental quality

The GVRD will permit natural processes, such as forest succession, interactions of plants and animals, wildfires, and erosion, to take place without intervention unless these processes constitute a threat to water quality, public safety or the environment. These natural processes support biodiversity and provide for valuable ecosystem services.

5. Stewardship guided by research, monitoring and public involvement

The GVRD will continually develop and disseminate the body of knowledge about the watersheds and will engage the public in understanding the implications of this information for watershed management.

6. Cost-effective management

The GVRD will plan and implement its watershed management strategies and programs in a way that balances the achievement of the Goal with the financial constraints of the GVRD.

7. Co-ordinate with Provincial strategies and policies

The GVRD will consider legislation and policy in its planning and operations, and will meet or exceed applicable standards for maintaining ecosystems in the watersheds.