Box 4.2 Differences Between Traditional Forest Management and an Ecosystem Approach to Forest Management

	Traditional Forest Management	Forest Ecosystem Management
Objectives	■ Maximizes commodity production	■ Maintains the forest ecosystem as an interconnected whole, while allowing for sustainable commodity production
	■ Maximizes net present value	■ Maintains future options
	■ Aims to maintain harvest or use of forest products at levels less than or equal to their growth or renewal	■ Aims to sustain ecosystem productivity over time, with short-term consideration of factors such as forest aesthetics and the social acceptability of harvest practices
Scale	■ Works at the stand level within political or ownership boundaries	■ Works at the ecosystem and landscape level
Role of Science	■ Views forest management as an applied science	■ Views forest management as combining science and social factors
Role of Management	■ Focuses on outputs (goods and services demanded by people), such as timber, recreation, wildlife, and forage	■ Focuses on inputs and processes, such as soil, biological diversity, and ecological processes, since these give rise to goods and services
	■ Strives for management that fits industrial production	■ Strives for management that mimics natural processes and productivity
	■ Considers timber is the most important forest output (timber primacy)	■ Considers all species—plant and animal—important and considers services (protecting watersheds, recreation, etc.) are on an equal footing with goods (timber)
	■ Strives to avoid impending timber famine	■ Strives to avoid biodiversity loss and soil degradation
	■ Views forests as a crop production system	■ Views forests as a natural system, more than the sum of its parts
	■ Values economic efficiency	■ Values cost-effectiveness and social acceptability

Source: Adapted from Bengston 1994