



## 15.0 Nature Area Management Categories

Individual management plans set out the site-specific approach to management, including what activities or uses may be appropriate and where they can occur. Management categories have been prepared to ensure a consistent approach to management plan preparation, provide clear direction on permitted use(s), and to assist in meeting the goals of the Nature Areas. The Nature Area management categories have been prepared to support the Nature Area goals presented in **Section 12** and in consultation with the Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee.

Application of the management categories within Nature Area management plans should be done in consideration of the following:

- The categories represent the management objective, not the current land cover.
- Categories do not overlap.
- A feature may include multiple management categories (e.g., a forest may include areas identified as preservation and others as conservation to reflect a balanced approach to achieving the goals for the Nature Areas).

- Not all management categories will be appropriate or used in each Nature Area.
- Categories must be applied in a way that permits activities that align with the goals of the Nature Areas balanced with the goals associated with biodiversity and protection.
- Delineation of the management category should be informed by:
  - The system level plan (e.g., targets, priorities)
  - Site-specific assessment of:
    - Feature / area sensitivity
    - Current uses and deficiencies
    - Opportunities presented (e.g., restoration / enhancement)

**Four management categories have been defined:**

**Ecological Reserve** | protection and biodiversity are primary priorities.

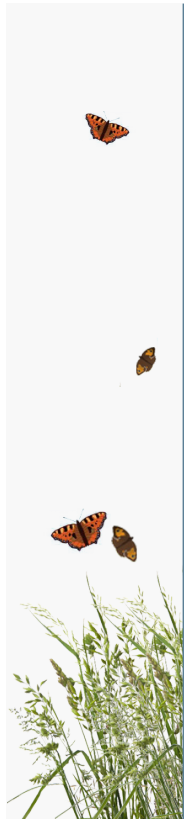
**Conservation Area** | protection and biodiversity priorities are balanced with passive recreational and other human uses as guided / informed by site-specific conditions.

**Cultural Area** | protection of cultural resources is prioritized in a natural setting.

**Regenerative Agriculture** | regenerative agricultural uses are supported.

Because these categories are based on management objectives, restoration and enhancement opportunities are embedded within the categories. It is recommended that areas identified as suitable opportunities for restoration / enhancement be mapped separately from the management categories (e.g., as an overlay or a separate map) to clearly identify these areas and inform implementation of the management plan.

The management categories also provide opportunities to support the UGN themes of a robust, connected system of natural areas and open spaces, integrated environmental resilience, environmental stewardship and management, and striving for net benefit.



**The Net Benefit** objective may be supported through a range of activities and actions within the management plans:

- Alterations to trail alignments, decreased density or removal of trails to reduce impacts (compared to existing conditions);
- Restoration and enhancement opportunities such as habitat creation, management (e.g., grasslands, invasive species), increasing habitat diversity or complexity, habitat features (e.g., turtle nesting mounds);
- Educational and stewardship opportunities (e.g., signage, events).



Source: Brian Lasenby, Shutterstock.