



## Section 3.2

# How Humans Influence Ecosystems

## Study Notes

By the end of section 3.2 you should be able to understand the following:

- ❑ A sustainable ecosystem is not only good for biodiversity and maintaining future healthy ecosystems, but can also be very good economic opportunities.
- ❑ Currently, ecosystem sustainability is often threatened by human activities such as urban development, deforestation, certain agricultural practices and over-fishing.
- ❑ Better resource management in industries such as forestry, agriculture, and mining can help to sustain ecosystems.

### NOTES

Wetlands are very unique ecosystems. Why are they sometimes referred to as sponges, or as the “kidneys of the Earth”

- 1.
- 2.

Why are peat bogs a special type of wetland that can be an important agricultural asset?

- 1.
- 2.

What has happened, or is happening, to the wetlands in BC?

- 1.
- 2.

## NOTES

What are the two definitions of "sustainability"?

1.

2.

What is the difference between "land use" and "resource use"?

1.

2.

Describe the terms "habitat loss" and "habitat fragmentation".

1.

2.

Describe three sustainable approaches that attempt to correct habitat loss due to previous land use practices.

1.

2.

3.

Do the Reading Check on page 127

## NOTES

What is the difference between a monoculture crop and a polyculture crop? Which is considered to be more ecologically sustainable?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is deforestation? How does deforestation lead to soil degradation?

- 1.
- 2.

Describe soil compaction, and how it occurs, on farmland. What are the effects of soil compaction? How can farmers decrease the effects of soil compaction?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Do the Reading Check on page 130

## NOTES

What is resource exploitation? Why do humans exploit resources? What are three effects of resource exploitation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What is mine reclamation? How are plants used in mine reclamation? What is overexploitation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is traditional ecological knowledge? Why was "spring burning" a beneficial tradition?

- 1.
- 2.