ABSTRACT: Natural areas management is more effective when managers and scientists work as an integrated team. For such interaction to be successful, several philosophical and technical issues must be recognized and resolved. These issues include having divergent objectives, choosing between reductionism and holism, choosing between prior study and adaptive management, responding to risk, balancing short-term projects and long-term needs, choosing the proper level of biological organization, and applying appropriate statistical tools. We propose a step-by-step framework for project development that encourages the resolution of these issues in building effective multidisciplinary teams for natural areas management.