

From Concept to Reality

Creating a Roadmap for Ecosystem-Based Management in Alberta and beyond

June 19–20, 2018 • Coast Edmonton Plaza • Edmonton, Alberta

We invite you to participate in a two-day workshop focused on identifying possible next steps in the evolution of ecosystem-based management (EBM) in Alberta and beyond. The workshop will include a mixture of presentations, case studies, small group conversations and facilitated activities. Participants will contribute directly to a roadmap to guide at least ten actionable next steps in the evolution of EBM. **Regardless of where you live and work, we invite you to the conversation.** You can register here: <https://bit.ly/2J8lyEz>

Why this Workshop & Why Now? Encouraging an open conversation about EBM

Ecosystem-based management holds great promise as a new natural resource management paradigm and is being promoted by many government, industry, and stakeholder organizations in Alberta and beyond. The concept is consistent with most of our shared hopes and desires of how we wish to manage forest landscapes, and is inclusive of, as opposed to competitive with, many other current management strategies. However, EBM is also aspirational and highly complex, potentially impacting many existing policies, practices, roles, and responsibilities. As a result, many different interpretations of EBM now exist.

This diversity is not surprising. To manage the associated complexity, management organizations often resort to reinterpreting principles, simplifying concepts, emphasizing some elements over others, or omitting key features entirely all in an effort to make it work. In isolation this may be effective. However, when working with others this approach creates fragmentation. The lack of shared understanding between individuals and agencies results in the polarization of issues the erosion of trust, and ultimately roadblocks to forward movement—regardless of the quality or quantity of the knowledge or tools.

Workshop Purpose Identifying concrete steps to make EBM a reality

Policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders have an opportunity to not just further advance the conversation around EBM in Alberta and beyond, but to collaboratively identify next steps for making EBM a reality.

This workshop is not a stand-alone product, but rather one step in a deliberate process by the fRI Research Healthy Landscapes Program to engage in an open conversation about EBM. Last year we launched the *Lessons From Nature* website (www.lessonsfromnature.ca), which provides an introduction to some key EBM principles. Over the past year we conducted “EBM Dialogue Sessions” across Alberta to evaluate perspectives on EBM from across the stakeholder spectrum. Lastly, this workshop is also a follow-up to the Biodiversity and Forestry Workshop hosted by the Alberta government in June 2016.

What will the workshop yield? Building an action plan to keep moving forward

This workshop will generate a list of at least ten specific actions that can be taken to further evaluate and test EBM principles. This is all to advance the conversation and the activity around forest management in a productive and reflective way.

Day 1

The first day of the workshop is about finding out what the community is thinking and feeling about EBM and the realities of working together. The day will combine hearing about the experiences of others with conversations about the realities of implementing EBM ideas. This will help to orient ourselves collectively on the EBM roadmap, which will in turn allow us to identify some paths forward on Day 2.

- 8:30** **Welcome, Introductions & Morning News**
- 9:00** **Keynote Presentation and Q&A Session: *EBM True Confessions - From Concept to Reality* - Dr. Edward Grumbine, Prescott College, Arizona**
- 10:00** **Presentation: *Understanding Different Perspectives on EBM Through Dialogue* Dr. John Parkins, University of Alberta.**
- 10:15** **Morning Break**
- 10:45** **A Fishbowl Conversation about EBM Implementation Realities**
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- 1:00** **Understanding EBM Interpretation and Implementation Realities**
A series of presentations from different jurisdictions (e.g., Ontario, Québec, etc.) reflecting on challenges and opportunities in implementing EBM concepts.
- 2:00** **World Café Exercise: Looking Forward Together**
- 3:00** **Afternoon Break**
- 3:30** **Report Back and End of Day News**
- 5:00** **Closing Conversation**
- 5:30** **Cash Bar and Networking**

Day 2

As the first day of the workshop is about orientation, the second day is about setting a direction of travel by identifying a series of actions to pursue. In the morning we will reflect on how collaborative problem solving is possible through an exercise designed to build a shared understanding of initiatives the group wants to pursue, identify assumptions that need testing, and generate feedback from peers to advance our action plans. In the afternoon, attendees will be free to choose which session(s) they most want to attend, bringing maximum interest and commitment for conversation and action. The exercise will help create convergence in our thinking and generate actionable ideas for advancing a roadmap for EBM.

- 8:30** **Morning News**
- 9:00** **Keynote Presentation: *Solving Complex Problems Using Stretch Collaboration* Brenna Atnikov, REOS Partners, Calgary, AB**
- 10:00** **Morning Break**
- 10:30** **Advancing the Conversation on EBM through Rapid Prototyping**
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- 1:00** **Open Space Group Session – Identifying at least 10 actionable items in the Evolution of EBM in Alberta and beyond**
- 4:00** **Closing Conversation**