

Can people change in a day? Measuring impacts from public dialogue on EBM in Alberta

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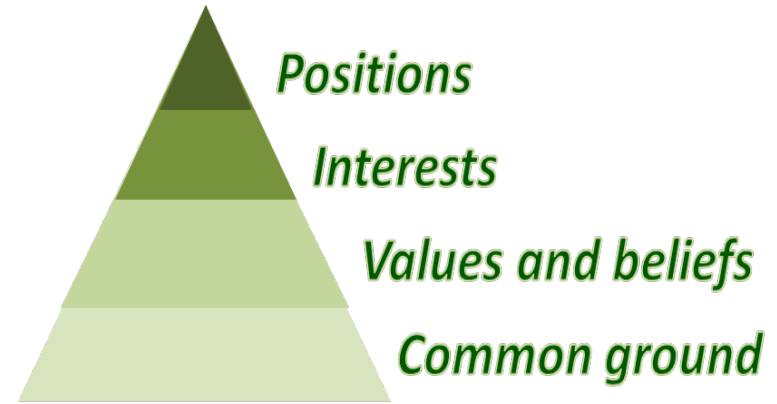
With David Andison (Bandaloop Landscape-Ecosystem Services), Matthew Pyper (Fuse Consulting), and Jules Leboeuf (Government of Alberta)

fRI Research – Healthy Landscapes Program Webinar Wednesdays

June 6, 2018

Goals

- 1) Understand barriers to implementing EBM, with attention to root causes
- 2) Test the effectiveness of this dialogue approach for engaging partners and stakeholders on EBM implementation



Advertising dialogue on EBM in Alberta

Do you have an interest in healthy forests?

We want you to join a conversation about forest management in Alberta

"Each person's view is a unique perspective on a larger reality. If I can look out through your view and you through mine, we will each see something we might not have seen alone."

- Peter Senge

Join the conversation

Tell your story and experiences with ecosystem-based management in Alberta — We want to move beyond the science and understand your experiences and perspectives.

Why Attend?

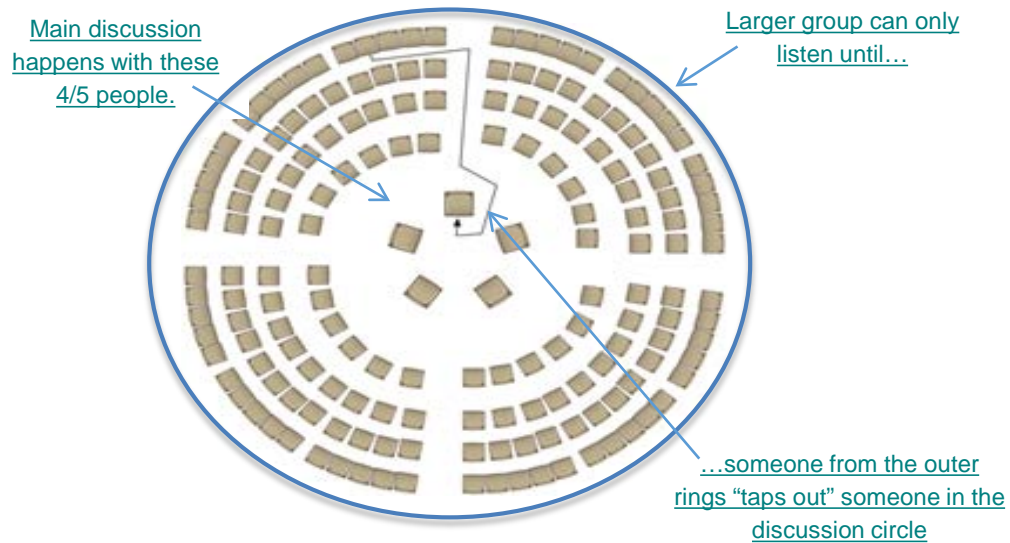
- Contribute perspectives and ideas to the discussion
- Hear a range of views from diverse stakeholders
- Network with peers and colleagues

Locations and Dates

Athabasca	May 30/17
Grande Prairie	Sept. 12/17
Calgary	Oct. 25/17
Edmonton	Dec. 12/17

Methods:

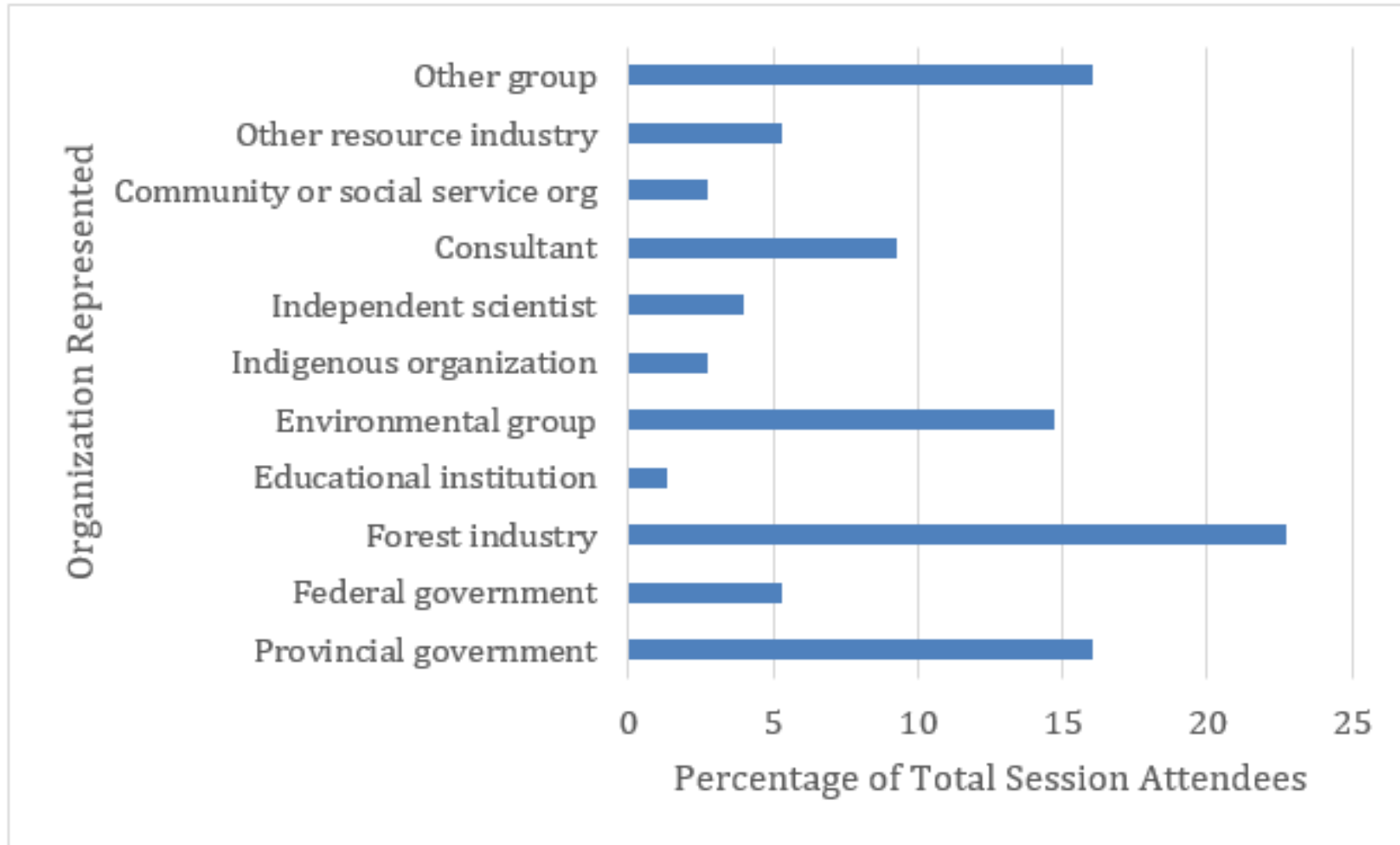
1. Fishbowl technique



- 1) Introduction
- 2) An overview of EBM approaches
- 3) Fishbowl exercise #1
- 4) A hypothetical EBM Scenario
- 5) Fishbowl exercise #2
- 6) Reflective questions
- 7) Closing comments

2. Pre-post dialogue online survey

Diversity of participation

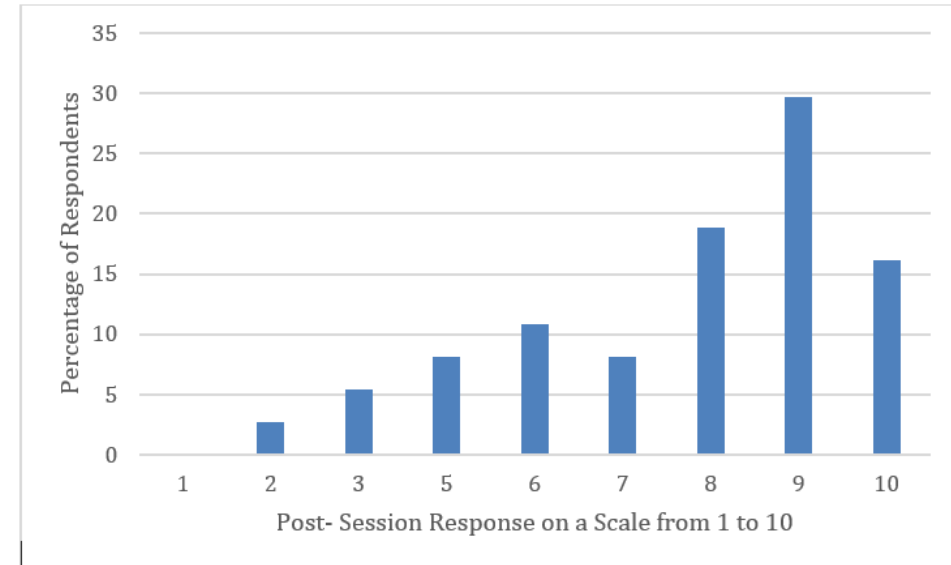
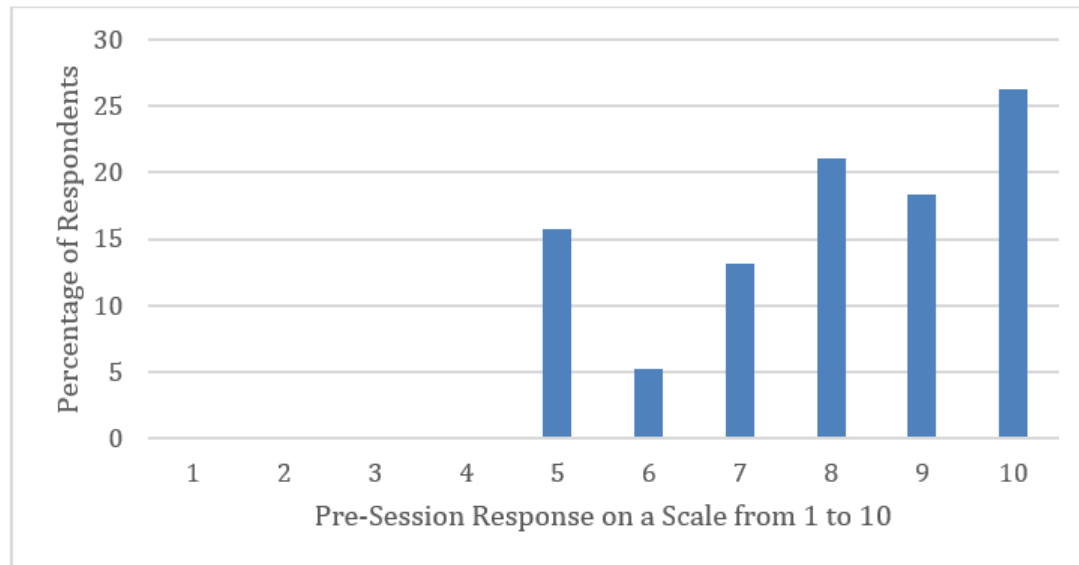


N = 80 dialogue participants

N = 50 participants completed
pre & post questionnaires

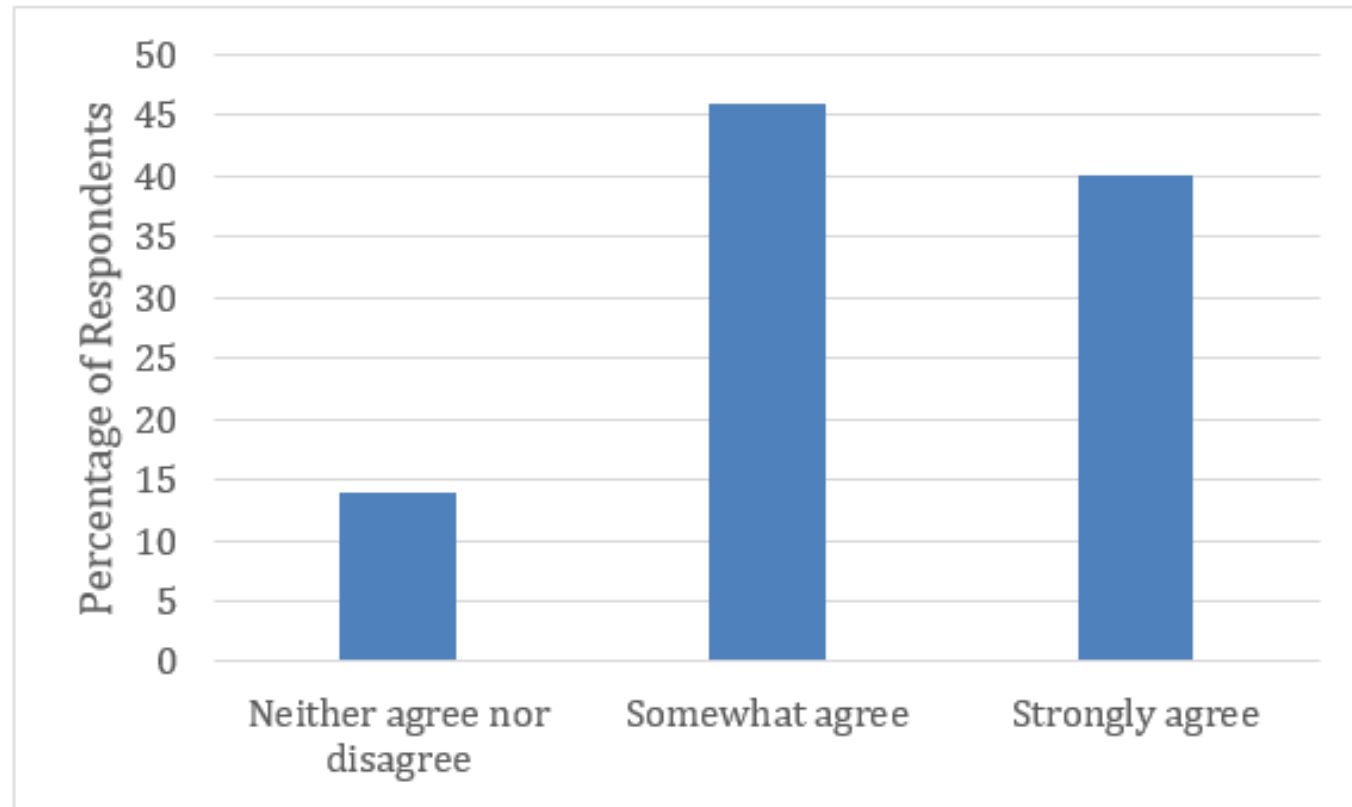
Survey Results:

Pre & post dialogue, likelihood to recommend EBM



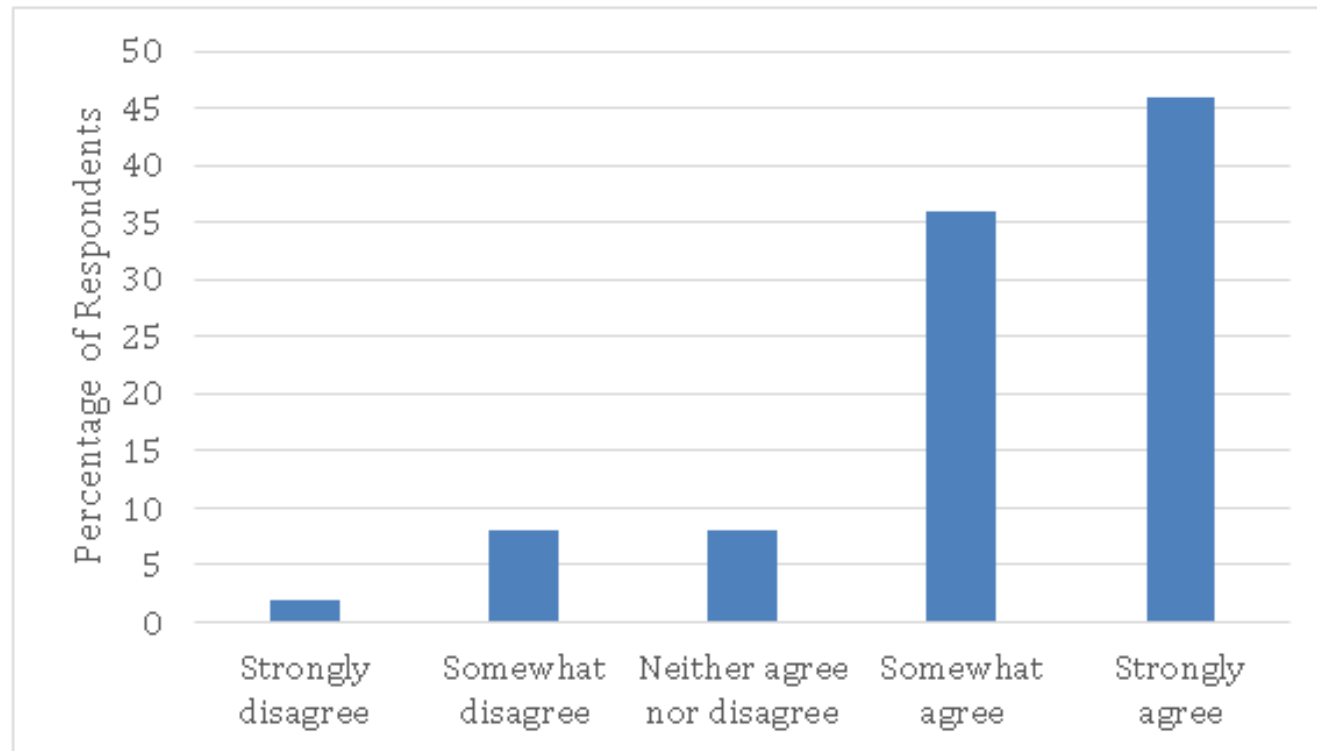
Dialogue process results:

Response to the statement “I gained an appreciation for other perspectives through this dialogue session.”



Dialogue process results:

Response to the statement: “Responses from participants to the statement: overall, this dialogue session was a good use of my time”



Dialogue Observations:

- Technical observations
- Philosophical observations
- Relational observations



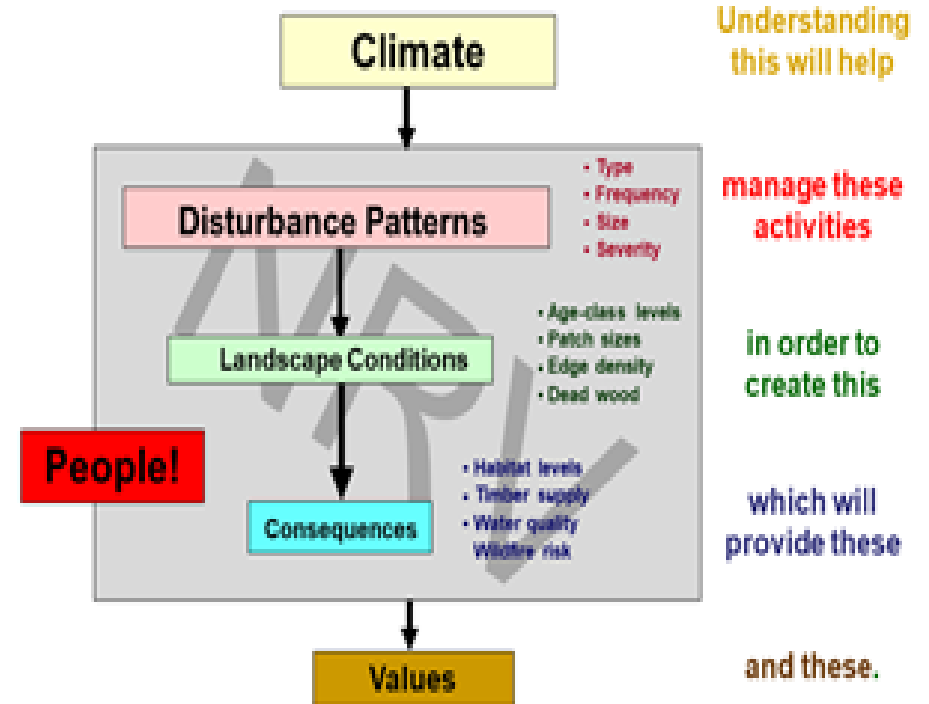
Technical observations

- *A tendency to think of EBM as an outcome, and not a process.*
- *A range of understanding of the scientific and technical details, and the interpretation work required to support EBM.*
- *Variation in technical and scientific capacity suggests there is a need for education, but more on a technical level.*

Philosophical observations

- Support for an EBM focus on disturbance, ecosystem structure and function
- Values as an outcome / product of EBM was hotly debated
- SFM paradigm is deeply rooted

Adamowicz and Burton (2003) further identify the 'modern era' of forest management, with reference to Kimmis (1991, 1992) involving "the final or ultimate stage in the development of forestry as the 'social stage of forestry', in which environmentally sound forestry satisfies diverse social needs" (p. 11).



Relational observations

- Advertised as dialogue, participants still expected traditional style workshop where they would be listening to experts in the EBM field.
- Dialogue was new to many, several participants indicated the best session they had ever attended in terms of sharing views and building trust.
- Trust-building was a key outcome. Independence (neutrality) of organizers and sponsors was important.

Relationships are all there is. Everything in the universe only exists because it is in relationship to everything else. Nothing exists in isolation. We have to stop pretending we are individuals that can go it alone.

From Never Eat Alone – Margaret Wheatley

Factors predicting optimism that EBM will be implemented effectively

- Pre-dialogue: value statement predicts optimism
- Post-dialogue: Procedure statements predict optimism

Optimism that EBM will be implemented effectively.

Pre-dialogue (Adjusted R ² =0.100)			Post-dialogue (Adjusted R ² =0.261)		
Variable	Standardized β	p	Variable	Standardized β	p
Although EBM is a good idea, I'm dubious about the intentions of EBM practitioners.	-0.33	0.003	I feel that my voice is heard when I speak up about EBM-related issues.	0.46	< 0.001
			I understand how decisions are made about EBM in the province.	0.28	0.026

Factors predicting likelihood to recommend ecosystem-based management

- Affiliative statement is stronger after the dialogue

On a scale, of 1 to 10, how likely to recommend

Pre-dialogue (Adjusted R ² =0.242)			Post-dialogue (Adjusted R ² =0.52)		
Variable	Standardized β	p	Variable	Standardized β	p
In general, the people involved with EBM seem like good people.	0.36	0.003	In general, the people involved with EBM seem like good people.	0.53	< 0.001
Although EBM is a good idea, I'm dubious about the intentions of EBM practitioners.	-0.27	0.025	I am familiar with the concepts and the practices associated with EBM in Alberta.	0.37	0.003

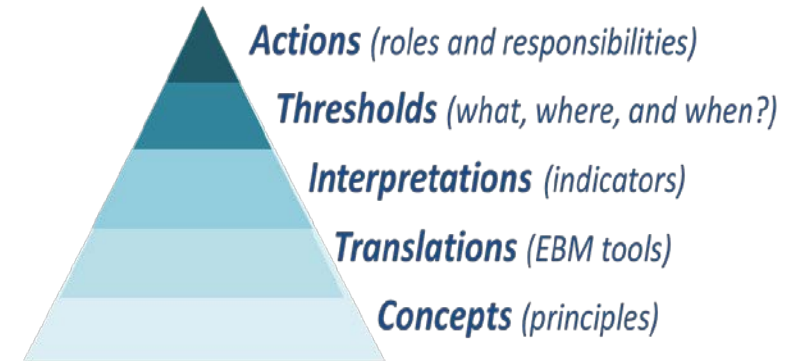
Shifting levels of trust from pre to post dialogue

PRE-DIALOGUE	Trust for:				
	Alberta Ag & Forestry	Forest industry	Alberta Energy	Alberta Parks	National Parks
Forest industry	.569**				
Alberta Energy	.627**	.431**			
Alberta Parks	.293*	-0.012	.350**		
National Parks	0.141	-0.006	0.151	.692**	
Alberta env. groups	-0.051	-.362**	0.049	.651**	.583**

POST-DIALOGUE	Trust for:				
	Alberta Ag & Forestry	Forest industry	Alberta Energy	Alberta Parks	National Parks
Forest industry	.604**				
Alberta Energy	.421**	.440**			
Alberta Parks	.063	-.045	.189		
National Parks	.227	-.104	-.118	.624**	
Alberta env. groups	-.061	-.192	-.099	.506**	.486**

Summary

- History -- Conversations were not about technical differences. Negative history between stakeholders, and mistrust are key barriers.
- Diversity -- widely varying views of what exactly EBM means in practice.
- Paradigms – Concepts from SFM in Canada are pervasive, and often run counter to EBM thinking. There are engrained positions on key topics and a possible lack of willingness to find a ‘middle ground’.
- Education -- We need to stop assuming a knowledge deficit and move away from a desire to indoctrinate.
- Trust building – Dialogue and learning can lead to improved relationship and better processes of EBM in Alberta.



Thank you

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