



# EBM CHALLENGES FOR ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN FORESTS

## The Generalized Management Model

- **Level 1: Reality**. Reality represents the current political, social, economic, and ecological position(s) society finds itself in. For example, our reality in Canada is that we are a natural-resource rich country. Reality is an immovable and unpredictable starting point, as opposed to something we can control or manage.
- **Level 2: Values**. Values are personal belief systems; political, social, ecological, and economic. Values are, in part, informed by reality. For example, some view the abundance of natural resources in Canada mainly as an (economic) opportunity, while others consider it an (ecological) responsibility.
- **Level 3: Paradigms**. Values are translated into (management) paradigms via high-level government / regulatory organization, laws, and policies. Paradigms within the forest resource management sector over the last 30 years include sustainable yield, integrated land management (ILM), sustainable forest management (SFM) – and EBM.
- **Level 4. Frameworks**. Translating paradigms into frameworks represents a challenging first step in the transition from policy to action. Frameworks include regulatory tenure systems, sub-surface rights, grazing leases, and fire control policies.
- **Level 5. Systems**. Systems translate frameworks into specific rules, regulations, and guidelines. Systems also include the details of consultation, certification, and outreach.
- **Level 6. Tools**. Tools are activities with which to achieve the goals of the systems. In this case tools include harvesting, silviculture, prescribed burning, linear feature restoration, but also research, monitoring, and the specifics of communications.

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