



Partner Perspectives

Institute gives legs to agency's research vision



Partner Perspective

Alberta Innovates –
Bio Solutions

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Steve Price
Executive Director

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Overview

Alberta Innovates - Bio Solutions is a research leadership organization that facilitates and funds research priorities identified by the provincial government with input from the departments of environment, agriculture, sustainable resource development and advanced education and technology related to development of the bio-economy.

Challenge

Alberta Innovates - Bio Solutions conducts no research of its own, and thus must partner with credible and capable organizations to deliver the science required to achieve its objectives. One key objective is to ensure that the landbase and its resources are managed in a sustainable fashion supported by quality scientific data, while addressing the legitimate needs and concerns of all stakeholders. Another is to ensure that funded research has practical on-the-ground value to industry in the production of traditional forest products, and in considering investment in innovative bio-products.

Solution

Alberta Innovates - Bio Solutions turned to Foothills Research Institute for delivery of several major projects. The Institute has a 17-year track record of collaboration and credibility in land and resource management. Its landscape management work in the heavily forested multi-use regions of west-central and northern Alberta is also valued for the international and local partnerships it has developed, and for its ability to bring non-traditional players together to discuss important issues. "The Institute has demonstrated its ability to bring municipal governments, NGOs, industry and aboriginal leaders to the table to talk about resource management," says Steve Price, Alberta Innovates - Bio Solutions executive director. "This holistic approach is reflected in their research program, and it is a solid foundation for the kind of research effort that Alberta Innovates - Bio Solutions is interested in."

Results

The Institute has helped link Alberta with the international community on forest management, allowing global experience and knowledge to be brought back here for Alberta's benefit. One example is the Circumboreal Initiative launched about five years ago through the International Model Forest program. It brings together resource management agencies to discuss and share information on global management issues. A collaboration between the Institute grizzly bear program and a similar Scandinavian program benefits Alberta through the results of successful population recovery results in Sweden. Closer to home, the Institute has helped industry and government better understand the potential impact of mountain pine beetle-killed trees on rivers and streams, such as the impact of altered sedimentation rates on fish stocks.

For more see www.foothillsresearchinstitute.ca