

Topic:

Collaborative approaches to EFN management

Title:

Strengthening Community Resilience to Landscape-Level Change in Ecosystem Services.

An ongoing mountain pine beetle epidemic in the Alberta foothills region threatens to disrupt the social and economic well-being of rural communities, including ecosystem services important to those communities. By working with communities in the region through a qualitative case study approach, my research seeks to explore and identify practical strategies for strengthening community resilience to environmental change. To facilitate the research I have developed a resilience assessment framework based on extensive literature review and involving concepts from both the physical and social sciences. The framework includes aspects around the existing exposure of environmental services to landscape-level change; factors that contribute to social and ecological stability; the capacity for collective action and collaborative governance across local, provincial and national scales; institutional adaptive capacity at local, provincial and federal scales; and attributes including leadership that facilitate the activation of community adaptive response. Each dimension in the framework forms the basis for data collection through document review, semi-structured interviews and focus groups. The study aims to provide meaningful and practical results for communities facing future uncertainty due to the effects of environmental change, including climate change.

Author:

Rob Friberg