



PROJECT PROFILE: PREDICTIVE ECOSITE CLASSIFICATION PLATFORM

SUPPORTING MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY NEEDS

Ecosite data and information products are one of the key inputs supporting the ongoing and future management of Alberta's biophysical resources. The vision for the platform developed under this initiative is a widely accepted, trusted source of objective and scientifically credible ecosite and other natural resource data and information.

PROJECT LEAD

Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute

OVERVIEW

The ecosite mapping approach will be used to effectively store, utilize and share vegetation and soil field data to support management and regulatory needs. The approach has three functional components: data acquisition, product development, and data and product distribution. A governance and business model was created to ensure the ecosite mapping platform can operate for 30+ years.

OUTCOMES

Ecosite classification, data and information are key to supporting the ongoing and future management of Alberta's biophysical resources. Ecosite data and information is intended (more or less) to support:

- Establishment of ecological benchmarks;
- Setting performance objectives/targets;
- Performance monitoring; and
- Reporting on reclamation performance against reclamation plans.

Those interviewed for the project highlighted the opportunity for this initiative to:

- Meet existing needs more cost effectively;
- Strengthen the management loop (plan-do-check-

report-adjust);

- Support the demonstration of management and performance against objectives;
- Assist policy makers, regulators and resource managers to understand how ecosite data and information could be effectively utilized; and
- Fill data and information gaps early in the land use planning process.

THE ESN CONNECTION

Ecosites are ecologically distinct units that provide an understanding of ecological functionality. Large companies and stakeholders had a need for standardized ecosite information but this was lacking with the previous approach that was both costly and inefficient. This project addressed this need. The project report (link below) explains the implications for various sectors (energy, agriculture, forestry) and the link between ecosite classification in protecting and enhancing ecosystem services.

LEARN MORE

About the project at <https://www.abmi.ca/home/publications/451-500/499.html%3Btime=2016>

About the ESN at ecoservicesnetwork.ca and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn