Primer Part Three

**Understanding the Role of Research in Parks and Protected Areas and Applying Evidence**



Primer Readings and Resources

Lemieux, C.J., Groulx, M.W., Bocking, S., & Beechey, T.J. (2018). Evidence-based decision-making in Canada’s protected areas organizations: Implications for management effectiveness. *FACETS*. 3(1): 392-14. <https://www.facetsjournal.com/doi/pdf/10.1139/facets2017-0107>

*What are the Challenges?*

Lemieux et al. uses the term barriers to describe the challenges of placing research into management and decision-making. “It seems clear from the survey results that Canadian protected areas managers face a suite of complex barriers in the use of evidence-based information” (Lemieux et al., 2018, p. 19).

They group these challenges into two categories, personal barriers and barriers related to organizations, agencies, or groups. Barriers are encountered by people wishing to access evidence, data, or research for the purpose or decision-making, and those who wish to share their research findings.

Lemieux et al. go on to be more specific about the challenges facing Parks Canada in their comment “A report from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada in (2013) … concluded Parks Canada has struggled in its efforts to maintain or restore ecological integrity in national parks due to a lack of information for decision-making (e.g., monitoring data), decreased spending, and significant declines in staffing (including a decline in scientific staff by one-third) ((Lemieux, et al., 2017, p. 3).

Additional challenges could be the difficulty in coordinating and networking with the multiple agencies that are stakeholders in our natural spaces, resourcing the research/data synthesis, timing research to coincide with goals, objectives, and decisions, and a lengthy approval process to integrate research into practice.

Self-Directed Activities

*For Your Own Understanding*

Identify two personal and two organizational challenges to applying research to practice that you have either faced yourself or have observed in your work. **Write a paragraph or two describing these challenges and the effect they have had on your ability to do your job.**

Quiz

1. Challenges fall into two general categories
   1. Personal and relational
   2. Managerial and operational
   3. Personal and organizational
   4. Can be overcome and cannot be overcome

Answer c

1. Key challenges to incorporating research to practice are
   1. Conflict
   2. Time constraints
   3. Concentration
   4. Access to data

Answer b and/or d

*For Your Learning*

**Seek out another professional and conduct an informal interview** to learn about challenges faced by others in this field. How do their experiences compare with yours? What did you learn from this activity?

**Continue to develop your ideas for your presentation product** and continue preparing your presentation.