The Role of the Forest Professional

MegaFlorestais: Local Innovations in Forest Governance
October 2017, Campbell River, BC

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Presentation Overview

1. Association of BC Forest Professionals Overview
2. Why regulate people who manage the forest?
3. What are the key functions of the regulator?
4. How does the forest professional fit into the larger governance model for managing forests?
1. Association Overview

• To practice professional forestry in BC you must be a registered ABCFP member

• Practice of Professional Forestry:
  – forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems
  – planning, providing advice, engaging in, directing, supervising, approving methods for, reporting on, auditing, evaluating

• 5,400 registered members (4,600 practicing)
2. Business Case for a Regulated Profession

Protect Public Interest, Safeguard forests for long term use & benefit

Photo taken by Jake Bapty, RPF
3. What Does the Regulator (ABCFP) Provide & Do?

**ASSURANCE**
- Protect public interest in the forest resource

**License and regulate people managing forests**

1. **Education standards, qualifications**
2. **Ongoing competence**
3. **Code of ethics; Standards of practice**
4. **Hold members accountable**
5. **ASSURANCE**
4. Forest professionals one part of a larger forest governance management model….

BC’S FOREST MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT FRAMEWORK

- **Objectives**
  - Plan & Practice Requirements
- **Compliance & Enforcement**
- **Professional Reliance**
  - Use of Forest Professionals
  - Public Trust
- **Effectiveness Evaluations**
  - Forest & Range Evaluation Program
  - Forest Practices Board
  - Forest Research

- Early 2000’s government reduced the amount of detailed rules governing forest management
- Increased its reliance on the judgement and advice of professionals
- And raised the importance of monitoring, evaluation, research
Presentation Takeaways

1. BC forests are a publically owned resource
   – desire for multiple values and benefits makes management complex

2. Public’s interest in the forest is better safeguarded by ensuring those who practice forestry:
   – have proper knowledge & expertise
   – have integrity in how they work
   – can be held to independent account

3. The forest professional is one key part of a larger forest management governance model.