

## SCIENCE INFLUENCES – NOT DECIDE FOREST POLICY

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There are several on-going initiatives in BC related to the *Modernization of Forest Policy*, several include discussions regarding science. All participants should be reminded that:

**Science informs policy, it is NOT the decision-maker.**

In developing forest policy, Government must consider the science along with many other aspects of forest stewardship and land use. Those who emphasize the science should keep this in mind.

However, because of this complexity, it is critical Government be transparent and clear on the reasons for establishing a particular policy and where science and other aspects were considered. This may not be desirable for politicians, but it is part of their job and if comfortable with the decision, it should be easy to defend in this manner.

BC's forests are composed of a very complex set ecosystems, values, and connections with local communities (Indigenous and Non-Indigenous). Consequently, it is very difficult to develop a policy that can universally be applied unless it is at a high level and includes flexibility in its application to meet ecological, economic, and social/cultural expectations of British Columbians. This will require balancing the various values, science, and community expectations. As Dr. Fred Bunnell once said, "forest management is not rocket science, it is more complex."