

PROVIDING SUITABLE MONITORING SYSTEMS

John Innes identified that to demonstrate sustainable forest management, BC “would have a provincial monitoring system capable of determining that the conservation status of all species was regularly assessed” and “would make decisions based on up-to-date, comprehensive, inventory information...” Fred Bunnell is of the view BC needs more work on a monitoring system to ensure we understand the conditions of species at risk and how to manage for biodiversity. Kim Iles has the view BC finds itself in a situation where Government “...knows where almost every truck it owns can be found, there is too little knowledge about where their trees are.”

Monitoring is part of resource inventory systems. It can be costly, a “black hole for money” and requires sufficient resource inventory staff. As in the case of the challenge regarding maintaining the forest lands asset, funding is expected to be limited. Therefore, the money available has to be targeted and directed to cost effective systems. It is doubtful there will be sufficient resources to meet the desired level of monitoring. Therefore, professional foresters and biologists should be asked to identify the associated risks with not having the desired data so communities and decision makers can make the judgment call regarding what is at stake. Regardless, decision makers should have the resourcing of monitoring a priority. Government does an assessment of the current conditions of the Province through its “*State of the Forest Report.*” However, this does not address local conditions for use in meeting the community vision.

Monitoring is more important when changes are occurring through management activities and/or environmental forces like climate change. If monitoring is inadequate, forest managers will not be able to adapt and communities will be unable to know whether there is movement towards their forest lands vision.

- [If British Columbia Managed Its Forests Sustainably](#)
- [Estimating the Status of Biodiversity](#)
- [Forest Inventory Issues in British Columbia](#)

Challenge

How can Government be convinced resourcing the monitoring of the conditions of local forest lands should be a priority?