

Linking research, policy and economic opportunities

A Future Beneath the Trees

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Policy, politicians and bureaucrats

- Federal government policy
- Provincial government policy
 - Legislation
 - Regulation
 - Operational policy
- Social policy, economic policy, environmental policy objectives
- Formal policy

Policy is not just for politicians and bureaucrats

- Personal / family policy
- Community policy
- Harvester policy
- Buyer policy
- Exporter policy

- Social policy, economic policy, environmental policy objectives
- Informal policy
- Customs, norms, principles

NTFR policy examples

- US Pacific Northwest
- Scandinavian countries
- British Columbia

NTFR policy examples from other jurisdictions

- US Pacific Northwest
 - Permits required for all products for all land
 - Moving towards system of leases for brush and salal
 - Permit fees set by government, landowner, or leaseholder
 - Challenges: trespass and theft still occurs, employer/employee relationship, policy relationship to resource use
 - Example of formal NTFR management policy

NTFR policy examples from other jurisdictions

- Scandinavian countries
 - “Everyman’s” right to access public or private forests to recreate, pick berries or mushrooms for example.
 - Everyman’s right: everything is allowed which is not forbidden by law – but must be harmless.
 - Long history of both commercial and personal use.
 - Commercial market has attracted foreign entrants increasing pressure on resources.
 - Example of custom, or norm based policy.

NTFR policy examples from other jurisdictions - British Columbia

- Operates as “everyman’s” resource, but...
- Law: commercially, everything is forbidden which is not allowed by law.
- *Forest Range and Practices Act* includes legislation (Sect. 168) that allows for the development of regulations for the management of NTFRs.
- No regulations enacted, developed or in development.
- Provincial interagency committee on NTFRs: established to link government ministries and to learn. No mandate to develop policy.
- Policy of no formal policy, but work continues on an *ad hoc* informal basis at district level.
- Informal policies...?

FRPA Sect. 168

- **Botanical forest products 168**
- (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations respecting botanical forest products.
- (2) Without restricting subsection (1), Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations respecting:
 - (a) obtaining botanical forest products from Crown land;
 - (b) establishing a licensing scheme for the purposes of regulating botanical forest products;
 - (c) issuing, amending, renewing, suspending or cancelling licences;
 - (d) applications for licences;
 - (e) fees for licences and applications;
 - (f) inspectors and inspections for the purposes of enforcing licensing;
 - (g) appeals.

Do we need an NTFR policy?

- Is there a problem?
- If so, what is the cause of the problem?
- If not, how do we avoid a problem from emerging?
- What tools are used to implement a policy choice?
 - Legislation
 - Regulation
 - Tenure, permits, leases – how do these relate to the landbase and resource we are trying to manage?
- Management by whom and for what? User access, resource, industry?
 - Government
 - First Nations
 - Resource users
 - Joint

Do we need an NTFR policy?

- Legislation/regulation, or
- User management ... why wait for government?
- Challenges
 - Many different resources over a wide area
 - Competing, overlapping interest in forest values
 - Costly to exclude others
 - Investment in NTFResource not secure
 - Monitoring and enforcement costs
 - Will the benefits of managing outweigh the costs?

Challenge is to know when more policy is a good policy

- How can research help?
 - Effective policy needs to be based on informed choices.
 - Engaging with sector participants is a source of learning.
 - Policy evolves. Research contributes to adaptable policy.
- What should policy do?
 - Ecological, social and economic objectives.
 - Improve livelihoods.
 - Focus on the problem. Don't try to fix what's not broken.
- Who should develop policy?

The challenge for today

- Think of your own policies.
- What other policies influence your actions?
- Listen for policy statements in the discussions.
- Try to think of policy changes that may lead to improving your situation, or those that could be damaging.
- Think of how policy influences research and economic opportunities, and how research and economic opportunities influence policy.
- Does your sector need a policy change, whether formal or informal?

Thank you...

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