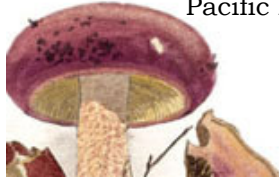


Mushrooms and Timber

Contemplating commercial
harvesting in the forests of the
Pacific Northwest



Introduction

- 1860's edible mushroom collection begins
- 1980's and 90's expansion
- Main habitat on Federal land
- 1990's ecosystem management philosophy
- Harvest of non-timber forest products begins (NTFPs)
- Integration of fungi into ecosystem management plans



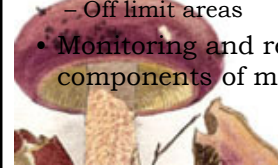
Issues and Concerns

- Mushroom productivity
- Mushroom harvesting effects
- Forest management practices
- Biology, ecology, ecosystem functions of the fungi
- People management



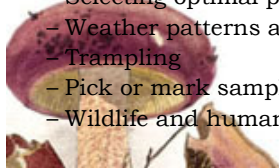
Regulations and Conservation

- Federal forest lands=publicly owned=equitable access to all
- Harvest permits sold at set prices
 - Seasonal Harvesting
 - Off limit areas
- Monitoring and research are essential components of management plans



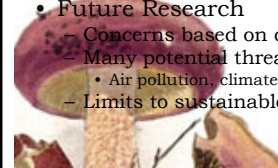
Sampling Challenges

- Most fungi are difficult to study
 - Microscopic, delicate, intermixed
 - Analysis is time consuming and labor intensive
 - Selecting optimal plot size is a challenge
 - Weather patterns affect productivity
 - Trampling
 - Pick or mark sample
 - Wildlife and human harvesters



Current/Future Research and Monitoring

- Current Research
 - Broad base of support in PNW
 - Abundant habitat
 - Diversity of landowners
 - Public interest
 - Government sponsored research and monitoring
- Future Research
 - Concerns based on declining crops abroad
 - Many potential threats to habitat
 - Air pollution, climate change, and diseases and pests
 - Limits to sustainable use remain unknown



Any questions?

