

## **Functions of Moss in the Boreal Forest**

- Insulation layer
- Effects on hydrology (water storage and soil moisture buffer)
- Effect on fire movement and intensity
- N fixation capabilities
- Nutrient filter
- Carbon inputs
- Species composition and recruitment
- Effect on herbivore diets
- Leaching and exudation of phenolics
- Function as microhabitat
- Barrier to overwintering insects
- Non-mycorrhizal
- Food for fungi
- Effects on partitioning of heat flux
- Effects on slow or rapid decomposition
- Effects on invasive species
- Carbon storage
- Paleo-indicator
- Ecosystem services (burning, peat, lack of resilience)
- Preservation / Acidification (Sphagnum in particular)
- Effects on successional trajectories
- Species diversity