



Multi-faceted Forest Planning Research

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METLA

forest • knowledge • know-how • well-being

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The content of Metla's forest planning research

Forest planning creates alternative forest utilization solutions, presents the impacts of alternatives and also shows the interrelationships between different forest uses. Metla's forest planning research includes the development of national, regional and holding-level multi-objective forest planning processes as well as the tools and services for planning calculations and impact analyses they require. Although Metla's forest planning research covers "old", long-developed products, new conquests have also been made in this continuously evolving discipline.

In recent years, Metla has advanced forest planning research through extensive research programmes. During its five years in operation, the newly completed Research and Development Programme MSU succeeded in intensifying interaction between forestry actors, forest data producers, ICT application developers and researchers.

Alternative cutting possibility scenarios have a prominent user base

Based on MELA planning software, as well as the National Forest Inventory (NFI) materials, cutting possibility scenarios are a valuable help in strategic planning processes. They are used both in support of enterprises' investment decisions, and in the more comprehensive assessment of forest policies, with respect to the impacts of changes in the business environment on wood production and other types of forest use.

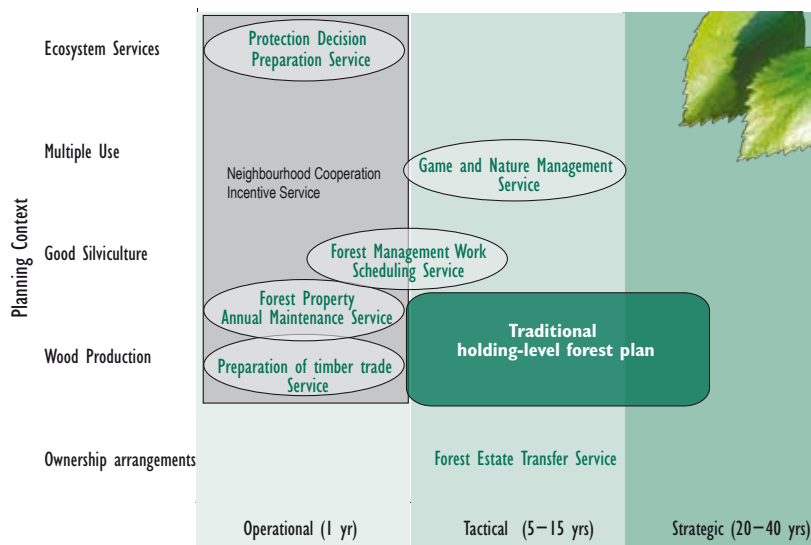
The first calculations were made at the outset of the 1980s, in formulating the Economic Council's Forest 2000 programme. Subsequently, cutting possibility calculations with MELA have been applied in preparing the 2010 and 2015 National Forest Programmes, as well as regional forest programmes.

The latest evaluations of forest production-and-use potential can be viewed with just a few clicks, at the MELA Result Service (<http://www.metla.fi/metinfo/mela>). This site also contains information on the development of forest resources.

Forest-owner research in constant demand

Accounting for the lion's share of Finnish forests, around 14 million hectares of forestry land is under the control of 700,000 private owners. For this reason, Metla has long undertaken research on these forest owners. One research perspective has been the forest planning development for these owners.

A study completed in 2010 examined issues such as the frequency, among forest owners, of certain decision-making processes on the various kinds of forest use. The study also investigated the services forest owners believe they need in their various decision-making situations. Operative planning services appear to be in particular demand. Decision support



Potential forest planning services based on the results of an extensive forest owner survey. These services can supplement the examinations of and results from traditional holding-level forest planning. Source: Hujala et al.

is required in areas such as selling wood, the organisation of forest operations, and in forest ownership arrangements.

Landscape Sensitivity Classification Model helps to identify areas of landscape value

An ongoing project involves the development of a method which will ultimately enable forest landscape sensitivity classification across the country. In this way, areas of specific landscape values can be identified.

Data obtained through the sensitivity classification model will support the decision-making process, advisory and guidance associated with the use of both publicly and privately owned forests. As a result, additional field inventories, landscape analyses and planning and implementation of landscape-respecting cuttings can be targeted at the most sensitive areas.

Development of regional and local natural resource programme processes

Recently launched research projects are determining how livelihood-oriented, multi-objective forest planning actually functions at a tourist site, and how such planning might be further developed. Metla is one partner in investigating these issues through a pilot in the Ruka, Kuusamo area. In addition, within the context of an EU-funded project, consideration is being given to the development of regional programme processes for the sustainable use of natural resources. The results of these studies are expected in 2013.

More information

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