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## **Research on the impact of gender on forest management in contemporary Swedish family forestry**

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### **Abstract**

For a sustainable development, it is important to study economic activities and institutions governing them since they affect both environmental and social states. Forest land ownership is an economic activity and one crucial concept for a better understanding of forest ownership and management, is gender. In contemporary Swedish family forest ownership gender has an impact on; whether an heir has taken over the property or not, whether the forest estate is singly or jointly owned, and on the size of the property. Gender order is also expressed in terms of the work on the property. Research shows that there are differences in male and female forest owners felling activity. This induces to ask if the differences in management behaviour also are a result of the gender order. The overall aim with this research project is to examine why female forest owners harvest less timber compared to male forest owners, testing the following hypotheses: I) The forest yield conditions are poorer on female owned holdings. II) Female forest owners have another incentive structure when it comes to felling, as a result of their inheritance position. III) Female forest owners are to a larger extent than male owners inclined to produce other forest values than industrial roundwood.

*Keywords: gender, forest management, forest ownership, Sweden*