Forest Owners’ Perceptions of Risk, Uncertainty and Climate Change

A Discussion

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Presentation Outline

• Examples of Forest Related Risks

• Case Study
  – Area
  – Current Policy Framework
  – Climate Change Perceptions
  – Responses to Risks
  – Motivations

• Questions/ Discussion
Examples of Forest Related Risks

- Wind damage
- Root rot
- Snow breaks
- Bark and pinch beetle damage
- Frost damage
- Browsing
- Fire
- Thawing
- Timber prices
- Input costs
- Interest rates
- Property prices
Study Area

- Sweden
- Forests are more than 60% land area
- 11% of total value of products exported

- Gotaland
- 77% conifers; 23% deciduous
- 78% forests are owned privately
Current Policy Framework

• EU Level Policy
  – No climate change policy
  – No forest policy

• Sweden Policy
  – No climate change policy
  – 1994 Forestry Act: equates importance of wood production and biodiversity
Questions

• Are there sufficient policies in place to tackle climate change related risks and uncertainties?

• Should there be an EU, Regional, or National level policy or entity?
  – Climate Change?
  – Adaptation and/or Mitigation?
  – Forestry Focus?
Climate Change Perceptions

• 22% of private production in Gotaland is controlled by forest owners who do not acknowledge climate change (Blennow & Persson, 2009)

• 4 times the frequency than the general Swedish population (Reiner et al. 2006)
Responses to Risk

• 87% of respondents were aware of actions to take in order to reduce risks
• Only 1/3 indicated that they had taken any action
• 83% would not modify their tree species grown

(Blennow 2008)
Questions

• Are there existing tools to assist forest owners in their decision making process?

• What are other means to transfer forest research and management information to forest owners?

• What are potential solutions to motivate adaptation to risk related activities?
Forest Owner Motivations

- Less than 10% rely on the income from their forests (Tornqvist 1995: Mattsson et al. 2003)

- Social
- Cultural (forestry culture)
- Lifestyle
- Intergenerational
Questions?

• Should you consider these values in management and policy decisions?
• How and why?
• What is influencing forest owners’ management decisions relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation under uncertainty and risk?
  
  Natural?  
  Financial? 
  The Market? (indirectly) 

  Political?  
  Economic?
Thank you!

Questions?