

Developing strategic objectives for good environmental consideration within the Swedish forestry sector

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- Forest policy of 1993—Production and environmental concern are two equally important goals for forestry
- The Swedish Forestry Act sets the frames and basic requirements for forestry
- Voluntary commitments important—“freedom with responsibility”

Dialogue process started in 2011

- Facilitated by the Swedish Forest Agency (SFA)
- Participation by forestry, SFA and other authorities, non-governmental organizations and scientists
- **Develop strategic objectives for good environmental consideration**
- Collaborative group manage the objectives
- 4 work groups: Nature conservation, Soil and water, Outdoor recreation, Cultural heritage environments
- Excursions, workshops, meetings and seminars

Excursion ditch cleaning

- Strategic objectives for good environmental consideration should reflect the expected level of consideration based on the forestry sector responsibility.
- This level should be higher than stipulated by the Forestry Act.

Strategic objectives: Soil and water

- Forest buffers near lakes and watercourses
- Watercourse crossings during off-road transportation
- Off-road transportation
- Ditch cleaning operations
- Protective ditching
- Dimensioning overland flow areas

Forest buffers near lakes and watercourses: Strategic objectives for thinning

Some examples

- A forest buffer perceived to be functional is not thinned.
- No thinning in discharge areas bordering surface water.
- The forest buffer is not cleaned.
- No rutting in or close to watercourses and lakes.

etc.

Ongoing activities

- New strategic objectives are being developed
- Implementation by practical forestry
- Evaluation

Mancheva, I. (2021). The role of legitimacy in the implementation of outputs from collaborative processes: A national dialogue for forest water consideration in Sweden. *Environmental Science & Policy* 120, 42-52 :

“Despite being recommendations and lacking authoritative rule, the outputs from a collaborative process are implemented to a very high degree in educational and planning material all over Sweden.”

The forest sector’s general perception of the outputs as having high procedural, source-based and substantive legitimacy has been crucial to their extensive implementation.”

More information

The strategic objectives are published in Swedish on the Swedish Forest Agency's website:

<https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/mer-om-skog/malbilder-for-god-miljohansyn/>

An English translation of the main part of the strategic objectives for “Forest buffers near lakes and watercourses” is available in Ring et al. (2018):

<https://www.skogforsk.se/kunskap/kunskapsbanken/2018/rekommendationer-for-kantzoner-vid-skogsbruk--resultat-fran-ett-samarbete-kring-ostersjon/>