Jointly Owned Forests and Forest Land Consolidation in Finland

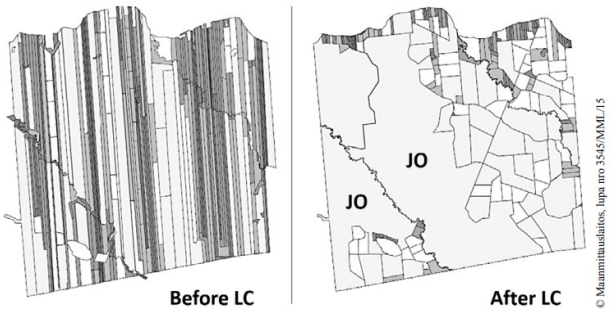


Figure 1. *Pahkakoski land consolidation project before and after land consolidation, with darker colours showing the lower suitability of parcels for forestry (Uimonen 2010). The two parcels of the new jointly owned forest are marked with JO. (Map © National Land Survey of Finland / Uimonen 2010).*

In Finnish legislation, a jointly owned forest is defined as an area that jointly belongs to several real properties and that is intended for practicing sustainable forestry to the benefit of the shareholders.

Fragmented ownership structure is one of the main challenges of wood mobilization in Europe. Small-sized, dispersed forest property with difficult access to forests results in high costs for timber harvesting per hectare. The joint forests have been established in Finland since the end of the 1800. In the beginning of 2019 there were 460 common forests in Finland. The establishment of the common forest and the incorporation to existing joint forests have recently become more widespread. The total area of common forests is growing and it is already more than 700 000 ha. There are about 25 000 stakeholder in the common forests of our country, and they include over 5% of the surface area of our private forest. The smallest common forest is less than 20 hectares, while the largest, Kuusamo common forest has over 90 000 hectares of territory. The largest common forests are in North-Eastern Finland.

Changes in the common forest law have facilitated the integration of common forests and the creation of new joint forests. The common forest can provide a good and workable solution to many objectives of modern forest ownership. The common forest is a shared forest area for operating sustainable forestry in favour of the shareholder forest estates. The common forests are privately owned and have no public-law character or obligation. According to the Common Forestry Act, common forest must be used primarily for operating sustainable forestry. Sustainable forestry includes economic, social and ecological sustainability. The shareholders of common forest decide how to emphasise the utilization of different areas for the purposes of sustainable forestry.

There is a need for raising awareness of the positive possibilities of forest consolidation, including:

- Bigger forest units with easier access to forest property
- More cost-efficiency in harvesting, smaller unit costs in work and supplies
- Ease of foundation and joining$Ease of owning forest

- Better forest management with constant profits
- Easier management and administration
- Tax relief, lower income taxation
- Better recreational possibilities
- Functional and democratic administration
- Simple and safe investment

DETAILS

ORIGIN OF WOOD
Forest

TYPE OF WOOD
Stemwood

KIND OF WOOD CONCERNED
Stemwood, energy wood

IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY
Positive through centralized wood storage and impact to environment

INCOME EFFECT
Positive

EXPLOITATION POTENTIAL
--

HUB
Northern Hub

ECONOMIC IMPACT
Less costs of harvesting, easier access to forest property, easier management, tax relief

SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE NEEDED
Knowledge of possibilities of joint ownership, informing forest owners.

MOBILIZATION POTENTIAL
High

SUSTAINABILITY POTENTIAL - VALUE
--

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION
Easy

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION - EVALUATION
--

KEY PREREQUISITES
Requires access to forest estate information.

TYPE OF EVENT WHERE THIS BPI HAS BEEN FEATURED
--

JOB EFFECT
Positive

COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION (EURO - €)
--

MORE DETAILS

CHALLENGE ADDRESSED

3.- Activate private owners and cooperative forest management

DOMAIN

Ownership, cooperation

TYPE OF SOLUTION

Land reform

KEYWORDS

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DIGITAL SOLUTION

No

INNOVATION

No

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Finland

SCALE OF APPLICATION

National

START AND END YEAR

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REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

MAIN WEBSITE

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PROJECT WEBSITE

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PROJECT REFERENCE

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RESOURCES

Jointly owned forest for the good of forest owners and forests

Karin Kolis 2016. Scientific article

LOGO OF BEST PRACTICE

LOGO OF MAIN ORGANIZATION

NLS NATIONAL LAND SURVEY OF FINLAND

PROJECT UNDER WHICH THIS FACTSHEET HAS BEEN CREATED

Rosewood

POST DATE

17 Sep 2019

ROSEWOOD 4.0 Sustainable Wood for Europe

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862681

A TOOL FROM ROSEWOOD 4.0, DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED BY

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Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria de Castilla y León