

# Forest fires in Sweden – and the role of the forest owners



Forest owner's association with  
26,000 members.



One in three forest owners in the  
Swedish midlands is a member.



Turnover of three billion SEK.



Part-owner of Setra Group.



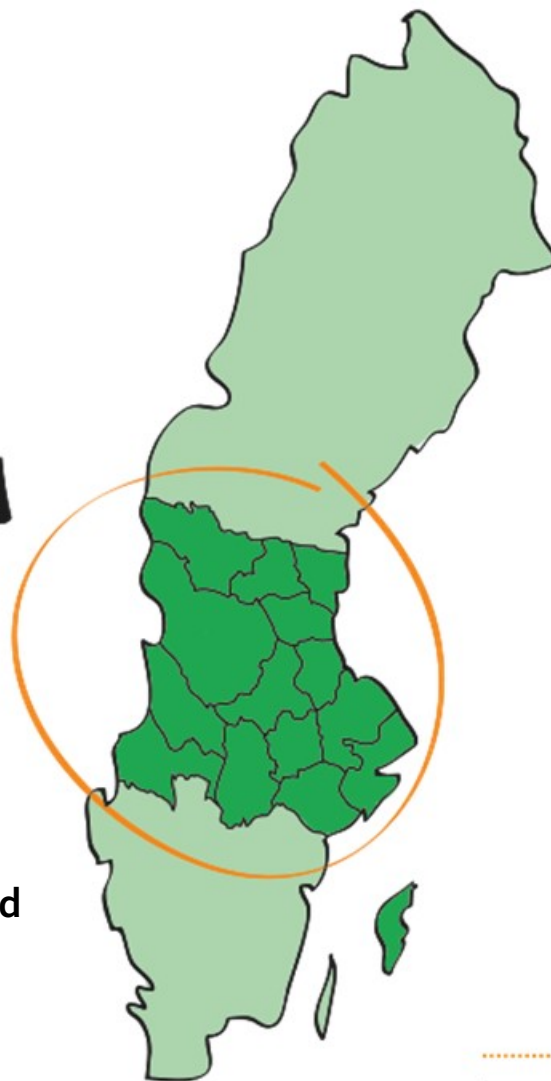
# Our region

26,000 members

32% women, 68% men

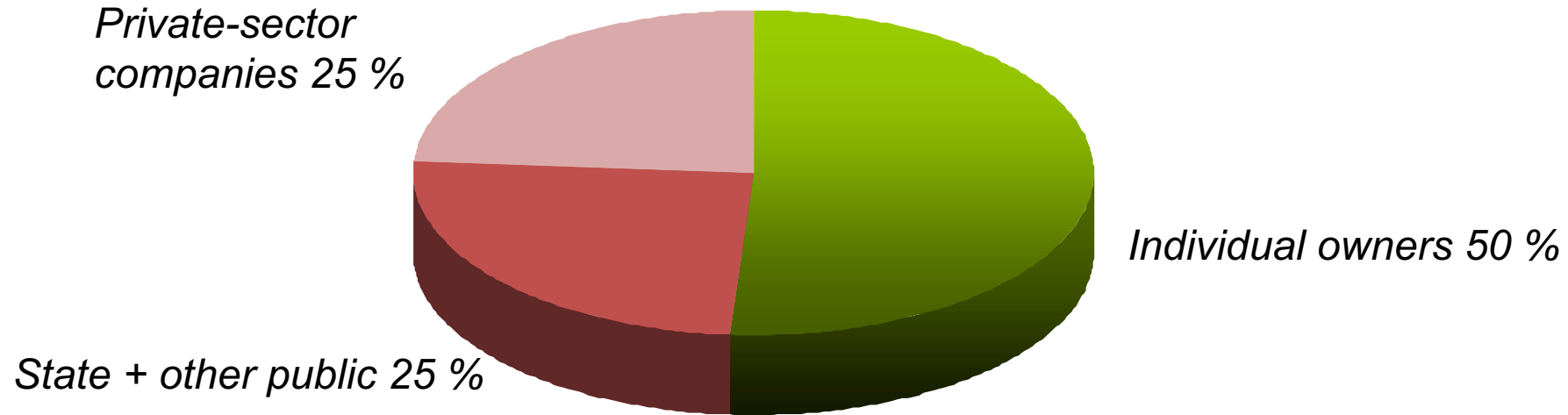
1,7 millions hectares of forest land

77 hectares Average property



----- Virkesområde  
—— Kommun

# Ownership of Forest Land in Sweden



Pine 39,1 %



Spruce  
41,1%



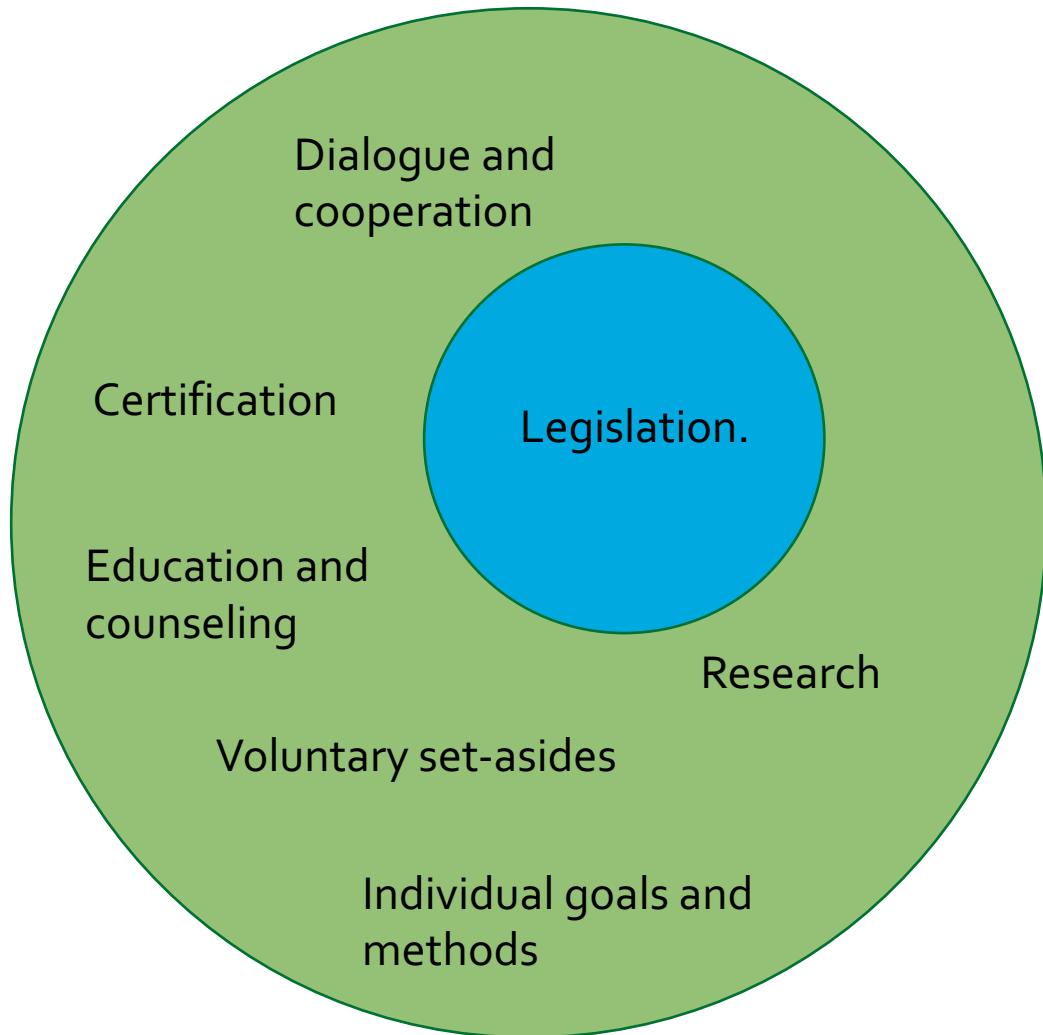
Birch  
12,3%



# Sustainable forest management



# Swedish model of forest management



- Freedom under responsibility.
- Sectorial responsibility
- Equal goals. Production and environmental sustainability.
- Certification (FSC and PEFC)

# 2014. The largest forest fire in Sweden in modern history (13 100 hectares).

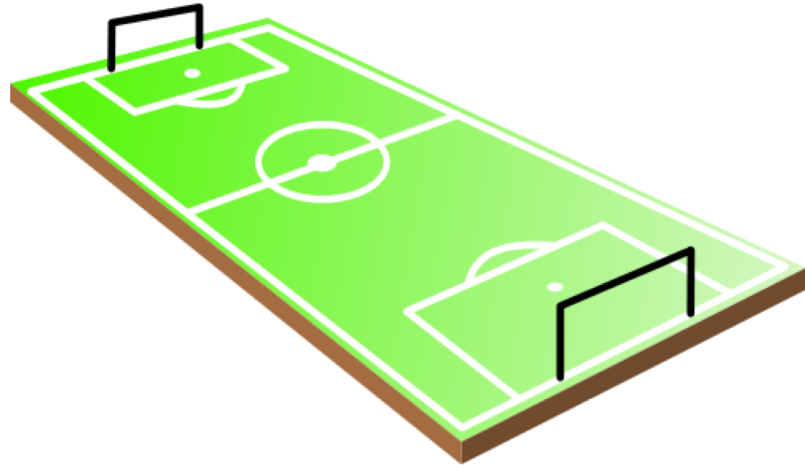


NASA, earth observatory

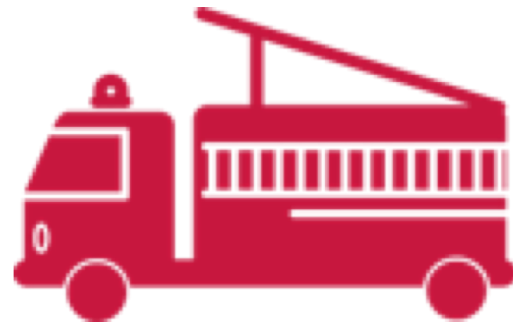


# 2018. Catastrophe struck again. (17 300 hectares).





The four largest fires covered 17 350 hectares, or 25 000 soccer fields.



Firefighters from 20 Swedish districts fought the fires with assistance from Italy, France, Germany, Lithuania, Denmark, Portugal, Poland, Austria, Norway, Greenland and Finland.



In total 292 wildfires were detected in Sweden during the summer of 2018.

# The forest owners made vital contributions.

- Mellanskog raised 15 000 euro to the Red Cross.
- We organized 3 mass meetings and met hundreds of forest owners.
- Our locally elected representatives personally called each forest owner that was affected by the fires.
- Our sawmill in Färila is currently processing the damaged wood.
- Early contacts with government helped create an economic support package for the forest owners.





“When catastrophe hits you need each other. You need to deal with all the practicalities, but sometimes all you need is a cup of coffee and someone that listens”.

Magnus Ståhl, local chairman of Mellanskog in Ljusdal.



# Adaptations made

- Forest policy built on freedom under responsibility creates a variety of methods among 330 000 private forest owners.
- *A potential* for adapting to a changing climate. “Not all eggs in one basket”.
- Increased knowledge is a challenge.
- Since 2014 an agreement within the industry changed routines for forest operations during extreme draught.

# Lessons learnt

- It is possible to prevent forest fires within forest operations.
- Swift and powerful actions are necessary at an early stage.
- Practice and cooperation between authorities is crucial (and was lacking in Sweden)
- Monitoring and airborne fire fighting capacity is necessary (and was lacking in Sweden)
- Routines for escalating decision-making is needed (and was lacking in Sweden).
- Cooperation and coordination in final quenching is needed.
- Sweden's fire fighting resources are built on a large extent on part time firefighters or voluntary resources. Both a strength and a weakness.
- When natural disasters hit, human relations are of the absolute essence. Gather, talk, support each other.





A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all EU countries that contributed in fighting the fires during the summer of 2018.