Land use conflicts in the Norwegian forestry sector

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People and Networks Matter
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Forests and forest products store carbon

Source: The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)
Forest biomass in Norway

- Land cover 38 % / 12 mill haa
- Of which 71 % productive forest (>1m3/haa/year)
- 60 % softwood (spruce & pine) & 40 % hardwood (mainly birch)
- Average annual cutting 10 mill m3 (100 years)
- Annual growth 25.5 mill m3
- Annual growth has doubled the last 100 years.
- Wood storage in standing logs: 942 mill m3 and increasing.
- 704 mill m3 softwood (Norway spruce & Scots pine)
- In 1920 it was 310 mill m3
- Dead wood about 100 mill m3 and increasing

Policy makers

Prime minister Erna Solberg (H) opens the new wood insolation factory at Hunton Fiber in Inland Norway (March 12th, 2019)
Policy making - a new strategy is launched

- Ministry of Agriculture launched a new strategy for the forestry and wood products sector (March 12th, 2019)
- The strategy emphasizes the sector as a *driver for green transition*
- The government wants to increase annual cutting and investments in the forestry sector
Meanwhile, in Northern Norway...

The second biggest particle board plant in Norway

Located in Hattfjelldal, a small community in the Nordland Region

The plant is dependent on the surrounding forests for raw materials

Political goal: To pass land conservation bills for 10% of the forests in Norway

Unluckily for Arbor, most of the surrounding forests are owned by the Norwegian State Forest...

Now Arbor are looking into waste wood solutions

Where are the policy makers?
Bor midt i skogen – klarer ikke skaffe nok trær til bygdas hjørnesteinsbedrift

Trevirkebedriften Arbor i Hattfjelldal er omringet av skog, men får ikke lov til å hugge den. For hjørnesteinsbedriften betyr det stadige nedskjæringer og oppsigelser. – Forkastelig og meningsløst, mener Sp.

Hilde Mangset Lorentsen
Journalist

Ole-Christian Olsen
Journalist

Lise Forfang Hagen
Journalist
LULUCF dropped down like a bomb

There’s a lack of fibre and a huge abundance of biomass in the forest. Still, the minister wanted to limit future annual harvesting to 12 mill m³!!

Finally, the government got its feet back down on the ground again. Final bargain ended at 14-17 mill m³ in 2021-2030, depending on the amount of carbon dioxide compensation actions.
A small reminder of what it’s all about...
Let's look at it from the forest owner's perspective

- In case you wondered - the forest owners are the suppliers of raw materials...
- Most forest owners in Norway are private persons - 157,000 persons in total
- Forest owners gather in forest owners associations, like Glommen or Södra.
- Forest owners associations are buyers and sellers of timber
- Most forest owners associations are also owners of industry
- Forest owners associations represent an important part of the land use management system
Land use restrictions for the forest owners

- Official nature reserves and conserved areas
- Archeological findings
- MIS - Nature reserves protected as part of Forest Owner’s Environmental Certificates
- Restrictions due to legislation
- Restrictions due du Environmental Certificates
- Restrictions in areas without any constructions (areas that lack roads)
- Official registrations of species and areas for species not protected by specific bills
- Restrictions from local acts and plans for the areas
- Public opinion on forestry and silviculture methods
- Landscape protection areas
- And so on....
Cadastral issues - land use conflicts due to property structure
Land use management essentials; Communication and Cooperation

- Communication and cooperation is essential when it comes to managing land use and balancing land use conflicts.
- Knowledge based decisions...not driven by what *seems to be* the public opinion.
- Politicians and policy makers: Cross ministry communication and cooperation in order to make decisions make sense!
- Communication and cooperation is essential also for the producers and consumers of land based resources.
  - Cross-sector
  - Cross-border
  - Cross-interest
  - Media and social media...public opinion
Biomass supply & value chain