

# FOREST PLAN

## – a learning guide to my forest ownership

*Today, the private forest owner group in Sweden are in change. They have a smaller physical and economic connection to the forest compared to the 20th century. Often, they also lack a clear goal with their forest ownership and forestry. This lack of knowledge and an unclear goal can lead to less management of the forests, and thus loss of economic values and other ecosystem services.*

WP1 identified a need for an overall plan or strategy to support the forest owners in their forest ownership. In addition, to meet the needs of this new type of forest owner, developed methods and tools are needed for the organizations and companies that offer forest advising- and/or management services. The tool most used is the established forest management plan. However, it is common for it to be more adapted for timber production than the forest owner's goal, as forest owners often lack a clear, well-defined goal.

### Purpose

The purpose of this pilot is to create a tool to meet the needs identified in WP1. By focusing on the forest ownership, it can be a complement to the established forest management plan. The tool is called Forest Plan and is a learning guide for the forest owner to get more knowledge about his/her forest, to document the most important parameters and to create a clear goal for the forest. The forest plan can in this way work as a decision support for the forest owner in their management of the forest.

### Results

The Forest plan was tested by forest owners and presented to the Advisory Services Division at the Swedish Forest Agency to investigate if a tool like Forest Plan can be a useful tool for communication and in advisory and/or learning activities.

The results show that the forest owners find the Forest plan easy to use and they felt more confident in their forest ownership after they went through the different steps in the Forest plan. They also felt more confident in ordering management services for their forest property.

There were different opinions among the forest owner how interesting the Forest plan would be as a service product offered by forest companies. Some found it interesting while others did not. However, when presenting the Forest plan to the Advisory Services Division at the Swedish Forest Agency, the interest of using the Forest plan as an advisory tool and in communication and learning activities was high.

### Conclusion

The results from the pilot show that the Forest plan is a useful tool for both forest owners and in advisory, communication and learning activities.

The forest plan should though be tested by more, and different forest owners to be sure it is useful for more than new forest owners. It should also be tested by companies to get more knowledge about how it can be offered as a service.

## PILOT SUMMARY



EUROPEAN UNION

**Interreg**  
Botnia-Atlantica

European Regional Development Fund



**Prosperous forest**

Diversification through Inclusion and Specialisation