



Metsähallitus, Wildlife Service Finland

Good for nature,  
people and society



METSÄHALLITUS

## Hello! We'd like to tell you a bit about our work!

Wildlife Service Finland, a unit within Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland, employs a staff of 60 experts, whose job it is to manage hunting and fishing on state-owned land and water in Finland. We also ensure that everything is done in accordance with the law.

State-owned areas are the common property of all Finnish citizens - they are meant for everyone. Metsähallitus' task is to manage this property, while Wildlife Service Finland co-ordinates wilderness activities by selling hunting and fishing permits for these areas.

Wildlife Service Finland has three objectives: Hunting and fishing enhance the well-being of (1) nature, (2) people and (3) society. This brochure will explain how we do it.

Wilderness permits don't generate profits for the state - they benefit nature. The revenues earned from permit sales are used to improve game habitats and fishing waters. The Director of Game and Fisheries decides how many permits at most may be issued for a given area. Game and Fisheries Management Planners set annual quotas based on the latest game and fish counts.

Our customer service representatives will answer any questions you might have at +358 (0)20 69 2424. Depending on the type of permit, permits may also be purchased as mobile permits, from the web shop, visitor centres and numerous permit sellers outside Metsähallitus.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Eräluvut.fi Your website, under our care.  
+358 (0)20 69 2424 The service number for wilderness permits is open weekdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm.  
Tuikki and Kieppi Magazines are delivered directly to the homes of fishers and hunters each year.

# Hunting

**State-owned areas are for everyone's use. They contain hunting grounds, where small game, moose, large carnivores and beaver may be hunted. Our experts plan hunting sustainably, so that the number of permits is always based on the latest game count, i.e. fewer grouse hunting permits are issued in years when grouse counts are low. Hunting permit revenues are used to improve game habitats. The goal is that game benefits from permit revenues on state-owned land by merit of the fact that it is being hunted. Metsähallitus employs 15 hunting and game management experts.**

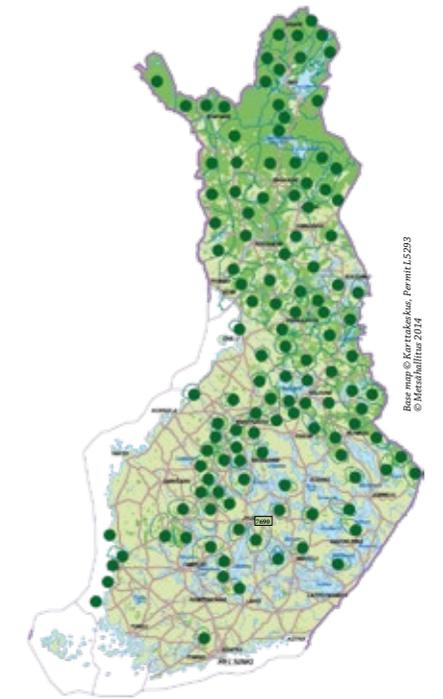
### Nature benefits from hunting permits

**Four million euros for game.** When you hunt, you are making an investment in nature. Four million euros in permit revenues have been re-invested in game over a ten-year period.

**Arctic fox denning is aided** with hunting revenues. A portion of the proceeds from the permits you pay for goes to red fox hunting in Northern Lapland.

**Willow grouse, black grouse and goose are returning** to their own habitats thanks to hunting permits. Thousands of hectares of bog areas are restored using permit revenues.

**Finnish forest reindeer, once extinct in Finland, are returned** to their former habitats in the Pirkanmaa and Ostrobothnia wilderness areas.



Your hunting grounds are located throughout Finland.

### Hunters benefit from hunting grounds

**Being out in the wilderness relaxes you.** Based on the feedback received from hunters, over 90 % feel that time spent hunting on state-owned land improved their general health. Hunting strengthened their friendships, enhanced their physical fitness and relaxed them.

**Deep in the wilderness.** Our surveys show that hunters enjoy especially the wide expanses of northern hunting grounds.

**Pure wild food.** Thanks to the hunting grounds on state-owned land, as many as 100,000 Finnish households eat game that they hunted themselves: moose, grouse and hare.

### Society benefits from hunting

**Jobs in remote areas.** Hunting areas are easy to establish: they are boundary lines on a map. Even so, a hunting area creates an average of 1.5 jobs locally.

**Public health is enhanced.** Hunters of small game walk an average of eight kilometres a day over rugged terrain.



# Fishing

There is a wide range of fishing possibilities on state-owned waters. Fishers may fish in 70 angling areas with a separate angling permit for lure fishing. There are also 62 fishing areas, which comprise extensive bodies of water, where permit-holders may fish using nets and traps, among other means. Commercial fishers may apply for a permit to conduct their business on state-owned waters. Other types of fishing are also possible. Wildlife Service Finland currently collects a tax-type fisheries management fee for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Wildlife Service Finland employs a staff of 17 fishing experts.



## Nature benefits from the management of fishing waters

**A Schengen Area for fish.** We want to make it possible for fish to move about freely. The Esteet pois (No migration barriers) project is doing groundbreaking work: Experts investigate which road underpasses are a barrier to fish migration. Although these barriers are usually removed using shovels, heavier equipment is sometimes needed.

**Bigger fish stories for everyone.** Finns have wanted Metsähallitus to increase catch sizes: The Big Experiences on Northern Fishing Waters project is now working to do this. We are creating a model for the management and use of fishing waters where fish are allowed to grow to larger sizes.

## Fishers benefit from fishing waters

**100,000 fishing trips.** Finnish fishers purchase as many as 100,000 fishing permits for water areas managed by us each year.

**Families together.** According to our survey, families enjoy fishing together.

**Natural fish.** Finns are especially fond of fishing along the banks of natural rivers with natural fish stocks.

## Society benefits from fishing

**Investment in the local economy.** Two-thirds of the money used for fishing trips is spent in the destination region.

**Fishing expertise.** The fishing experts of Wildlife Service Finland participate in planning the management and use of fishing waters throughout Finland.

Angling areas are special sites that require a separate permit. In other, primarily standing water areas, visitors may fish with one rod upon payment of the fisheries management fee.

Photo: Borealis © Korhonen, Peroni, L. 2018  
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# Wilderness supervision

Our Game and Fisheries Wardens are granted police authority in carrying out their wilderness supervision duties. They ensure that our common lands and waters are used in accordance with the law. Supervision is carried out in co-operation with the Finnish Police and Finnish Border Guard. However, Game and Fisheries Wardens are not just limited to supervision duties - they also provide guidance and advice to people visiting nature areas. Each year, Metsähallitus' wilderness supervision comes into contact with thousands of people, who give Game and Fisheries Wardens valuable feedback on the wishes of hunters and fishers and other wilderness area visitors.

## Nature benefits from supervision

**So that nature will endure.** Supervision ensures the ecological sustainability of hunting and fishing. It prevents crimes against nature and promotes the legal use of natural areas.

**Protecting Saimaa species.** Special attention is paid to supervision of fishing in the habitats of the endangered Saimaa ringed seal and rare fish species in the region, such as Arctic char and landlocked salmon. Restrictions on fishing have been put in place in an effort to protect the Saimaa ringed seal.

## People benefit from supervision

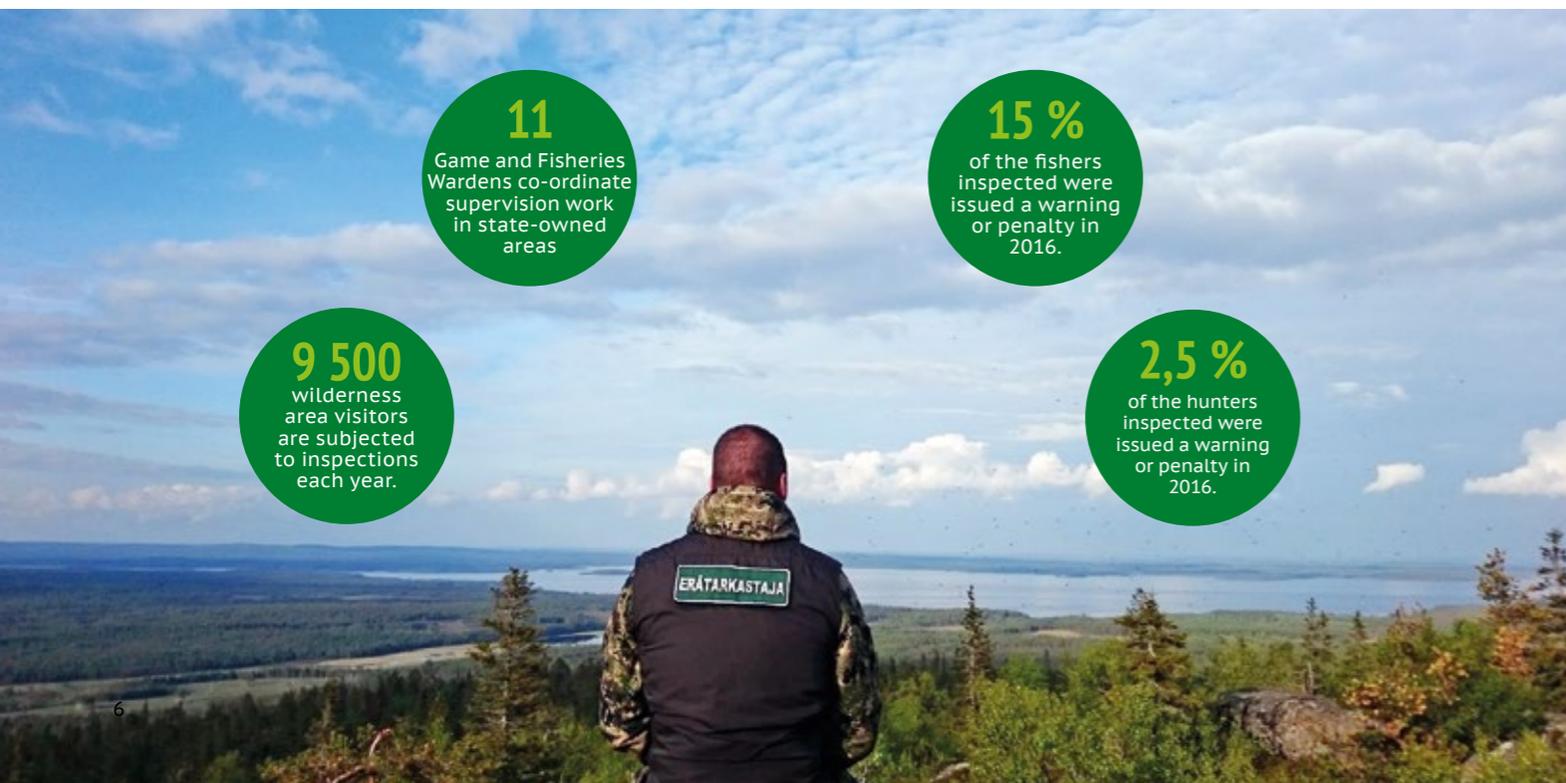
**"I'd love to see you more out here".** As opposed to what many might think, the feedback we receive from wilderness visitors indicates that they want to meet Game and Fisheries Wardens and share their thoughts with them.

**Common interest.** It is possible to keep the number of permits issued at a reasonable level if we manage to ensure that hunters and fishers comply with hunting and catch quotas, as well as the terms and conditions of the permits.

## Society benefits from supervision

**The only document of its kind.** The annual wilderness supervision report provides society with the most accurate idea of what is happening in wilderness areas.

**Budget allocations.** Wilderness supervision is considered such a crucial part of public administration that its continuation is ensured with a government budget allocation.



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Game and Fisheries Wardens co-ordinate supervision work in state-owned areas

15 %

of the fishers inspected were issued a warning or penalty in 2016.

9 500

wilderness area visitors are subjected to inspections each year.

2,5 %

of the hunters inspected were issued a warning or penalty in 2016.

## Children and young people



We want to help pass the tradition of hunting, fishing and other wilderness activities on to future generations. Together with our partners, we support wilderness education in schools and introduce children to wilderness activities. Every year volunteer Wildlife tutors and Metsähallitus game and fisheries experts give thousands of children and youth a chance to learn about wilderness skills and activities.

**Wildlife tutors.** When wilderness skills and knowledge are no longer passed down from parents and grandparents, as was the tradition in days gone by, Wildlife tutors will gladly assume that responsibility.

**Wilderness passport.** In schools, pupils can earn a Wilderness passport as part of their normal studies. Wilderness

passport materials have been designed for children of different ages, from first grade all the way to upper secondary school.

**Events.** Together with its partners, Wildlife Service Finland provides wilderness-related lessons and activities at special events, camps, clubs and schools throughout Finland.

500 Wildlife tutor folders, which contain instructional materials, have been distributed to schools and 4H clubs all over Finland.

1000 children participate in Angling Day, which is a free day of fishing for all youngsters under 18 years of age at recreational fishing areas managed by Metsähallitus.

## READ MORE

**ERÄPASSI.FI** - Kids can begin learning about the wilderness in school starting in the first grade.

**ERÄKUMMIT.FI** - Big brothers and sisters help kids discover and explore the wilderness.

# Metsähallitus

Metsähallitus is a state-owned enterprise that administers more than 12 million hectares of state-owned land and water areas - the common property of all Finnish citizens. This accounts for roughly one-third of Finland's entire surface area.

Of the land areas administered, 17 % are statutory conservation areas, 7 % are in conservation programmes and 15 % are wilderness areas. Slightly less than this, or 38 %, is in commercial use.

15 % is non-productive land and 8 % is areas of special value. Of the water areas administered, 7 % are statutory conservation areas, 78 % are public waters and 15 % are other waters.

Metsähallitus employs a staff of some 1,400 experts from a variety of fields. Metsähallitus has four units: Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd, Property Development, and Parks & Wildlife Finland consisting of National Parks Finland and Wildlife Service Finland.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**HIKING AREAS.** In Southern Finland, hiking areas are especially important to wilderness visitors. The wilderness sites in the Ruunaa Hiking Area are among the most popular in all of Finland. The Evo Hiking Area is the closest extensive hunting ground to people in Finnish population centres.

**IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT.** Hunters and fishers bring a total of 250 jobs to regions. Wilderness visits and activities create jobs in areas typically suffering from low employment.

**YOUR LAND AND WATER.** Hunting and fishing in state-owned areas is even possible for those who would otherwise not have such opportunities. State-owned areas are shared by all Finns.

## METSÄHALLITUS GROUP

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Metsähallitus Board of Directors

Director General  
Units

### BUSINESS OPERATIONS

#### Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd

Management of state-owned multiple-use forests and sale of timber

#### Metsähallitus Property Development

Holiday and commercial plots, extraction and wind power project development

Siemen Forelia Oy | MH-Kivi Oy

### PARKS & WILDLIFE FINLAND

#### National Parks Finland

Management of national parks and other protected areas and cultural heritage sites, hiking services

#### Wildlife Service Finland

Managing and supervising hunting and fishing on state-owned lands and waters

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