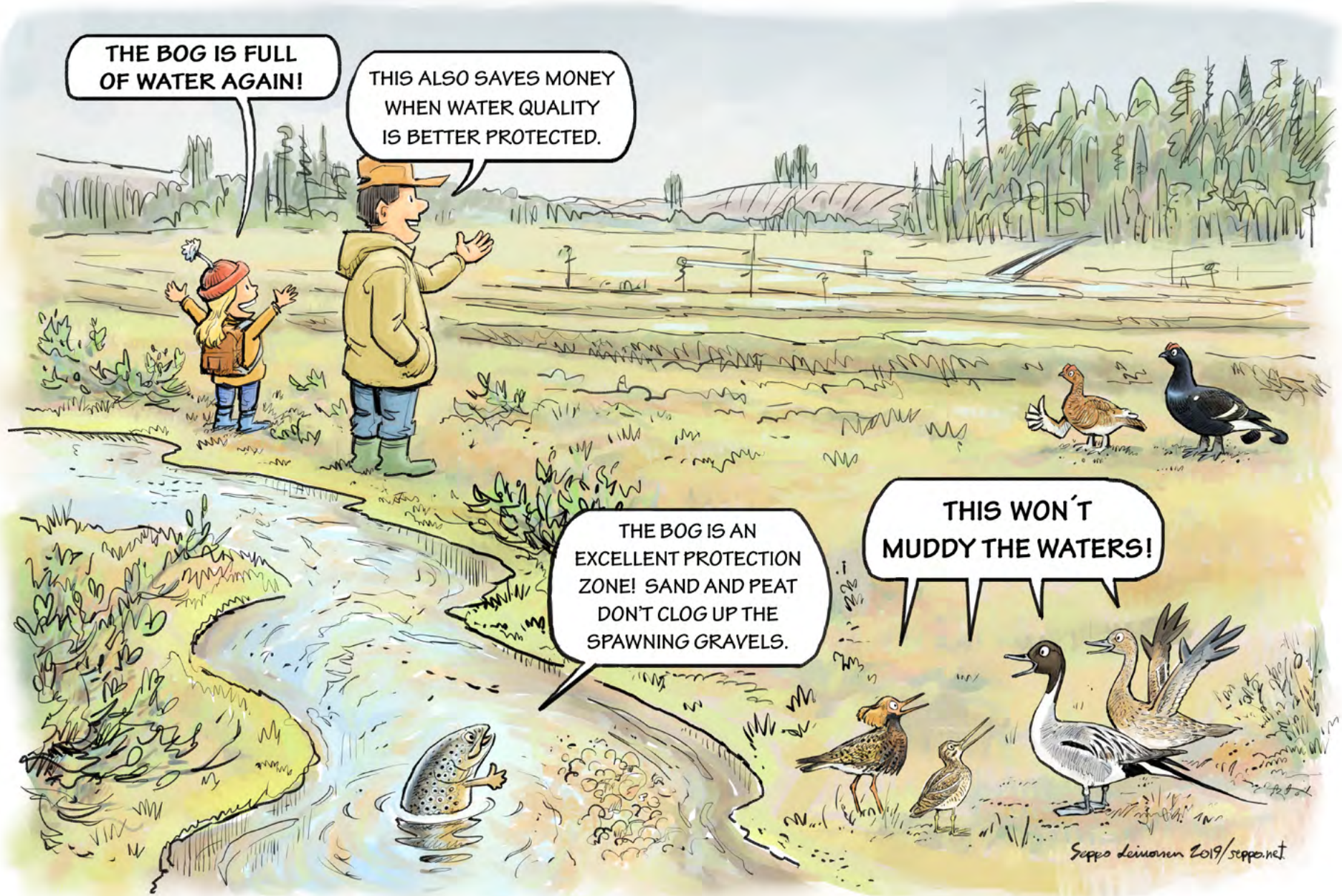


1 Excessive water from forest to peatland!



Excessive water from forest to peatland

Forest owners in Finland use forest drainage to direct excess water out of the forest to ensure the successful cultivation of trees. But could the water be directed into dried-out peatlands instead, not past them?

Help for wetland nature

In recent decades, many of the species that thrive in peatlands have declined due to peatlands drying out. Returning waters from a forest to a dried peatland is a new way of making the hydrology of the peatland more natural. The water is directed out of the forest by digging a guiding ditch towards a dry peatland. This rewetting allows the water to return to the peatland's natural flow routes. This safeguards the diversity of wetland nature.

Benefits for the forest owner

Water protection must be taken into account in the restoration of forest drainage ditches. Returning water to a nearby peatland is a good way to do this, as vegetation in the peatland binds the nitrogen and phosphorus found in run-off water. Peatlands also trap soil being carried by water, such as peat particles, thus preventing them from causing eutrophication in downstream waters. Because peatlands contain a lot of water, they also control flooding.

In Finland, it has been possible for private forest owners to obtain sustainable forestry funding for a forest management project, in which returning water to a peatland is part of the water protection measures.

MORE INFORMATION

- Returning water to conservation areas will benefit both forestry and conservation. [International Peatland Congress presentation 2021 \(tapio.fi\)](#).
- Peatlands of Finland in two minutes. [Hydrology LIFE project video tells us how the nature of wetlands can be protected by habitat restoration \(youtube.com\)](#).

WETLAND CARDS: [JULKAISUT.METSA.FI/
EN/PUBLICATIONS/SHOW/2693](https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/en/publications/show/2693)



Hydrology LIFE project – Restoring peatlands and wetlands all over Finland

During the project we safeguard peatlands, small water bodies and important bird lakes in over 100 Natura 2000 areas. The majority of peatlands in Finland is severely degraded by forestry-drainage. The restoration measures recover the habitats towards the natural state which is vital for many valuable species.

Flood protection, water quality and game areas will also be improved.

The project is run by Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland from 2017 to 2023.

www.metsa.fi/en/project/hydrology-life



ILLUSTRATION BY SEPPO LEINONEN / SEPPO.NET.

THE PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE LIFE PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE MATERIAL REFLECTS THE VIEWS BY THE AUTHORS, AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OR THE CINEA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY USE THAT MAY BE MADE OF THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS.