Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd.

Well-being from multiple-use forests
We produce wood in a sustainable manner

Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd is a subsidiary of Metsähallitus and it manages the state-owned forests available for commercial use. The company has an annual turnover of about EUR 300 million.

The sales of wood accounts for almost 90 per cent of Metsähallitus' turnover and the raw material is sold to forest and energy industry companies as well as sawmills. We are part of an important and growing export sector. More than EUR 100 million of the profit is transferred to the state each year and thus used for the benefit of Finnish society.

Biodiversity is a major consideration for us in timber harvesting. In the management and use of its forests, Metsähallitus is also guided by human needs. In our operations, we take into account the expectations of a broad range of different stakeholders.

We create well-being from multiple-use forests

Timber harvesting is not the only activity taking place in the forests – for this reason we talk about multiple-use forests. In our forests, citizens can also engage in a wide range of different recreational activities, such as mountain biking, snowmobiling, hunting and berry picking.

In addition to serving as a basis for wood business, multiple-use forests also provide opportunities for reindeer husbandry, tourism and gathering of natural products.

We promote entrepreneurship

Metsähallitus is an important player in the regional economy. We help to strengthen the vitality of regions as well as entrepreneurship and other economic activities in the sustainable use of natural resources.

The annual growth of multiple-use forests is about 11 million m³.

We sell and deliver about six million cubic metres of wood to industries each year, which is about 10 per cent of the timber requirements of Finland’s forest industry.

About two per cent of the trees in forests used for commercial purposes are felled each year.
The company employs 600 forestry professionals. A total of 2,000 contractors and their employees also work in our forests.

Harvesting a middle-sized stand generates about EUR 100,000 in wages and contracting income for residents of the sub-region plus about EUR 50,000 in profits transferred to the state.
Small game hunters walk a total of one million kilometres in state-owned forests every autumn, which makes nine kilometres/day for each of them.

We maintain 38,000 kilometres of forest roads and 1,000 bridges.
Forest roads lead to recreational activities

You can move freely in multiple-use forests on forest roads, paths and trails. In fact, timber transport accounts for only 10 per cent of the use of the forest roads. Hunters, mushroom and berry pickers as well as other outdoor enthusiasts are the biggest users of the roads in our forests.

Socially responsible actor

Ensuring benefits to Finnish society is a major consideration in our forestry operations. In certain areas, there are limitations to commercial forest use so that we can protect biodiversity, to prevent interference with reindeer husbandry and to ensure better opportunities for recreational activities.

The multiple-use forests of Metsähallitus have been certified in accordance with the international PEFC scheme. The certificate is a proof that the wood raw material has been purchased from sustainably managed forests.
Sustainable forest management

The management of the state-owned forests is based on legislation, forest certification and the ISO 14001-certified environmental management system, environmental guidelines and the forest management instructions of Metsähallitus.

Forest management operations are founded on regional natural resource plans, which are prepared in cooperation with our stakeholders. When planning multiple use of its forests, Metsähallitus utilises comprehensive forest resource data and state-of-the-art planning systems.

We work to ensure landscape, recreational and cultural values in our forest management. No forest management measures take place at important natural sites and sites where endangered species occur.

Active environmental management

Environmental management work has always been part of daily forest management. Metsähallitus also spends EUR 100,000 each year on measures involving peatland restoration and removal of barriers on fish migration routes in fast flowing waters, as well as on the management of herb-rich forests.

"Participation, discussion and interaction are the keywords in our work."

Each year we spend EUR 100,000 on active environmental management measures as part of forest management.

Artificial snags created as part of tree harvesting help to promote biodiversity. Trees cut at the height of between three and five metres are attractive to hole-nesting birds. Between 1-3 artificial snags are created on each hectare of reforested land.
Metsähallitus is a pioneer in broad-based bioeconomy.

We are an unincorporated state enterprise managing one third of Finland’s surface area. We manage and develop state-owned land and water areas in a responsible manner so that they bring maximum benefits to Finnish society.

Most of our multiple-use forests are located in eastern and northern parts of Finland.

A total of about 3.5 million hectares of commercial forest land is categorised as multiple-use forests.

Further information: http://www.metsa.fi/web/en/forestry • twitter.com/metsahallitus • facebook.com/metsahallitus