Forests and Forestry in Sweden

Population 9.4 million
Land area 41 million hectares
70% forest cover
11% of export income
For the purpose of this analysis, we consider the land distribution within Sweden, with the following breakdown:

- **Forest**: 70% (28 million ha)
- **Barren land**: 12%
- **Other Wooded Land**: 5%
- **Other land**: 13%

This distribution highlights the significant role of forests in Sweden's landscape.
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Forest Ownership

- State: 18%
- Other public: 7%
- Forest Companies: 25%
- Family forests: 50%

230,000 properties
330,000 forest owners
1/3 women
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History Southern Sweden

Before 19th century
Forests commonly owned
  Grazing, firewood, construction wood, berries, mushrooms

Beginning 19th century
Land reform to improve agriculture
Privatization – tenure rights
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History Northern Sweden

Before 19th century
Forests ”no man’s land”
  Same use as for Southern Sweden
  Large forest – low population

Mid19th century
Political will to enhance agriculture
State gave forest land to farmers
Saw milling boom - coast
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Species distribution

- Norway spruce 41% *Picea abies*
- Scots pine 39% *Pinus silvestris*
- Birch 13% *Betula*
- Other 7%
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Standard silvicultural model

- Soil scarification
- Planting / natural regeneration
  - 5-15 years – Non commercial thinning
  - 30-50 years – Thinning
  - 60-110 years – Final felling

- Consideration to nature values in all operations
Forest and Forestry in Sweden
Round wood market

Price:
• Price list – harvesting costs
• Agreed sum/ cubic meter (independent of quality)

Buyers:
• Forest owners’ association
• Forest company (1-2)
• Independent saw mill (several)
National policy shaped by context and stakeholders

- Forestry Act (1903): Deforestation, Exploitation and Degradation => Restoration, Reforestation…
- Forestry Act (1948): Economic management (hushållning). Forestry integrated with farming

=> Regional & Global influence on National Policies