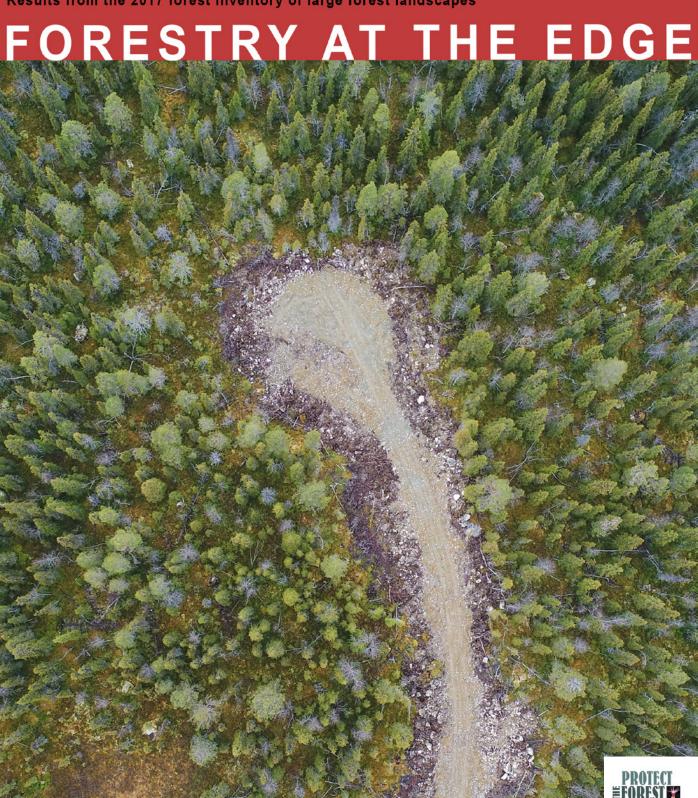
Results from the 2017 forest inventory of large forest landscapes



Abstract

During the summer of 2017, members from Protect the Forest made a large field survey of old-growth forest, above the mountainous forest border in north part of Vilhelmina municipality in northern Sweden. We recorded finds of red-listed species and indicator species in a 3,557 hectare forest landscape that has mostly remained untouched by clear-cutting forestry, and therefore still contains large areas of old-growth and semi-pristine forest. To make this assessment more interesting we also noted the presence of rare pristine forest patches. We also recorded patches of young tree stands—previously clear-cut—inside minor parts of the old-growth forest. In this area, the Swedish Forest Agency (SFA) has recently planned a new logging road without making a thorough field survey to assure that values for nature and culture are not destroyed. To investigate SFA's acting in this matter, we mapped the density of dead wood that is key in protection of valuable forest habitats, and spent extra time to record rare species around this new logging road.

Our species survey recorded 3,243 finds of red-listed species and SFA indicator species. Fifteen of the red-listed species are currently threatened and yet another 38 species are near threatened. We also sighted several birds listed in the Birds Directive Annex 1, and many other interesting species. Forests were in general spruce dominated and in most respect they consisted of old-growth forest with limited signs of previous forest management. Our survey of potential occurrences of truly pristine forest, revealed 16 patches of such rare forests which usually remained as small pockets inside otherwise sparsely logged forest. In the very south, a larger area of mainly pristine forest was found. Smaller areas of pristine forest are, however, affected by the newly built logging roads that reaches into recently unbroken forest land.

After comparing our results on dead wood and species records with SFA's own methodology, to find and delimit woodland key habitats, we found that the authority has acted carelessly, and hence that logging notices should be revoked, especially for a new section of the logging road that reaches into old forest with comparably high volumes of dead wood and many rare species. In near future, authorities and the Swedish Government should find ways to formally protect these large forest areas. Sweden's high profile in forest production in combination with our weak forest legislation will otherwise result in rapid destruction, and ultimately the disappearance, of these still intact and utterly beautiful forest landscapes.

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Cover photo

The turning area at the very end of a newly constructed logging road.

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Forestry at the edge

"Ever since the first proto-Swedes settled on the Scandinavian peninsula, forests have given them fuel for heating during the cold winter nights and cooking, provided building material for shelters and given plentiful game for food. In short, Sweden's forest landscape is shaped by humans since the dawn of time, thus little is pristine, and plans to preserve our nature from further exploitation is unnecessary". This is one among many simple stories told by forestry representatives, to excuse logging in Sweden's last wilderness, the northern foothill forest of Dalarna, Jämtland and Lapland. And although large, road-less forest landscapes still exists, these areas are rapidly shrinking and becoming more and more fragmented due to continuous clear-cutting forestry. In this report, we highlight the value of these forests, and present an example of nature values that still exists in one of these wonderful parts of northern Sweden.

Introduction _

ccording to Swedish definitions, about 70 % of the country's land area is covered by forest. Sadly, only 6-7 % of this area is formally protected, in national parks, nature reserves, and in forest biotope protection areas (Anon 2017). It is, however, estimated that another 5 % is voluntarily set aside by forestry companies and individual forest owners (Claesson & Eriksson 2017). Nevertheless, predictions made by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency SEPA suggest that the area of forest with high conservation value, that is still unprotected against industrial forestry, may exceed one million hectares (SEPA 2017). With today's goal to protect another 150,000 ha by 2020 compared to 2012 (SEPA & SFA 2017), corresponding to about 19,000 ha per annum, it would take roughly 50 years to formally protect all this forest. Unfortunately, by that time, these patches of old-growth forest will already be long gone.

Very little of the forest is unharmed by recent and older cuttings, and estimations indicate that only 0.4 % of Sweden's forest land consists of truly natural forests, or so called pristine forest. Most of this ancient forest is thought to remain as small pockets inside mountainous old-growth forest in the foothills of northwestern Sweden, where now most of our country's remaining old forest is found (Nilsson & Cory 2017). Despite the scarcity of remaining natural forest, mountainous forest like the forest in the survey presented in this report, is still being harvested.

Swedish forest legislation

Swedish forestry must comply the Swedish Forestry Act (SvL). It states, among many other things, that forestry should avoid damaging rare and valuable biotopes and cultural heritage sites (Anon 2017a). However, it is said that only about 5-10 % of all notified loggings are subject to field visits by experienced personnel at the Swedish Forest Agency (SFA) prior cutting. These visits are mainly made when high conservation values are assumed to occur in forests notified for cutting. The rest is cut completely without field visits and prior knowledge of existing nature values. On company forest land, surprisingly, the companies themselves are expected to take full responsibility for

existing natural values, i.e. authorities are not called on to make detailed assessments before logging. Also, thinning and selective logging is done without notifying the authorities, independent of forest age.

Above the mountainous forest border (see Fig. 1), the SFA cannot authorize cuttings if they are *incompatible with interests* that are of essential value to conservation or cultural heritage 18 § 2010:930 SvL (used the first time in 2014, precedent ruling in 2015). When such essential values are suspected, the SFA may conduct a field survey to determine the conditions. Thus, in theory, if high conservation values are confirmed, any submitted logging notices should be rejected. Further, regarding sensitive biotopes in 30 § 7:17 SvL (no convictions), harm to e.g. older stands with a significant amount of deadwood or pendulous lichens, should be avoided, and according to 30 § 7:19 SvL (no convictions) damage caused by forestry management shall be prevented or limited in habitats and on substrates with prioritized species (see next page on red-listed species and bird species in the Birds Directive Annex 1).

Besides adhering to the regulations stated in the SvL, all large Swedish forest companies have also joined the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which is a voluntary association with members from NGOs, unions, and forestry-associated industries (see Anon 2017b for an overview). FSC's main goal is to find ways to develop forestry methods that can both handle social factors related to forestry and at the same time work for forestry that is sustainable and environmentally sound. The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is another certification scheme (Anon 2017c). The aim of this certification is very similar to FSC, but the members are smaller players such as entrepreneurs, small companies, and individual forest owners. In Sweden, just over 120,000 km², and about 110,000 km² forest land is certified under FSC and PEFC respectively. The base for the certifications is a continuous and open dialogue between different stakeholders. Some of the larger companies are certified

Ever since the start, the criticism against Swedish FSC and PEFC has been harsh (e.g. Anon 2004). In 2010 the largest inde-

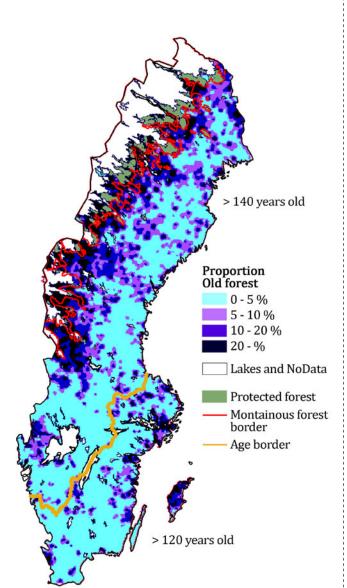


Figure 1. The proportion of old forest exceeding the age of 140 years and 120 years, north and south of the "age border" respectively (orange line), and also protected areas (green). Most old forest is concentrated to the west, below and above the mountainous forest border (red line). Redrawn from The Swedish National Forest Inventory® (2017).

pendent environmental association, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation SSNC, left Swedish FSC in protest. The reason was said to be too many violations against the standard and a general lack of reprisals after breaking the rules (Anon 2010). However, SSNC is still members in FSC International. Other NGOs like WWF and Birdlife Sweden, the Swedish Ornithological Society (SOF) are still member of FSC. Currently, none of the environmental associations are members of the PEFC.

Most of the larger Swedish forestry companies, including the governmentally owned forest company Sveaskog, have received Major CARs (sharp warnings) from FSC due to violations against the standard (Dahl 2001; Elfström 2017). Nevertheless, only one company has so far temporarily lost its certification and when this happened, the company only lost its certification in a local district. A well-known and diligently used phrase when things go wrong is—we made a slight mistake, but we're making good progress! Since these mistakes are still occurring, it is highly questionable whether there will ever be a lasting change in the behavior of these big companies. Unfortunately, the rare forest species whose hope now depends on modest conservation efforts by certified companies, are likely tired of waiting for a better future.

Red-listed species

The Swedish national red-list strictly evaluates the risk of species going extinct in Sweden, without any other considerations, such as species attractiveness, usefulness or harmfulness to man. With a system of categories and criteria, the red-list has been developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN to measure the conservation status of individual species (Fig. 2). The list is a powerful tool for making conservation prioritizations, but it has no juridical status. In Sweden, the red-list is produced by the Swedish Species Information Center at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). The 2015 edition is Sweden's fourth red-list based on IUCN criteria.

The red-list may be viewed as a tool for research planning, exploitation prioritization and environmental assessments. The conservation status of individual species can also be estimated by using the data from the red-list. By using data for many species and groups of species, the list can also be used to monitor the fulfillment of the Swedish environmental objectives and the international environmental agreements ratified by Sweden in Nagoya 2010. For environmentalists, on the other hand, the red-list of threatened species has become an important tool in species surveys. By combining the information from the list with the result from species surveys, environmentalists may strengthen the argumentation against exploiters who sometimes lack knowledge on the local species stock, and otherwise are at risk of destroying important habitats for rare organisms.

Species associated with forest habitats are overrepresented in Scandinavian red-lists. In Norway for example, 48 % of all red-listed species are found in forests (Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre 2017), and in Sweden and Finland the corresponding figures are 52 % and 36 % respectively (Swedish Species Information Center 2015; Rassi et al. 2010). The main reason is likely clear-cutting forestry that causes trivialization of forests, e.g. reduced diversity of tree species, lowered forest age, fragmentation and heavy reductions in the amount of dead wood (Esseen et al. 1997; Axelsson and Östlund 2001; Siitonen

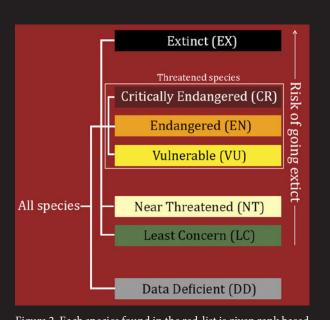


Figure 2. Each species found in the red-list is given rank based on its present conservation status, e.g. current range, change in population size, and population fragmentation. Each criterion is later matched against certain threshold-values and labeled according to one of seven different categories. For some species, data is lacking, and hence they cannot be evaluated according to the criteria. In Sweden, 4,273 species are red-listed and among these 2,029 are categorized as threatened. In total, roughly 36 % or 21,600 species have been assessed.

2001). Large proportions of Swedish forest land have been transformed from semi-natural forests to plantations of even-sized and mostly single-aged monocultures (Östlund 1993) that leaves little opportunities for specialized forest species. Unsurprisingly, as many as 80 % of the red-listed forest species are in some way dependent on dead wood, through their specialization on specific habitats like old and dying trees, snags or on logs (Berg et al. 1994).

Due to changes in forest structure and reduced abundance and diversity of substrates, the presence of many species is marginalized and confined to areas of remnant old-growth forest. As an example, Gustafsson (2002) found significantly more red-listed forest species in high conservation value forests than in the managed forest, and other studies largely conform with this result (Tikkanen et al. 2006; Berglund et al. 2011; Jönsson et al. 2016). Unfortunately, little is done to turn the trend around, and fragmentation of yet unbroken old-growth forest areas is still ongoing. In this precarious situation, still, Sweden's Minister for Rural Affairs, Sven-Erik Bucht, has repeatedly argued that Sweden needs to increase its forest production (e.g. Öberg 2017; Anon 2016; Bucht & Nordlund 2016). Hence, the situation may worsen.

The number of boreal species that have gone extinct is so far moderate, and scientists have long suspected that the rate of extinction is delayed by the inherent buffering in meta-populations (Hanski 2000). In landscapes that suffer great loss of natural habitats, the remaining patchwork of remnant semi-natural environments may harbor pieces of the naturally occurring species pool (Berglund & Jonsson 2005). This is because populations can survive as scattered populations, but only for as long as the migration distance between populations doesn't exceed the maximum dispersal distance (Aune et al. 2005). The progressive fragmentation of Scandinavian boreal forests is isolat-

ing remaining populations in space and time, and increases risk of extinction of small populations by chance. By lengthening this chain of events, we can expect higher extinction rates in the near future. Forestry representatives, however, often highlight that few local extinctions have occurred, but then ignore relevant research on the subject.

Forests with high conservation value

In 1993, the SFA, initiated a survey to find and delimit so called woodland key habitats WKH (Norén et al. 2014). A WKH is a well-defined forest area with particularly valuable habitats, where one can expect to find higher numbers of rare species than in surrounding forests (Wester & Engström 2016). The survey was done from 1993-1998 and was later supplemented through a second survey in 2001-2006. Since then, WKHs have been delimited sporadically, and mostly during field visits by the authority, prior to clear-cutting. Until 2015, about 100,000 WKHs were registered in SFAs database covering roughly 466,000 ha or 2 % of the Swedish forest land (Wester & Engström 2016). WKHs are generally small, and about 50 % has an area of 1.4 ha or less. At the time of writing, WKH-inventories are completely halted above the mountainous forest border, and forestry continues.

WKHs are not formally protected, but certified foresters are bound by the certification standard to not cut or sell timber from registered or un-registered WKHs. These habitats are also somewhat protected according to the Swedish Forestry Act § 30 SvL. Forestry companies can, however, clear cut all the way to the edge of registered WKHs. SFA's Alice Hagström told the magazine Land (Rolfsson 2016) that since the 90s, 549 WKHs were completely cut down, and yet another 3,500 WKHs were damaged by clear-cutting forestry. According to Hagström, an

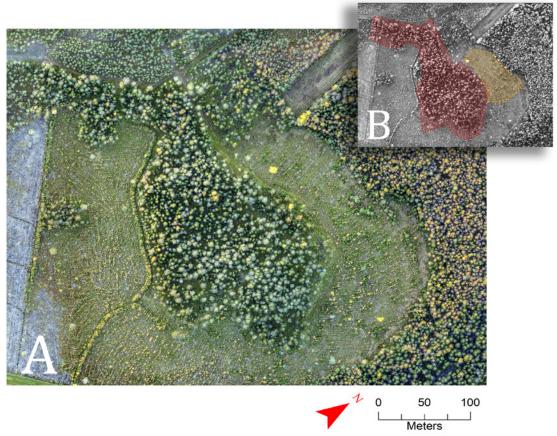


Figure 3. A five hectare WKH registered in September 2005, now more or less surrounded by a continuous clear-cut (A) and to the north of the WKH a completely erased nature value habitat. Depicted in the inset (B) is the border and shape of the WKH (red) and the nature value habitat (orange). If edge effects are considered, very little remains of the functional core area and thus the remaining habitat for forest interior species.



Figure 4. Clear-cutting to the edge of this woodland key habitat has created large volumes dead spruce inside the forest edge, but these substrates are usually quickly infested by trivial polypore species like *Tricaptum abietinum*, *Antrodia serialis* and *Fomitopsis pinicola*. Rare and red-listed species, on the other hand, are seldomly found on these locations.

average of 200 ha of WKH-classified forest is logged annually. Since many WKHs are rather small, damage from edge effects on sensitive organisms is thought to be extensive. In addition, another 2,000 ha of yet unregistered WKSs are harvested annually (Wester & Engström 2016). As an example, with small WKHs covering an area of about 1-3.14 ha, and clear-cuts extending 50-100 % around the remaining WKH-patch (see Fig. 3 & 4 for real-life examples), the occupancy of rare fungi species is predicted to decrease, while more common species will most likely increase in abundance (Reute et al. 2016). The same study concluded that buffering around small and isolated old-growth remnant forest is necessary to maintain biodiversity.

So, in contrast to the small WKHs of a few hectares delimited

by the SFA, are there still really large areas of remnant old-growth forest left in Sweden's heavily managed forest landscape—say old-growth forest landscapes of several thousand hectares? For the most part, the answer is simply—no there isn't! In northern Sweden, however, and particularly in the montane forests of the eastern foothills of the Scandes, there are still large continuous areas with mostly old-growth coniferous boreal forest (Fig. 1). The lower exploitation pressure there is likely a consequence of lower productivity, harsh climate, increased distance from sawmills—paper and pulp industries along the coast—and also probably because of a higher proportion of governmentally owned land.

Two large-scale governmentally financed surveys have been

conducted to map natural, and semi-natural forest: Urskog-sinventeringen 1978–1981 (Bråkenhielm 1982), and Skydds-värda statliga skogar och urskogsartade skogar 2003–2004 (Naturvårdsverket 2004). Nationwide surveys like these two, however, have not been made since, but smaller inventories aimed to map such forests have been done by local County Administrative Boards. Much of the collected material has resulted in formal protection, many nature reserves and a few national parks; the majority above the mountainous forest border on governmental property. Still, despite all inventories and protection, large areas of semi-natural forest remain unprotected in these areas. Under ongoing forest management, they soon lose

their old-growth characters, and become increasingly fragmented and trivialized. Since only fragments of natural environments now remain, especially from a European perspective, continuous loss of these remnant semi-natural forests should be halted.

Thus, the overall objective of our study was to investigate a large and continuous forest area above the mountainous forest border, and to specifically:

- 1. Survey species of cryptogams, plants, birds and mammals
- 2. Identify and delimit remnant pristine forest
- 3. Find patches with young and previously clear-cut forest



Figure 5. Fomitopsis rosea is classified near threatened in the Swedish 2015 red list. In our survey we found this species 117 times in most parts of the study area. Due to industrial forestry, however, *F. rosea* and many other typical forest species are nowadays rare in the Swedish inland and in coastal areas. Under the conditions found in our study area, nevertheless, such species are thriving and can be found almost everywhere if searched for.



Method.

Choosing a representative landscape

We sought to survey a large and unprotected forest landscape with proportionally small area of previously identified conservation values. For this, we started by scanning digital map data from SEPA on forests previously untouched by clear-cutting forestry, (Metria 2016). The aforementioned data material depicts forests with a continuous crown cover since the 1950s, at the beginning of the clearcutting era, which hence provide a good starting point in the search for high-value conservation areas. Additionally, we also used high resolution satellite data to fine tune the searching. Data on formally protected forest was downloaded from SEPA's web-tool Skyddad natur©, and WKHs from the SFA's web service Skogsdataportalen©.

Study area

In the initial desk study, we found and delimited a 3,557 hectare study area located in northwestern Sweden (65°11'12.9"N 15°48'24.9"E), in Vilhelmina county, about 60 km east of the Norwegian border (Fig. 6). The forest constitutes mostly of old-growth Norway spruce *Picea abies* dominated stands with varying content of the two species of birch: downy birch *Betula pubescens*, and pendulous birch *Betula pendula*. Also, more rarely, scattered stands and single trees of trembling aspen *Populus tremula*, goat willow *Salix caprea*, and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* is occurring throughout the area. In the dryer and rockier parts of the landscape, mixed stands of Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, birch and Norway spruce grow sparsely. Open patches, covered with rocks and large boulders, have likely stayed barren and untouched since the last ice age.

In the area there were three main owner categories. In large part, the forest was owned by Vilhelmina forest commons (for a definition of forest commons see Holmgren el at. 2010), but also by the National Property Board of Sweden (the state) and private forest owners.

Field survey

We visited the study area six times between June 16 and October 23 during the summer of 2017 (in total 69 workdays). In total, 24 people were partaking in the field work. This collection of people had different backgrounds, some specialists and consultants in forest ecology, and others with limited previous experience. By allowing novices to always follow a more experienced person, knowledge was distributed.

To ease the task of mapping such a large forest area, we first divided the lot into smaller units of about 100 ha. These sections were later uploaded to hand-held GPS-devices used in the field. This also helped to avoid overlapping work among different field workers.

During the survey, we noted and GPS-recorded all findings of red-listed plants, and cryptogams; lichens, fungi, and bryophytes. Also, we recorded species termed indicator species by the SFA. An indicator species is, according to the definition of the SFA, a species indicating high conservation value habitats. Indicator species and their occurrences in an area give a good picture of the area's protection values. Indicator species are used as a support and help tool when inventories are made in high conservation forests and woodland key habitats (Nitare 2000). Such species can also be red-listed, many are good indicators of high conservation value forest and they may also indicate presence of other red-listed species. Apart from cryptogams and plants, we recorded also sightings of birds listed in the Birds Directive Annex 1. Chew-marks of three-toed woodpecker Picoides tridactylus were also recorded (Fig. 10). This woodpecker is red-listed as near threatened and demands the continuous provision of dying and recently dead conifers. High densities of these conspicuous, and easily spotted chew-marks, thus usually indicate high incidence of self-thinning. Furthermore, grouse droppings were recorded, as well as tracks from mammal carnivores (only during the last visit in October after snowfall).

Forest structure was noted, but not entirely mapped. How-

ever, patches of pristine forest, here defined as pockets of forest where stumps could not be detected, were mapped and recorded in the GPS. In the same manner, young forest and patches of forest previously clear cut, was recorded. Larger adjacent forest areas, that were clear-cut after the 50s-60s, were excluded from the field survey. Data on species sightings are found in supplementary material, in the back of this report, and patches of pristine forest and old clearcuts are shown in Figure 6. Data collected by Nature and Youth Sweden in the same area, this same summer (Nature and Youth Sweden 2017) was incorporated in this report.

The new logging road, and planned logging

During the summer of 2017 a new logging road was constructed in the north part of the study area, at the forest covered slopes suspicions, one extra day of field work was done along the road. In the latter part of the field season another logging notice was filed to the SFA. The same extra procedure as for the logging road was added to the ordinary field work around the planned logging site. Species-data collected around the logging road was delimited by a 879 m radius circle (243 ha). Data for the road is listed and visualized in Figure 12, and species data for the logging site is found in Supplementary material S2.

To further investigate the situation around the new logging road (Fig. 7 & 8), we assessed the density of spruce logs; lying dead tree trunks of Norway spruce. These trees are easily spotted and recognized because of the typically pointed shape of the tree crown. The survey of dead wood was conducted with Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-technics UAV, specifically adapted for the survey. We used a **DJI Phantom 4 Pro**© drone to digitally map a 32.3 ha area extending 100m on both sides of the road. In

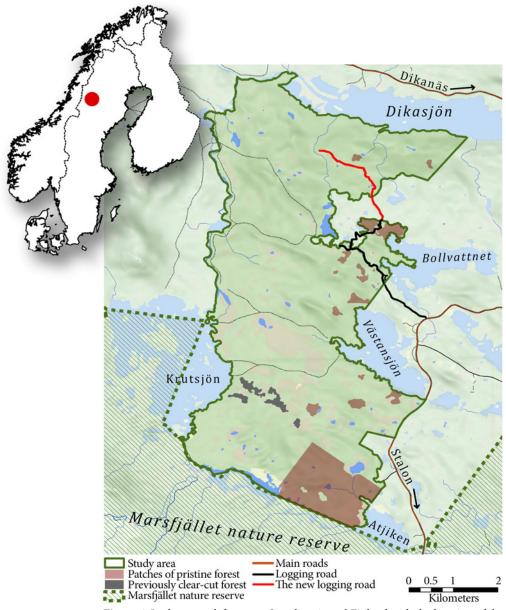


Figure 6. In the upper left corner, Scandinavia and Finland with the location of the 3,557 ha study area marked with a red dot. In the zoomed-in map to the right, the location of pristine and previously clear-cut forest as well as roads, waters (blue) and mires (light pink). The new logging road section (red line) is found in the upper part, about one km south of Dikasjön. The new logging site is not marked on the map.

south of Dikanässjön. This new logging road section extends roughly 2km into previously unbroken forestland (Fig. 6). In the desk study of satellite image data around this road, we could neither see clear signs of previous logging activities nor signs of thinning that otherwise show up like thin lines in images. Hence, we had strong reason to believe that the forest was old and may contain high conservation values. To investigate these

the resulting 3 cm-resolution image, we counted and recorded with GIS point-shapes, all laying dead tree trunks of Norway spruce directly in the image. To structure counting, a 25 x 25 m overlay grid was added to the image, and one-by-one logs where counted in each individual cell throughout the whole grid. The resulting point-shape data was generalized by using a point density function in GIS-software (Fig. 13). Data on dead wood and



Figure 7. Ongoing road construction through old-growth forest, mires and creeks. The caterpillar excavator can be seen digging in the lower middle section of the photo.

red-listed species finds were compared to SFA's WKH checklist for Norway spruce forest north of Limes Norrlandicus (Supplementary material S3). The relation between our dead wood density raster is visualized and discussed.

The forest and the logging road is located west of the mountainous forest border, thus the special circumstances mentioned in the introduction must be considered by the SFA. Therefore, we ordered all logging notices (public material) from new log-

ging roads, and loggings already made, or planned in this area. Logging notices granted after the preceding ruling in 2015, that the NFA cannot allow cuttings if they are incompatible with interests that are of essential value to conservation or cultural heritage 18 § SvL, were of special interest. All documents are discussed in relation to current regulations, presented in Supporting information in the back of this report.



Figure 8. One of very many water-filled depression that are temporarily flooded after snow-melt and heavy rains. During dryer periods they can become completely dry. These spots are important for amphibians, toads and frogs. Here, however, one of these waters have been damaged by the logging road.



Results -

Species finds in Krutskogen

We found 53 different red-listed species. Among these, 15 species (196 finds) were classified as vulnerable and 38 species (2,336 finds) as near threatened. Another 43 species (711 finds) noted during the survey are currently termed indicator species by SFA (Supplementary material S1). We also sighted seven species currently listed in the Birds Directive Annex 1. In the survey we also noted 112 other species not currently red-listed or termed indicator species by SFA. Among these, we spotted siberian jay *Perisoreus infaustus*, two-barred crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* and pine grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* (Supplementary material S1).

Among lichens recorded during the survey, 12 were indicator species, 17 near threatened, and 2 vulnerable species. The most frequently spotted red-listed species was the cyano-lichen Lobaria scrobiculata (NT) with 300 finds. In this northern location, this species grows on deciduous trees such as trembling aspen, goat willow, rowan and the two occurring species of birch, pendulous birch and downy birch. In beneficial locations it may also attach to shaded boulders or the bark of conifers (see Figure 8). In parallel of the many sightings of *L. scobiculata*, the close relative, Lobaria pulmonaria (NT), was only found 30 times. Other lichen species with similar habitat requirements, that were frequently observed, were the three cyano-lichens Nephroma bellum, N. resupinatum and N. parile, seen 148, 62 and 78 times respectively. All three species are termed as indicator species. Less common lichen species like Cyphelium karelicum (VU) and Hypogymnia austerodes (VU) were seen 19 and 7 times respectively.

During our survey, great attention was given to find and identify species of wood decaying fungi. In total we recorded 48 such species, whereof 21 red-listed; 10 vulnerable and 11 near threatened. The most found red-listed polypore was the near threatened *Phellinus chrysoloma* (312 finds), followed by *Onnia leporina* (214 finds) and *Phellinus nigrolimitatus* (147 finds), both also near threatened. Among species classified as vulnerable, *Laurilia sulcata* and *Phlebia centrifuga* were the most common

with 71 and 37 finds respectively. The least frequently observed species were *Junghuhnia collabens* (VU), *Diplomitopo-*

rus crustulinus (VU) and Rhodonia placenta (VU) that were only sighted once. Although some of the fungi species were occasionally spotted on Scots pine, most of them are strongly related to dead wood of Norway spruce. However, in this forest survey, less attention was given to the more pine dominated areas where the terrain was very difficult. If these areas had been included in the survey, more species could likely have been added to the list.

Bryophytes and vascular plants were also searched for. The most frequently sighted bryophyte, being the indicator species *Hylocomiastrum umbratum*, was seen 36 times. Among red-listed bryophytes, we found *Lophozia longiflora* (18 finds) and *Anastrophyllum hellerianum* (3 finds), both near threatened. In nutrient rich patches with swamp forest, we found rich stands of wolfsbane *Aconitum lycoctonum* and occasionally also arctic sweet coltsfoot *Petasites frigidus*, seen 68 and 9 times respective-



Figure 9. *L. scrobiculata* (NT) growing on the bark of Norway spruce. On the same tree grew *Peltigera aphthosa* and *Nephroma parile*.

ly. Both species are indicator species, and did mostly appear in small and scattered populations. Other less frequently spotted plants were the indicator species alpine saw-wort *Saussurea alpine* and lesser twayblade *Listera cordata*.

The typical ring-like chew marks of the *P. tridactylus* (NT) was found on little over 300 different tree trunks; mostly on Norway spruce, but also on Scots pine. The bird itself, however, was only spotted twice during the whole survey, and breedings were not found. Our interpretation is that, although chew marks of three-toed woodpecker were frequently observed, the species is rare in this area. Chew marks from woodpeckers are accumulated over many years of activity, hence giving the impression that certain species, like *P. tridactylus* in this case, is very common. To confirm this theory, a thorough survey is needed. Other woodpecker species like the black woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* (NT) and the greater spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* were also spotted.

Capercaillie Tetrao urogallus was sighted several times



Figure 10. Chew-marks on Norway spruce made by three-toed woodpecker. In total, we recorded over 300 trees with chew-marks.

throughout the survey, while black grouse *Tetrao tetrix* was only seen one time. Both species are listed in the Birds Directive Annex 1. These two species, and also willow grouse *Lagopus lagopus* and hazel grouse *Bonasa bonasia*, are common in this area. Hence, several lekking sites of capercaillie and black grouse can be expected in this large and diverse forest landscape. Since August 2017, Swedish foresters are not allowed to destroy capercaillie lekking sites during harvesting (Anon 2017d).

Few raptors and owls were seen during the survey. Nevertheless, in late June one osprey *Pandion haliaetus* was seen soaring over a small lake and in the beginning of August another individual was seen on high altitude, likely migrating. In early October, also, one pygmy owl *Glaucidium passerinum* was spotted south of Västansjön. The meager result in this respect is likely due to the field workers focusing on objects on the ground, like logs and tree-trunks, rather than on birds soaring above. Other interesting bird species were siberian tit *Poecile cinctus* (seen 3 times) and goldcrest *Regulus regulus* (seen and heard 9 times) both classified as vulnerable according to the Swedish 2015 red-list.

Lastly, droppings from brown bear *Ursus arctos* (NT), and track from wolverine *Gulo gulo* (VU) and pine marten *Martes martes* were seen. The two first-mentioned, are likely traveling through from time to time, while the Pine marten is more likely to breed in the area. Regardless, stumbling over the traces of large carnivores in the wild, increases the feeling of true wilderness.

The forest in this area

The forests seen during our field survey were in general dominated by old-growth coniferous forest, with rich availability of dead wood. In these forests we found a natural dynamic variation in forest structures. As such, general structures like tree density and tree size, tree species assembly, and further on, finer features like dead wood availability—self thinning and log-density—was highly dependent on productivity. In moist and fertile parts, usually in sinks in the terrain, trees were thicker and dead wood were common. In the dryer terrain, trees stood more sparsely, and dead wood occurred less densely. Rockier and even less productive areas were covered with sparsely scattered stands of Scots pine, Norway spruce and birches (Fig. 11). Nevertheless, dead wood of pine were sometimes easy to find in these very venturesome parts.

Our suspicion, that small patches of pristine forest are scattered in these sparsely exploited forests, was clearly confirmed. In total, 16 patches of such pristine forest, with a joint area of 301 ha, were recorded, whereof one single continuous piece constituted 236 ha, or nearly 80 % of the area. This comparably large patch was found in the south, on property of the National Property Board. Another continuous 24 ha piece, was also found in the center part, adjacent to formerly clear-cut forest. Unfortunately, in respect to this forest patch, a logging road now crosses straight through (Fig. 6).

In minor parts, fieldworkers found evidence of previous clear-cuttings. The existence of four young stands, seemingly been clear-cut in the past, were later searched for in old aerial photos. And thanks to these images clear-cuttings in the 50s-60s could be confirmed. Other young forest patches were seen, but former clear-cuttings could not be confirmed by viewing aerial data.



Figure 11. Large sections of the study area interior consists of low-productive forests. As seen in this image crossing these areas is cumbersome and requires great caution.

In the forests covering the area around the new logging road, we found no obvious difference to other sections of the surveyed forest. Similarly, the forest consisted of old-growth spruce stands, smaller pockets of pine and usually beneficial circumstances for dead wood species. The tree species goat willow and aspen occurred less frequently, and further to the east, outside the 243 ha circle however, signs of previous selective loggings became more evident, and dead wood scarcer.

Among the 53 red-listed species found throughout the survey, 32 (334 finds) were spotted inside the circle that was drawn along and around the logging road. Found inside were also 28 (141 finds) indicator species and 40 other species not currently red-listed or termed indicator species by the SFA. Among these, we spotted siberian jay (Fig. 12). Also, the drone-collected data provided insightful findings on dead wood density adjacent to the road.

The same general species patterns observed in other parts were repeated in this area. Near threatened polypore P. chrysoloma and O. leporina with 41 and 43 sightings respectively, were undoubtedly the most common red-listed species here. However, in contrast to the overall result, L. scrobiculata (NT) was less common with only 26 finds. Other frequently sighted species within the logging road circle were near threatened polypore species Fomitopsis rosea (Fig. 5), Phellinus ferrugineofuscus (17 and 16 finds), and lichens Chaenothecopsis viridialba, Chaenotheca subroscida, and Hypogymnia bitteri (14, 15 and 17 finds). The vulnerable species Skeletocutis odora and L. sulcata were spotted 6 and 8 times respectively. Also, the very rare Rhodonia placenta (VU) was found between the logging road and Dikanässjön. Many chew-marks of three-toed woodpeckers were seen, and during the last visit to the logging road, one individual was seen foraging on old spruce trunks along the road. For species found inside the newly planned logging site see Supplementary material S2.

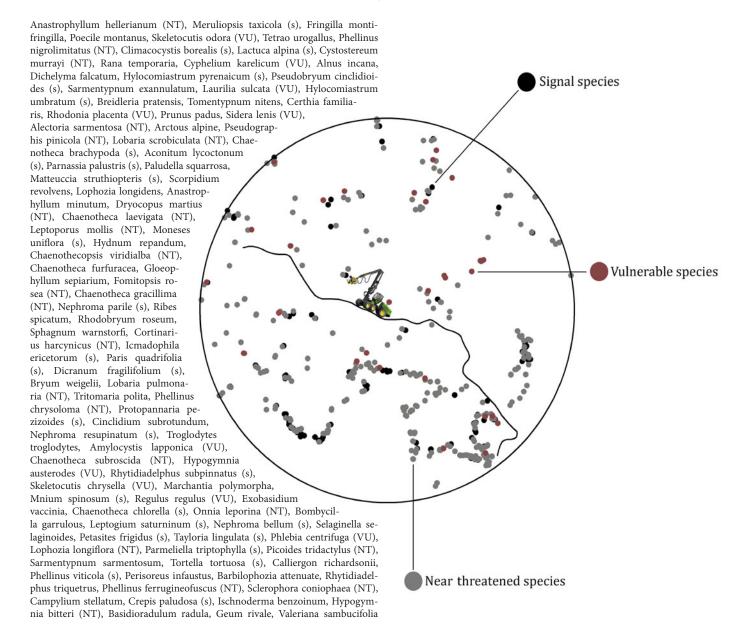


Figure 12. To the right a schematic view of the logging road and the 32 red-listed vulnerable and near threatened species, as well as the 28 SFA indicator species (s) found inside the 243 ha circle. To the left are the names of all species found inside the circle.

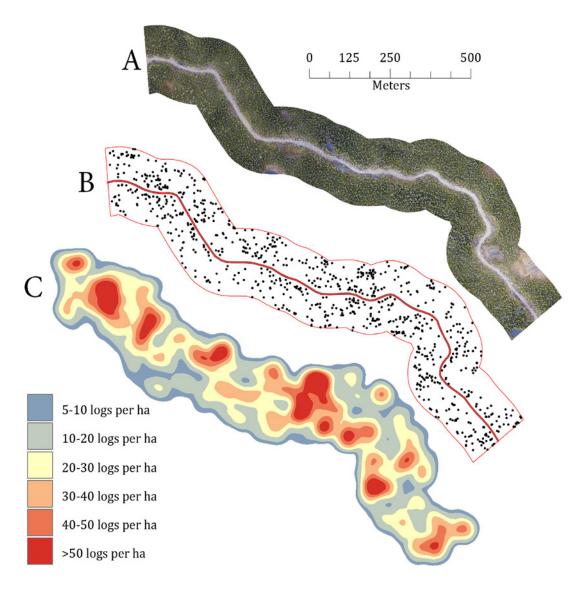


Figure 13. The ortophoto that was used to map Norway spruce logs (A) and all spruce logs as points inside the 100m buffer extending on both sides of the new logging road marked with a red line (B). In the bottom (C) the interpolated density of spruce logs in intervals of 10 logs per ha. Note that the planning of the road is seemingly unrelated to dead wood density. The low density in the outer part of the interpolation (C) is because no data was recorded outside the red line in panel B.

The dead wood survey revealed a mean dead wood density of 28,5 spruce logs per ha, and maximum densities of around 90 logs per ha (Fig. 13). Not surprisingly, density of spruce logs in most part coincided with standing volume of living biomass (Supplementary material S4). This result also confirms our general perception, that dead wood availability is highly dependent on productivity. The relation between dead wood density and the planning of the logging road is discussed below.

In the 9.5 ha logging notice in the very beginning of the first road section we found 14 red-listed species whereof one vulnerable (*L. sulcata*) and 14 near threatened (i.e. *F. rosea, Cystostereum murayi* and *H. bitteri*). Also, six indicator species were found, one singing hazel grouse was heard and traces of caper-

caillie seen. As in other parts, species occurrences largely coincide with presence of dead wood, and in turn these structures with productivity.

According to the logging notice and SFA's consultancy from December 2015 (Supplementary material S5) no proper field visit was made prior to constructing the new logging road. Hence, the new view on 18 § SvL was not considered, and more or less followed the same procedure seen in the logging notice from November 2014—the same technician planned the road without prior field visit (Supplementary material S6). The handling of the most recent logging notice from July 12 2017, considering final felling of the 9.5ha patch of old-growth forest, is yet to be seen.



Discussion

Our general interpretation of the results is that in this area, where forests have mostly remained undisturbed, structures crucial for boreal biodiversity, and hence the species that depends on these features, are flourishing. The multitude of red-listed species, that is a receipt of the elevated conservation value, should be a clear incentive for authorities to take action and protect these forests against destruction. In this section we strive to explain why protecting these last frontier forests is important. We also discuss the logging road and clear-cutting forestry in relation to current regulations.

Species finds

Many red-listed species are still common in old-growth forest, but are battling for survival in the managed landscape that completely dominates our country. Hence, single occurrences of red-listed species can be found in patches of old-growth forest, e.g. in WKHs and smaller nature reserves, but one rarely finds many red-listed species inside the same little patch. In the surveyed area, however, the forest is continuous and surrounded with similar habitats, which gives room for great variety in moisture, altitude and productivity. The diversity of habitat types, thus provide living space for many species—as seen in the result from this survey. This difference is due to the wellknown species-area relationship (MacArthur & Wilson 1967), which states that bigger areas may harbor larger number of species than smaller ones. For similar reasons, the continuous fragmentation of Sweden's forest landscape has reduced population sizes of our most characteristic forest species, in this area being a heavy bulk of cryptogams, plants and insects.

Nonetheless importantly, typical forest interior species suffer more from patch size effects than generalist species (Bender et al. 1998; *cf.* Bowers et al. 1997 for mammals). In our study of a large forest landscape, the most common vulnerable species was *L. sulcata*. In the grid-like landscape were forest management reigns, however, this species is utterly uncommon outside remaining patches of old-growth forest, and even there it is not easy to spot. An even more elusive species, *S. odora* (VU), was also found surprisingly often in Krutskogen. On the value pyramid for spruce forest introduced by Karström (1992) *S. odora* is put on the very top, indicating its high value for nature conservation. Hence, these large areas might be viewed on as valuable sources for rare forest species.

Forest values

We have surveyed and detected areas with considerably large proportion of very high conservation values. Not the least is forest age and the occurrence of valuable structures obvious. We also stumbled on rare remnant pristine forest, some now sadly dug through and blasted in half with dynamite. Here, note that these bits and pieces of the natural world are very hard to find.

In the small-scale events of single harvested forest patches, the change is direct and obvious. However, on larger scale, the change comes creeping and stepwise until one suddenly realizes that the former landscape is completely altered. This fact becomes frighteningly evident when watching from above satellite images acquired from the 70s until present (for a visualization see the <u>animation</u> by Andersson 2015). Here, in this large-scale animation of clear-cutting forestry and logging road construc-

tions, we can appreciate the full effect of stepwise, relatively small-scale changes. The resulting situation is characterized by a trivialized patchwork of plantations in varying degree managed with further thinning, and later again clear-felling. Stretching through the patchwork is a fishnet-like network of logging roads. Novel ideas to restore smaller forest fragments in this situation is doubtlessly beneficial for marginalized populations of urging forest species, but they can never replace large continuous and unharmed forest landscapes. By letting the forest in our study area fall, the resulting image will be very similar to the 2013 situation in the animation.

Our 35 sqkm study area constitute a minor section of old-growth forest reaching between Marsfjället's nature reserve in the south and Dikasjön-Vojmsjön in the north (County Administrative of Board Västerbotten 2017). In this huge area, exceeding 100sqkm of land, forests, mires and small waterways are under urgent threat. New logging roads are constructed on the fly with little consideration when logging awaits, and new gaps in the formerly even crown cover opens up. All in favor of economy, and safeguarded by poor legislation. Also, old-growth forests, undisturbed by mechanized forestry, that thus have been storing CO_2 for millennia, will now be cut down and used as biofuels to magically "save the climate". The failed logic in this mission is rarely spoken of by Swedish politicians, however.

Roads and planned logging sites

Forests landscapes like the one described in this report can hardly be harvested in compliance with current regulations in 30 § 7:17 and 7:19 SvL. Neither was it wise of the SFA to authorize logging without a thorough field survey, as suggested in 18 § 2010:930 SvL. According to the forest owner, themselves perform no field surveys prior to filing logging notices (pers. comments), and leave it up the SFA to decide whether logging should be allowed. In this case, however, the law book seems to have been completely forgotten. But what about the definition of WKHs—if a proper survey had been conducted prior to the construction of this new logging road?

Comparing our result on species occurrences with the WKH-checklist (Supplementary material S3) for spruce, constructed by the SFA, revealed interesting features: In respect to red-listed species alone, the leftmost column "minimal requirements" 1-5 completely lack criteria on species finds, and hence, guides us to not move on to the next level "decisive criteria". Thus, without features like coarse tree trunks, age or dead wood, as minimal requirements, the survey stops right there; independent of numerous species finds. Nevertheless, with all the structures found in the survey, we undoubtedly hit the roof on the minimal criteria. So, let us move on to the decisive criteria 1-9. Here a minimum of two criteria needs to be fulfilled. As number one, reads "clear presence of wood fungi on spruce"—check! And the bottom row, i.e. number 9 reads "tall herb vegetation"

with e.g. *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, *Lactuca alpine*". The second of these two species were found a couple of times—check! The rest of the decisive criteria contain mostly structural features: age, dead wood and tree size whereof number 3, 4 and 5 are fulfilled in the circle around the road, and also number 7 if the entire study area is included. To the right is "supporting criteria" A-Ä, were 9 out of the 27 criteria needs to be fulfilled. On row R and S reads "occurrence of red-listed species", and "occurrence of indicator species" respectively. We found many of these even around the logging road alone—check! However, without structures, our massive species list would yield no WKH-classification. Luckily, structural components A-Q and Ä was easily checked, mostly even around the logging road.

Comparing the measured values around the new logging road, of red-listed species finds and dead wood density, gives further guidance. On average, there was 28,5 dead lying spruce trees per ha with several hotspots more or less packed with dead wood. Hence, dead wood density was far above what is required by the WKH-checklist. The mean number of dead wood decaying fungi, however, was only about 6 per ha. But then remember, the species survey only covered a tiny fraction of the 243ha circle and trivial species of wood fungi was not recorded. Thus, the true density can very well be several hundred per ha. Nonetheless, the SFA certainly did not classify the forest around the new logging road as very rich on any of the criteria in the checklist. According to the logging notice, instead, the SFA completely ignored the high conservation value and guided the road construction themselves (Supplementary material S5). The handling of the last logging notice from July 12, 2017 remains to be

To the SFA's defense, this is not the typical nor the most suitable area to apply this checklist. It is made to survey small forest islands not large landscapes with a mixture of habitat types. Nevertheless, the checklist's overwhelming imbalance between criteria to record structures and criteria to highlight occurrence of rare species, is worrying—inventory specialists are risking overseeing high conservation values. In conclusion, if formal protection is not suitable, and the SFA is allowed to use their checklists inside large forest landscapes, as the one presented in this study, then severe fragmentation will likely be the outcome. The checklist encourages tunnel vision!

As an example of SFA-reasoning on the subject, in a recent explanation by SFA-represent Göran Rune (2017), the author concludes that it is not the occurrence of red-listed species that determines the conservation value of forests. Instead one should aim to evaluate the bigger picture—i.e. structures, forest and age altogether, and lastly the value of species finds. Nevertheless, we shall never forget that in nature conservation it is the species we are ultimately trying to preserve, not the structures nor the age of trees! And with many finds of rare red-listed species in an area, what is then left to ponder on?





Conclusions

The results of our survey clearly highlight the existence of remaining high conservation values in these large forest land-scapes in northern Sweden. Furthermore, the results show that selective cuttings done 60-70 years ago have indeed affected parts of the forest negatively, due to reduction of valuable substrates, but despite past minor influences still contain high nature values. Also, our overall interpretation is that forest owners leave it up the authority, in most cases the SFA, to judge the future of these landscapes with varying result. In lack of time or interest, on behalf of the authority, forests are cut unknowingly of valuable species, structures, and habitats.

In respect to the scarcity of large continuous old-growth forest landscapes, from Swedish, and European perspective also, we suggest that Sweden prioritize mapping and protection of remaining conservation values in these large forest landscapes. Here, the value of size and continuity should be set before downgrading values of i.e. the presence of ancient stumps or minor sections of previously clear-cut forest.

Concerning our study area, we suggest that the SFA consider to withdraw the authorization of the new logging road. Here, obviously, the SFA made the wrong decision, neglected the ur-

gent need to make a proper field survey, and sent a technician without knowledge on forest ecology to simply plan the road. Furthermore, the road should be removed and the ground restored to its original condition. In time new forest will retake what was wrongly removed. Also, regarding other loggings in this area and beyond, the SFA should always make a field visit after receiving filed logging notices.

Too many old-growth forests with high conservation values are furtively destroyed by selective cuttings each year, and later clear-felled because they then—in the shadow of the recent cutting—lack high conservation values. It is a dirty trick, but works well in a country with utterly relaxed forestry regulation. Therefore, to avoid these mistakes, just as final felling needs a formal logging notice, selective cuttings should be preceded by the same procedure.

Finally, we urge the State, and also the European Union, to take action to preserve these last unprotected frontier forests. By leaving these forests in the fate of our slumberous forest regulation these forests will soon be harvested and the result will stand as a sad reminder of past neglect and failure. Just preserve these last unprotected frontier forests!

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Supplementary material S1. All species and species counts from the filed survey in Krutskogen. The entire set of species are listed first according to red-list category with VU first and then NT. After these species comes SFA indicator species, Birds Directory Annex 1 species and lastly species that currently cannot be referred to any of these categories.

Category	Scientific name	Swedish trivial name	Count
VU	Amylocystis lapponica	Lappticka	11
VU	Antrodia albobrunnea	Fläckporing	2
VU	Cyphelium karelicum	Liten sotlav	19
VU	Diplomitoporus crustulinus	Sprickporing	1
VU	Gulo gulo	Järv	1
VU	Hypogymnia austerodes	Mörk blåslav	7
VU	Junghuhnia collabens	Blackticka	1
VU	Laurilia sulcata	Tajgaskinn	71
VU	Phlebia centrifuga	Rynkskinn	37
VU	Poecile cinctus	Lappmes	3
VU	Regulus regulus	Kungsfågel	9
VU	Rhodonia placenta	Laxporing	1
VU	Sidera lenis	Gräddporing	5
VU	Skeletocutis chrysella	Grantickeporing	6
VU	Skeletocutis odora	Ostticka	22
NT	Alectoria sarmentosa	Garnlav	82
NT	Alloclavaria purpurea	Purpurfingersvamp	1
NT	Anastrophyllum hellerianum	Vedtrappmossa	3
NT	Asterodon ferruginosus	Stjärntagging	13
NT	Bryoria nadvornikiana	Violettgrå tagellav	1
NT	Calicium denigratum	Blanksvart spiklav	10
NT	Callidium coriaceum	Bronshjon	2
NT	Chaenotheca gracillima	Brunpudrad nållav	11
NT	Chaenotheca laevigata	Nordlig nållav	5
NT	Chaenotheca subroscida	Vitgrynig nållav	65
NT	Chaenothecopsis fennica	Blågrå svartspik	1
NT	Chaenothecopsis viridialba	Vitskaftad svartspik	31
NT	Chaetodermella luna	Vitplätt	5
NT	Cladonia parasitica	Dvärgbägarlav	2
NT	Clavariadelphus truncatus	Flattoppad klubbsvamp	2
NT	Cortinarius harcynicus	Barrviolspindling	1
NT	Cystostereum murrayi	Doftskinn	59
NT	Dryocopus martius	Spillkråka	11
NT	Fomitopsis rosea	Rosenticka	117
NT	Hertelidea botryosa	Vedskivlav	5
NT	Hypocenomyce anthracophila	Kolflarnlav	4
NT	Hypogymnia bitteri	Knottrig blåslav	175
NT	Leptoporus mollis	Kötticka	30
NT	Lobaria pulmonaria	Lunglav	30
NT	Lobaria scrobiculata	Skrovellav	300
NT	Lophozia longiflora	Vedflikmossa	18
NT	Odonticium romellii	Nordtagging	2
NT	Onnia leporina	Harticka	214
NT	Peltigera collina	Grynig filtlav	1
NT	Phellinus chrysoloma	Granticka	312
111	1 11011111113 0111 y 301011111	Granticka	312

NT	Phellinus ferrugineofuscus	Ullticka	123
NT	Phellinus nigrolimitatus	Gränsticka	147
NT	Picoides tridactylus	Tretåig hackspett	356
NT	Pseudographis pinicola	Gammelgransskål	155
NT	Ramboldia elabens	Vedflamlav	1
NT	Sclerophora coniophaea	Rödbrun blekspik	37
NT	Trichaptum laricinum	Violmussling	3
NT	Ursus arctos	Brunbjörn	1
indicator species	Aconitum lycoctonum subsp. septentrionale	Nordisk stormhatt	68
indicator species	Arthonia spadicea	Glansfläck	1
indicator species	Bryoria fremontii	Talltagel	2
indicator species	Chaenotheca brachypoda	Gulnål	4
indicator species	Chaenotheca chlorella	Kornig nållav	3
indicator species	Climacocystis borealis	Trådticka	14
indicator species	Corallorhiza trifida	Korallrot	3
indicator species	Crepis paludosa	Kärrfibbla	5
indicator species	Cyphelium inquinans	Sotlav	1
indicator species	Dactylorhiza maculata sp.	Fläcknycklar sp	1
indicator species	Dactylorhiza maculata subsp. maculata	Jungfru Marie nycklar	1
indicator species	Dicranum fragilifolium	Skör kvastmossa	3
indicator species	Elymus caninus	Lundelm	1
indicator species	Hylocomiastrum pyrenaicum	Grov husmossa	11
indicator species	Hylocomiastrum umbratum	Mörk husmossa	36
indicator species	Icmadophila ericetorum	Vitmosslav	56
indicator species	Inonotus rheades	Rävticka	1
indicator species	Lactarius zonarioides	Granriska	1
indicator species	Lactuca alpina	Torta	15
indicator species	Leptogium saturninum	Skinnlav	25
indicator species	Matteuccia struthiopteris	Strutbräken	1
indicator species	Meruliopsis taxicola	Blodticka	13
indicator species	Mnium spinosum	Taggstjärnmossa	3
indicator species	Moneses uniflora	Ögonpyrola	15
indicator species	Neottia cordata	Spindelblomster	19
indicator species	Nephroma arcticum	Norrlandslav	3
indicator species	Nephroma bellum	Stuplav	148
indicator species	Nephroma parile	Bårdlav	78
indicator species	Nephroma resupinatum	Luddlav	62
indicator species	Nephroma sp.	Njurlav sp	3
indicator species	Paris quadrifolia	Ormbär	10
indicator species	Parmeliella triptophylla	Korallblylav	1
indicator species	Parnassia palustris	Slåtterblomma	4
indicator species	Petasites frigidus	Fjällskråp	9
indicator species	Phellinus viticola	Vedticka	53
indicator species	Philonotis fontana	Källmossa	1
indicator species	Protopannaria pezizoides	Gytterlav	3
indicator species	Pseudobryum cinclidioides	Källpraktmossa	13
indicator species	Rhytidiadelphus subpinnatus	Skogshakmossa	13
indicator species	Sarcodon imbricatus/squamosus	Fjällig taggsvamp	1

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indicator species	Saussurea alpina	Fjällskära	2
indicator species	Tayloria lingulata	Kärrtrumpetmossa	1
indicator species	Tortella tortuosa	Kruskalkmossa	3
Birds Directive A1	Cygnus cygnus	Sångsvan	1
Birds Directive A1	Glaucidium passerinum	Sparvuggla	1
Birds Directive A1	Lyrurus tetrix	Orre	1
Birds Directive A1	Pandion haliaetus	Fiskgjuse	2
Birds Directive A1	Tetrao urogallus	Tjäder	18
Birds Directive A1	Tetrastes bonasia	Järpe	3
Birds Directive A1	Tringa glareola	Grönbena	3
Other species	Acanthis flammea	Gråsiska	3
Other species	Alnus incana	Gråal	1
Other species	Anas penelope	Bläsand	1
Other species	Anastrophyllum minutum	Liten trappmossa	1
Other species	Antrodia heteromorpha	Tickmussling	7
Other species	Antrodia serialis	Knölticka	1
Other species	Antrodia sinuosa	Timmerticka	1
Other species	Antrodia xantha	Citronticka	4
Other species	Arctous alpina	Ripbär	1
Other species	Barbilophozia attenuata	Pigglummermossa	1
Other species	Basidioradulum radula	Piggplätt	1
Other species	Bombycilla garrulus	Sidensvans	4
Other species	Breidleria pratensis	Skrynkelfläta	2
Other species	Bryum pseudotriquetrum var. pseudotriquetrum	Kärrbryum	1
Other species	Bryum weigelii	Bandbryum	4
Other species	Calicium trabinellum	Gulkantad spiklav	2
Other species	Calliergon giganteum	Stor skedmossa	1
Other species	Calliergon richardsonii	Guldskedmossa	2
Other species	Campylium protensum	Sumpspärrmossa	1
Other species	Campylium stellatum	Guldspärrmossa	2
Other species	Carex livida	Vitstarr	1
Other species	Carex pauciflora	Taggstarr	1
Other species	Cerrena unicolor	Slingerticka	2
Other species	Certhia familiaris	Trädkrypare	1
Other species	Cetraria sp.	Islandslavar	1
Other species	Chaenotheca furfuracea	Ärgnål	1
Other species	Cinclidium subrotundum	Trubbuddmossa	1
Other species	Columba palumbus	Ringduva	1
Other species	Convallaria majalis	Liljekonvalj	1
Other species	Corvus corax	Korp	3
Other species	Cyanistes caeruleus	Blåmes	1
Other species	Cyphelium sp.	Sotlavar	2
Other species	Dichelyma falcatum	Klomossa	1
Other species	Erigeron acris	Gråbinka	1
Other species	Erithacus rubecula	Rödhake	1
Other species	Exobasidium vaccinii	Lingonsvulst	1
Other species	Fomitopsis pinicola	Klibbticka	1
Other species	Fragaria vesca	Smultron	1
P • • • • • •	0		-

Other species	Fringilla montifringilla	Bergfink	1
Other species	Geum rivale	Humleblomster	11
Other species	Gloeophyllum sepiarium	Vedmussling	11
Other species	Gloeoporus dichrous	Tvåfärgsticka	2
Other species	Gyromitra esculenta	Stenmurkla	1
Other species	Harpanthus flotovianus	Stor måntandsmossa	1
Other species	Heterobasidion annosum	Rotticka	5
Other species	Hydnum repandum	Blek taggsvamp	4
Other species	Hypocenomyce scalaris	Flarnlav	3
Other species	Icmadophila ericetorum	Vitmosslav	2
Other species	Inonotus obliquus	Sprängticka	2
Other species	Ischnoderma benzoinum	Sotticka	13
Other species	Lactarius deterrimus	Blodriska	1
Other species	Lactarius leonis	Lejonriska	2
Other species	Lagopus lagopus	Dalripa	6
Other species	Loeskypnum badium	Mässingmossa	2
Other species	Lophozia longidens	Hornflikmossa	1
Other species	Loxia leucoptera	Bändelkorsnäbb	2
Other species	Loxia pytyopsittacus	Större korsnäbb	1
Other species	Lycopodium complanatum	Plattlummer	1
Other species	Marchantia polymorpha subsp. montivagans	Fjällungmossa	1
Other species	Meesia triquetra	Trekantig svanmossa	1
Other species	Milium effusum	Hässlebrodd	2
Other species	Molinia caerulea	Blåtåtel	1
Other species	Muscicapa striata	Grå flugsnappare	1
Other species	Paludella squarrosa	Piprensarmossa	2
Other species	Perisoreus infaustus	Lavskrika	16
Other species	Phellinus conchatus	Sälgticka	3
Other species	Phellinus ignarius sp.	Eldticka sp	1
Other species	Phellinus laevigatus	Valkticka	1
Other species	Phellinus lundellii	Björkeldticka	3
Other species	Phellinus nigricans	Svart eldticka	1
Other species	Philonotis sp.	Källmossor	2
Other species	Phragmites australis	Vass	1
Other species	Phylloscopus collybita	Gransångare	1
Other species	Pinicola enucleator	Tallbit	7
Other species Other species	Poecile montanus	Talltita	11
Other species Other species	Pohlia wahlenbergii	Bäcknicka	1
Other species Other species	Polypodium vulgare	Stensöta	3
Other species Other species	Postia caesia	Blåticka	4
-		Bitterticka	
Other species	Postia stiptica		1
Other species	Postia tephroleuca Prunella modularis	Mjölkticka	1
Other species		Järnsparv	1
Other species	Prunus padus	Hägg	2
Other species	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Domherre	1
Other species	Rana temporaria	Vanlig groda	1
Other species	Rhodobryum roseum	Rosmossa	2
Other species	Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus	Kransmossa	13

Other species	Ribes spicatum	Skogsvinbär	4
Other species	Rubus idaeus	Hallon	1
Other species	Sarcomyxa serotina	Grönmussling	5
Other species	Sarmentypnum exannulatum	Kärrkrokmossa	1
Other species	Sarmentypnum sarmentosum	Blodkrokmossa	3
Other species	Scapania uliginosa	Purpurskapania	1
Other species	Sciurus vulgaris	Ekorre	1
Other species	Scorpidium revolvens	Röd skorpionmossa	2
Other species	Scorpidium scorpioides	Korvskorpionmossa	2
Other species	Selaginella selaginoides	Dvärglummer	5
Other species	Spathularia flavida	Spadmurkling	2
Other species	Sphagnum subfulvum	Brun glansvitmossa	1
Other species	Sphagnum warnstorfii	Purpurvitmossa	7
Other species	Splachnum luteum	Gul parasollmossa	1
Other species	Stellaria nemorum subsp. nemorum	Nordlundarv	1
Other species	Stereum sanguinolentum	Blödskinn	1
Other species	Tomentypnum nitens	Gyllenmossa	4
Other species	Trichaptum abietinum	Violticka	14
Other species	Trichaptum fuscoviolaceum	Violtagging	1
Other species	Trichophorum alpinum	Snip	2
Other species	Tringa nebularia	Gluttsnäppa	1
Other species	Tringa ochropus	Skogssnäppa	1
Other species	Tritomaria polita	Kärrlobmossa	1
Other species	Troglodytes troglodytes	Gärdsmyg	2
Other species	Valeriana sambucifolia	Flädervänderot	1
Other species	Veluticeps abietina	Daggskinn	2

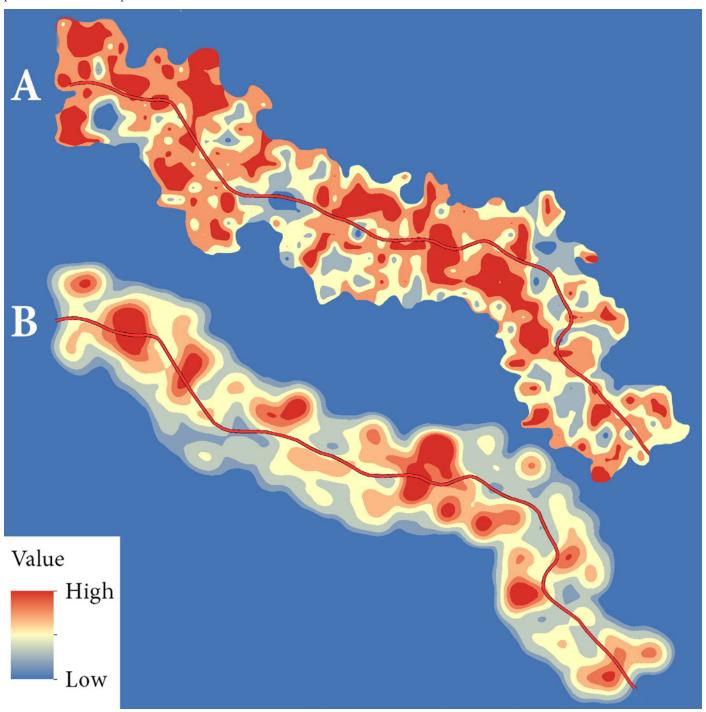
Supplementary material S2. Species and species counts from the planned logging site. The entire set of species are listed first according to red-list category with VU first and then NT. After these species comes SFA indicator species, Birds Directory Annex 1 species and lastly species that currently cannot be referred to any of these categories.

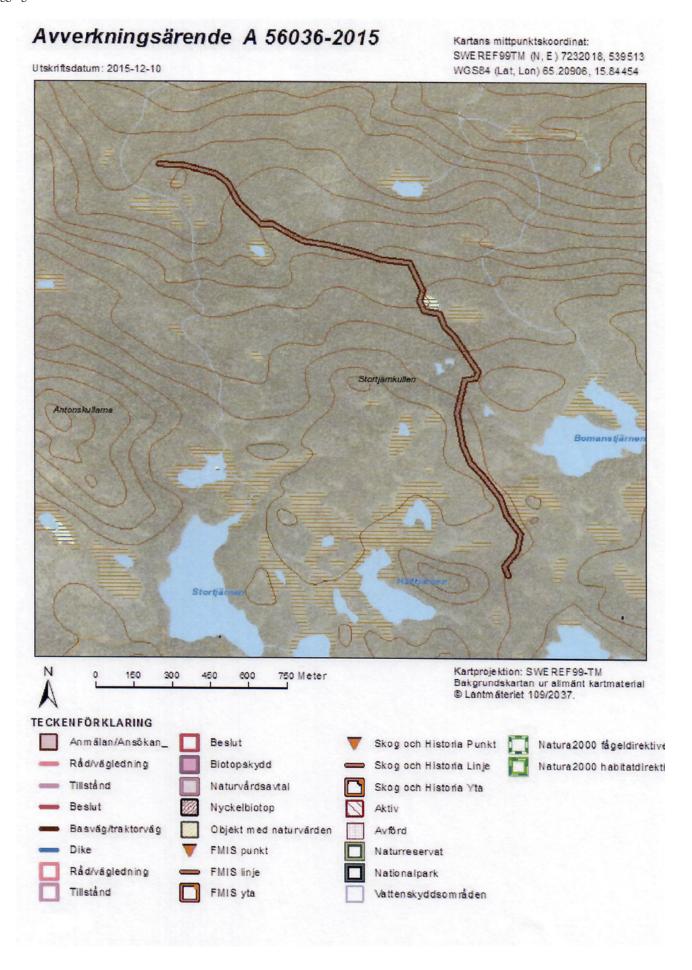
Category	Scientific name	Swedish trivial name	Count	
VU	Laurilia sulcata	Tajgaskinn	1	
NT	Cystostereum murrayi	Doftskinn	1	
NT	Pseudographis pinicola	Gammelgransskål	3	
NT	Phellinus chrysoloma	Granticka	17	
NT	Phellinus nigrolimitatus	Gränsticka	10	
NT	Onnia leporina	Harticka	7	
NT	Hypogymnia bitteri	Knottrig blåslav	2	
NT	Fomitopsis rosea	Rosenticka	3	
NT	Sclerophora coniophaea	Rödbrun blekspik	2	
NT	Lobaria scrobiculata	Skrovellav	2	
NT	Asterodon ferruginosus	Stjärntagging	1	
NT	Picoides tridactylus	Tretåig hackspett	11	
NT	Phellinus ferrugineofuscus	Ullticka	5	
NT	Chaenotheca subroscida	Vitgrynig nållav	2	
indicator species	Nephroma parile	Bårdlav	2	
indicator species	Aconitum lycoctonum subsp. septentrionale	Nordisk stormhatt	3	
indicator species	Neottia cordata	Spindelblomster	11	
indicator species	Nephroma bellum	Stuplav	3	
indicator species	Phellinus viticola	Vedticka	2	
indicator species	Moneses uniflora	Ögonpyrola	2	
Birds Directive A1	Boanasa bonasia	Järpe	1	
Birds Directive A1	Tetrao urogallus	Tjäder	1	
Other species	Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus	Kransmossa	1	
Other species	Cerrena unicolor	Slingerticka	1	
Other species	Gyromitra esculenta	Stenmurkla	1	
Other species	Poecile montanus	Talltita	1	

Supplementary material S3. The WKH-checklist with minimal requirements (left column), decisive criteria (middle column) and supporting criteria (right column) for spruce forest north of Limes Norrlandicus.

MINIMIKRAV Om någon av nedanstående punkter finns, gå vidare till utslagsgivande.	UTSLAGSGIVANDE Finns en eller två av nedanstående punkter är det sannolikt en NB (förutsatt att Minimikravet är uppfyllt).	STÖDKRITERIER Faktorer som styrker NB-kvalitet. Finns 9 av punkterna kan området vara NB trots att nivån "Utslagsgivande" inte uppfylls.	
Tydligt inslag av tråd > 40 cm i diameter Beståndets ålder > 100 år Flera rötbrutna träd Förekomst av lågor i olika nedbrytningsstadier Varierande beståndsstruktur (t.ex. luckor, gruppställdhet, skiktning) Älderdomlig kulturmarksprägel (t.ex. skogsbete, fåbodsmiljöer)	1	A	
Förekomst: 1-2/hektar Flera: 2-5/hektar Rikligt: >20/hektar "sätta prägel på", iögon *) Kalkgynnade arter: t.ex. orkidéer, tibast,	fallande		
Se vidare förteckning i <u>Låga</u> : används bara för liggande stammar me	Naturvårdsverkets Rapport 5967-2009, bilaga 4.	P Flera grova lövträd > 30 cm Q Flera av torrträd/högstubbar >1,3 m R Förekomst av rödlistad art S Förekomst av signalart (ej rödlistad) T Förekomst av ädellövträd	
 Blanketten ska inte användas för a tänkt att vara ett stöd. Uppfylls kri nyckelbiotopsinventerare för att 	OBS! att "bevisa" nyckelbiotpsstatus eller inte, utan är iterierna bör man ta kontakt med erfaren	U ☐ Förekomst av halträd/risbo V ☐ Förekomst av stora myrstackar > 1,5 m X ☐ Förekomst av lodyta > 1,5 m Y ☐ Förkomst av levermossor på död ved Z ☐ Förekomst av källa/källpåverkad mark Å ☐ Förekomst av klibbal Ä ☐ Färska spår av hackmärken från tretåig hackspett	

Supplementary material S4. Images representing the standing total volume of living wood biomass (A) and the density of spruce logs (B) around the new logging road. The interpolation of biomass is done over a larger area than the density of spruce logs, hence in the outer edges of the interpolation data is less comparable.

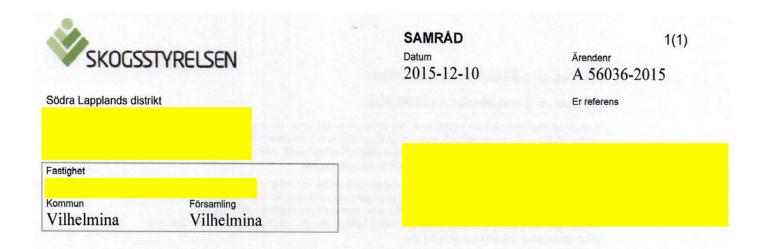




Supplementary material S5 part 2. An excerpt from the 2015 logging notice for the new logging road. In field I 1 and 3 reads "planning made on snow-free ground" and "planned by the Swedish Forestry Agency's ...". The road was planned by staff from the authority. This was after the precedent ruling in 2015.

. Hänsyn till mark och vatten				
Jag avser att ta hänsyn för att förhindra eller begräns Körskador Skador	sa på allmänt nyttjade sti	gar/leder 🗆 s	Skador nå vatten vi	d terránakörnin
	på vatten vid skyddsd	ikning och 🗌 F		och vatten vid
Beskriv de åtgärder du planerar för att förhindra eller		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IS NOT THE OWNER.	THE RESERVE THE PARTY OF THE PA	uobai
☐ Avverkningen berör en fornlämning som skyd	ldas av kulturmiljöl	agen.		
I. Planerad hänsyn till rennäringen				
Inom renskötselområdet är redovisningen obligatoris				
Utanför de områden där renskötsel får bedrivas kräv				
Den berörda samebyn har fått möjlighet till samrå	, ,	evis)		
Samråd med berörd sameby har genomförts. (B				
Inom eller angränsande mot avverkningsområdet fin			П.	
☐ 26 Arbetshage ☐ 28 Flyttled ☐ 27 Beteshage ☐ 29 Rastbete		nlingsområde		/sbärande skog
	☐ 31 Svår pa	issage	33 Kalvning	gsiand
Jag kommer att ta hänsyn genom att ☐ 34 Vinteravverka ☐ 36 Spara hänglavsbära	anda 🖂 27 Annona	a hyggaaatarlal	₩ 120 Annana	a akasahih Ma
☐ 35 Spara kantzoner trädgrupper		a hyggesstorlel entrera hyggen		reda skonsamt
Beskriv övrig hänsyn som du planerar att ta till renna		entrera myggen	L 40 Walkbei	eua skonsann
. Frivilliga kompletterande uppgifter 1. Skogsvårdsavtal och avverkningsplanering				
Det finns avtal om föryngringsåtgärder mellan sk	ogsägaren och virkes	sköpande eller	annat företag	
Avverkningsplaneringen är gjord i fält på barmark	på snö	□р	oå kontoret via bild	material
2. Markberedningsmetod				
☐ Hög ☐ Fläck ☐ Långfläck ☐ Inve	rs Harv	Fräs	Bränning	Annan
3. Övriga upplysningar				
PLANELAD AV SI	10.			
10,000 0 1,0 3.				

Supplementary material S5 part 3. An excerpt from the 2015 consultation agreement between the SFA and the forest owner. The SFA wrote "the Swedish Forest Agency has no objection against the planned arrangement". This was after the precedent ruling in 2015.



Samråd om skogsbruksåtgärder

Du har anmält en planerad skogsbilväg till Skogsstyrelsen. Skogsstyrelsen har tagit upp frågan som ett samråd enligt 12 kap. 6 § miljöbalken (1998:808).

Skogsstyrelsen har inget att invända mot den planerade åtgärden.

Enligt 12 kap. 6 § miljöbalken får åtgärden påbörjas tidigast sex veckor efter det att anmälan gjorts om inte Skogsstyrelsen medger annat.



Supplementary material S6 part 2. An excerpt from the 2014 consultation agreement between the SFA and the forest owner. The SFA wrote "the Swedish Forest Agency has no objection against the planned arrangement". With this, the land owner was free to build the road. This was before the precedent ruling in 2015, however.



Samråd om skogsbruksåtgärder

Du har ansökt om tillstånd för avverkning av väggata för planerad skogsbilväg till Skogsstyrelsen. Skogsstyrelsen har tagit upp frågan som ett samråd enligt 12 kap. 6 § miljöbalken (1998:808).

Skogsstyrelsen har inget att invända mot den planerade åtgärden.

Enligt 12 kap. 6 § miljöbalken får åtgärden påbörjas tidigast sex veckor efter det att anmälan gjorts om inte Skogsstyrelsen medger annat.

Max Göran Sehlström

Utdrag ur gällande bestämmelser 12 kap. 6 § miljöbalken (1998:808)

Kan en verksamhet eller en åtgärd som inte omfattas av tillstånds- eller anmälningsplikt enligt andra bestämmelser i denna balk komma att väsentligt ändra naturmiljön, skall anmälan för samråd göras hos den myndighet som utövar tillsynen enligt bestämmelser i 26 kap. eller bestämmelser som har meddelats med stöd av samma kapitel.

Regeringen eller den myndighet som regeringen bestämmer får meddela föreskrifter om att det inom landet eller en del av landet alltid skall göras en anmälan för samråd i fråga om särskilda slag av verksamheter eller åtgärder som kan medföra skada på naturmiljön. Regeringen eller den myndighet som regeringen bestämmer får också meddela föreskrifter om vilka uppgifter en anmälan skall innehålla.

Verksamhet eller åtgärd som skall anmälas för samråd får påbörjas tidigast sex veckor efter det att anmälan har gjorts, om inte tillsynsmyndigheten medger något annat.

Den myndighet som avses i första stycket får förelägga den anmälningsskyldige att vidta de åtgärder som behövs för att begränsa eller motverka skada på naturmiljön. Om sådana åtgärder inte är tillräckliga och det är nödvändigt för skyddet av naturmiljön, får myndigheten förbjuda verksamheten. Bestämmelser om rätt till ersättning vid ett sådant föreläggande eller förbud finns i 31 kap

Supplementary material S6 part 3. An excerpt from the 2014 logging notice for the older logging road. In field I 1 and 3 reads "planning made on snow-free ground" and "planned by the Swedish Forestry Agency". The road was planned by staff from the authority. This was before the precedent ruling in 2015, however.

Skyddszoner (markeras på karta)		
Avverkningsområdet gränsar mot		
21 Skogligt impediment 22 Vatten 23 Kultu	urmiljö 24 Bebyggelse	25 Öppen jordbruksmark
Jag avser att ta följande hänsyn		
4. Träd, trädsamlingar och döda träd		
Jag avser att ta hänsyn genom att lämna kvar		
	Trad med brand-/kulturspår	☐ Naturliga högstubbar
	☐ Hassel, lind, lönn, ask, alm, rön☐ Vårdträd/bärande träd	
Hålträd/boträd Ovanliga trädslag och buskar	vardtrad/barande trad	Andra trad
5. Hänsyn till mark och vatten		
Jag avser att ta hänsyn för att förhindra eller begränsa		
		dor på vatten vid terrängkörning
Näringsläckage och slamtransport till ☐ Skador på vatt sjöar och vattendrag		surning av mark och vatten vid g av grot och stubbar
Atgarder för att förhindra eller begränsa skador på mark o	ch i vatten	
Fornlämning som skyddas av kulturmiljölagen berð	ors av avverkningen	
H. Redovisning av planerad hänsyn till rennäringe	en	
Avverkningen ligger		
inom året-runt-marker, redovisning av planerad hänsyn	obligatorisk	_
utanför året-runt-markerna men inom renskötselområde		syn frivillig
Berörd sameby har beretts tillfälle till samråd. Skriftligt	bevis bifogas.	
	S.	
Inom eller angränsande mot avverkningsområdet finns		
26 Arbetshage 28 Flyttled	30 Uppsamlingsområde	32 Hänglavsbärande skog
27 Beteshage 29 Rastbete	31 Svår passage	33 Kalvningsland
Jag avser att ta hänsyn genom att ☐ 34 Vinteravverka ☐ 36 Spara hänglavsbärande	C 27 Appages bygggesterlek	₩ 20 Appages skagebilväg
☐ 35 Spara kantzoner trädgrupper	☐ 37 Anpassa hyggesstorlek ☐ 38 Ej koncentrera hyggen	□ 39 Anpassa skogsbilväg □ 40 Markbereda skonsamt
Övrig hänsyn till rennäringen	_ 30 L) koncentrera nyggen	40 Walkbereda skonsanit
I. Frivilliga kompletterande uppgifter		
Skogsvårdsavtal och avverkningsplanering		
Avtal om föryngringsåtgärder finns mellan skogsägarer	n och virkesköpande eller annat	företag
Avverkningsplaneringen är gjord		
☑ i fält på barmark ☐ i fält på	snö 🔲 på l	contoret via bildmaterial
2. Markberedningsmetod		
☐ Hög ☐ Fläck ☐ Långfläck ☐ Invers	☐ Harv ☐ Fräs	☐ Bränning ☐ Annan
Övriga upplysningar		
P . CY CT	West to	
PLANELSD AV SKUKSST.	reses	