

# The main issues Latvian forest owners face today

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The three main issues today are:

- Biological diversity
- Game management
- How to be smart when selling wood

# Biological diversity



# Biological diversity

- Most of the private forest owners are interested in promoting some biological diversity in their forests.
- But too much diversity can lead to your forest compartments being identified as valuable biotopes.
- State organized biotope inventories have lead to forest owners increasing their cutting.
- We have also seen forest owners selling their family forest because forestry is becoming too risky.

# Biological diversity

- In Article 105 of the Constitution it is stated, that «property cannot be used against the interests of society».
- Today in Latvia protected areas can be created on a property against the will of the owner.
- Once a protected area has been created, it is very difficult to cancel.
- Impact of the forest management restrictions is practically not compensated.
- If a valuable biotope has been found on the property, it is difficult to sell wood from that compartment even if cutting is completely legal.

# Biological diversity

- Forest owners need to have a better understanding of biological values in their forest. They need to be educated about them.
- If forest owners would have the confidence, that they can manage biological diversity, they would be less likely to destroy diversity just in case.
- Such understanding would be valuable for those forest owners, who want to manage their forests for maximizing the biological values.
- In this project we have made a simple tool, which allows a forest owner, with no professional training, to make an approximate estimation of the biological value of his/her compartments.

# Biological diversity

Pazīme	Punkti	Piezīmes
Audzi veido dažāda vecuma koki (piemēram daļa koku ir vecāki nekā to vairums).		Skatāties šo atšķirīgo koku skaitu.
Ir ļoti lielu dimensiju koki (resnāki par 50 cm).		Skatāties koku skaitu.
Ir lēni augoši (žuburaini) ļoti veci koki.		Skatāties koku skaitu.
Audzē ir nelieli laukumi ar grupveida paaugu (piemēram mazo eglišu grupas).		Skatāties šādu grupu skaitu.
Audzē ir nokaltuši stāvoši koki vai stumbeņi ar diametru purvainos mežos virs 20 cm, pārējos mežos virs 25 cm.		Skaitām nokaltušos kokus vai stumbeņus.
Ir kritālas (uz zemes guļoši koki) kuru diametrs purvainos mežos pārsniedz 20 cm, pārējos mežos 30 cm.		Skaitām kritālas.
Ir ar saknēm izgāzti (piemēram egles) lieli koki.		Skaitām kokus.
Ir putnu sakalti augoši vai nokaltuši koki.		Skaitām šādus sakaltus kokus.
Ir redzami augoši (dzīvi) koki ar piepēm.		Skaitām šādus kokus.
Uz koku stumbriem aug zaļas sūnas augstāk par metru no zemes.		Skaitām šādus kokus.
Mežā ir avotu izplūdes vietas, avoksnāji, avotainas ieplakas.		Skaitām šādas vietas.
Ir īslaicīgi vai pastāvīgi pārplūstoši klajumi.		Skaitām šādas vietas.
Ir pazīmes par audzē notikušu ugunsgrēku pēdējo 20 gadu laikā.		Ja jā, pieskaitām vienu punktu.
Nogabals robežojas vai to šķērso strauts vai maza upīte.		Ja jā, pieskaitām vienu punktu.
Zemsedzē daudz sfagnu sūnu (vairāk par pusi no platības).		Ja jā, pieskaitām vienu punktu.
Nogabals robežojas ar upi vai ezeru.		Ja jā, pieskaitām vienu punktu.
Nogabals atrodas Piejūras zemienē.		Ja jā, pieskaitām vienu punktu.
Mežā atrodas ļoti liela ligzda (diametrā virs 50 cm).		Ja jā, pieskaitām 10 punktus.
Mežā ir atrodama kāda aizsargājamā suga.		Ja jā, pieskaitām 10 punktus.
Nogabala meža tips ir dumbbrājs un tajā valdošā suga ir melnalksnis.		Ja jā, pieskaitām 10 punktus.
Nogabala meža tips ir purvājs un tajā aug spilves.		Ja jā, pieskaitām 10 punktus.
Nogabalā atrodas grava kurā aug platlapju koki.		Ja jā, pieskaitām 10 punktus.
Nogabala koku vecums ievērojami (vairāk par 20 gadiem) pārsniedz normatīvajos aktos paredzēto koku ciršanas vecumu.		Ja jā, pieskaitām 10 punktus.
<b>KOPĀ PUNKTI</b>	<b>0</b>	

Model in Latvian language can be found on our web page:

<https://mezakooperativs.lv/meza-ipasniekiem/biotopi-meza/>





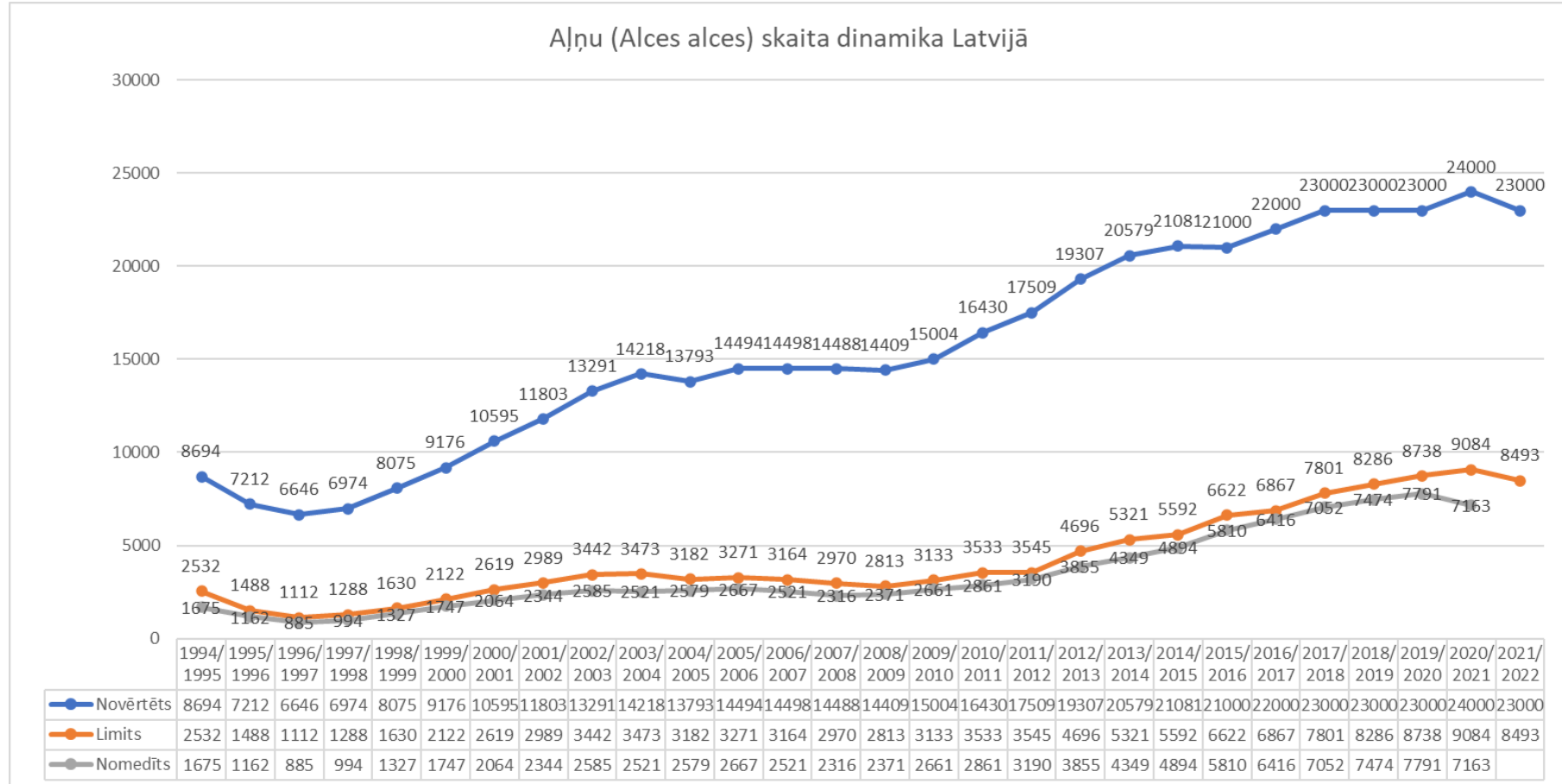
# Game management



# Game management

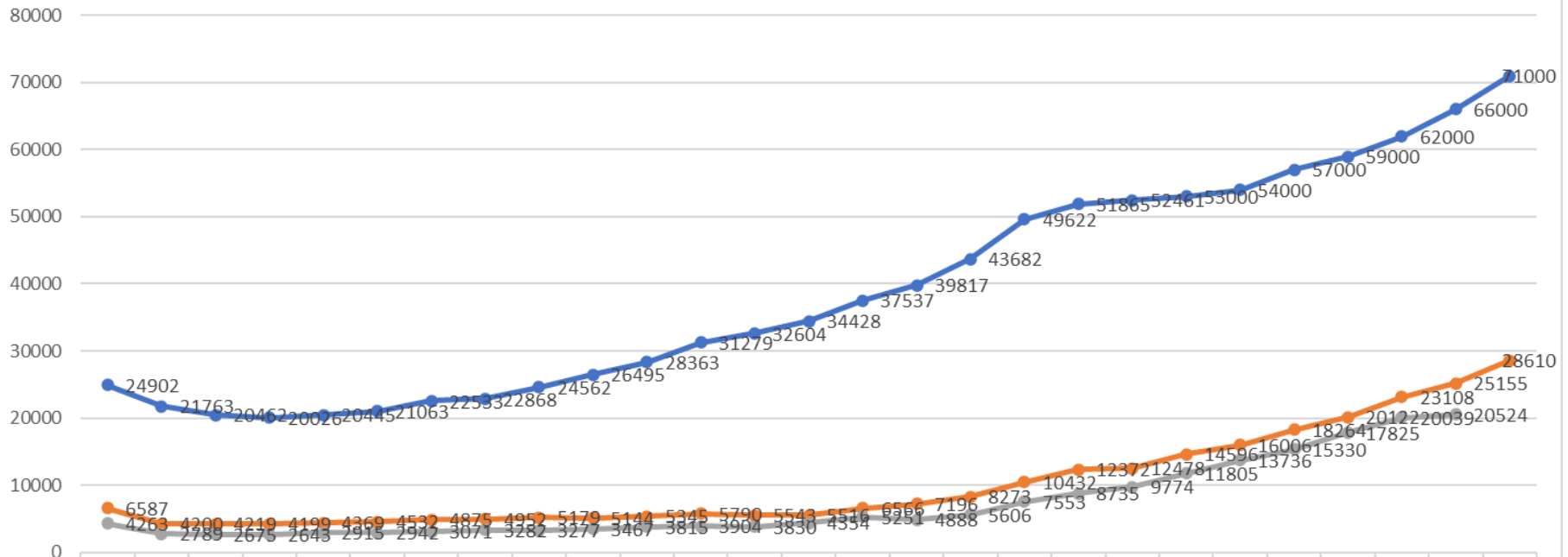
- For decades hunting lobby has been considerably more influential in Latvia than forest owner lobby.
- This has led to unprecedented increase of moose, deer and roe deer populations.
- The only animals, which are effectively regulated are wolves and lynx. Only one in ten wolves live longer than one year.
- In many areas regeneration with pine is no longer feasible. In areas with high presence of moose, regenerating spruce is also increasingly becoming a problem.
- Forest owners have to spend millions of euros on repellants to finance good hunting.

# Moose



# Deer

Staltbriežu (*Cervus elaphus*) skaita dinamika Latvijā



	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Novērtēts	24902	21763	20462	20026	20445	21063	22533	22868	24562	26495	28363	31279	32604	34428	37537	39817	43682	49622	51865	52461	53000	54000	57000	59000	62000	66000	71000
Limits	6587	4200	4219	4199	4369	4532	4875	4952	5179	5144	5345	5790	5543	5516	6566	7196	8273	10432	12372	12478	14596	16006	18264	20122	23108	25155	28610
Nomedīts	4263	2789	2675	2643	2915	2942	3071	3282	3277	3467	3815	3904	3830	4354	5251	4888	5606	7553	8735	9774	11805	13736	15330	17825	20039	20524	

# Game management

- There is no light at the end of the tunnel yet.
- This is a real problem, but we did not provide any solutions it in this project.

How to be smart when selling wood?



# How to be smart when selling wood?

- Apart from many issues a forest owner faces when trying to sell his/her wood for an honest price, one is how to understand in the beginning an approximate market value of your cutting area.
- In this project we have made a model, which is comparatively easy to use and does just that.
- Model is so good, that it has been used in co-operative Mežsaimnieks to calculate income forecasts in cutting projects.
- Even though result will be more precise, when model is used by a professional, it can be very well used also by an average forest owner.





# How to be smart when selling wood?

- Model in Latvian language can be seen in our web page:
- <https://mezakooperativs.lv/meza-ipasniekiem/cirmsmas-ienemumu-kalkulacija/>



A lush green forest scene with tall trees and dense undergrowth. The text "Thank you for your attention!" is overlaid in the center.

**Thank you for  
your attention!**