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Wood Utilization Potential in the Swiss Forest Planned and completed studies

Information for die Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics 2008 in Geneva

The enduring sustainable management of the Swiss forest is essential if forest functions are to be fulfilled in the long-term. Up-to-date and reliable information on the sustainable increment and utilization potential in the Swiss forest is urgently required. The long-term effects of climate change on the forest are still relatively unresearched.

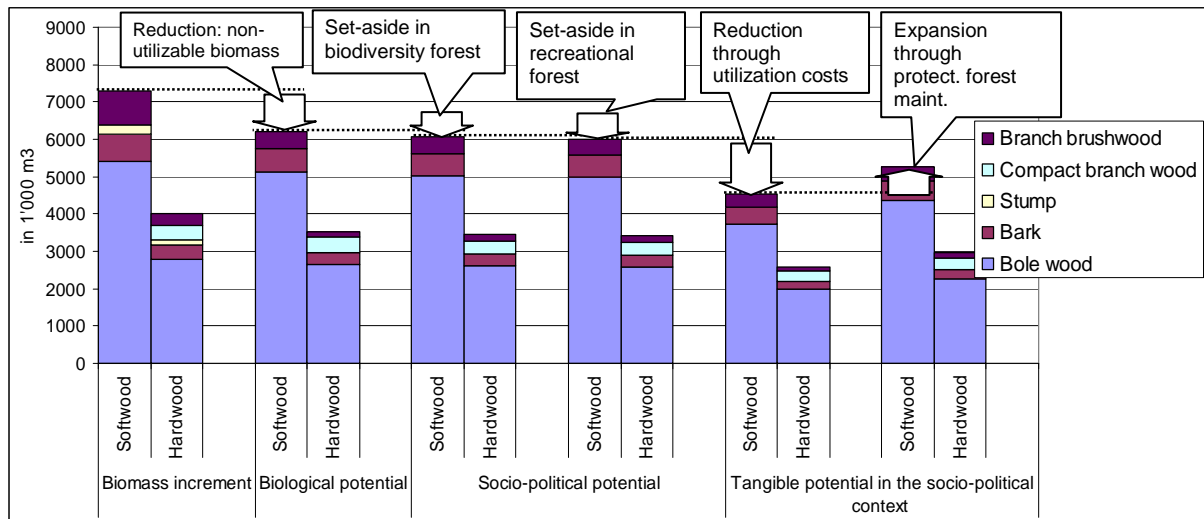
1. Completed study

The study "*Holznutzungspotentiale im Schweizer Wald auf Basis 3. Landesforstinventar*" ("Wood Utilization Potential in the Swiss Forest on the Basis of the Third Swiss National Forest Inventory") (FOEN/Geo Partner, 2008) was based on the assumption of the "full utilization of increment". Based on the *total biomass increment* and by adopting an "onion-peeling" approach, the biological, socio-political, economically tangible and, finally, (theoretically) utilizable potential was defined in terms of regions, tree species and tree part or wood types. The study constitutes a snapshot and does not reflect changes or development trends.

Overview of individual areas of potential:

Biological potential	Sustainably utilizable wood volumes, i.e. following deduction of harvesting losses and mortality
Socio-political potential	Restrictions/expansion through biodiversity, recreation, protective function, CO ₂ sink services, near-natural silviculture
Economically tangible potential	Utilizable volumes of wood dependent on access, harvesting technology, costs/returns
(Calculated) utilizable potential	Calculated utilizable wood volume, following reduction through measurement regulations

Relationship between the different potential volumes



The study and abstract can be downloaded from:

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/wald/01234/01236/index.html?lang=de> (only available in German)

2. Planned study

It is planned to explore the ideas from the above-outlined study in another project in the form of *utilization scenarios*.

1st basic scenario: continuation of previous utilization behaviour

2nd scenario: full utilization of current increment

3rd scenario: moderate reduction in stand volume

4th scenario: significant reduction in stand volume

The scenarios and methodology have not yet been defined.

It is intended to examine the influence of climate change on production potential in a separate project.

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