

NOTITS

SKOV- OG NATURSTYRELSEN

Skovpolitisk kontor

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Storm damage to forests in Denmark, 8 January 2005

11 February 2005

Extend of damage

The storm 8 January 2005 damaged especially forests of conifers in central and northern Jutland, but caused also severe damage to forests in North Sealand. The Danish Forest and Nature Agency estimates that the total amount of felled forest amounts to approximately 1,5 – 2,0 million cubic meters mainly of conifers. That is the equivalent of about 1,5 – 2 years normal felling of conifers in Denmark. All over Denmark there are reports of felled forest. The preliminary estimate is that an area of minimum 2.000 hectares private forest and minimum 700 hectares of State Forest was clear felled by the storm. This amount to a total of approximately 3.000 hectares of forest that was clear felled by the storm. To this comes an area of 750 hectares of private forest that is damaged in a degree so it is eligible for support under the Danish Windfall and Stormflood Act. The reason that so little damage to forest in the southern part of Denmark is reported can to some extent be explained with the fact that a storm in 1999 here clear felled most of the old forest.

Based on the preliminary estimate losses and costs to take care of the timber, clear and replant the areas etc. for the private forest sums up to a total of 220 million D.kr. and 80 million D.kr. for the State Forest.

Current issues

After the last severe storm-damage to forest in 1999 the Danish Government decided to support private forest owners, who have had a major storm-damage. The support was given as an amendment of The Stormflood Act to be applicable also for windfall. After this amendment private forest owners are eligible for support under this act regarding clearing and replanting of storm-felled forest areas with sturdy tree species. It was made a precondition to be eligible for support after windfall that the forest was covered by a basic-storm-insurance that would

pay a lump sum of minimum 7.750 D.kr. pr. hectare forest clear felled by storm. The necessary funds for support are provided by a yearly fiscal premium of 20 D.kr. on every separate insurance premium against fire. 200.000 hectares private forests are covered by such a basic-storm-insurance. The total private forest area in Denmark is 300.000 hectares. This act will also after the storm in January 2005 be the main form of support to the private forest owners covering costs to clear the storm-felled areas and replant the areas with sturdy tree species. 2

The Danish Government decided 17 January 2005 on following new initiatives regarding the severe windfall:

- The Government will investigate the possibilities for forest owners that have not acquired the basic-storm-insurance to have a new chance to do this. They would then be eligible for aid under the Stormflood and Windfall Act after a new severe windfall.
- To set down a committee that shall look into how more sustainable economic framework for Danish forestry could be achieved. The committee will amongst others look into the fiscal conditions for forestry. The work should be terminated before 1. April 2005.
- The Ministry of the Interior and Health will issue a letter informing all the communes regarding the possibilities to grant exemption for tax on land in situation with severe windfall.