Country report
- Protective forests in Norway --

Harald Aalde
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Authors: Stephanie Eisner¹, Rune Nordrum², Bruce Talbot¹, Stein Tomter¹, Knut Øistad¹

¹ Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research
² Norwegian Agriculture Agency
Definition of protective forest

Norwegian Forestry Act of 2005, forest that

- protects other forested area against adverse weather conditions
- provides protection against natural hazards for other land uses, e.g. settlements, infrastructure, and agricultural land
- has a low potential for natural regeneration due to the climatic growth conditions, thus is at risk for degradation under unsuited management
Protective forest today

4.6 million ha ≈ 38% of the total forest area

29% of all productive forest (annual increment ≥ 1 m³ per ha)

60% of all non-productive forest are classified as protective forest
Designation and regulation

- Individual counties (County Governor) can issue regulations on the management, including the formal designation and delineation of protective forests

- Process carried out at municipality level (moderation with stakeholder interests and public authorities at municipal and regional level)

- 1st draft by municipal forestry officer:
  - outline of potential protective forest
  - description of its protective functions
  - general rules for forest management and operations
  - circumstances under which notification of planned harvest is required
Three-part zoning of protective forest

- No timber harvesting
- Single-tree cutting in coniferous stands, restrictions on harvest in deciduous stands
- Harvest with restrictions

≥60 trees per ha, ≥ 5 m

Lower boundary of protective forest

Outer limit productive forest

Deciduous forest line

Coniferous forest line

Tree line
Protective function against natural hazards

Example for combined local risk zone mapping for natural hazards

Source: NVE