

Protection of Species in Environmental Decision-making –

An interdisciplinary research project on the integration of scientific evidence in administrative and judicial decision-making

or more specific

Handling/assessment of species protection cases –
a comparison between forestry and wind power plants



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Forestry



Picture by Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

Forestry

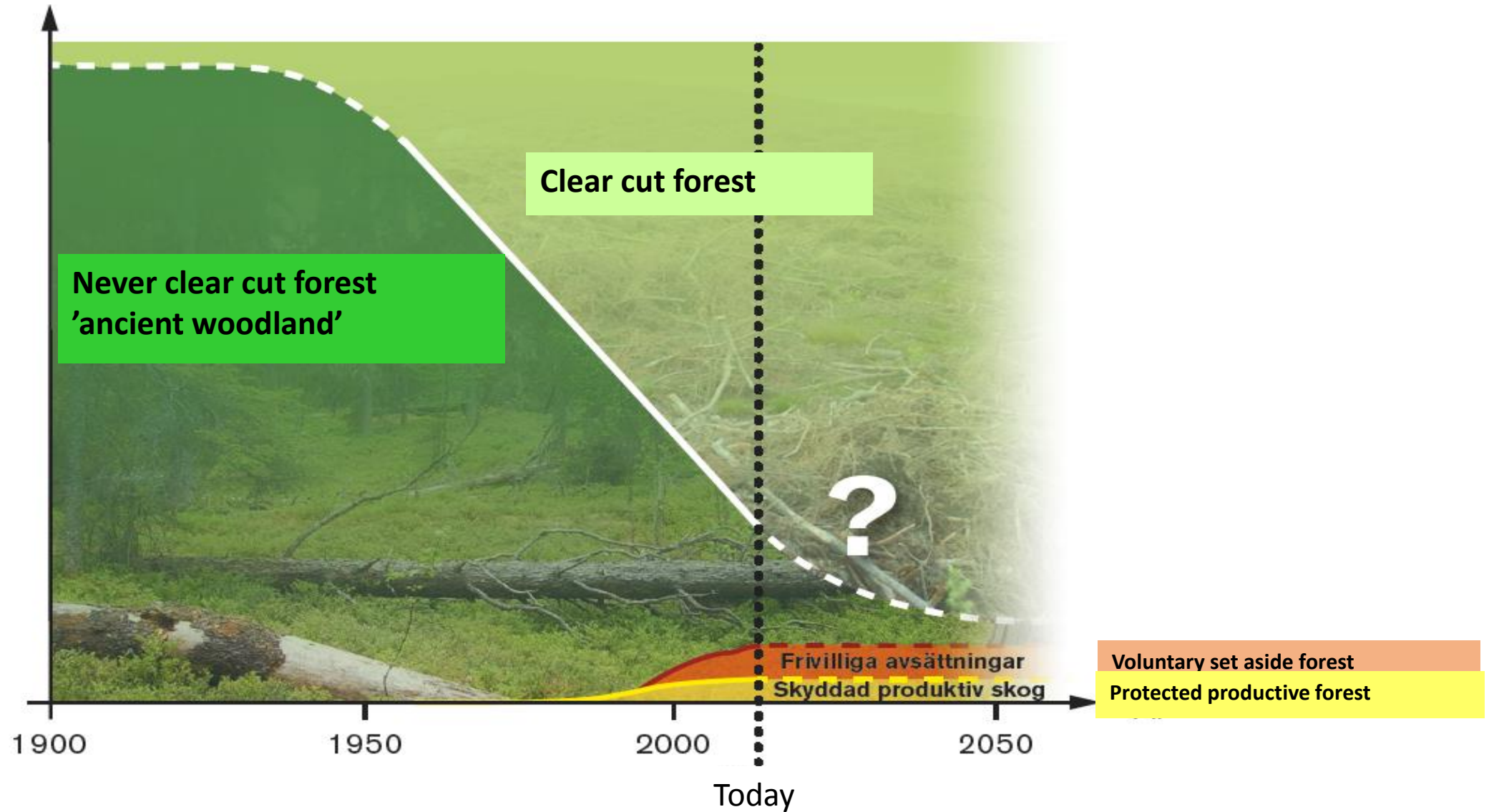
- Old land-use, but new techniques

Forestry

- Old land-use, but new techniques
- Large scale – area unaffected shrinking

Forestry

Total area productive forest in Sweden



Forestry



- Old land-use, but new techniques
- Large scale – same area clear cut every year but area unaffected shrinking
- 50% of all redlisted species in Sweden are affected by forestry

Forestry

- Old land-use, but new techniques
- Large scale – same area clear cut every year but area unaffected shrinking
- 50% of all redlisted species in Sweden are affected forestry
- Old 'well established' rules/laws
 - Notification of clear felling administrated by Swedish Forest Agency

Wind power



Picture by Dala Wind Power Economic Association

Wind power

- New land-use



Picture by Dala Wind Power Economic Association

Wind power

- New land-use
- Local scale – expanding



Wind power

- New land-use
- Local scale – expanding
- Few redlisted species are affected, birds and bats

Wind power

- New land-use
- Local scale – expanding
- Few redlisted species are affected, birds and bats
- 'Modern' rules/laws
EIA and judicial review by court

We want to compare

1. Background data

- Species observation data used (sources, processed)
- Species information considered (biology, ecology, threats, status etc.)
- Species protection plans/guidance considered



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2. Ecological assessment

- Lifecycles - site suitable for: reproduction, overwintering, foraging, dispersal
- Threats – are they assessed correctly
- On what landscape scale is the area assessed?



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2. Ecological assessment

- On what landscape scale is the area assessed?
 - Core-area, or periphery of distribution

Within a core area the species might have a better status, however it could be fatal to reduce this unique stronghold. An area in the periphery might be temporary due to limitations for survival (for example climate).



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2. Ecological assessment

- On what landscape scale is the area assessed?
 - Unique isolated occurrence, or a common species in the landscape

A unique site might be a reminiscent of a past wider occurrence, and now a possibility for a recovery.

A common species might be threatened elsewhere, but the conservation status is often assessed on national scale.



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2. Ecological assessment

- On what landscape scale is the area assessed?
 - Important link in the dispersal pathways, ‘stepstone’

The site might be small/inferior but can be the only connection between other isolated areas, and therefore of great importance to avoid fragmentation and reduced gene flow.



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3. Protective measures

- Described protective measures, and their relevance
- Demand for monitoring of the species status in the area after approval



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4. Complementation/external competence

- Do the court/investigator ask for complement of information
- Has external competence been used by court/investigator?



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....and finally...

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING..!



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