



Managing of veteran trees at a landscape scale

Trollhättan, 2014-10-15
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Example from County of Östergötland

- Knowledge – surveys - analysis
- Threats
- Strategy in a landscape level
- Management
- Results
- Future work and challenges

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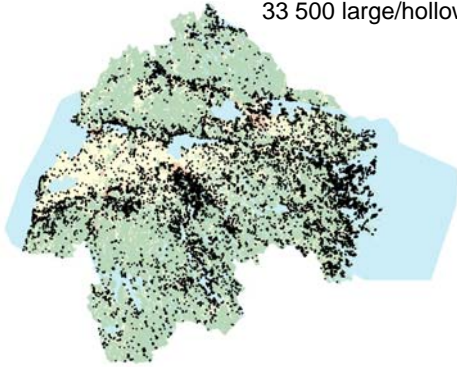
**Linköping
250 km SW
Stockholm**

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Oak surveys in Östergötland

- Extensive surveys for > 20 years
 - Oak habitats (oak habitat surveys, WKH surveys, municipality nature conservation programme surveys etc)
 - Large and hollow trees
 - Indicator species and threatened species (beetles, lichens, fungi etc)

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33 500 large/hollow oaks!

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Biodiversity of international significance

- 14 000 findings of indicator- and redlisted species in the Oak districts
- Around 300 indicator- and redlisted species found



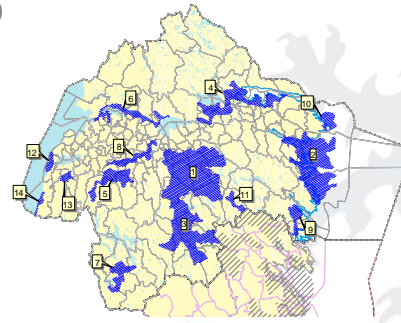
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European hot-spot
- a responsibility
and a fantastic
resource



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Oak landscapes in Östergötland (high value tracts)



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History and development of the Oak districts in Östergötland

- 94% of the oak habitat core sites have origin in an agricultural landscape (grazing and mowing) – preservation is management dependant
- 6% of the core sites natural habitats – mainly steep slopes – preserved by minimum intervention
- 60% of the habitats in need of management are not managed today – overgrowing and the wide crowned oaks are slowly dying

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Today's threat?



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Threats and problems

- Ongoing overgrowing of oaks and habitats
- Fragmentation – decreasing ecological function
- Locked situation for legal protection
- Low interest for oak-forestry
- Conflicts around planning issues

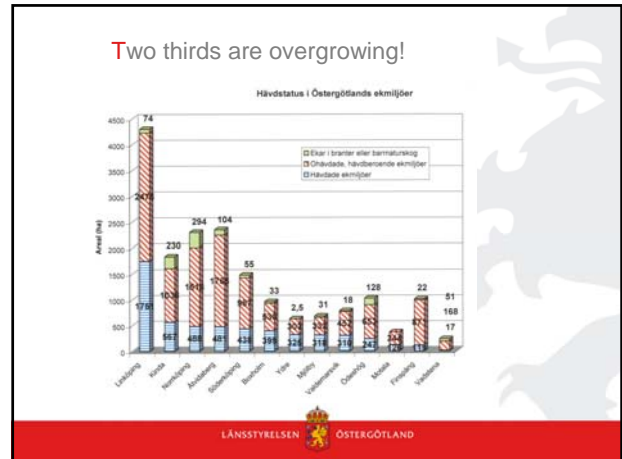


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Eknön 1929



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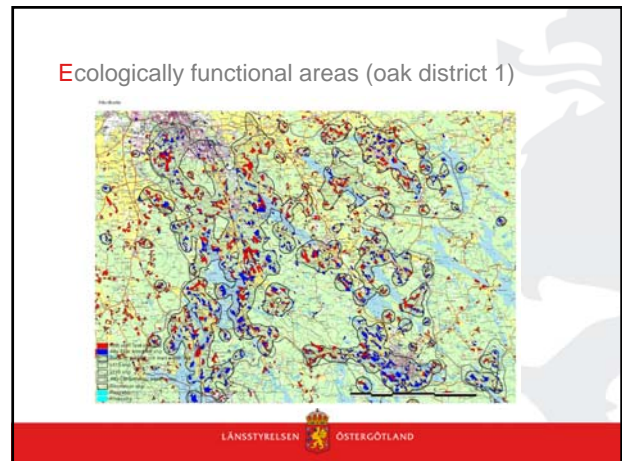
Living Oak-landscape!

- Multi-purpose management – sustainable grazing and oak forestry
- Grazing economy is crucial (e.g. grazing plans, animal exchange)
- From Nature conservation to regional development!
- Listening co-operation with landowners and land users
- Cross-sectoral co-ordination between authorities and different parts of the County Board is efficient (each others ambassadors)

Working method

- Landowner/user in the centre
- Priority of high value tracts
- Joint agreement regarding management of each property
- All measures in one package
- Information measures

Fragmentation of oak habitats



Management – clearing around trees with wide crowns



After management



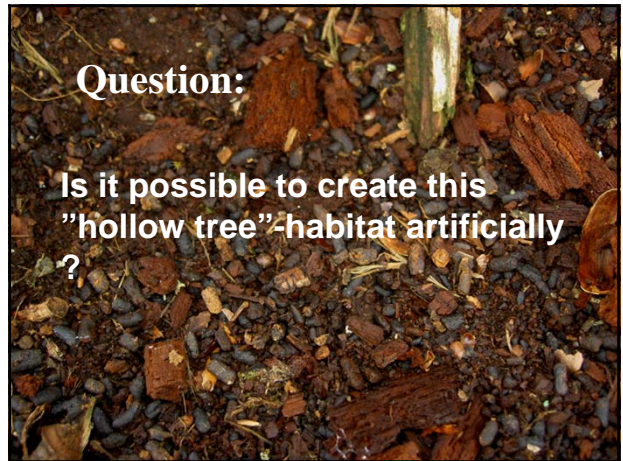
Area objectives (and results) 2008 – 2015

- Restore 5000 hectares valuable oak areas and re-establish grazing – (1600 ha 2014)
- 10 000 giant oaks are released from surrounding trees/bushes – (7 600 oaks 2014)
- 500 hectares of new oak forest is planted - (200 ha planted/thinned 2014)
- 1000 ha younger oak rich forest is thinned to favour the oaks – (200 ha planted/thinned 2014)

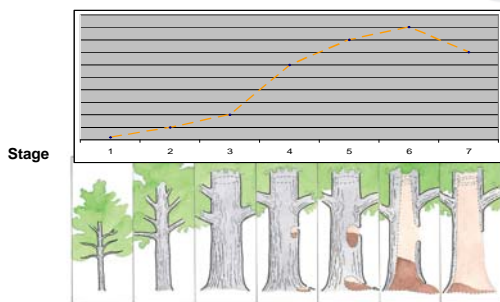
More info: <http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/ostergotland/Sv/djur-och-natur/hotade-vaxter-och-djur/Pages/default.aspx>

Question:

Is it possible to create this "hollow tree"-habitat artificially?
?



Development of the species richness with stage



Can artificial hollow trees" help threatened oak living species?



Beetle-boxes – a method already in use!

- In nature reserves with few hollow trees
- Compensation method for exploitation companies/activities
- Soon: as stepping stones between valuable areas

Future – skills and challenges

- Lack of grazing animal – other management methods?
- More work with management on individual veteran trees
- Better routines with tree-management as part of urban development
- More projects for learning and co-operation
- Regional plans for green infrastructure

"10 000 oaks of 100 years old are not a substitute for one 500 year old oak"
(Oliver Rackham)

