



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

EU LIFE Workshop on Restoration Burning and Management of Sunlit Forest Habitats

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The role of ecological restoration in nature conservation policy

- Need for ecological restoration in Finnish forest habitats was first highlighted in the first national Red List of species 1985
- Primary reasons for the decline of boreal forest species are changes in habitat structure and dynamics: lack of natural succession and disturbances; no continuity for burnt, deciduous, dead and decaying wood; overgrowth of open, sunlit habitats
- Restoration is key means to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 (CBD, EU & national Biodiversity Strategy targets) and prescribed burning is the most effective type of restoration in boreal forests (for forest structure, pyrophilous/saproxylic species)
- Government promotes restoration both in protected and commercial areas, among a wide range of stakeholders



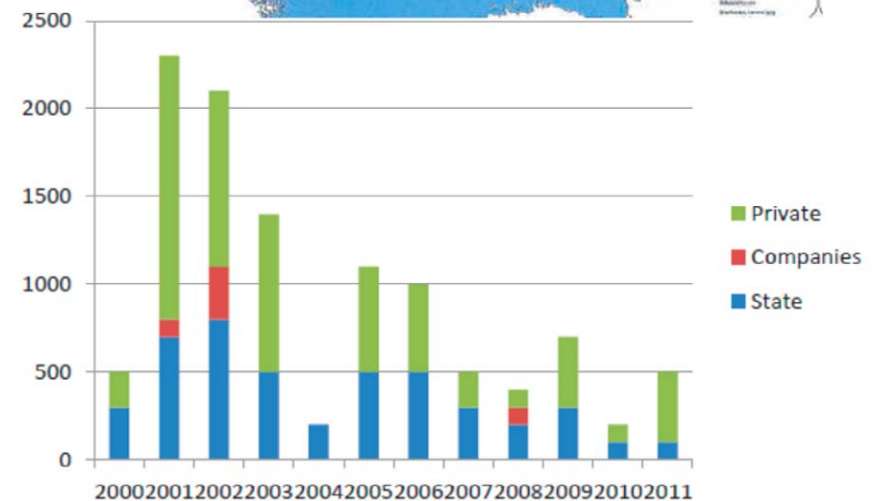
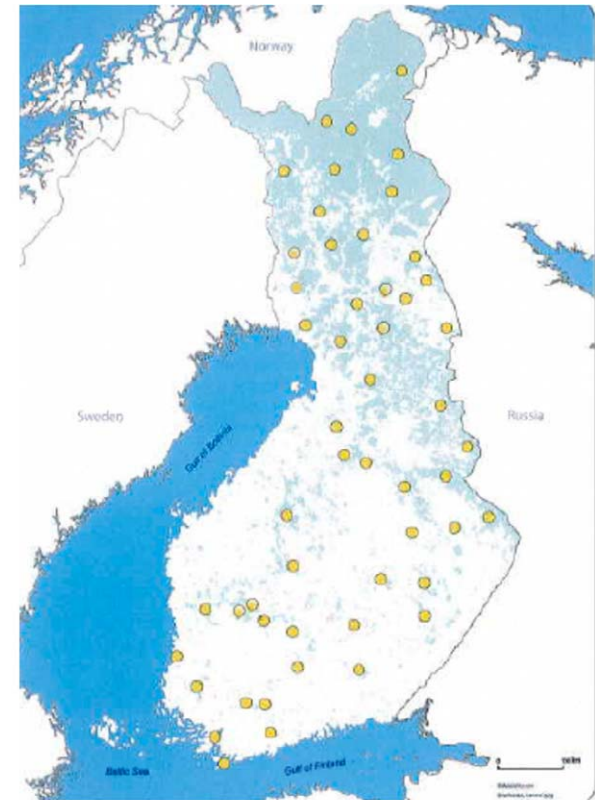
Future needs for restoration

- Develop further the restoration plans, methods and site selection criteria for cost-efficient targeting of burning
- Link restoration methods and sites regionally to improve the functionality and connectivity of the PA network
- Improve the conservation status of threatened species and habitats and provide buffering as regards climate change
- Upkeep the continuity of forest burning in each region, including the commercially managed forests
- Sufficient research and monitoring of the restoration !



Prescribed burning in Finland

- Continuous management of forests by fire as a network of suitable sites essential in protecting Boreal species
- Area of forests managed by burning declining alarmingly !
- Especially burning in commercial forests fading
- New ideas, cooperation, projects and funding needed to save the unique features of the European forests !





Thank you!