



## FIRE FOR LIFE!

### INVITATION TO EU LIFE WORKSHOP ON RESTORATION BURNING AND MANAGEMENT OF SUNLIT FORESTED HABITATS

25 - 27th April 2017 IN LAMMI, FINLAND

In recent years ecological research, and e.g. assessments on species and habitat vulnerability, have lifted up the importance of the use of fire in ecological restoration and habitat management in boreal forests. However, the controlled use of fire as a tool to improve quality of N2000 areas has not increased as wished.

Reasons preventing the use of fire are often practical. Restoration burning needs special skills and deals with safety hazards. In many cases there is no tradition or experience in burnings. In some countries there is also strong emotional resistance against prescribed burnings which affects political decision-making and shaping of guidelines.

Two EU LIFE projects in Sweden and Finland, **Life Taiga** (<http://www.lifetaiga.se>) and **Light & Fire LIFE** (<http://www.metsa.fi/web/en/lightandfirelife>), aim at increasing the quality of forest habitats in N2000 areas by controlled use of fire. As part of that work we organize a workshop aiming at exploring the best practices and tackling the practical and political challenges of restoration burnings in N2000 areas.

The program consists of specific oral presentations describing the current state of restoration burning in participating countries as well as group works concentrating on best practices and biggest challenges when using fire in restoration. In addition to *western taiga* (9010), special attention is paid to requirements of improving ecological characteristics of *esker forests* (9060) that have recently been lifted up as highly important habitats e.g. in red list assessments. The event will take place in Lammi Finland on 25 - 27th April 2017.

#### We invite to this meeting

- Nordic and Baltic LIFE projects and people dealing with forest restoration and/or projects using fire as restoration or nature management method
- people developing the use of fire or guidelines in ecological restoration, e.g. conservation area managers and officials
- people interested in management of esker forest 9060 habitats
- researchers interested in the practical implementation of fire and restoration ecology

The meeting focuses mainly in boreal zone. Due to general nature of issues addressed in the meeting, it may interest people from countries of other vegetation zones as well.

#### Welcome!

Niclas Bergius  
Coordinator, Life Taiga

Tuomas Haapalehto  
Project Manager, Light & Fire LIFE



## FIRE FOR LIFE: EU LIFE workshop on restoration burning and management of sunlit forested habitats

### Preliminary program

#### Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April

Evening Possibility for arrival & accommodation in Lammi research station.

#### Tue 25<sup>th</sup> April

10:00 Registration and coffee  
11:00 Welcome & opening (Aulikki Alanen, Ministry of the Environment, Lammi Biological station)  
11:15 Greetings from the European Commission, Mr Ludovic Le-Maresquier, EC DG Environment  
11:30 Practical information  
11:45 Introduction of participants  
12:00 Lunch break  
13:00 Prescribed burnings in boreal forests and management of esker forests – Finland (Henrik Lindberg, Häme University of Applied Sciences)  
13:45 Prescribed burnings in boreal forests and management of esker forests – Sweden (Anders Granström, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)  
14:30 Coffee break  
15:00 Presentations

- Present situation, goals and challenges of using fire in forest restoration and sunlit forest habitat management in participating countries (excluding Sweden and Finland) - to be asked from the participants
- Short presentation of current LIFE projects related to the use of fire in ecological restoration and sunlit forest habitat management (LIFE Taiga, LIGHT & FIRE LIFE, ESCAPE LIFE, OTHERS?)

17:00 End Day 1  
18:00 Joint dinner

#### Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 Workshop, 5 stations, 30 min each

1. How to get acceptance for fire in society (Tuomas, Lauri Saaristo)
2. Preparatory work (Rauli Perkiö & Jan-Inge Tobiasson)
3. How to burn in practice? (Andreas Wedman, Pekka Vesterinen)
4. Monitoring (Fredrik Lundin)
5. Management of sunlit forested habitats (HL)



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|-------------|---|
| 12:00       | Lunch   |
| 13:00       | Results of the workshop and concluding remarks                        |
| 14:00       | Coffee  |
| 14:30       | AV knowledge market on Restoration and presentations on LIFE projects |
| 16:00       | Presentation of Lammi biological research station                     |
| 17:00       | Dinner  |
| 19:00-22:00 | Sauna   |

#### Thu 27<sup>th</sup> April

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 7:30  | Breakfast   |
| 08:30 | Field excursion with field lunch: restoration burning and esker management sites in vicinity of Evo campus of Häme university of Applied Sciences, Lammi <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9.00 Tuohimetsä: 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest restoration burning in Europe 1992?, Western Taiga forest (to burn or not to burn)</li><li>• 10.00 Syrjäälunnen &amp; Syrjänharju: sun-lit habitat management on esker forests (older site, management started); how to manage western taiga 9010, esker forest 9050 and Fennoscandian herb-rich forest with <i>Picea abies</i> 9060 on eskers</li><li>• 12.00 Lunch at Pitkäniemenkangas</li><li>• 12.45 Transfer to Hattukivenmaa</li><li>• 13.00 Hattukivenmaa (Experimental restoration burning 2003, recent burning)</li><li>• 14.00 Pitkäniemenkangas (traditional Finnish restoration burning with <i>Pulsatilla vernalis</i> management)</li><li>• 14.45 Coffee &amp; closing discussion at Pitkäniemenjärvi: Looking forward - courses and future co-operations<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suggestions for future co-operation to promote the use of fire in restoration</li></ul></li></ul> |

15:15-17:15 Transfer to Helsinki-Vantaa airport & Helsinki harbour  
Possibility for overnight in Lammi

- Workshop venue University of Helsinki Lammi Biological Station (<http://www.helsinki.fi/lammi/english.html>) is located appr. 100 km north from Helsinki. We try to organize transportation from Helsinki airport and from Helsinki harbour to and from Lammi according need, so please let us know (in registration form)
- The excursion is not physically demanding but includes some walking on forest paths.
- **Further questions:** Henrik Lindberg, Häme University of Applied Sciences, School of Biosciences, [henrik.lindberg@hamk.fi](mailto:henrik.lindberg@hamk.fi), Tel: +358 3 646 5390.