

Unit 10: Policies

Norwegian Forest Trust Fund



Description

The Forest Trust Fund is described in Chapter 4 of the Norwegian Forestry Act. Forest owners are required to pay into the fund every time they complete a commercial harvest. They may withdraw money from the fund in order to invest in management activities contributing to the long-term value of the forest.

Every forest owner has their own Forest Fund account. The account follows the forest property if it is sold. Forest owners pay tax on income from timber sales, but the money put into the fund is not taxed until it is taken out. Then it is only taxed at 15%.



Goals

The intention is to make sure that forest owners have the resources to invest in long-term forest quality.

Activities

Investments might include forest planning, building or improving forest roads, participation in educational activities, and the replanting of trees, *inter alia*.

It is to be noted that forest owners are required by section 6 of the Forestry Act to “ensure satisfactory regeneration after felling.” Measures for ensuring regeneration need to be taken within three years of harvest.



Websites

Norwegian Forestry Act

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/Act-relating-to-forestry-Forestry-Act/id87139/>

Regulatory basis for the Forest Fund

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2006-07-03-881>

The Forest Fund

<https://www.landbruksdirektoratet.no/nb/skogbruk/o-m-skogfond/skogfond-og-skogfondkonto>