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What to do with the forest? Stora Enso offers expertise and support for private forest owners

Regular professional management keeps forests healthy and secures value

Ybbs an der Donau, 15 September 2015: **Those who own a private forest have usually inherited it. Although it used to be a guarantee of work and a secure income, many people have lost touch with agriculture and forestry due to social change. More and more of the so-called "new" forest owners lose economic interest in their forest and are no longer able or willing to spend the necessary time and effort on managing it professionally.**



Photo © Stora Enso

According to the Federal Research Centre for Forests, nearly half of Austria's forests are small private forests, each with less than 200 hectares. Overall, there are around 1.6 million hectares of forest with 1.5 billion trees, and counting. The maintenance of these forests requires not only a lot of time, but also the necessary expertise. "In forest management, it's not just about yield, but maintenance too. Proper thinning makes the forest healthier and more steadfast in adverse weather conditions. At the same time, more wood grows than in an unmanaged forest, which is good for the environment and also secures the value of the forest for the future", explains Norbert Hüttler, Director Wood Procurement for Central Europe at Stora Enso.



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Private forest owners benefit from advice, purchasing, development

Stora Enso sees itself as a first point of contact, not only for large-scale forest owners and forest enterprises, but also anyone who wants to exercise their responsibility as a private forest owner, without being fully employed in forestry themselves. Experts from Stora Enso advise on the latest forestry requirements in forest management, wood utilisation or shaping and help, on request, with common problems such as determining plot boundaries, forestry authority processes or the organisation of timber storage yards.

As a leading wood-processing business, Stora Enso is the ideal purchaser for all varieties of wood. As well as spruce and pine as sawlogs, Stora Enso also purchases pulpwood for the paper and board industry, and biomass for thermal utilisation. There is a particular focus on optimal value yield, even with small quantities.

For so-called "stock purchasing" there is no additional expense for forest owners. In cooperation with selected logging and transport companies, Stora Enso is responsible for the entire yield, from professional and sustainable felling to removal.

"Preserving the ecosystem of the forest is a priority for us, so we only purchase wood from sustainably used or certified forests. In the process, we require the highest environmental and occupational safety standards across the entire value chain. We guarantee quick and clear processing, fair market prices, and rapid and secure payment for forest owners", says Hüttler.

Active forest management as a contribution to climate protection

Current studies show that wood which is used as a building material has a much better CO₂ balance than if it remains unused in the forest. This effect arises from the fact that if wood is used then, on the one hand, less plastic, concrete or metal needs to be produced and, on the other hand, new wood can be grown in the forest and can then store CO₂. As long as more is grown in the forest than is felled, the use of wood makes a considerable contribution towards climate protection.

"By managing their forests sustainably, forest owners benefit not only themselves but the environment, too. Stora Enso also offers a comprehensive year-round service, so that interested parties can professionally and sustainably use their forest at any time, even without any personal expense, and benefit from the yields", says Hüttler.

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About Stora Enso Wood Products

Stora Enso's Wood Products division provides versatile wood-based solutions for construction and residential purposes. Our product range covers all areas of urban construction and includes amongst other things solid wood elements and home modules, wood components and pellets. Our product range is complemented by a range of sawn timber products. The majority of our customers are construction and joinery businesses as well as wholesalers and retailers. Wood Products operates worldwide and has more than 20 production units in Europe.

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Questions and Images

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