

Small-scale forest entrepreneurs in northern Sweden



**norra
skog**

We work to ensure that society understands that managed forests, forest ownership and management rights as well as viable rural areas in northern Sweden are prerequisites for sustainable communities and for a developed welfare system in our part of Europe. We contribute to solutions to climate issues by making it increasingly possible for Sweden to replace fossil fuels with renewable forest-based materials. The climate issue is already factored into our business model, which is built on our vision of a profitable and responsible forestry for a sustainable society.

Forestry is our global contribution to renewable resources. Growing forests absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The UN climate panel has said that active forestry, where energy-intensive resources are replaced with forest-based materials, provides the greatest climate benefits. Our forest resources must therefore be used responsibly in order to reduce our continued dependence on oil, coal, and gas.

Fifty per cent of Sweden's forests are owned and managed by small-scale family forest-entrepreneurs - of which 38 per cent are women. The variety they represent, with their different environmental and business goals, is an important part of a biologically diverse forestry. While Norra Skog's members are already enablers of climate transition, it is critically important we manage our forests in such a way that ecosystem services can be sustainably delivered in the form of increased forest growth and biological diversity while also delivering all the other benefits that healthy forests provide. The focus of Norra Skog's long-term sustainability work is to ensure these ecosystem services continue to deliver climate and environmental benefits.

Norra Skog's primary mission is to represent small-scale family forest entrepreneurs in northern Sweden. We do this in many ways, such as helping to secure long-term sales of our members' raw materials. Norra Skog also operates its own forest industry, which includes the production of an extensive range of timber products. We also offer forest management

and financial advice, as well as brokerage services and training to our members.

Norra Skog currently employs around 600 people. In addition, we provide work to almost as many through forestry contracting and transport services. Our industry arm, Norra Timber, comprises three high-tech sawmills, three processing units, a pole factory and part ownership in Husum Pulp AB's pulp mill. These businesses combined produce approximately 1,000,000 cubic meters of timber products and approximately 60,000 pine poles each year. The modern pulp mill produces 730,000 tons of pulp per annum.

About 70 per cent of our timber product sales are exported, mainly within Scandinavia and to the UK, as well as to several countries within the EU, Asia, and North Africa. Our entire range of timber products and poles are PEFC forestry-certified and environmentally certified. Norra Skog recorded a turnover of SEK 5 billion in 2021.

If we continue to manage Swedish forests the way we do today, each year we will rid the atmosphere of approximately 45 million tons of carbon dioxide. This is almost as much as Sweden's total annual carbon dioxide emissions. Through active forest management and increased growth, where fossil fuels are replaced with renewable forest materials, we can remove an additional 60 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year.

Managed forests are not obstacles to biodiversity. The forest is of great importance to the development and prosperity in rural areas, and Norra Skog's vision of sustainable communities contributes to a climate-smart transition with new jobs and tax revenue for northern Sweden. Norra Skog promotes an active forest management that values the forest's ecosystem services while benefiting individual forest owners, the general public, the environment, and our climate. Long-term regulations and respect for ownership rights are therefore of the utmost importance to small-scale family forest entrepreneurs in northern Sweden because they enable our members to invest, actively manage, harvest, and invest in their forests.

Norra Skog is a forest owner cooperative formed in 1926. The association is jointly owned by 27,000 family forest owners, i.e. forest entrepreneurs with a total forest holding of 2.1 million hectares of forest located in northern Sweden.



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Operational area:

Approximately half of Sweden.

Operations in 44 municipalities.

Number of members: 27,000.

Total membership land: 2.1 million hectares.

Democratically-elected representatives:

Approximately 400.

Timber harvest: About 3.5 million m³.

Saw mills: 3.

Processing mills: 3.

Pole factory: 1

Pulp mills: 1 (30% ownership).

Wood industry production: 1,000,000 m³

Pulp production: 730,000 tonnes of pulp.

Turnover in 2021: SEK 5 billion.

Employees: Approximately 600 people.

Headquarters: Umeå.





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