Dear forest owner,

Thank you for participating in our study. With this study, we want to understand what drives forest owners in their management decisions. The survey will take 15-20 minutes.

The survey consists of four sections:

1. In the first section, you will be asked to rank six forest stand types according to financial, ecological, and management criteria, nine in total,
2. In the second section, we will collect socio-demographic information about you,
3. In the third section, we will gather information about your forest property,
4. In the last section, we will ask five questions about your forest management practices.

This survey is conducted for the Interreg Alpine Space project "Forest EcoValue". The goal of this project is to develop and test new business models and markets for forest ecosystem services in the Alpine Space. Follow the website for the updates.

For questions or further inquiries please contact via email: viktoria.iavorskaia@uni-graz.at

1. Performance of different forest stand types

The questions follow on the next page. Please read carefully the instructions below.

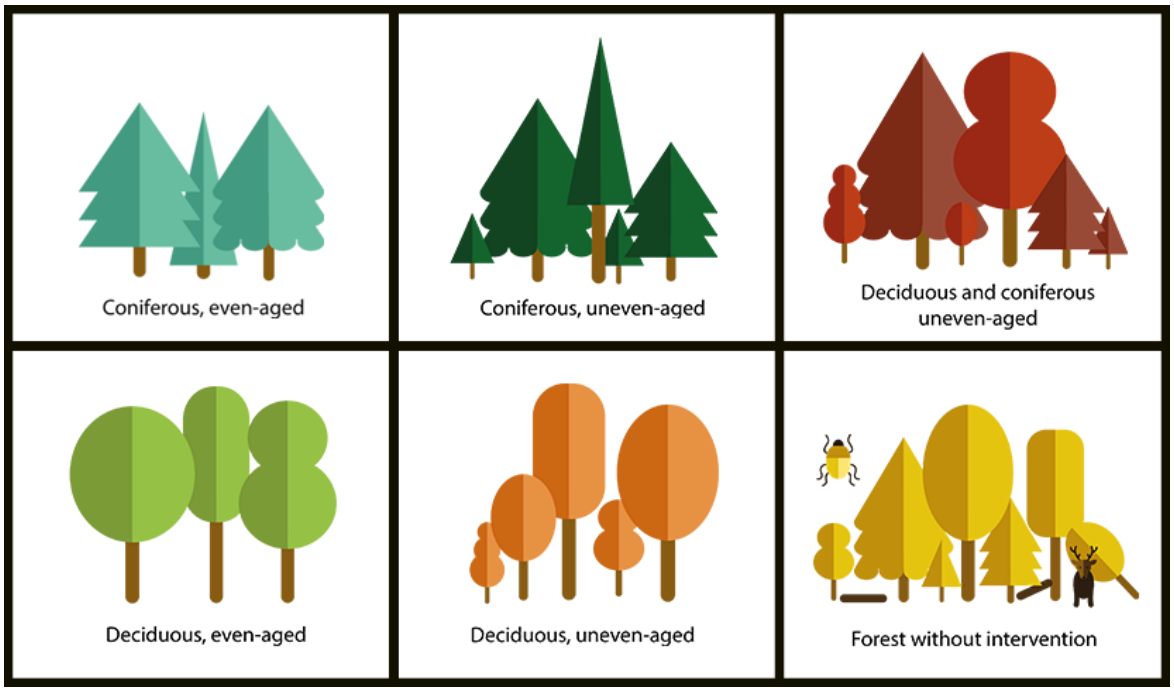
In this section, you will be asked to rank the performance of six forest stand types according to the nine criteria (nine questions). We ask these questions because we want to know **your opinion** on each forest stand type. There is no right or wrong answer.

The six forest stand types are presented in the graphic below. They will always appear in the same order - from left to right, from top to bottom.

We ask you to give an average performance score to each forest stand type, assuming an average state of health.

For each criterion, rank the forest stand types on a scale from 0 to 10, where the highest performance receives a score of 10. It is possible to give the same score to different forest stand types. If you have no opinion about a certain criterion, you may choose the option “no answer” (NA).

The questions appear in the random order.



Long-term income

Rank forest stand types for their potential to generate profit over 20 years, with 10 being the maximal potential. The criterion includes all possible revenue streams from the stand type (timber, fuelwood, non-wood forest products, commercial recreational activities, etc.).
Remember that we ask for an average score for each forest stand type of an average state of health. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Minimal potential — Maximal potential

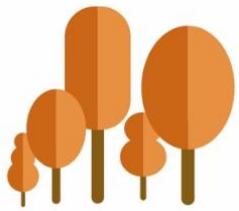
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Minimal potential — Maximal potential

Meeting household needs

Rank forest stand types for providing materials and food for your household, with 10 being the maximal provision. For example, collecting firewood, mushrooms or berries, or hunting for self-consumption. This criterion does not include income.
Remember that we ask for an average score for each forest stand type of an average state of health. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Minimal provision — Maximal provision

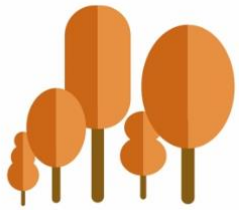
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Minimal provision — Maximal provision

Liquidity

Rank forest stand types based on how frequently and regularly you can turn them into cash, with 10 being the highest. For example, how easy it is to find a consumer for your forest product (e.g., wood) and/or service (e.g., recreation).

Remember that we ask for an average score for each forest stand type of an average state of health. It is implied that the stand types remain unchanged. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Lowest — Highest

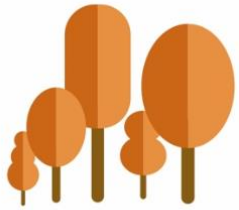
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Lowest — Highest

Carbon storage and sequestration

Rank forest stand types for their potential to sequester and store carbon in the forest stand ecosystem (i.e., standing trees and soil), with 10 being the maximal potential. The criterion does not include storing carbon in the wooden products after harvesting.
Remember that we ask for an average score for each forest stand type of an average state of health. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Minimal potential — Maximal potential

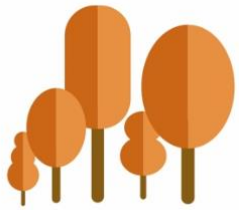
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Minimal potential — Maximal potential

Natural hazard protection

Rank forest stand types for their potential to prevent natural hazards like avalanches, landslides, rockfalls, and floods, with 10 being the maximal potential.
Remember that we ask for an average score for each forest stand type of an average state of health. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Minimal potential — Maximum potential

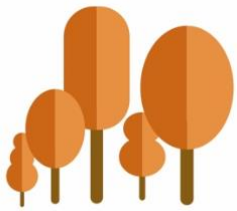
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Minimal potential — Maximum potential

Ecological functions of the forest

Rank forest stand types based on their ability to maintain different ecological functions like the quality of water, air and soil nutrient content, and providing habitat for wild plants and animals, with 10 being the maximum ability.

Remember that we ask for an average score for each forest stand type of an average state of health. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Minimal ability — Maximum ability

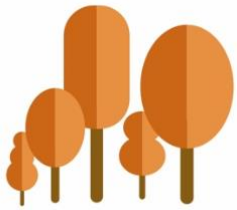
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Minimal ability — Maximum ability

Management complexity

Rank forest stand types based on the general complexity of managing and maintaining forest stand types (i.e., labor requirements, special equipment, machinery, skills, and knowledge), with 10 being the highest complexity level.

Although forest management depends on multiple factors (e.g., slope, presence of forest road, governance, and legislation), we ask you to answer this question solely from the stand type perspective. It is implied that stand types remain unchanged. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Low complexity ◄——————————————► High complexity

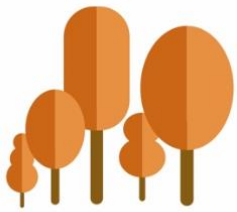
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Low complexity ◄——————————————► High complexity

Management costs

Rank forest stand types based on how much it costs to manage and maintain each forest stand type, with 10 being the most expensive.

Although forest management depends on multiple factors (e.g., slope, presence of forest road, governance, and legislation), we ask you to answer this question solely from the stand type perspective. It is implied that stand types remain unchanged. If you have no opinion about this criterion, please click on the button NA ("no answer").

Coniferous, even-aged

Least expensive — Most expensive

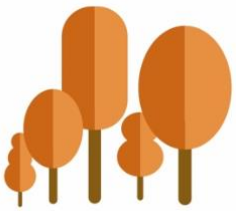
0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Coniferous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous, even-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐



Deciduous, uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Forest without intervention

0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ NA ☐

Least expensive — Most expensive

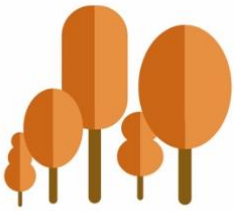
General preference of forest types

Finally, rank forest stand types from the most preferred to the least preferred one based on your general preference, the cultural and/or spiritual value they have for you.

Coniferous, even-aged

Coniferous, uneven-aged

Deciduous, even-aged



Deciduous, uneven-aged

Deciduous and coniferous uneven-aged

Forest without intervention

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

2. Information about the forest owner

In this second section, we would like to collect general information about you and some factors that might be influential for your forest management.

We ask these questions to better understand the context to analyze and interpret the collected data. It could also help us identify patterns or differences in opinions among different demographic groups.

1) What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ No answer

2) Please write your year of birth (YYYY) ☐

3) What is your level of education?

- ☐ Primary school
- ☐ Secondary school
- ☐ College or university
- ☐ No answer

4) What is your current occupation? ☐

5) How many children do you have? (number) ☐

There is scientific evidence that parenthood influences the time horizon of one's decision-making.

6) What is the country of your current residence?

- ☐ Austria
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Other ☐

7) Since when do you legally own your forest property? (YYYY) ☐

8) What is the origin of your forest?

- ☐ Inherited
- ☐ Purchased
- ☐ Afforestation of formerly agricultural area
- ☐ Other ☐

3. Property structural characteristics

In this third section, we would like to collect relevant information about your forest property and its characteristics. Your answers will help us get a further understanding of the local context that might influence your forest management decisions and answers in the survey.

1) Is your forest property located in the area outlined in green on the map?

☐ Yes, fully ☐ Yes, partially. ☐ No

2) How far is your forest property located from your current place of residence? (in km)

3) How large is your forest? (in ha)

4) At what altitude is your forest property located? (in meters above sea level; a single number or a range)

5) Have you observed one or more of these events in your forest in the last 10 years?

- ☐ Damage caused by drought in the forest
- ☐ Wind damage
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Pest infestation (e.g., bark beetle or pine moth)
- ☐ Damage caused by fungi
- ☐ Forest fire
- ☐ Occurrence of spring and/or autumn frost
- ☐ Browsing damage by wildlife
- ☐ Pressure from snow
- ☐ Avalanches, landslides and/or rockfalls
- ☐ Other forest damaging events
- ☐ No damaging events
- ☐ I don't know

6) Describe the actual forest composition of your forest property. Allocate approximate shares from 0 to 100% to the forest stand types that are currently present on your property. You can use the sliders or type the number directly into the boxes. The answers to this question must total 100%.

Coniferous, even-aged	
Coniferous, uneven-aged	
Deciduous and coniferous, uneven-aged	
Deciduous, even-aged	
Deciduous, uneven-aged	
Forests without intervention	

7) Are you satisfied with your forest composition the way it is now or would you like to change it?

- ☐ I'm satisfied with my forest composition the way it is now
- ☐ I'm considering transforming my forest composition in the future
- ☐ I'm already in the process of transforming composition my forest
- ☐ Other

4. Forest management factors

Lastly, we would like to collect information about your forest performance and forest management priorities.

We collect this information because we want to know how you perceive your forest performance, as well as your priorities in management decisions. This will help us better understand your answers in previous sections.

1) What matters the most in your forest management decisions? For important criteria, assign weights from 1 to 100, with 100 being the most important. The answers to this question must total 100%.

Long-term income	☐
Meeting household needs	☐
Liquidity	☐
Carbon storage and sequestration	☐
Natural hazards protection	☐
Ecological functions of the forest	☐
Management complexity	☐
Management costs	☐
General preference	☐

2) How important is climate change for you in forest management decisions?

Not important at all ☐ Slightly important ☐ Important ☐ Fairly important ☐ Very important

3) Were there any thinning and/or planting operations done at your forest property in the last 5 years?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, not since I own a forest
- ☐ I can't answer this question

4) Was any harvesting done at your forest property in the last 5 years?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, not since I own a forest
- ☐ I can't answer this question

If the answer is “yes”:

5) On avarege, how much of the harvest did you use for self-consumption in the last five years?

Thank you for filling in our survey! Would you be open to a follow-up interview to verify the overall results? If so, please leave your email address below.

If you wish to remain anonymous, leave this question open or reach out via viktoriia.iavorskaia@uni-graz.at

Your email will be stored separately from the answers and used only for the survey follow-up. Answers to this question will be automatically removed from the survey database in 30 days after completion.

Thank you for filling out the survey and making your contribution to the advancement of sustainable forest management in the Alpine Space!

This survey is conducted for the Interreg Alpine Space project “Forest EcoValue”. The goal of this project is to develop and test new business models and markets for forest ecosystem services in the Alpine Space. Follow the website for updates.

For questions or further inquiries please contact via email: viktoria.iavorskaia@uni-graz.at