

Forestry in proximity to water

Forest management with focus on continuous canopy forestry. When thinning it is important to maintain or develop a functional riparian zone

The riparian zone acts like a filter. It provides a more stable river bank, contributes with dead wood and food for organisms that live in the water, it also provides shade and preserves biodiversity.

You are now standing on the boundary between two areas that has been thinned in two different ways.

The sites reach from Skidån up to Skidå road. Downstream a thinning with emphasis on small diameter trees has been done.

Upstream mainly large diameter trees have been harvested. In both cases up to 30% of the volume has been taken out. The sites are thought to be managed without a pronounced clear-cut stage in the future.

“ **By managing forests without a decisive clear cut phase the forest feeling is kept intact.**

More trees are left after harvest with continuous canopy management comparing to clear felling management.



Siberian jay

Illustration: Bo Persson

By managing the forest with a clear cutting phase the forest feeling will be maintained. More trees are left standing when harvesting during continuous canopy management than with when clear felling. The soil water levels do not rise as much and there is not as much surface run-off as after a clear felling. Leaching of nutrients and heavy metals also becomes more limited. These factors are positive for the water quality in streams, rivers and lakes. The variations in temperature and humidity in the forest during a whole day lessens as well and a more even climate is created. Thusly the habitats for both land and water living species becomes more stable.

Small diameter thinning

The management regime creates condition for establishing a shelter wood of pine that is allowed to grow and eventually become the seed trees. Finally, a number of trees are left as ancient trees, that will eventually grow together with the younger trees. The majority of trees taken out consists spruce. A few well growing spruces have been left and will continue to be a part of the future stand. A part of the riparian zone all trees apart from deciduous trees have been harvested.

Along this stretch a regeneration of deciduous trees will be promoted to create a more leaf dominated riparian zone. Furthermore, the riparian zone will be kept more dense and layers of deciduous trees will be promoted.

“ **The Siberian Jay and willow tit are species of birds one can encounter here and that benefits canopy management.**

Large diameter thinning

The management will create conditions for a pine forest with high timber quality where the felling age will be at least 20 to 30 years higher than normal. The harvest cycle is thought to end with natural regeneration and leaving 'eternity trees'. Some of the largest spruces will be left as well as a few birches.



Willow tit

Illustration: Bo Persson

A number of potential trees with high natural values, among others large diameter trees and oines with sprawled out branches. The riparian zone layers of deciduous trees is promoted as well as distribution of species.

Siberian jay and willow tit are bird species than one can encounter here. They are benefited by continuous canopy forest management. Enhanced environmental consideration when harvesting has proved positive for several species. At the same time multi or full layered stands give a considerably better conditions for many forest living species. It has shown that a well-developed cover of bushes and shrubs can have great importance. Populations of sedentary birds like siberian jay, willow tit and coal tits has decreased lately. The most likely reasons are fragmentation of the landscape and the single layered stands that rational forest management favour.