

Forestry in proximity to water

Water in the service of man

For thousands of years people have used watercourses in various ways. Visible remains from sawmills, mills and timber floating tells us about those times.

When silvicultural measures

” **With careful planning**

are applied, it is important to take the proper considerations to water and cultural moments.

and care, good consideration to both nature and cultural heritage can be taken.

No damage from forest operations is allowed on and around cultural monuments. The monuments are not allowed to be covered over by brash. One can remove trees on and close to the cultural monuments. When doing so you limit the risk for having the monuments destroyed by trees felled from wind as well as increasing visibility and decreasing overgrowth.

Cultural monuments close to water are often within the riparian zones that are designated for consideration to water. Hence, they become left without being cleared.

With good planning and care one can be considerate to both nature and cultural heritage at the same time.



Illustration: Bo Persson

Timber floating

The development of the lumber business during the 18th and 19th century created an economical value in the forests of Norrland. The first timber floating's were made without built structures. Temporary structures were built by using timber to lead logs past difficult passages. When the timber floating finished for the year these structures were taken down and the timbers used were floated as well. When timber floating grew in importance mainstreams were cleared of rocks and other obstacles. That is when stationary structures were constructed to be able to control the floating timber and the water level.

The remains that can be seen today are often along smaller watercourses, where the floating seized early and there was no point in demolishing the structures.

Constructions in stone are the only things left visible, but on site one can also see more or less rotten timbers from the dam buildings and rafting flues.

When harvesting here and on the other side of the river all the trees has been removed in and around the remains of the rafting dam. So called "cultural tree" stumps can also be left to mark the monument for future reference.



Illustration: Bo Persson

Water mill

Basic water mills were used during several hundred years, until the 20th century. They were often placed along small rivers where they milled for household use. Downstream from this point, where the stream runs under the main road, there has been a watermill according to an official property map from the year 1880. There are no visible remains today.

Sawmill

On parish map from 1844 there is a sawmill marked ca 600 meters upstream from this point. It was possibly a basic water driven frame saw.