

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, straight tree trunks and green foliage, serving as the background for the top section of the page.

Integrate+ field excursions

Climate change, forest resilience and wood markets

6-9 June 2016

**Learning from experiences of forest
owners in southern Germany**



Programme

5 June

Arrival of participants in Munich
Transfer to Oberammergau

6 June

9.00-12.30 Private forest owner association Unterbrunn (Stephan Gampe, AELF Weilheim)

14.00-15.30 Private forest owner association Oberammergau (Anton Burkhardt)

15.30-17.30 Introduction to Oberammergau Marteloscope s (Franz Binder, LWF)

7 June

9.00-12.00 State Forest Enterprise Oberammergau (Richard Baur, BaySF)

13.00-17.00 State Forest Enterprise Oberammergau (Richard Baur, BaySF)

8 June

8.00-9.30 Transfer to Scheidegg

9.30-12.00 Private forest owner association Westallgäu (Robert Baldauf, AELF Kempten)

14.00-17.00 Osterwaldgemeinschaft Eglofs (Ulrich Herkle, ForstBW)

9 June

Departure

Contact information

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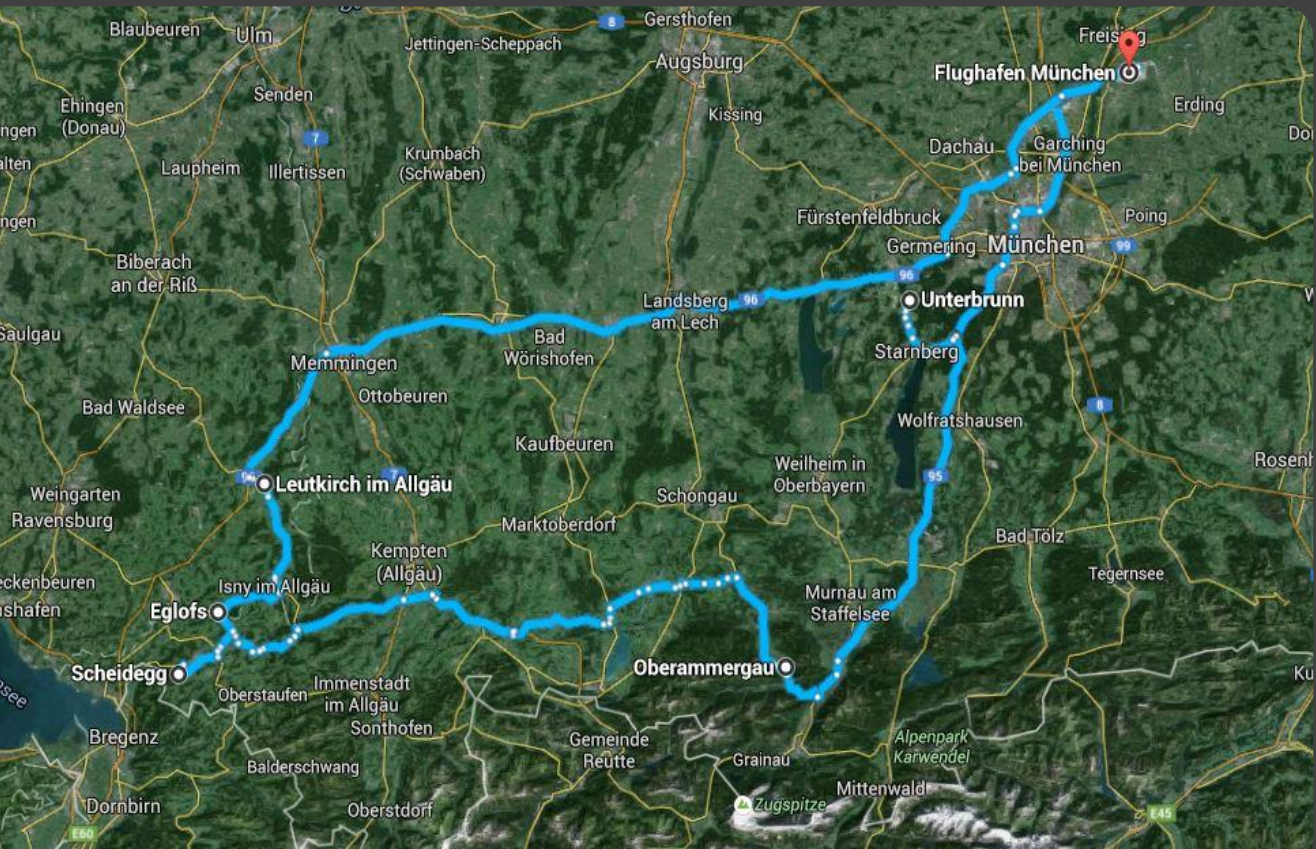


Background and information

One important activity applied in the course of the Integrate+ project are field excursions. Their main aim is to facilitate and enhance the exchange of expertise between regions and across country borders. Equally important are the taking home of new and innovative ideas from research and practice and building networks for future collaboration and exchange. Target groups are forest practitioners, nature conservation managers, researchers, administrators and policy makers.

In the course of this excursion, Norwegian experts will visit locations in southern Germany. Topics that are addressed include:

- the management of Norway spruce under climate change, species diversification and approaches for forest conversion
- visit to a Marteloscope in which the development of carbon stocks can be demonstrated based on different management regimes
- management of mountain forests under climate change with focus on the role and management of deadwood, tree species composition and harvesting methods
- innovative approaches on how to organize harvesting and marketing amongst small private forest owners including the creation of local markets for forest products
- conversion of even-aged stands to continuous cover forests in Norway spruce stands in a communal forest



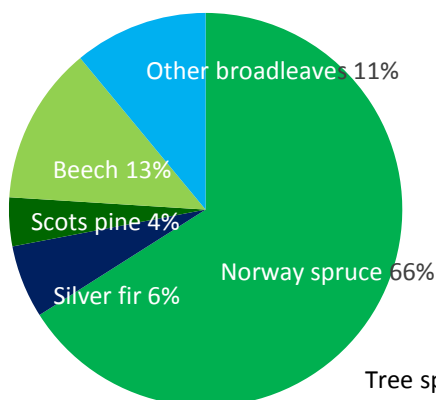


The forests of the state forest enterprise Oberammergau stretch from the northern slopes of the Wetterstein range to the moraine landscape north of Peiting on an area of 44 390 ha. In the higher altitudes, near-natural forests still can be found on larger areas while in the foothills and lowlands human influence on forest structure and composition becomes more visible. Nevertheless, valuable landscape elements have remained because of the unfavorable site conditions and the resulting low intensity use.

Historical development

Most of the national forest in the Ammer range with its grazing and hunting rights was transferred from Emperor “Ludwig the Bavarian” to the Ettal monastery in 1330. With the secularization of 1803 the monastic property passed into state ownership. The County of Werdenfels - the valley area of the upper Loisach river - had been in possession of the bishops of Freising since the Middle Ages until the secularization. Because of the lack of minerals (salt, ores), the timber use was limited to the local and small regional needs (subsistence). Therefore, the forests were used only low profile in the mountains. Extensive grazing rights altered the forest image mainly on the south facing slopes of the Ammer and Ester ranges.

The royal hunting regime under the Wittelsbach family burdened the Silver fir regeneration in the Ammer range considerably. The forests in the lowlands were originally owned by the monasteries Steingaden, Rottenbuch and Wessobrunn and also became state property in the 1803 secularization. Starting from the mid-19th century, the forests were used intensively and mostly rebuilt into pure spruce forests. Only the steep slopes along the rivers Ammer, Wielenbach and Lech remained largely untouched.



Tree species composition in SFE Oberammergau (total area)

Forest Management Objectives

In accordance with Art. 18 of the Forest Law for Bavaria, the state forest shall contribute to the public welfare in a particular way; therefore it is to be managed exemplarily. The silvicultural principles of Bavarian State Forests aim at the optimization of the overall benefit of all forest functions, where trade-offs for the interests of the public welfare have to be made. In all forestry activities, the interests of nature conservation are taken into account. The objective is to restore, to maintain and to improve the natural habitats of forest biodiversity.

Under environmental protection aspects it is an imperative for the SFE Oberammergau to provide renewable raw material to the local economy and population in a sustainably possible range from high-quality plywood up to firewood provision. The seemingly apparent conflict of interest between timber production and natural heritage conservation can normally be solved with consequent close-to-nature forest management. Forest management pursues the conservation goals by application of integrative forest management concepts.

SFE Oberammergau seeks to achieve long-term natural regeneration processes and dispensed in principle on (final) removals, strip cutting and clear cuts. The primary silvicultural method is single tree harvest in conjunction with a group selection system. In the high altitude mountains, one third of the stock volume shall remain in the subsequent stand after harvesting. Ecologically valuable and important elements like habitat trees and deadwood are integrated in the regular forest management across the total operational area of the enterprise.



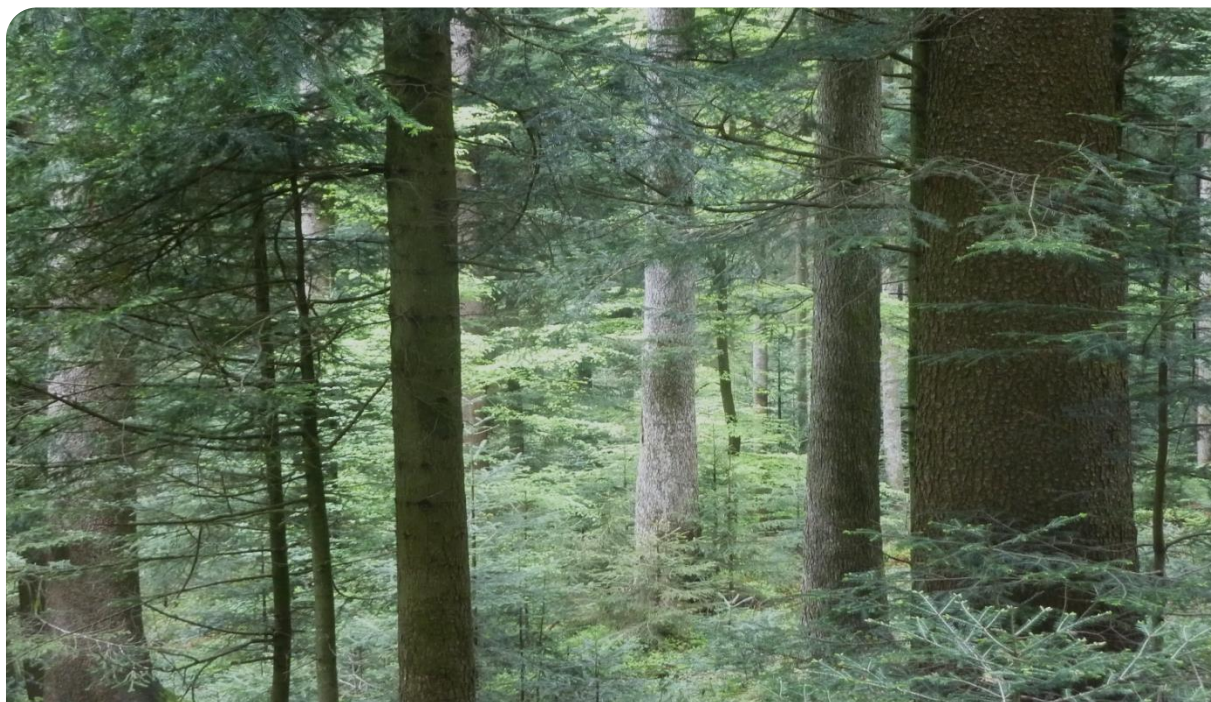
Forest Owners Association 'Westallgäu'



The Forest Owners Association Westallgäu (WBV) was founded in the early 1950's originating from forest ownership associations routed in individual communities in the Westallgäu. Such a structure allowed reaching all private forest owners in the region, and thus interact with and support them in their daily forest related work.

Based on this original concept of assistance, a modern service and support centre has developed. Besides the joint marketing of timber, the association represents the interests of private forest owners in policy, society and towards other groups and provides help when dealing with administrations. Structural and demographic changes in private forest ownership is addressed by offering forest management agreements for those not able to take care of their forests. The WBV is also active in sustaining SMEs in the region by its own WBV-enterprise network and is well connected to regional wood markets.

Due to high shares of Silver fir in the region, management and marketing efforts have been put especially towards this species. The WBV has been able to achieve jointly with other neighbouring regions good marketing concepts and a good financial return to forest owners.



Organisation

The WBV Westallgäu is a registered association with a board consisting of two honorary chairpersons and six forest owners. The WBV personnel includes a managing director, a forester (halftime), an administrator and 2 employees dealing with wood sales. The WBV is supported by elected representatives from the communities covered by the WBV Westallgäu.

The main purpose of the WBV is to support private and community forest owners and enhance its position. Main tasks of WBV are as follows:

- Joint representation of all members in forestry related issues
- Providing information and training for its members
- Assisting in managing communal and private forests based on targeted management plans
- Guidance in issues relating to wood assortments and wood use
- Supporting owners in wood sales and marketing other goods and services provided by forests
- Promoting forests in their role as central landscape element, their importance for regional economy, biodiversity and as cultural heritage
- Public relations work

General information

Westallgäu: administrative districts Lindau and Oberallgäu, embedded in the south by the Austrian border and the border Bavaria – Baden-Württemberg

Elevation: 400 – 1000 m

Precipitation: 1200 – 1800 mm

Annual average temperature: 5 – 9 °C

Fact and figures

Total forest area: 10 000 ha
of which: 8 500 ha WBV

Ownership: 400 ha state forest
300 ha community forest
9 300 ha private forest

Number of forest owners: 4500
of which 2160 are members of WBV

Property sizes:

All owners: ø 2.2 ha/forest owner

WBV members: ø 3.9 ha/forest owner

History of Eglofs

817	first records in monastery of St Gallen mentioning a certain „Egilolf“
1243	Eglofs is under direct rule of Kaiser Friedrich II
14.- 17. Cent.	various ownership and lease regulations and frequent conflicts around the Eglofser “freedom rights”
1521	two citizens are visiting the Kaiser and defend the Eglofs privileges and freedom rights in a conflict with neighboring Wangen
1803	Eglofs ownership moves to Fürst Windisch-Grätz“
1832	establishment of Osterwaldgenossenschaft Eglofs: after a 20 year (legal) struggle, the „Free Farmers of Eglofs“ are getting the ownership of Osterwald back from Fürst Windisch-Grätz

The ownership of Osterwald is allocated to appr. 100 farming estates (descendants of the 1832 founders) ever since.

Osterwald today – living traditions

Continuity, considerateness, tradition, team spirit and comradery are influencing the management and silviculture to this day. They ensure, along with the good local site conditions and sustainable close to nature forest management, a high economic and social benefit. The “freedom” spirit of Eglofs, ie the pursuit of freedom, independence and the constant struggle against oppression and paternalism are reflected today in the forest images. The path of continuous cover forest management is the logical continuation and the expression of the Osterwald tradition.



General information

Operational Area:	261 ha
Organisation:	1 district, 12 blocks
Forest roads:	25 km
Classified for „Recreation“:	total area
Soil protection forest:	44 ha
Special Forest Habitat	20 ha

Site conditions

Geology:	glacial drift / moraine
Growth region:	Southwest German Pre-Alps
Altitude:	700 - 750 m
Temperature:	7.2° C
Precipitation:	1400 – 1600 mm

Silvicultural development in Osterwald

Historic

- low intensity forestry, harvest of single large trees and fire wood

Beginning of 20th century

- start of planned systematic silviculture
- start of tradition of natural regeneration and focus on Silver fir

Mid 20th century

- strip cutting and age class concepts
- afforestation of former grazing sites

Since 1990

- no clear felling, continuous cover, natural regeneration
- change to supervised own hunting (vs. Lease of hunting rights to others)

Situation today

Volume:	515 m ³ /ha
Increment:	15 m ³
Harvest volume:	3 500 m ³ /a
Regeneration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• on 2/3 of area• established on 50% of area• >50% Silver fir

Notes:

Notes:

Integrate+ is a demonstration project funded by the German BMEL to establish a European network of demonstration sites for the integration of biodiversity conservation into forest management.

The Integrate+ project runs from December 2013 to December 2016 and builds on a partner network from research and practice with a focus on implementation of integrative management and enhancing transnational exchange of experiences.



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