

# Challenges in the management of hunting rights and hunting possibilities in North Finland



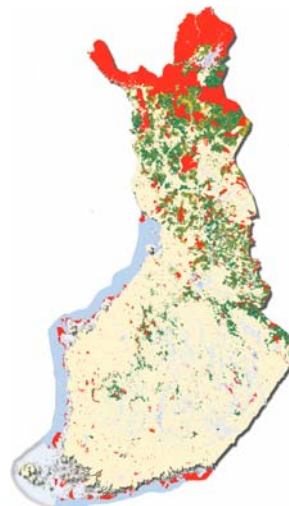
NORTH HUNT 18.11. 2010

Jukka Bisi

## State lands and waters

- Forest land in managed forests, 3.5 million ha
  - Poorly productive and non-productive land, 1.5 million ha (excluded from forestry)
  - Protected areas, wilderness reserves and other areas, 4.0 million ha
- Water areas, 3.4 million ha
- Public water areas
- In total 12.4 million ha

### Ownership of forest land in Finland



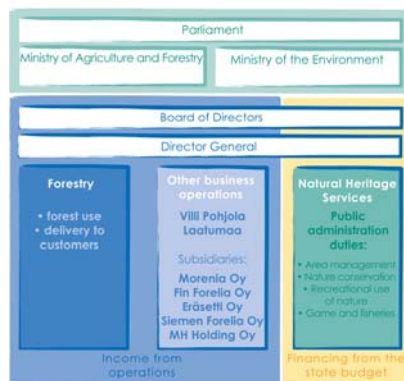
## What is Metsähallitus?

Metsähallitus is a state-owned enterprise that runs business activities while also fulfilling many public administration duties.

Metsähallitus provides natural resources sector services to a diverse customer base, from private individuals to major companies. Our operations are based on the knowledgeable and co-operative use of state land and water areas.

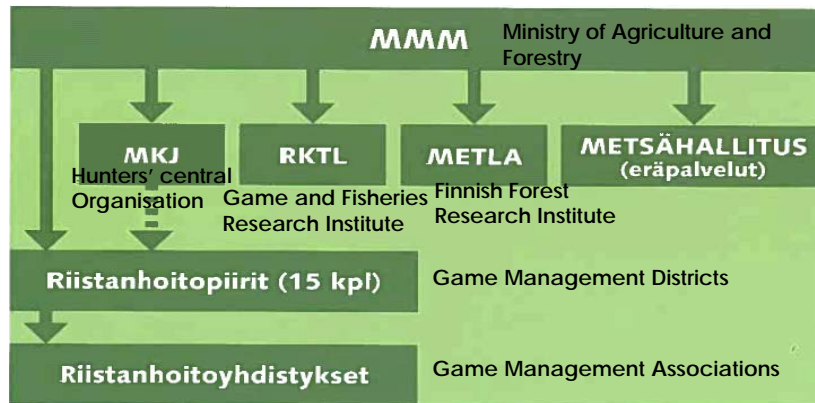


## Organisation



Metsähallitus operates primarily within the framework laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Metsähallitus's nature conservation duties are guided by the Ministry of the Environment.

Metsähallitus' Hunting sector As a part of the Public Game Corporation:  
(Julkinen riistakonserni)



Over 100 000 hunters using state-owned land



Licence hunters ca. 35 000

Hunters of Northern Finland, who have free rights to hunt ca. 50 000

Moose hunters ca. 40 000

Rented hunting areas: 2348  
(ca. 50 000 hunters)

When planing hunting  
on state owned land what  
Should we take into account?

## Free hunting right

- Citizens living in northern municipalities can hunt freely on state land within their home municipality (Hunting Act 8 §) (*almoust unlimited right*).
- When planning citizens' lizences (**strict limited**) in the above-mentioned area, local rights are priority
- Relation: about 84-90 % of game bag is hunted by locals
- Concerns 50 000 local hunters



## Sámi culture and reindeer herding

- Three northernmost municipalities compose the Sámi Homeland area
- The Sámi have a constitutional self-government in the spheres of language and culture.
- Reindeer herding and shearing of willow grouse is strongly connected to this cultural spheres
- The Sámi Parliament must be heard when planning hunting in Sámi Homeland,



## Citizens' licences

- Metsähallitus' **public administration duty** is to offer hunting possibilities on state land.
- Hunting licences are public authority decisions (can be appealed).
- Citizens who have no other possibilities for hunting are prioritized (Hunting Act 45 § and 46 §).
- Licence prices set by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- Licences for small game, small predators, moose, bear etc. (licences restricted with time, species, area, amount)

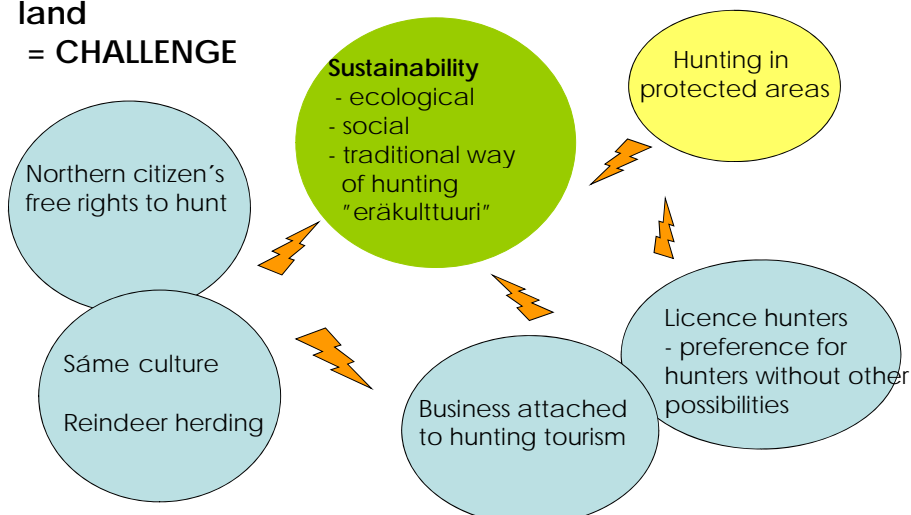
## Business attached to hunting tourism

- before 2005 many local entrepreneurs, who had paying clients also had the right to sell hunting licences to state land
- In 2005, the change of legislation stopped this practise
- Many groups of licence hunters lost their contact to entrepreneurs that organised their hunting trip
- During last years several political attempts to return this entrepreneurs' selling but without success

→ pressure toward Metsähallitus

## Boundary conditions in planning hunting on state owned land

= CHALLENGE



How to manage this  
challenging (conflicting)  
area?

## "Toolbox"

- strong and real time knowledge of game population's
- functional and reliable planning and documentation of sustainable hunting
- well organized co-operation with, and hearing methods of, stakeholders
- methods to monitor customer satisfaction
- scientific co-operation from both in ecological and social sustainability point of view
- constant on-going learning and developing process
- transparency and openness

