

Muistio 11.11.2009

NorthHunt reference group, 3. meeting

Present:

University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute	Sami P. Kurki
University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute	Anne Matilainen
University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute	Susanna Keskinarkaus
Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute	Päivi Eskelinen
Hunter's Central Organization	Teuvo Eskola
The Union of Finnish Hunters	Ere Grenfors
Haapavesi Vocational School	Markus Muuttola
Lestipuu	Jorma Tuikka
Erä-Korpinen	Sakari Muuttola
The Finnish Nature-based Entrepreneurship Association	Juha Rutanen
Forest and Park Service	Jukka Bisi

Opening the meeting

Sami Kurki, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute

Reference groups in other countries

Susanna Keskinarkaus, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute

The social sustainability of hunting tourism in Finland

Susanna Keskinarkaus, Anne Matilainen, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute

Central results from the sales organization survey

Markus Muuttola, Haapavesi Vocational School

Research results: Commercial hunting on state land in the North

Susanna Keskinarkaus, Anne Matilainen, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute

The regional economic effect of hunting tourism in the North



Anne Matilainen (Hannu Törmä) University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute

All presentations can be found on the web-pages: www.north-hunt.org/fi
For English translations, please contact Susanna Keskinarkaus (susanna.keskinarkaus@helsinki.fi)

The following issues were discussed in the meeting:

- Structure of the outdoor recreation forum
- The Swedish interest in a permanent hunting tourism forum
- The organization of hunters and hunting clubs in Iceland
- The issue of alternative land use that is under discussion on Scotland
- If the acceptance of hunting tourism depends on the hunter-status of the respondent
- Should environmental NGO's be heard on the social sustainability of hunting tourism
- The small game hunting licenses on State land
 - The divergent groups of independent hunters and customers of companies
 - The current legislation of license distribution is equal¹ but the current sales practice does not ensure that the licenses are given to those without other reasonable hunting opportunity like the law requires
 - Is the general public aware that changes to the current system are planned and how would this affect their opinions
 - Giving a portion of the licenses to certain entrepreneurs would create a new elite: a group of entrepreneurs with licenses (versus a group of entrepreneurs without hunting licenses)
 - The timing of license sales would create an unequal situation: licenses to the entrepreneurs should be given in the beginning of the year and individuals would have the opportunity to buy their

¹ Metsähallitus contracted several entrepreneurs to sell hunting licenses until the Metsähallitus-law changed in 2005. According to the new interpretation, hunting license decisions are official state authority decisions that cannot be passed on to entrepreneurs. (Keskinarkaus & Matilainen, 2009)

licenses only during the centralized sales in the summer and autumn

- Fears that distributing licenses to entrepreneurs would turn hunting into an elitist activity and views that it is not equal even in the present situation (due to the local hunting rights²)
- Why do the local hunting rights only apply to citizens in the North? Some argued that it is an incentive to live in the North and also noted that the local hunters take care of the game management
- Is there demand for Northern hunting products?
- The results of the „Commercial hunting on state land in the North“ - research raised active debate and it was emphasized that the found models apply to the unique area of the North.

The next meeting will be held in the Spring of 2010.

² Local people in the Northern part of Finland do not need to purchase a license to hunt on state land as they have a law-protected (Metsästyslaki 615/93 8§) right to hunt on state-owned land in their own municipality. (Keskinarkaus & Matilainen, 2009)

