



Some information on German forestry

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How much forests in Germany today and where?

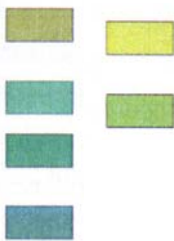


Germany is covered by 10.567.660 hectares of forests, this is approx. 30% of the entire country. Most of the forests lie in mountainous areas (Alps, Black Forest, Harz Mountains, Bavarian Forest, Palatine Forest, Thuringian Forest) and in the lowlands (East Germany) with poor soils.

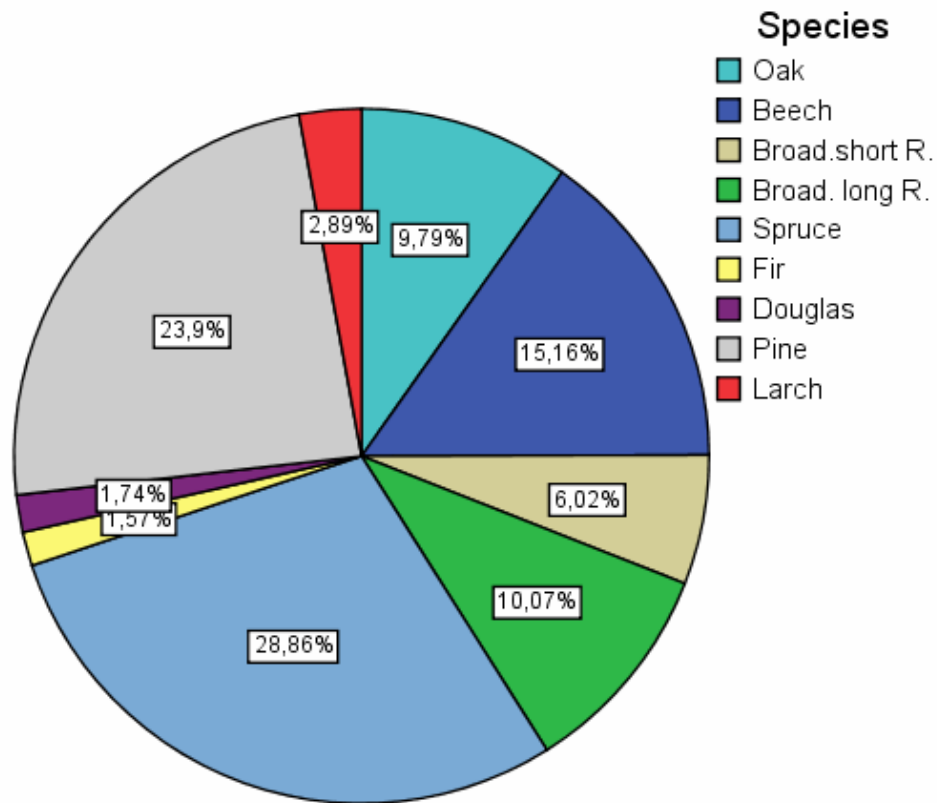


Germany would be a forest country by nature (> 95% of area). Beech dominated forests would prevail by far. Only in dry areas and poor soils, oak and pine would get a share, in the higher mountains spruce as well.

Beech dominated forests:

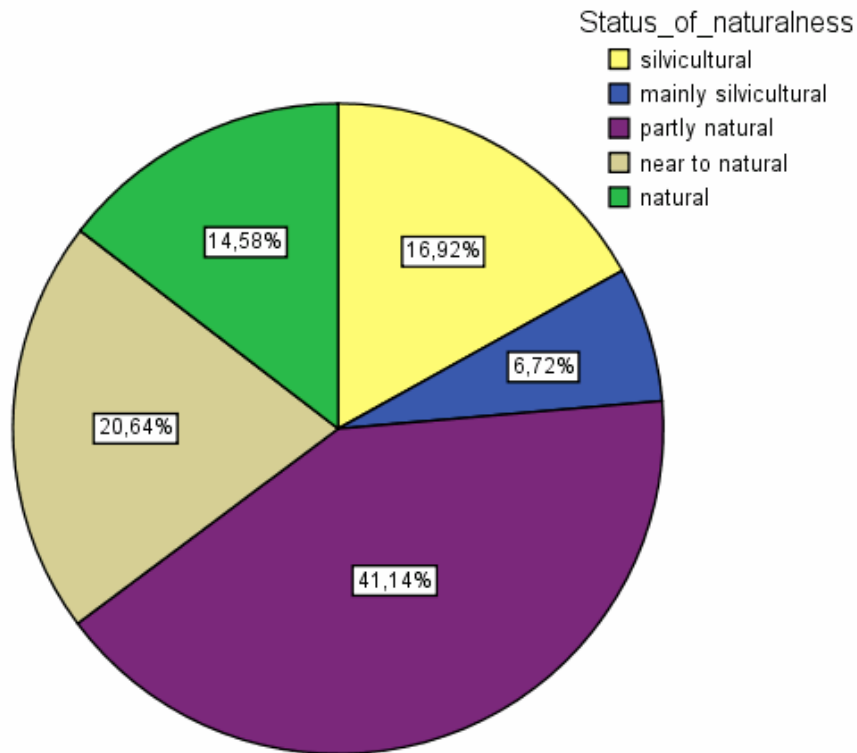


How do the forests really look like?



Today's forests most often consist of conifers with spruce prevailing, followed by pine (sum is 52%); beech and oak sum up to a quarter.

How is the status of naturalness?

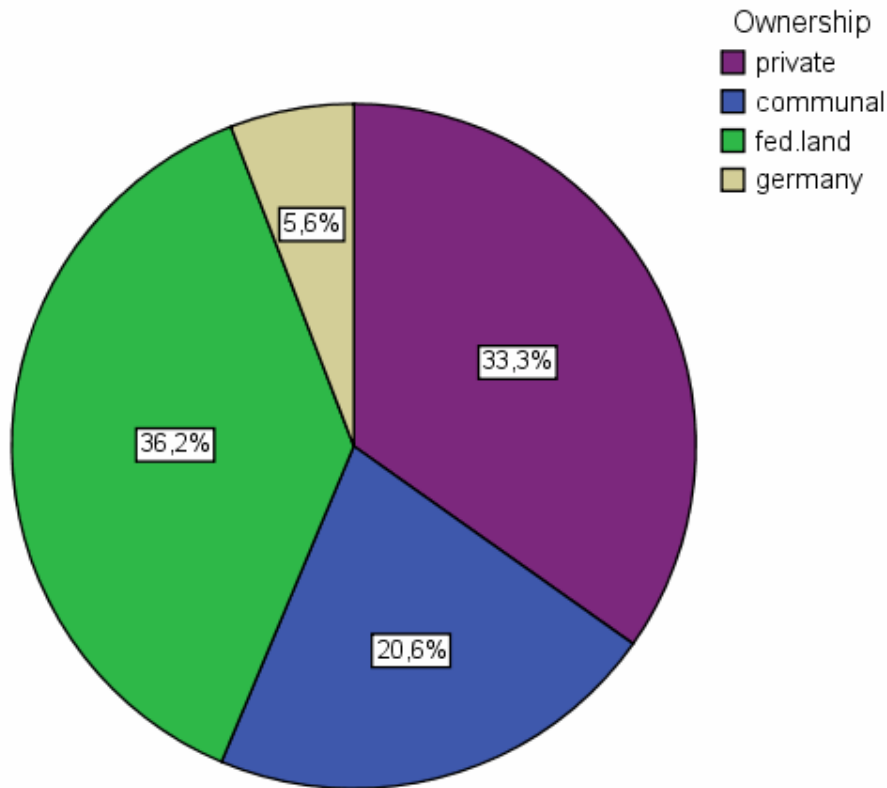


The tree species proportions are very different from nature. This leads to some relevant problems in regard to biotic as well as non biotic risks, e.g. bark beetle damages, windthrow, snowbreak. Management has to cope with these risks.

Growth and yield data

713	Trees per hectare [1/ha]
30	basal area [m ² /ha]
23	dbh of representative tree [cm]
317	growing stock volume [m ³ /ha]
20	dbh of arithmetic mean tree [cm]
72	age [a]
23,5	mean height (Lorey) [m]

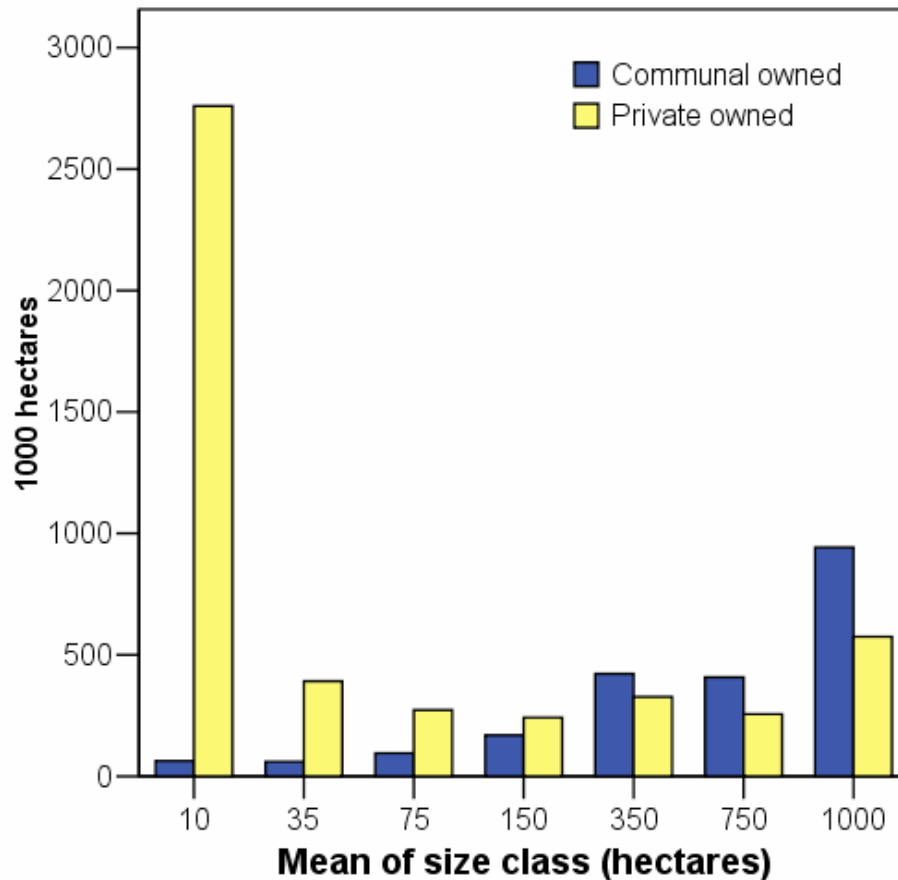
Who owns the forests?



The forests are owned by private persons as well as by church, town communities, the federal lands and the republic of Germany. Most important are private persons, the federal lands and communal ownership.

There is no strong forest policy by the central power in Berlin nor is there a strong impact from Brussels (EU). The most relevant forest policy power lies by the lands, e.g. Saxony, Bavaria et cetera.

What is the size of the non state-owned forest enterprises?



Forest enterprises which are owned by towns or by private persons have a very relevant share of the entire timber production of Germany. However, those forests very often are managed for a large diversity of services in addition or as surrogates to timber production.

Looking at the size frequency distribution of the non-state owned forest enterprises reveals a problem: The vast majority of the enterprises is very small and forest policy has to cope with this obstacle.