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Multifunctional forestry practices as a land use strategy to meet increasing private and public demands in modern societies

F. Schmithüsen

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The present distribution of forests and the degree of their transformation by man are the results of natural factors and cultural development. The limit between forested areas and open spaces, as well as differences between intensively used forests and those showing small or no traces of human intervention, is determined by social needs and values, economic opportunities, and political regulations. Forests are currently perceived by the population as physical and social spaces profoundly influenced by timber use and forest management. Their social and political significance is in full evolution. The multiple demands on forests in a rapidly evolving economic, social, and political environment require maintaining a high level of forest management standards and a flexible adaptation of multiple-use forestry to the complex interactions between the private and public sectors.

Keywords:

forestry development; multifunctional land use; environmental perception; nontimber benefits; forest policy

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Contact

Mgr. Petra Kolářová
Executive Editor
phone: + 420 227 010 355
e-mail: jfs@cazv.cz

Address

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