

SALE OF STANDING TIMBER FROM FOREST STANDS IN THINNING STAGE

The company Slovak Forest Services, s.r.o. was established in 2006 and manages also forest real estates on the whole area approximately 1 530 hectares, whereby certified forest management expert and forester are employed for the work directly in the forest. In autumn 2007, the company decided to sell timber from forests stands in thinning stage as standing timber to people interested in fire-wood who arrange it by themselves. As the result of that, there occur weaker injuries of coppices and financial effect is higher.

The company acceded to timber sale from forest stands in thinning stage, whereby it concerns first and second thinning, because they are managing forests in the locality where is relatively high interest in fire-wood and it was in the company's interest to satisfy all interested people.

The analysis which issued from following thoughts was made: 1 m³ of fire-wood is sold by the company for 16,60 €, what practically represents net profit from 1 m³ of timber. If this work was made by harvesting group (group of self-employed workers who work in forest harvesting as contractors), costs for cutting 1 m³ of timber could reach 19,92 €. The company nowadays sells 1 m³ of beech pulp-wood for 33,19 €, prices of oak, maple and ash pulp-wood are lower. From these mentioned facts it is obvious that the company reaches better wood valorisation by sale of timber as fire-wood concerning present situation of decreasing wood prices, as if that work is made by harvesting group and timber is sold as pulp-wood. Timber is sold directly in forest stand, so its valorisation is higher, because the company can save on transport and charging.

From company's point of view, it is needed only to mark cutting, running control and participation in transport. Each vehicle loaded by timber is photographed in order to document loaded timber by local private foresters in the relationship to customers. Costs for mentioned actions are in principle minimal. Problems with implementation have not occurred. People interested in fire-wood can learn about this possibility through the offer after expressing interest in preparing fire-wood. The company makes effort to warn the public to follow rules in forest, marks approach forest roads, periodically cleans forest after tourist's visit and actively cooperates with police when some problems occur.

Company's aim is to manage forest real estates responsibly, mainly in the relationship to nature, not only from the higher profit's point of view. They have profit because the way of breeding parts of forest stands and of processing timber from them is in accordance with their aim.

Main actors are people interested in fire-wood – natural person; people who use wood for heating, whereby two groups work relatively year round and they prepare fire-wood not only for their consumption, but also for the others.

The company did not cooperate with anybody by the idea of innovation and its implementation; everything came from their own initiation on the basis of considering pros and cons.

Public policy and programmes do not play any role in the case of innovation of the company Slovak Forest Services, s.r.o. In the past, company used the possibility of substitute for common management of forest lands in case of 280 hectares of reservations, which are located on the area managed by them. Also this year, they applied for this compensation to agricultural payment agency considering the restriction that they could not make any measures on the area of reservation through the period of 5 years.