

Methodology for Inventorying and Characterizing Non-Industrial Private Forestry

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ABSTRACT

The existing information of the socio-economic characterization of forest farms is scarce, especially compared to that of agricultural land uses. Several works and initiatives by international institutions have not been able to reach an agreement on terminology, contents, and typification of forest owners or forestry farm sizes.

Aware of this problem, an agreement was signed between the Galician Institute of Statistics (IGE), the Ministry of Environment of the Xunta of Galicia and our research group in order to design a methodology for inventorying and monitoring forest ownership and study its socio-economic characteristics in Galicia (an autonomous region in the northwest of Spain). This information will be used as a base for Forest Certification and the application of Sustainable Pan European Criteria.

The proposed method has two parts. Firstly, the elaboration of a forest owner census, by implementing a GIS (Geographic Information System) on a certain forest area. In order to define its land uses we evaluate comparatively, in terms of cost and accuracy, three methodologies based on aerial photography and remote sensing. And, secondly, a stratification of the forest owners, based on their level of forest production (wood cut and estimate of annual production), in order to carry out a survey.

Finally, with these results, a farm forestry type will be selected to build a network for monitoring the socio-economic of farm forestry. At present, the model is being applied to a municipality.

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