

Estonian Research Council

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Letter of support

The Estonian State Forest Management Centre (RMK) supports the team grant application to the Estonian Research Council by the Estonian University of Life Sciences (EULS) on the topic of **continuous cover forestry**, project leader Professor Reimo Lutter.

According to RMK's Development Plan 2024-2028, one of the objectives of RMK's activities in preserving and enhancing biodiversity is "to develop and implement principles for the use of forest management methods other than clear cutting in commercial forests and for the creation of smaller clear-cutting areas." To achieve this goal, a science-based definition and model of continuous cover forestry, which is suitable for application in hemiboreal Estonian soil and climate conditions, must be developed.

RMK and EULS have experience of long-term cooperation. Most of the study areas of the applicant project are located in RMK's forests. At the request of RMK, in 2011-2014, EULS carried out a research project "Ecological-economic analysis of shelterwood cutting method and establishment of the network of demonstration-experimental areas" under the lead of Professor Hardi Tullus, the results of which helped to change the regulations of shelterwood cutting and selection cutting in the Estonian Forest Act and the Forest Management Guidelines in 2017 in a direction that ensures a more successful implementation of alternatives to clear cutting in forestry practice, especially in fulfilling forest regeneration objectives. RMK has successfully implemented these recommendations in the regeneration of forests of heightened public interest.

Over the past ten years, there has been a great interest in the application of continuous cover forestry in society as a whole and therefore also in forestry practice, which requires also new research results from forest science. Based on the studies of the applicant project planned at the EULS, RMK hopes to make science-based decisions and recommendations for the implementation of continuous cover forestry in everyday forest management practice, including the development of a network of demonstration areas, with the aim of training private forest owners and nature enthusiasts.

Signature



Erko Soolmann
Member of the Management Board
State Forest Management Centre (RMK)