

Session 220: Richer Economies, Better Environmental Policies? Analyzing the „environmental question“ in forest policy in OECD countries

Call for Papers

Organized by Georg Winkel¹, Cassandra Moseley², and Metodi Sotirov¹

Contact: georg.winkel@ifp.uni-freiburg.de

In the last 30 years, forest policy in some OECD countries has been characterized by virulent conflicts between environmental groups and the forest sector. The “Spotted Owl” controversy in the US Pacific Northwest, the heated debate on Tasmanian forests (Australia), the Canadian “Great Bear Rain Forest” (Canada), or remaining old growth forest in Scandinavian countries have gain much public and scholarly interest. In some cases, these conflicts resulted into major changes in forest policy and had significant effects on societies. In other countries, environmental conflicts in forest policy have been much more hidden and lingering, contained to experts’ debates and decision making. Yet, this session starts with the presupposition that there is what one may label an “environmental question” in forest policy in almost all countries that contain managed forest land. Distinct societal perspectives on forest and related interests (e.g., forest as a renewable resource to be managed sustainably versus forest as place for ‘pristine’ wilderness and biodiversity, forest for recreation versus forest for income of land owners) and forest management paradigms coexist in almost all countries, and forest policy is continuously striving for balancing these different stakes, with very different ‘outcomes’ depending on the country and region.

In this session, we aim to shed light into the ‘environmental question’ in forest policy and responses by forest policy makers (i.e., policies and governance arrangements and their effects) concentrating on OECD countries. We particularly invite papers and posters that

- assess environment-related forest policy conflicts drawing on different theoretical and methodological approaches in political science, policy studies, sociology, political economy, political ecology, geography, sustainability sciences and related disciplines,
- compare environment related forest policy making within and across different OECD countries, or between OECD and non-OECD countries,
- trace environment related forest policy making over time and analyze forest policy change and stability related to environmental issues in OECD countries,
- assess new instruments and innovative governance arrangements that tackle the regulation of environmental forest policy conflicts, and

¹ Forest and Environmental Policy Group, University of Freiburg, Germany

² Ecosystem Workforce Program; Institute for a Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon, USA

- assess the effects that changing agendas in environmental policy (e.g., “nature”, “biodiversity”, “green” or “biobased economy”, “climate change”) and other developments and trends (e.g., reforms of forest and environmental agencies, changing policy priorities) had on forest policy in the respective country or region.

Altogether, the panel aims to provide an of course not complete, but nevertheless comprehensive picture of the ‘environmental question’ in forest policy in OECD countries, and, with that, also to identify major trends in (environment related) forest policy making in these countries.

Session Organization

This session will contain an introductory statement (opening remarks) by the panel organizers and max. 6 papers based on responses to the Call for Papers. Depending on the contributions we may receive, we aim to launch a special issue or a ‘thematic block’ in a forest and environmental policy journal.

Please send your abstracts for contributing a paper or poster to this session by referring to the guidelines available under <http://iufro2014.com/scientific-program/abstract-submissions/> and use only the online tool for submitting.

! The deadline for submission is October, 15th !