

Position of landowners in Latvian hunting system

Latvian Forest Owners' Association

www.mezaipasnieki.lv

**Veicinot ilgtspējīgas
un ekonomiski
efektīvas
mežsaimniecības
attīstību Latvijā**



About me

Project manager in
LFOA since 2016

And

My family are:
Farmers,
Hunters
Forest owners and
foresters, so all groups
are quite well covered.



Latvian hunting system

We have to main normatives, what's regulate game managment in Latvia:

1. Hunting law;
2. Hunting rules.

Every person is allowed to create their own hunting district:

1. Landowners from 350 ha,
2. Hunters from 1000 ha.

Hunting rights owned by land owner. He can use it by him self (hunt small game) or authorize to use it for other persons or rent it for hunting clubs.

In Latvia there is around 22 000 active hunters, in 2021 successful was only 6500.

Main game species and area



>2500 ha of forest

01.09 - 31.12



Bull > 2000 ha

Cows and calves – 1000 ha

Bull – 01.09 – 15.02

< 2 year bulls – 15.08-31.03

Cows – 15.07- 31.01

Calves – 15.07-31.03

Main game species and area (2)



>350 ha of land

Male – 01.06- 30.11

Females and calfs – 15.08-
30.11



>350 of land

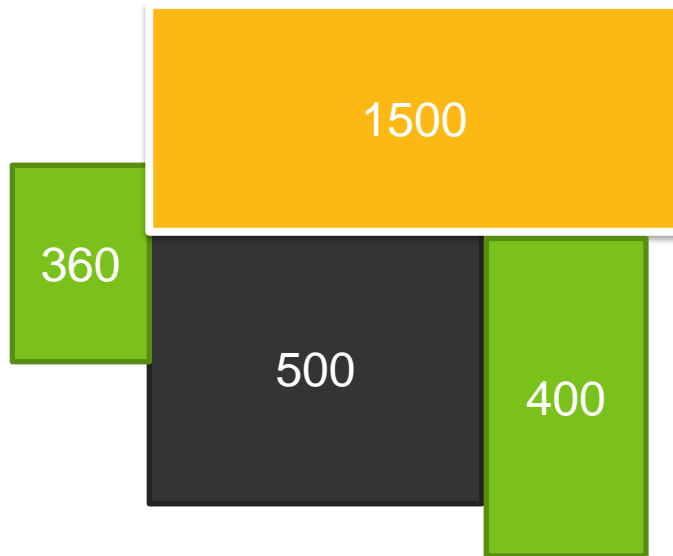
All year

Hunting districts

| Year | <100 ha | 101- 500 ha | 501- 1000 ha | 1001- 2000 ha | 2001- 2500 ha | 2501- 5000 ha | >5001 ha | Togeth er (nu mer) | Avera ge ha |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 2005 | 18 | 64 | 74 | | 369 | 445 | 198 | 1168 | |
| 2010 | 302 | 180 | 132 | 229 | 103 | 399 | 252 | 1597 | 2782 |
| 2015 | 592 | 256 | 135 | 252 | 101 | 424 | 314 | 2074 | 2231 |
| 2020 | 462 | 282 | 153 | 231 | 109 | 426 | 348 | 2011 | 2425 |
| 01.04.2022 | 403 | 293 | 146 | 240 | 101 | 429 | 352 | 1964 | 2520 |

1. In 03.2023 hunting districts what's smaller than 350 ha, will be excluded from register.
2. If the hunting area is not enough to hunt some Red deer or Elk, there is an option to make COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

Cooperation agreement



If these districts make an agreement, that they will manage populations together, **Forest State Service** accepts, that it is one hunting club and then they can hunt all species. Around 90 % of clubs can hunt all species. Mostly contracts means, that hunting clubs will respect each others borders.



For landowners:

- + hunters can hunt all species and reduce damages
- smaller option to choose hunting club.

Forming hunting districts

Every private person and legal entity is allowed to create their own hunting district:

1. Landowners from 350 ha
2. Hunters from 1000 ha.

Before 01.04.2022 there was only 200 ha for both

Hunting rights is owned by land owner. He can use it by him self or allow to use it for other persons or rent it to hunting clubs with an agreement, what they need to register in Forest State service.

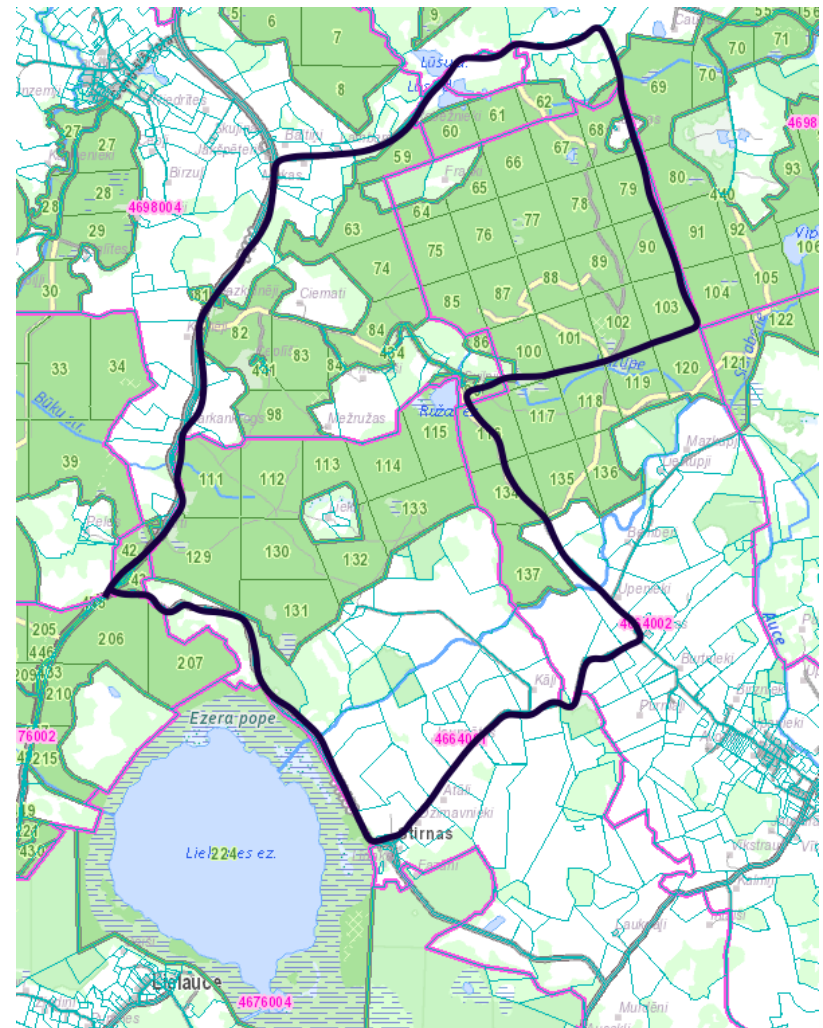
Percentage of hunting clubs made by landowners is just few. Mostly in those cases, if hunting club do not fill an agreement to reduce hunting animal damages.

Is it easy to make new hunting district?

1. No.

2. Why? The biggest problem for new districts are:

- Latvia State forests are half of all forests and they have long term (30 years agreements). Private forests are mostly around state forests.
- Moose and Red deere need big forest area, so it is hard to get it.
- Cooperation agreements – all is already divided between existing clubs.



About contracts

Contract is a basic how to get hunting rights, because it is owned by landowner. If landowner rent it for other, he cannot use it by himself.

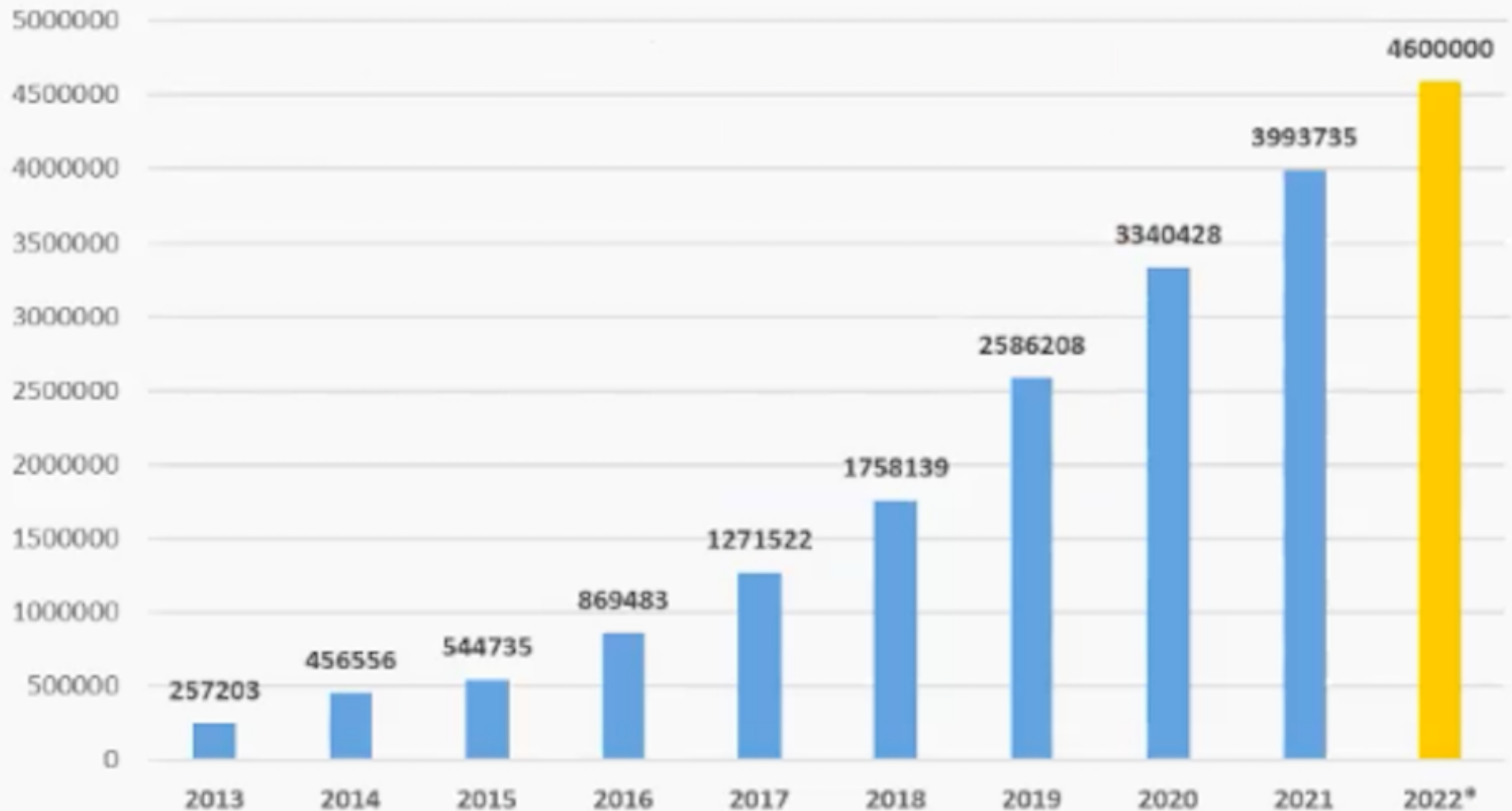
Contract is tool for landowner to fulfill some wishes from landowner – for example:

- inform him about drive hunt (if he lives in this area),
- do not make feeding places in young forest stands or near to agriculture fields.
- Control beaver population.
- Earn some money from rent of hunting rights (For large scale forest owners it is around 0.5 EUR/ha. For private landowners only in cases if property is important.

Note: There was a discussions about option to hunt without contracts.

Population size

Protection costs in Latvia State Forests, EUR



How much cost damages for State forests?



State forest client center = 4.6 Mlj Euro
2580 m²

YES, BUT IT IS STATES MONEY

Ok. Lets make it personal!

28 ha.

Annual Yield of wheat: 6 t/ha, so I should get 168t.

Because of damages in one side average yield is only 4 t/ha. I can get only 112 t. I lose 56 t. Price per ton this year is around 320-340 EUR.

So I lose 18 000 EUR. Question is, how long time my farming buisness will be profitable?

Compensations for damages?

Hunting coordination comisions:

- 7 representatives from diferent stakeholders decide what to do with damages to landowners.
- Mostly just calculate value of damages and that's all. In more than 10 years there is no case, when hunters would pay for damages to landowners.

Do not work because:

- Holder of the process is local municipality
- Human factor – everyone knows each other.
- If someone should pay – it would be crash of hunting club.

What to do?

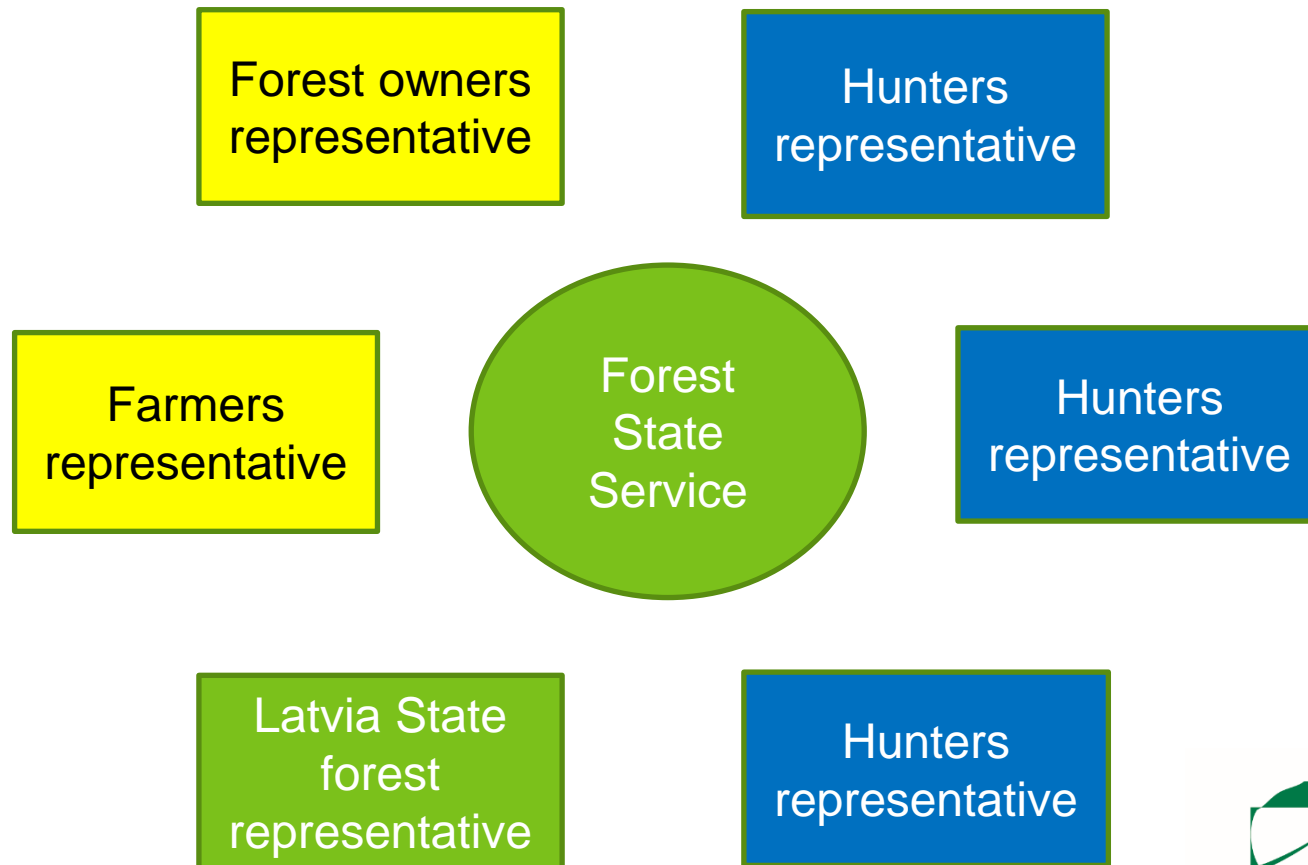


Result of negotiations last six years

- Memorandum with hunters.
- Last three years landowners takes participation in Limit setting groups (organizer – Forest State Service
- Changes of regulations.
- Use of new technologies.
- Ordered a research of minimal population sizes for main species.

Annual hunting bag setting process

9 Regional groups:



Changes of regulations

Hunting law:

- Larger minimal hunting areas (exception for land owners)
- Thermal scopes for Wild boars, fox and raccoon dog
- Possibility to hunt in cities

Hunting rules:

- Wild boars without limit (area)
- Roe deers without limit (area)
- Longer hunting season for Red Deers (calves and new bulls (two years)) until 31th of March.
- If there is an agreement for hunters cooperation, also border plan.
- Lost Lynx



Hunting app “Mednis”

Developed by: farmers, foresters, hunters and scientists

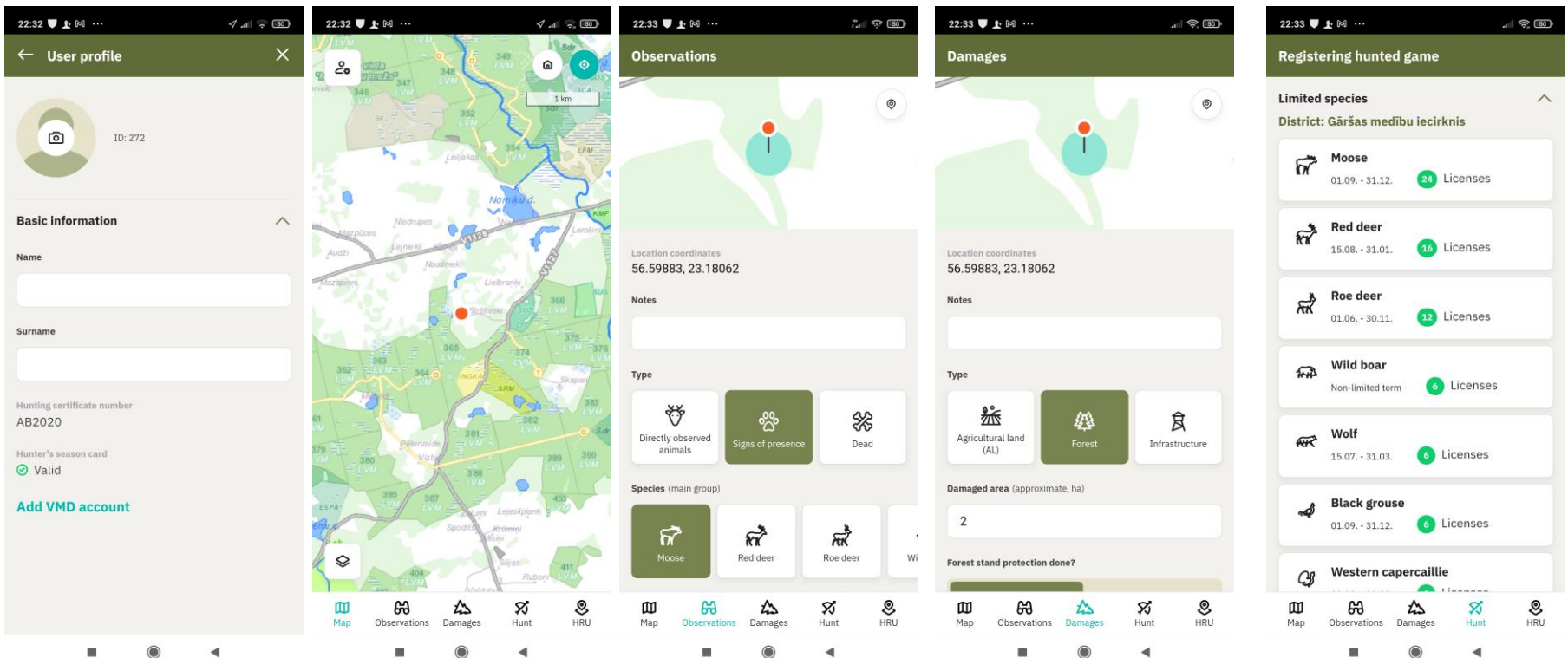
Opportunities of app:

- Observations section
- Damages section
- Game management section

Public co – financing – EUR 100 000

New project for EUR 500 000 for other models, what we could include in app.

Hunting app “Mednis”



Future?

IF negotiations and work what we are doing right now will not work then, probably:

WAR

BECAUSE LANDOWNERS HAVE A PLAN

Paldies!

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