

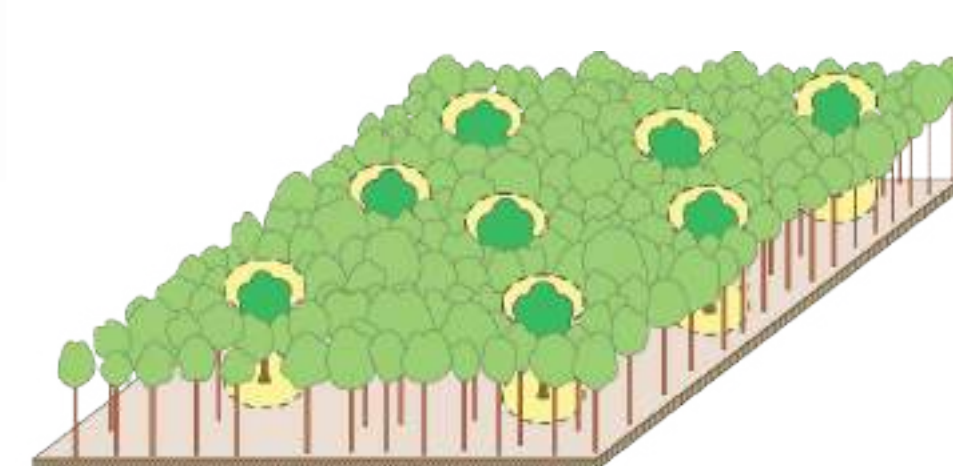
Forest tending

Forest tending means caring for the forest with responsibility in all activities and operations by the forest owner, and in all uses of the forest, which also applies to forest visitors. This attitude is presented with the slogan: *"Caring for the forest, for the benefit of nature and people."*

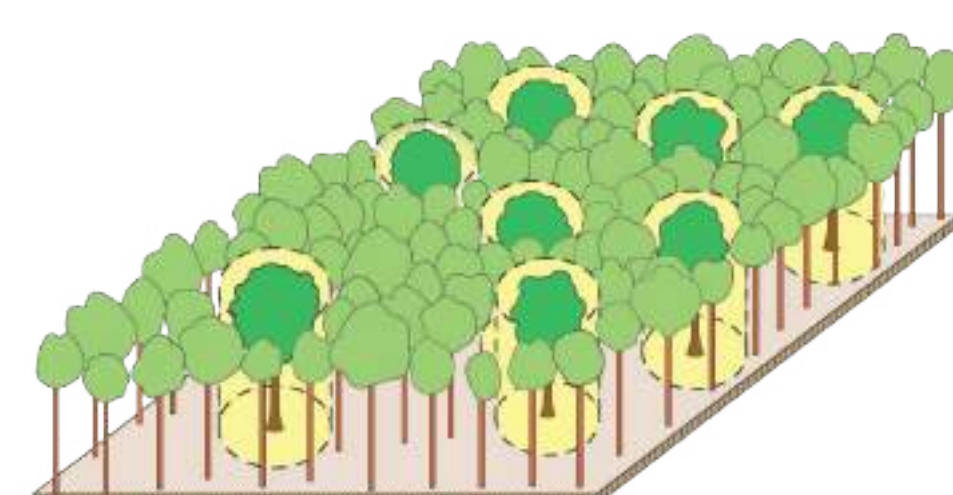
WHY FOREST TENDING?

- By forest tending, we direct the development of forest toward silvicultural goals that ensure the optimal functioning of all forest functions (from wood production to the preservation of biodiversity, clean air, water, etc.).
- Tending measures promote favorable factors in forest development and inhibit unfavorable ones, while closely imitating nature, its laws, processes, and mechanisms.
- Through tending, we strengthen the stability and resistance of forests, improve the quality of timber, increase the value of the forest, preserve its diversity, and enhance all roles that forest plays in a given environment.

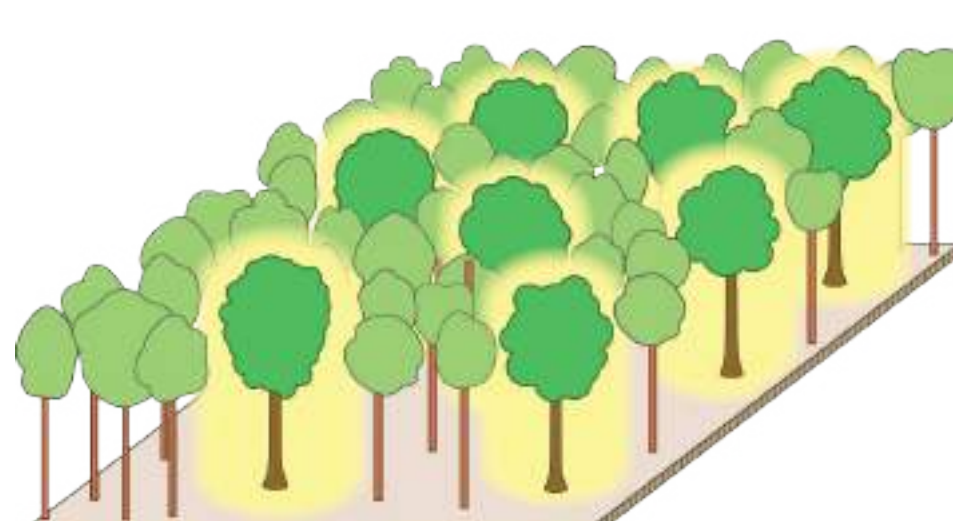
NEW APPROACHES IN FOREST TENDING



Significant climate and social changes have an important impact on the planning and implementation of forest tending. In addition to production of high-quality timber, forest tending focuses on enhancing the stability and resistance of forests to the negative consequences of climate change while simultaneously preserving biodiversity.



Appropriate and timely implementation of tending measures positively affects all forest functions. Through thinning, we guide the development of young forests toward mature forests. We create suitable conditions for forest growth while already obtaining timber assortments that can be utilized. By shaping growth space, we help trees with desirable characteristics and increase their stability and resistance. A favorable ratio between the thickness (dbh) and height of trees enhances their resistance to various disturbances (wind, snow, ice), the development of symmetrical crowns also reduces the risk of damage from snow and ice.



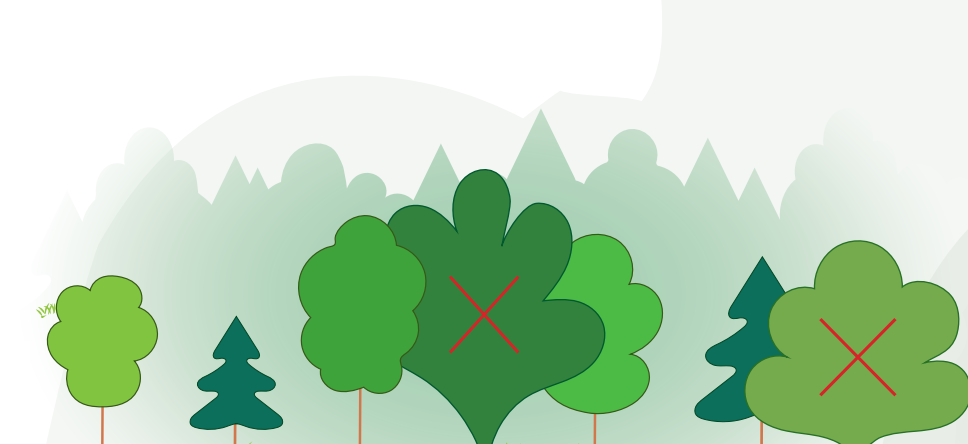
New approaches in forest tending respects classical tending principles but focus on lower number of candidate trees, leaves part of the stand to natural processes, and closely adapt to the conditions of the forest stand and forest management goals in a climate unstable environment.

GOALS OF FOREST TENDING:

- Increasing forest stability and resistance to various disturbances (wind, snow, ice). By shaping growth space, we assist trees with high-quality characteristics and increase their stability and resistance.
- Enhancing forest biodiversity – we promote minority and fruit-bearing tree species and preserve old and dead trees, which are important habitats for various plant and animal species.
- Balancing tree species composition in forests to align with the site conditions and silvicultural goals while maintaining species diversity.
- Adapting forest structure to meet the various functions that these forests play.

EXAMPLES OF HOW WE ADAPT FOREST STRUCTURE ACCORDING TO THE FOREST FUNCTIONS:

- Forests that protect drinking water sources should be as diverse and species-rich as possible to maintain the filtering and retention capacity of forest vegetation.
- In forests where recreation and tourism predominate, tending emphasizes forest aesthetics and removes trees that may pose a danger to visitors.
- In steep areas where protective functions are crucial, we maintain forest structures that reduce the risk of erosion and enhance the protective effect of the forest (e.g., uneven-aged and uneven-structured forests).



Nega mladja – čiščenje



Nega mladja – obžetev



Nega gošče – uravnavanje zmesi

Through tending, we mimic and guide the natural process of tree selection in all developmental stages of the forest. In young forests, we identify and remove trees with undesirable characteristics. In later stages of development (pole stands, mature stands), we identify and support the growth of selected trees with positive defined characteristics.



Every forest owner has a responsibility to take care for the forest and implement tending measures. Close-to-nature forest management ensures not only the production of timber but also the permanent provision of the forest's ecological and social functions, which all forest visitors can enjoy for free, regardless of ownership.

Learn more about forest tending at www.zgs.si.



Zavod za gozdove Slovenije
Slovenia Forest Service



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