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A review of the history, definitions and methods of continuous cover forestry with special attention to afforestation and restocking A. Pommerening and S. T. Murphy

Summary:

Continuous cover forestry (CCF) is not a new idea in forest management but there has been renewed interest in it for the potential it has to meet the sustainability requierements which are part of the Rio/Helsinki process and certification. Broadly speaking CCF includes those silvicultural systems which involve continuous and uninterrupted maintenance of forest cover and which avoid clearcutting.

However, there is considerable confusion with regard to terms and definitions and even the phrase continuous cover forestry is not universally known. CCF systems are being introduced throughout Europe, where there is emphasis on the direct transformation of existing even-aged plantations to some form of mixed, unevenaged woodland. There is also the opportunity to establish such woodlands either at re-stocking or when afforesting former agricultural land but so far there has been little discussion of the methods that can be used to do this. One approach would be to use nurse crops to aid establishment of desired species, especially where there are difficult site conditions or the trees naturally require cover for optimal growth. The use of nurse crops is already a familiar part of forest practice and has found various applications in Britain, Scandinavia and other parts of Europe. This paper outlines the historical roots of continuous cover forestry, discussed definitions and features of the current debate and explores potential silvicutural methods with special attention to the direct establishment of mixed forest stands through afforestation and restocking.

erdőgazdálkodás módszertan: elemzés, statisztika módszertan: felmérés, monitorozás Megjegyzések

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Tartalom: Introduction History of continuous cover forestry Definitions Continuity of woodland conditions Emphasis on vertical and horizontal structure Mixed age classes and tree species Attention to site limitations Selective individual tree silviculture Conservation of old trees, deadwood and protection of rare and endangered plant and animal species Promotion of native tree species/provenances and broadleaves Ecologically sensitive forest protection, thinning and harvesting operations, ecologically sensitive wildlife management The establishment of forest margins and a network of protected forests Continuous cover and afforestation/restocking Brief review of regional European experiences with nurse crops Underplanting techniques Conclusions Acknowledgements References

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