

Subsidies for cultural and social ecosystem services

Location

Country: Norway

Scale: National

Region:

▪ Compensated /improved ecosystem services

- Cultural and social service: recreation

Management

The public has the right to access all forests and outlying fields. This is regulated by the Act on Outdoor Recreation. Forest owners may apply for financial grants and refunds for the cost of facilitating their forests for outdoor activity and recreation, e.g. making fireplaces and paths to be used by the public.

The measure is based on the Regulations on Subsidies for Industrial and Environmental Measures in Forestry, and a specific amount of money for the measures is granted in the annual state budgets. Thus, the amount of available funds may vary between years. The forest owners apply for refund from the municipality where the forest is located after the cost has incurred.

Stakeholders

Sellers or service providers:

Forest owners may, by the management of their forests, improve the public's access to recreation. Forest owners are private persons and public authority.

Buyers and beneficiaries of services:

The public; both inhabitants in the nearby community and tourists are beneficiaries of the service.

Donors – funding agencies or sponsors:

The government refunds costs. Besides, private individuals and companies may also provide grants for different organisations that facilitates outdoor activities.

Intermediaries:

Forestry associations, forest/agriculture advisers in the municipalities etc., may assist the forest owners. It is not known whether they actually do so related to this measure.

Timeline

Establishment year: 2019

Time horizon: Long term, but depending on annual state budgets.

Status of PES: Active scheme

Availability of economic data

In 2019, the government has granted 2 mill NOK to be divided between this and other measures such as safeguarding cultural heritage and biodiversity. The subsidy is given as a refund when the measure is completed. As this is a new scheme, there is no data available for given refunds.

References / Source of information

Information about the scheme (Norwegian language only) is given at <https://www.landbruksdirektoratet.no/no/eiendom-og-skog/om-skogbruk/tilskudd#miljoetiltak-for-aa-ivareta-og-videreutvikle-miljoeverdier>