



Permanent pastures and meadows – a Swedish perspective

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Definition of permanent pasture

- Definition used on national level is identical to the definition of Regulation 1120/2009:
“Permanent pasture means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or longer” etc.



Definition of semi-natural pasture eligible for SPS

Basic criteria for semi-natural pasture eligible for SPS:

- *The land is used for grazing and is not suitable for plowing*
- *The land is covered with grass or herbs that are suitable as fodder*
- *Woods and areas where measures have been taken to essentially encourage the tree growth are not considered as pasture*

How do we deal with bushes and rocks etc?

- Areas with impediments or thick bushes larger than 0.01 hectare are not to be considered as pasture and are therefore withdrawn from the area eligible for SPS.
- Smaller areas of impediments or bushes may not summarize to more than 5 % of the total area of the parcel.
- Landscape features such as stone-walls are eligible if the width does not exceed 2 m.

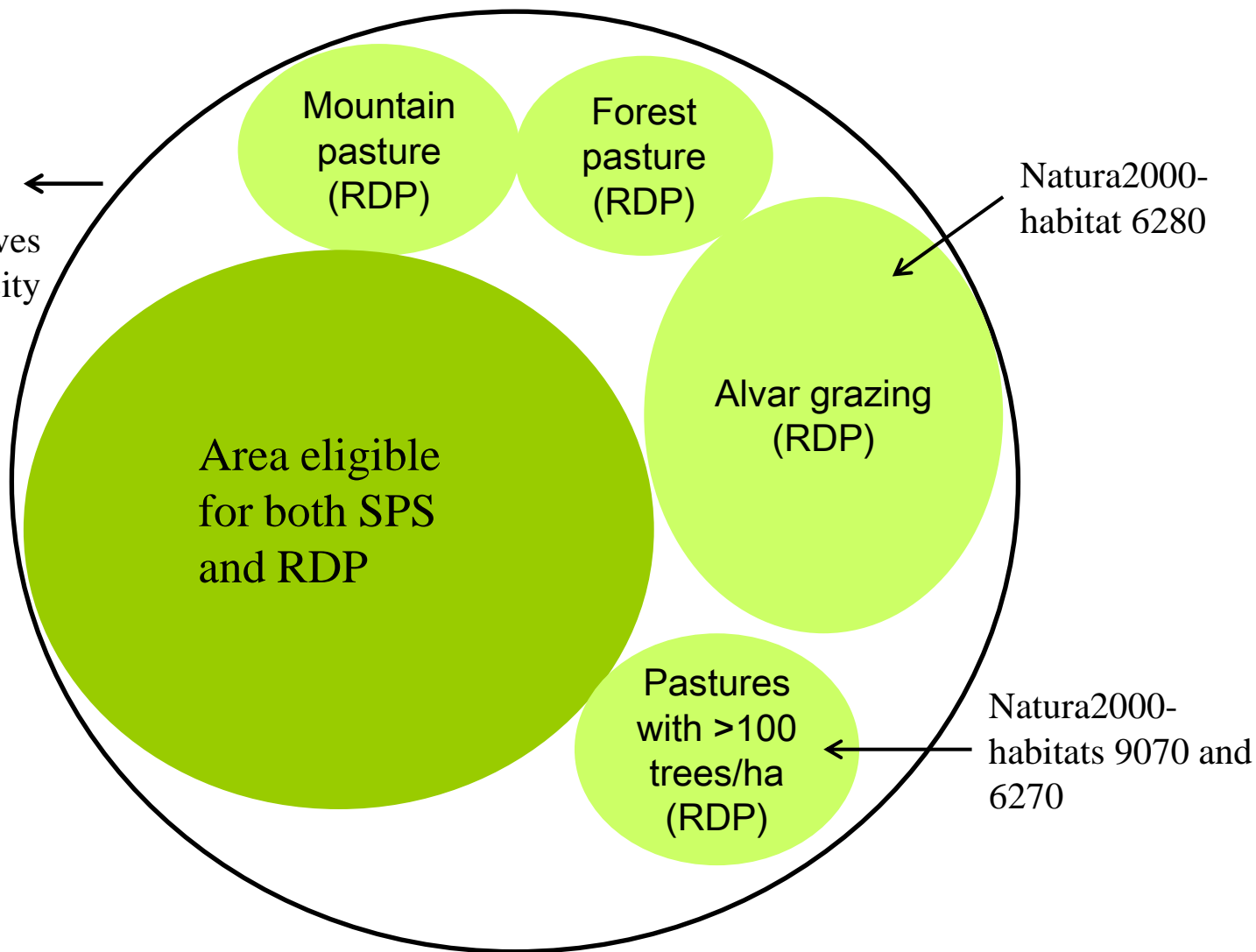


How do we deal with trees?

- A limit of 60 trees/hectare is generally used.
- For areas established in advance by the authorities, up to 100 trees/hectare can be eligible.
 - These pastures have to qualify with either a high level of biodiversity or of cultural heritage
 - These pastures are always included in a commitment of maintenance coupled to certain requirements or restrictions within the RDP.
- Areas with similar tree-density of at least 0,1 hectares are estimated separately.

What is excluded?

Preferred total area
according to
environmental objectives
and needs of biodiversity





+ 9599

+ 8845

+ 7599

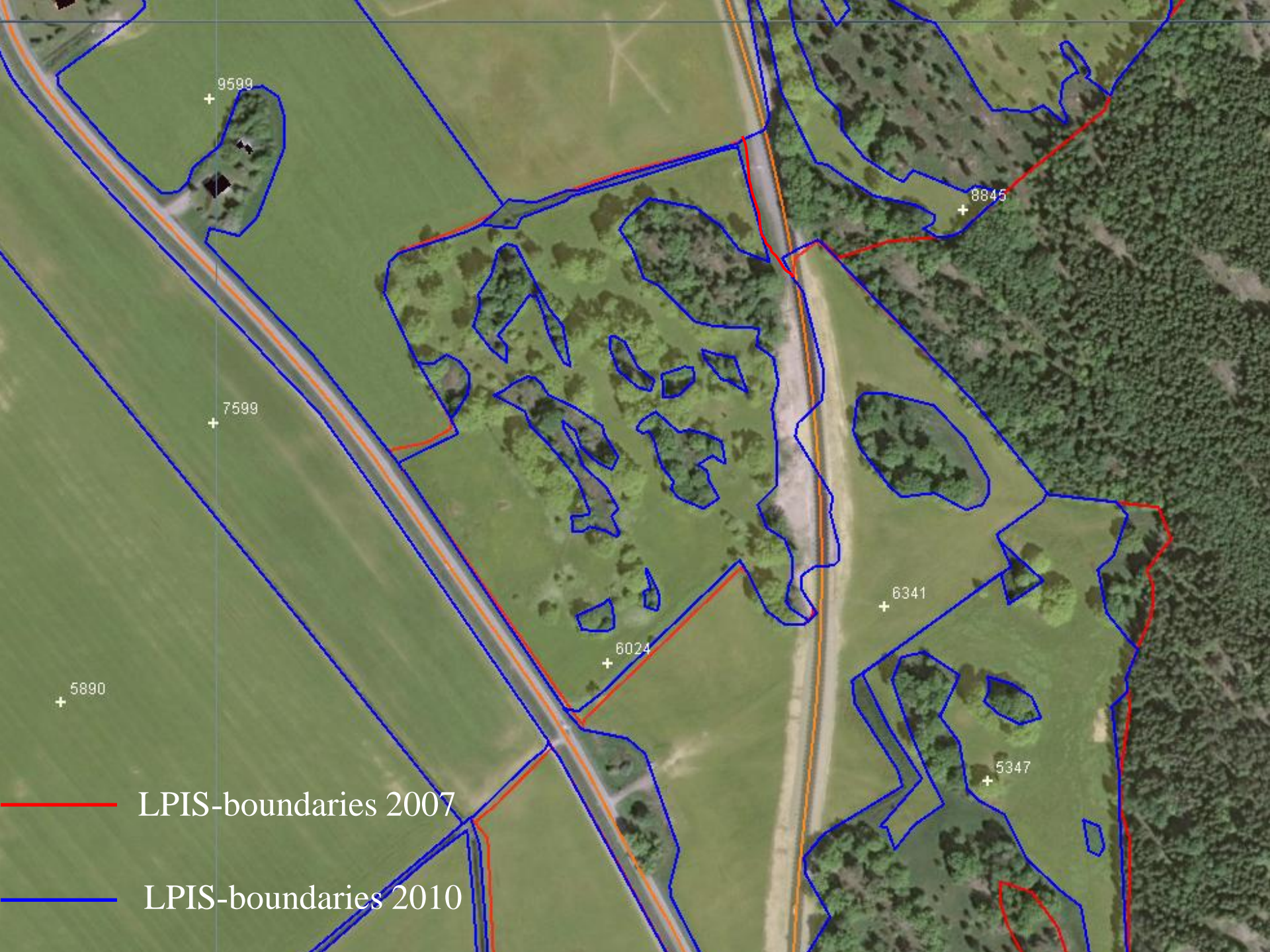
+ 5890

+ 6024

+ 6341

+ 5347

— LPIS-boundaries 2007

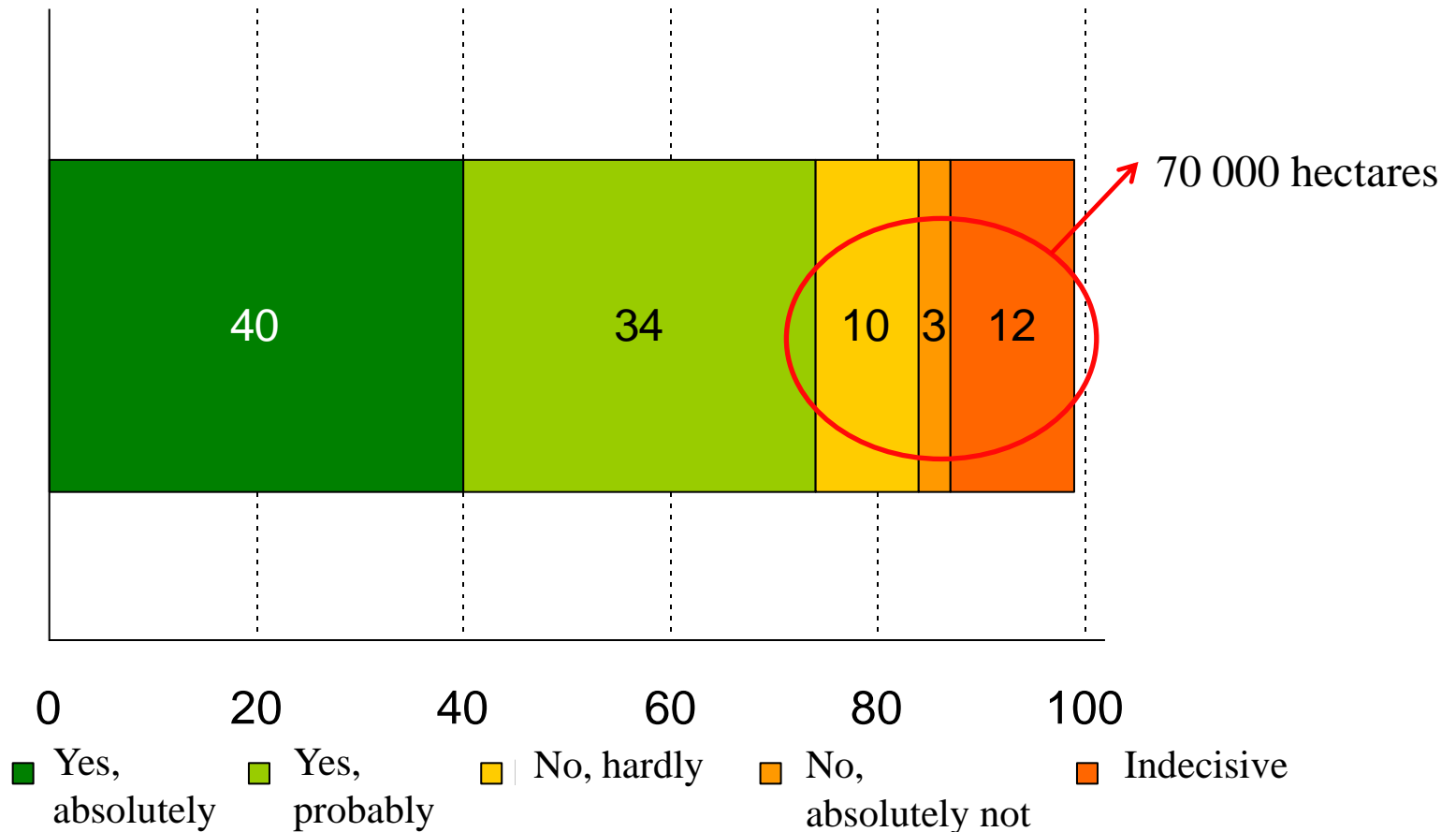


— LPIS-boundaries 2007

— LPIS-boundaries 2009

Questionnaire to farmers:

Are you planning to apply for SPS/RDP-payments again when your 5-year commitment expires?



Recommendations

- The level of accuracy required today (0,01 hectare) is not compatible with environmental objectives or aims to simplify CAP for the farmers.
- Tree-counting also promotes uniform pastures, contradictory to environmental needs. If we are to keep counting trees, it should be done at parcel-level, allowing for a variety of tree-densities within each parcel.
- The Habitat Directive aims to preserve, among others, certain habitats that require mowing or grazing. It is inconsistent that some of them cannot be considered agricultural land eligible for the most basic support scheme for farmers, SPS.



Thank you for your attention!

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