In pursuit of the common understanding of forest grazing: the changing views of foresters and conservationists in Central and East Europe

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Pastoral – Herder, farmer

Silvo – Forester

System – Conservationist + Congress- Scientist
Historical, written data of silvopastoral m. from 1800’

Total: 9.3 million ha
Agricultural: 5.3 m ha
Forest: 1.9 m ha
Official definition for forest / forest grazing / wood pasture / pasture

Erdő / Erdei legeltetés / Legelőerdő / Fáslegelő / Legelő
„What is wood pasture /forest grazing / sp.m in Hungary? Why forest grazing is forbidden in HU? How is it possible to see forest grazing in practice still? Etc…”

started to work on this topic 10 years ago without any hope of changes… but

Solve a the main problem of the silvopastoral management in Hungary

to develop a Forest Grazing Strategy based on common understanding of forest grazing for the Forest Act Modification

1. What are the main practical problem of silvopastoral management – is it really necessary to do legal forest grazing in Hungary?
2. Understand forest grazing definition and management in a historical perspectives
   Case studies: Pastoral / Herder --- Silvo / Forester ---- System / Nature conservationist
3. Based on the result – develop the strategy and make proposal –
4. Communication with the stakeholders and wider public
5. Wait…. Be patient and careful and take a step when it is necessary…
Varga A. et al. 2016: Changing year-round habitat use of extensively grazing cattle, sheep and pigs in East-Central Europe between 1940-2014: Consequences for conservation and policy. Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment

What kind of habitat do you as a pasture during Jan/Dec?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Before collective</td>
<td>1940-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. During collective</td>
<td>1965-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. After collective</td>
<td>1992-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Being EU member</td>
<td>2005-2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 main livestock types

*Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment*
Kiskunhalas, Pirtó puszta Ménesjárás, 1950’
Kiskunság
Morovic, Sava river, Serbia
Homoródújfalu, Hargita county, Romania
Varga et al. Forest grazing in the Hungarian Forestry Journal in last 150 years. Manuscript.

What are the forester opinion about silvopastural systems in different historical period?
What kind of issues did they mention? When did they wrote about it?

Database of the papers
Search for key-words
Type of paper
Type of silvopasture
Aim of the silvopasture
Support /not / neutral
Type of paper
Ecosystem Services
Area
Livestock
Tree species
Money

To compare Nature Conservation journal,
Természetbúvár and Livestock Management journal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law</th>
<th>Forest grazing regulation</th>
<th>Number of paper until now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1767 – Maria Theresia</td>
<td>Natural right of the rural people to do forest grazing started to decrease</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853 – Forest and Pasture Separation Act</td>
<td>Forest and pasture area separated, forest grazing decreased, but still very important</td>
<td>389 (forest grazing is a good or bad thing for the forest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876 – Forest Law</td>
<td>Regulated forest grazing is allowed, it is part of the forest management plan</td>
<td>345 (pasture issues solved by forestry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935 – Forest Law</td>
<td>Regulated forest grazing is allowed, it is part of the forest management plan. The regulation become more strict.</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961 – Forest Law</td>
<td>Not allowed to do any forest grazing. All the forest is owned and managed by the state (Soviet)</td>
<td>4 (veteran trees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999 – Forest Law</td>
<td>No grazing.</td>
<td>34 (abroad, history, veteran trees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 – Forest Law</td>
<td>Part of the foresters would support to do regulated forest grazing part of agroforestry, but nature conservationist totally against.</td>
<td>27 (agroforestry as a word start to use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 – Forest Law modification</td>
<td>Part of the foresters and part of nature conservationist support to do regulated forest grazing as part of agroforestry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Park Managers and Rangers are active managers of the land. Many of them are learning from traditional herders, farmers, using landscape history data to improve the nature conservation management.

Varga A., Heim A., Demeter L., Molnár Zs. 2016 Rangers bridge the gap: integration of wood-pasture related traditional ecological knowledge into nature conservation. IPBES – ECA –ILK

- Ancient wood pastures turned to be forest
- Forest-steppe habitat – management?
- Invasive shrub and tree (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
„Floodplain forest” - registered forest area, where the trees, not allowed to graze, but they do it... because the livestock need the shade. If there is no grazing, Amorpha fructuose would spread.

Hungarian Forest Grazing Strategy Proposal

- Abandoned ancient wood pasture
- Robinia pseudo-acacia forest
- Populus and Pinus plantation
- Forest-steppe habitat

Legel regulation of forest grazing in the new Hungarian Forest Law
Thank you!

Fás-Legelő-Erdő / Wood pastures in Hungary

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