

## Club GREY HORSE – Providing multiple ecosystems services by forest renters

Grey Horse, Voskresensky district, Nizhegorodsky Oblast, Russia

*The case study develops mechanisms for multi-purpose forest management, introducing the concept of ecosystem services and multi-purpose forest use into the current forest renting system, changing management priorities from wood harvest into forest growing.*

**Multi-purpose forest use maintains the balance between services and preserves biodiversity, while bringing economic profit.**



### Setting the scene

Currently in Russia, every forest lease contract permits the tenant to lease a forest site for only one ecosystem service. To provide other services on the same site, the tenant should participate in a new tender, on an equal footing with other potential tenants, despite already leasing the site for their other agreed purpose. Multi-purpose forest use avoids possible conflicts between tenants of different ecosystem services on the same territory while also providing the opportunity to include ecosystem services considered non-market at the moment into forest management. This is especially important for the European part of the Russian Federation that houses over 78% of the country's population. Extensive wood harvesting in this region leads to forest ecosystems degradation, as well as to a shortage of raw materials in large wood processing factories.

#### Objectives

Development of legislative recommendations for:

- Making multi-purpose forest use contracts available for forest renters
- Introducing non-market ecosystem services into forest management
- Ensuring a balance between ecosystem services and biodiversity preservation.

#### Challenges

- Current forest use and management systems focusing almost exclusively on wood harvesting, ignoring or undervaluing other ecosystem services
- Successfully monetise supporting and regulating forest ecosystem services so that they could be integrated into the market

### Innovation mechanism

The multi-purpose lease of a forest plot by one tenant, aimed at increasing the economic efficiency of forest use while maintaining a balance between all ecosystem services. The innovation mechanism will be realised via legislative initiatives.

#### Expected impacts

- ✓ A Concept of new Forest Code will be suggested, to include the innovations described above.
- ✓ Changing the forest use paradigm from wood harvest to forest growing should improve the state of forest ecosystems.
- ✓ A shift in focus from wood harvesting to multi-purpose use should allow broader use of the forest's economic potential, while preserving regulating and supporting ecosystem services

### The bigger picture

The lands of the Grey Horse equestrian club were chosen as a case study, but the innovation action was intended for scale up to national level from the outset.

**Contact** [Daria Tebenkova](#)

### Action

- Meetings with stakeholders and experts in forest management, science, business and policy in order to hear stakeholders' opinions and find ways to achieve the stated goals
- Proposing changes in legislation in the form of a new Forest Code concept, that has been a subject of intensive discussions in CCI RF, in scientific debates during Scientific Council on Forests of RAS sessions, in the Federation Council and within various NGOs.