Pro Silva **Jahrestagung 2018**

Exkursion - Beichlingen
23.6.2018

Schlosspark Belvedere

Naturschutzleistungen des Waldes am Beispiel des Thüringer Forstamtes Bad Berka

Weißtannen-Etablierung am Beispiel des sächsischen Forstbezirks Eibenstock

Goethe-Schiller-Denkmal auf dem Platz vor dem Deutschen Nationaltheater in Weimar

Wald-Wild-Problematik am Beispiel BioWild-Projekt Beichlingen

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Naturgemäße Waldwirtschaft

PRO SILVA EUROPA

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Mit freundlicher Unterstützung der **Klassik-Stiftung Weimar**

BEICHLINGEN ESTATE

Geographical location and structure
The Beichlingen estate is located north of Erfurt near the village of Beichlingen in north-eastern Thuringia on the edge of the Thuringian basin. The productive area covers 610 ha, of which 596 ha is forest and 14 ha is non-wood land.

Administrative structure
The management of the plots is carried out by the administration in Schönstein and is implemented on site with a forestry service provider (district management). The data flow is optimized through central data storage and linkage.

Site conditions

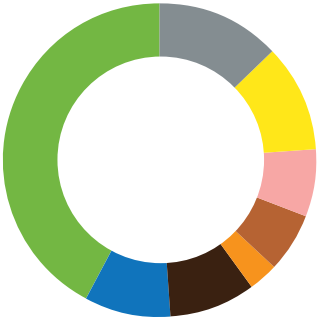
Growth Range:	Triassic Hill Country of North Thuringia
Growth district:	Finne-Schrecke-Schmücke
Geology:	Beichling shell-limestone, partly new red sandstone, rarely with loess deposits
Altitude:	260 to 300 m above sea level, colline to submontane
Climate:	subcontinental
Average temperature:	8.0° C
Temp. during growing season:	15,0° C
Annual precipitation:	450 - 550 mm
Relief:	hillsides with numerous branched valleys and a continuous break-off edge, all expositions
Potential nat. vegetation:	from beech forests with valuable hardwoods to stone-seed oak forests (Quercion pubescenti-petraeae)

Soils
Mainly brown soils and rendzic leptosols; brown soils are sandy, loamy soils, generally poor in skeletal material, only locally skeletal-rich, often also loamy, partly clay containing sandy soils consisting of sand loess from mud (solifluction) and debris substrates. The rendzic leptosols are predominantly shallow, skeletal-rich and silty to clayey loamy soils.

Forest scenery
The pronounced relief results in great differences in the water supply of the sites and thus leads to diverse forest communities. Mixed stands with a high percentage of valuable hardwoods like ash, sycamore, lime-tree, mountain elm and beech provide evidence of times in the past with low browsing pressure. The increased introduction of pure stands of coniferous trees took place in the 1970s and 1980s.

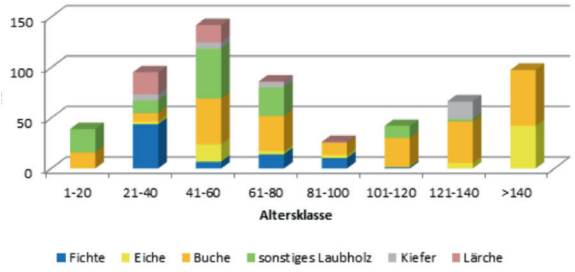
Hunting
Our hunting activity is not an end in itself, however, it is aligned to silvicultural and ecological necessities. For example, roe deer hunting is carried out exclusively with forest protection in mind. Individual hunting is supplemented by driven hunts over large areas, making intensive use of flushing dogs. This type of hunting accounts for about 40% of the total shooting, with a rising tendency due to the increase in structure of the forest stands. Other game species (e.g. wild boar, fox) are also hunted according to their habitat capacity. Exploitability plays the decisive role here; aspects of game preservation stand back. For these reasons, we currently carry out hunting ourselves.

Species composition in the forest district of Beichlingen



The age structure clearly reflects the impacts of the World Wars with their high demand for timber and an emphasis on introducing coniferous trees. Nevertheless, significant proportions of old deciduous forests have been preserved. The last decade has been characterised by removal of old beech stands, resulting in unstructured, larger regeneration areas without shelter.

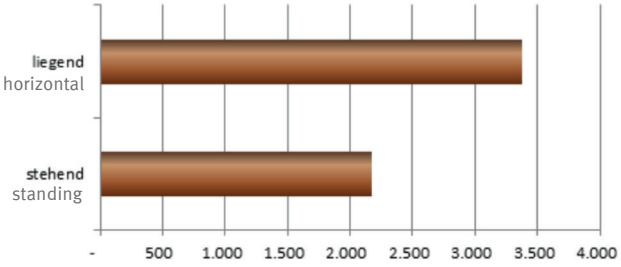
Species composition by age classes



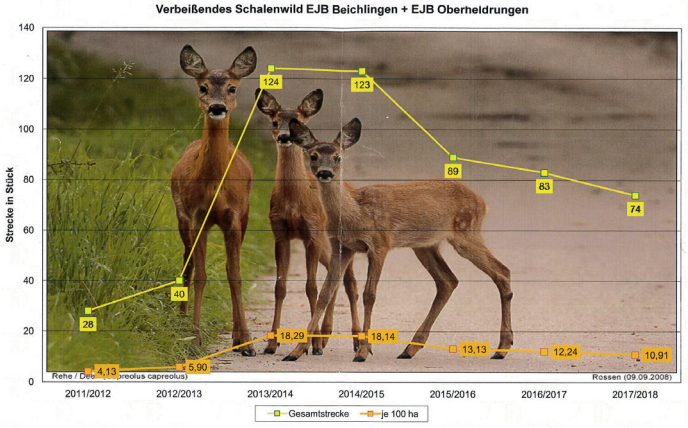
Spruce I Oak I Beech I other Hardwood I Pine I Larch

Deadwood

At present, Deadwood amounts to approx. 10 m³ / ha, excluding sticks and materials with diameters below 20 cm.



Hunting



Utilization scenario
Since acquisition, the harvesting activity has been characterized by the processing of thinning residues. Prior to acquisition, management was mainly carried out through harvesting within the context of skid track development as well as massive exploitation through removal cutting in old beech stands. Since 2012, close-to-nature forest management has been carried out with the following objectives:

- The establishment and maintenance of mixed stands by means of advance regeneration and complementary plantations with admixed tree species
- Continuous tending and thinning in all growth stages based on the principle of value increment management. Depending on topographical and sylvicultural conditions, felling is carried out by foresters / entrepreneurs. Harvesters are used for optimizing ergonomics and timber assortments.
- The production of large and valuable timber for all tree species
- Adjusting roe deer populations to meet the target of regenerating mixed stands without game protection measures
- Integration of ecological concerns through systematic biotope and species conservation

The key premise of our silvicultural activities is the constant consideration of whether a measure must be carried out at all or whether biological automation renders an activity redundant or minimizes the necessary scope; only then is the „how“ – namely, the most economically sensible option - discussed and realized. The calculation of harvesting volume and structure is regularly defined and controlled by means of forest management and permanent sample plot inventory. All investments must be justified and comprehensible for the owner. Short-term, monetary profit-seeking categorically takes a back seat to long-term thinking and acting.

Nature conservation
The paramount management strategy of continuous cover forestry has positive impacts on nature conservation issues, e.g. through planting site-appropriate species, promotion of mixtures, close-to-nature regeneration procedures, single-tree and soil-protective harvesting, maintenance of forest edges and waysides, rich structural diversity, deliberate preservation of habitat trees and ecosystem-friendly hunting. Different types of forest with a total area of almost 19 ha have been taken out of production to observe their further development. The FFHD-area within the district is managed according to the provisional catalogue of measures. Guidelines taking nature conservation concerns into account are available for the different work domains, e.g. the biotope and deadwood concept.

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