

How to support reed harvesting?

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Agro-environmental subsidies for reed beds in Finland at this moment (2007-2013) are for coastal meadows only:

1) Yearly "special agri-environmental subsidy"

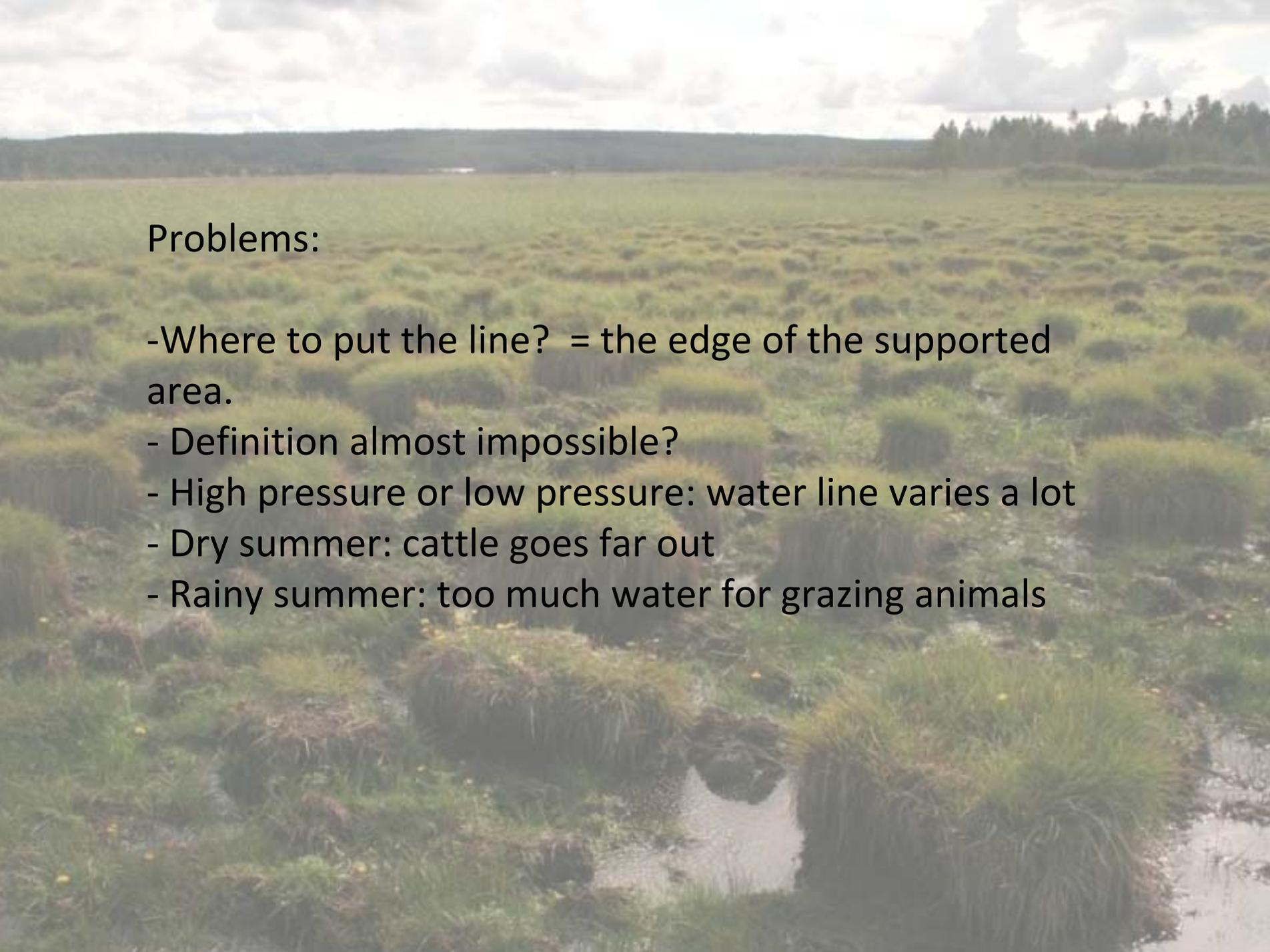
-yearly mowing or grazing

-Support not possible for Reed growing purely in water

-Support max 450 € / hectare, depends on the costs estimated in the management plan and budget

2) Restoration by "support for non-profitable investments"

- Investment for basic restoration: cutting reed or bushes or building fences



Problems:

- Where to put the line? = the edge of the supported area.
- Definition almost impossible?
- High pressure or low pressure: water line varies a lot
- Dry summer: cattle goes far out
- Rainy summer: too much water for grazing animals

What is the purpose of reed harvesting?

- 1) Retrieve the nutrients from water back to land
- 2) Get decomposing biomass out of water to enhance water quality
- 3) To get material for agriculture, energy production and construction purposes
- 4) To open the landscape
- 5) To enhance biodiversity on coastal areas
- 6) To open previous coastal meadows back to meadow use

The purpose solves the feature of the financial support ???
Is reed valuable material or is it environmental problem and waste?

CAP-REFORM 2014

CAP = Common Agricultural Policy in EU

CAP-reform means changes in agri-environmental subsidies also:

+ Time to improve the subsidy system

+ Possible to get new measures into the system

-Less money for environmental measures since 2014 ? (or more??)

European Commission:

Detailed information coming at the end of this year (time table delayed)

National preparations: started or starting

Finland: properly starting this spring? The very first steps have been taken inside the ministry of Agriculture

Absolutely unofficial thoughts about the up-coming possibilities 2014

Getting more attention to:

- Ecosystem services
- Recycling of nutrients
- The growth condition of the soil
- Climate change
- More value on biodiversity also (in many countries already now; in Finland water quality is the number uno at the moment)

→ *Reed harvesting can fit into these all!*



To whom the possible subsidy should be given to?

- a) Always to the land owner?
- b) To a farmer?
- c) To the entrepreneur who makes the harvesting?
- d) To a society or an association?
- e) To someone else?

At the moment in Finland only the farmer can get the money (and partly also registered associations, but it is complicated).



WHAT IS NEEDED NOW TO CONVINCING THE DECISION-MAKERS TO GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO REED HARVESTING:

- To explain simply the benefits of reed harvesting
- To find more agricultural use to harvested reed (summer or winter cutting)
- To find practical solutions for using reed for bioenergy
- Communications, advertising, marketing....

→to get the message understood!

- Good examples help people to understand what is this all about.
- The scales can be difficult to understand → more definition for that, too!



Thank you for Your time!

Have a nice spring time!

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