Communication in the Skrylle Forest

Interests and Understanding in an Urban Green Area

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Foreword

The project is the degree project within the one-year Master Programme Urban Forestry and Urban Greening at SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and KVL, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark.

Subject: Forestry

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Summary

The purpose of the study is to investigate differences and similarities in values and interests among users in the Skrylle forest, as well as their understanding of other user groups' interests. Interviews with different users, landowners, managers and officials are made to achieve knowledge about what is important to different stakeholders. The study indicates that there are many shared viewpoints about the area. There are similar views about the meaning of nature, about forestry in the area and about the recreational value of the Skrylle forest. However, new kind of users in the area might not share these viewpoints in the future. Some differences are found about forest preference and wishes for the future nature. The way people experience a forest is different, some persons relate to the spruce forest as dark and gloomy whereas other persons talk about the calming forest of spruce. The wish for a genuine broadleaved forest is expressed. What is seen as natural can be different depending on what time period people refer to. Different attitudes to new user groups are found in the investigation. Some of the persons interviewed welcome new kind of activities in the area, whereas other persons worry about new activities in the area. Existing and future differences in views can cause problems for users to coexist and cooperate. In the future differences in views may be more pronounced. It can be difficult to reach a mutual understanding for these differences in views, without an improved communication process. To find out if stakeholders are dealing mainly with values or interests is difficult. Further studies can improve the understanding of this question.

Lack of communication between different groups in the Skrylle forest can lead to conflicts between stakeholders. Different interest groups can get in conflict because of lack of mutual understanding caused by insufficient communication. As the green forest area is a scarce resource in this region and many different user groups are visiting the area frequently can lack of mutual understanding between the groups cause conflicts. Knowledge about differences as well as similarities in views among different stakeholders can make it easier to "bridge the gap" between them. The knowledge can facilitate communication between different interest groups and make it easier to plan and manage the area. New ideas about the area can appear when people feel that they are heard. Most persons interviewed would like to have a meeting place where they are able to influence decisions about planning and management in the area. Some persons refer to an earlier conflict in the area and to a compromise that was made which left no one really satisfied. A problem solving approach instead of a compromise can result in a win-win situation. Exchange of views can result in mutual understanding.

The situation of power and interest for some stakeholders is investigated. Tendencies to differences in the degree of power and influence are found. Some groups seem to have power to influence the area. Unorganised visitors and children as well as some organised groups seem to have a lower degree of power. The unorganised visitors and children have a high interest in the area as they use the area to a high extent but there seems to be a lack of power to influence the area as there is no natural channel where they can tell their opinion. The horse riders seem to be interested in using the area but are not allowed to use it; they seem to have a high interest and a low power in that aspect. Some of the

groups cooperate and communicate with managers and decision makers but other groups have less communication with decision makers. This can lead to an unbalanced situation where the debates not show the viewpoint of the majority. Important information or ideas can be left out or never known to the ones who make the decisions. With awareness of the situation are there higher chances for a change. Further studies are needed to tell the complete situation of power in the area. Methods for public participation can be used as a way to give some groups more power.

Methods for public participation can be used to improve the current situation and to prevent future problems. Combined methods for public participation can be used to reach different kind of users. Information can be a first step to get people interested in participation. A user council where users can tell their views can be combined with other methods like meetings and interviews. An advisory association with different groups involved can be one method and dialogues and guiding in the area can be other ways. Children can be asked to tell their favourite places. New users and non users can be asked about their opinion. Public participation can be a way to gain insight in others interests. Further studies can result in higher knowledge about different views in the area.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

A high amount of visitors use the Skrylle forest, a nature reserve in the community of
Lund, all year around. The Skrylle forest is visited by much different kind of users like
outdoor recreation people, people who exercise, walking or jogging people, schools etc.
The nature reserve Skrylle is the central forest area and the largest reserve in the larger
Skrylle area. A municipal comprehensive plan presents suggestions about how to manage
and develop the area (Hellström et al. 2005).

Earlier studies in the area indicate a lack of mutual understanding between different users
and existing conflicts between user groups about the use of the forest. The Skrylle forest
has been studied as a part of the Neighbour Woods project (Åkerlund and Gustavsson
2004). In the Neighbour Wood study were stakeholders interviewed in connection with
management planning. Lack of understanding might be caused by insufficient
communication.

1.2 Situation today

The Skrylle area and the Skrylle forest
The Skrylle area is situated 8 km east of Lund, between the villages of Södra Sandby and
Dalby (see map 1). The area consists of 2500 ha forest and agrarian land where 1500 ha
is available for the public (Porenius and Segerbäck 2004). More than 1000 ha is protected
area, consisting of several nature reserves and one national park. The Skrylle area is
varied and multifunctional and 60 % of the area is forest and agricultural land, with right
of common. The Skrylle area is estimated to be used by around 700 000-800 000 visitors
every year (Hellström et al. 2005).
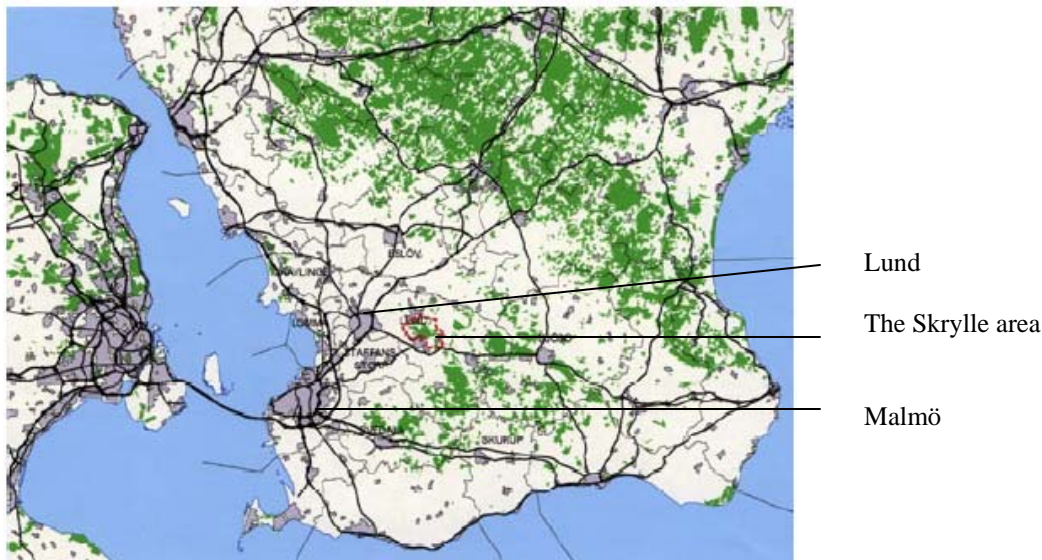
Map 1. The Skrylle area is situated 8 km east of Lund. Green forest areas are
a scarce resource in the south western part of Sweden. Map from: Hellström et al. 2005.

The nature reserve the Skrylle forest is the central forest area in the Skrylle area and the largest reserve in the area. The Skrylle forest is surrounded by several other nature reserves with high nature values and the forest is divided by the road between Dalby and Södra Sandby (see map 2). In 1993 the Skrylle forest contained 190 ha of broadleaved forest and 280 ha of coniferous forest (Hellström et al. 2005). The plan for the future is a broadleaved forest of 455 ha and coniferous forest of only 10 ha (Hellström et al. 2005. p. 24). In total the Skrylle forest reserve is 565 ha. A severe storm in 1999 felled as much as 100 ha of the spruce forest in the Skrylle forest, and the area has then been replanted with oak and beech. The forest in the Skrylle forest reserve is mainly owned by the municipality of Lund and by the foundation for leisure areas in Skåne, Region Skåne (Stiftelsen för Fritidsområden i Skåne).
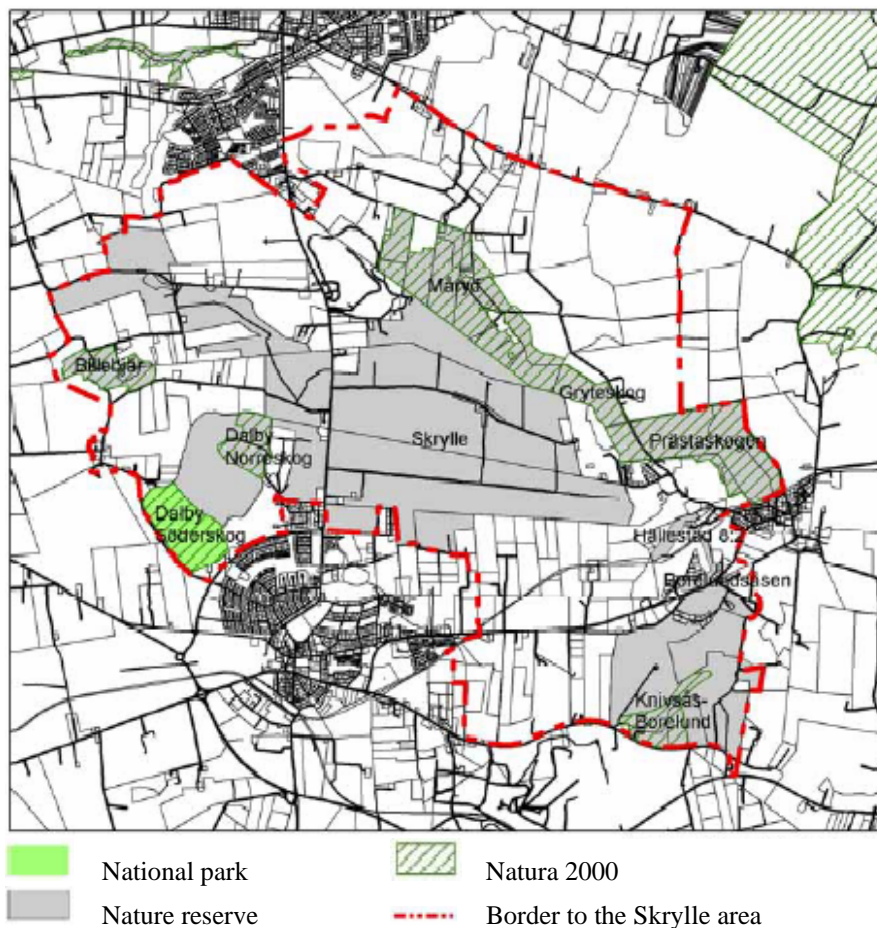
Map 2. The Skrylle forest is a nature reserve surrounded by other nature reserves and situated between Dalby and Södra Sandby. Map from: Hellström et al. 2005.

The name of the area, Skrylleskogen, means the large forest and the Skrylle forest was before the 17th century a large oak and beech forest. In the middle of the 17th century gave grazing the area an open character and from early 19th century there was hardly any forest left. In 1873 was the land bought by the state and planted with spruce for the state forest production. It has been decided to replace the spruce with deciduous forest, but the main part is still dominated by the spruce (Åkerlund and Gustavsson 2004).

Importance of the area

Green forest areas are a scarce resource in the south western part of Skåne, the landscape in the southernmost part of Sweden (see map 1). The nature areas around Lund consist mainly of open fields, not of the highest degree of accessibility to citizens. The Skrylle forest is the only close large forest area east of the plain areas around Lund and the closest large recreational area for people living in this area as well as for people from Lund, Staffanstorp, Lomma and Kävlinge. Skrylle is also of high importance for people from more distant areas (Hellström et al. 2005).

Much different kind of user groups visit the area frequently, like outdoor recreation organisations, sports organisations, dog clubs, scouts as well as the unorganised visitors (Hellström et al. 2005). The unorganised visitors represent the highest amount of the visitors[1]. From Skryllegården, where the facilities for visitors are situated, there are tracks for running and walking and special tracks for children, handicapped and there is a special track for dogs on the western side of the road. Many schools use the Skrylle area for teaching, exercising and outdoor activities. Some examples of organisations that use the area are mentioned here, several other organisations use the area frequently.

Figure 1. Unorganised visitors use the Skrylle forest for picnics and other activities. Photo: I. Pålsson.

Friluftsfrämjandet is one of the largest outdoor recreation organisations in Sweden and the organisation use the Skrylle forest to a high extent. The organisation has activities for children as well as for adults in the area. Friluftsfrämjandet is responsible for many of the activities at Skryllegården and the tracks. (Hellström et al. 2005).

The horse interest organisation of the Skrylle area, Skrylleområdets Hästintressenter, is an interest organisation working with horse riders' interests in the area, representing about 1000 persons and 400 horses (Hellström et al. 2005). In the Skrylle forest reserve is

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[1] Personal communication Sven Engberg local manager Skryllegården 2006-04-20

horse riding allowed only on a few roads pointed out, it is not allowed to ride in the central forest reserve. There are today few connections between different parts of the area for the horse riders.

The Orienteering club of Lund, Lunds Orienteringsklubb, with about 300 members, uses the area regularly for exercising and competitions (Hellström et al. 2005).

The dog club for tracing etc, Lunds Brukshundklubb, with around 500 members and the young dog owners club, Lunds Hundungdomar, with 80 members use the area on the western part of the road (Hellström et al. 2005). There is a special track meant for dogs and dog owners on the western side of the road. East of the road the dogs must be put on a lead.

▨ Nature conservation	▨ Material	▪▪▪ Border the Skrylle area
▭ Cultural history	▭ Outdoor recreation	
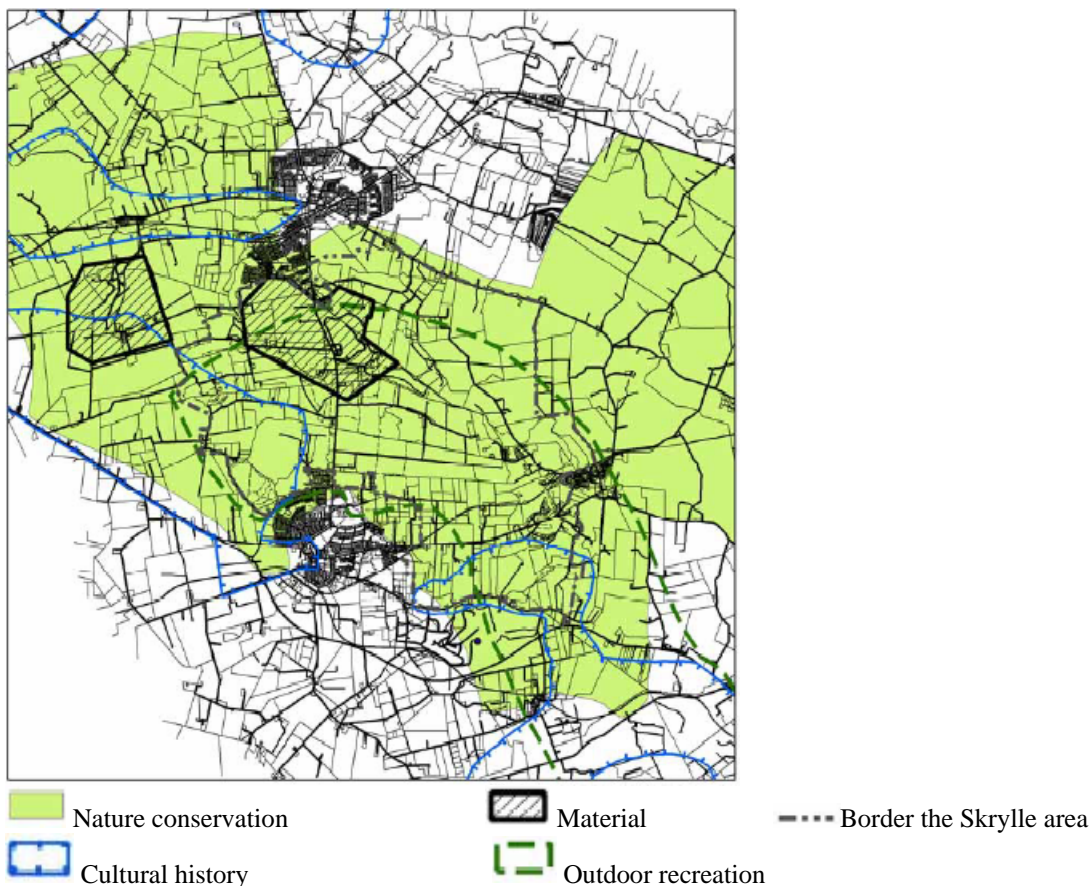
Map 3. National interests in the Skrylle area. Map from Hellström et al. 2005.

National interest
In the Skrylle area are four different subjects defined as national interests (see map 3). The four national interests are nature conservation, cultural history, a bedrock quarry with an important material, quartzite, and outdoor recreation (Hellström et al. 2005). An application to extend the areas of the quarry is left to the authorities, the County Administrative Board (Hellström et al. 2005).

Management
The local community of Lund owns most of the Skrylle forest and manages and maintains the forest area. The outdoor organisation Friluftsfrämjandet is responsible for the management of the area around the Skrylle house, Skryllegården, where all facilities for visitors are situated and the organisation is also responsible for management in the adjacent areas including the small lake, Skryllesjön. Friluftsfrämjandet also manage and maintain the walking and jogging tracks in the area (Hellström et al. 2005). Skrylelrådet is an advisory organisation with representatives from the municipality of Lund, the outdoor recreation organisation Friluftsfrämjandet, the foundation for leisure areas in Skåne, Region Skåne and the County Administrative Board (Hellström et al. 2005). The organisation has been working with the Skrylle forest since 1976 and the organisation was initiated by the municipality of Lund due to discussions about the use of the area[2].

The comprehensive plan
A municipal comprehensive plan of Lund, ÖPL-98, was completed in 1998. It was then decided to make a comprehensive plan for the Skrylle area only. The in depth comprehensive plan for the Skrylle area was exhibited in 2005 and meetings with interest groups took place in 2005 (Hellström et al. 2005). The plan contains principal guidelines about the area, and is not in detail regulating the area. The plan is approved by the building and planning department and the next decision about the plan is to be made within the municipal executive board. The purpose of the in depth comprehensive plan is to develop and protect the Skrylle area as an important local and regional recreational area and to balance different interests (Hellström et al. 2005). Guidelines are given about new settlement, nature reserves and new tracks meant for walking, bicycling or riding. The planned tracks for horse riding are meant to connect areas around the Skrylle forest to horse riders, but not to pass through the Skrylle forest. One of the purposes with the comprehensive plan is to balance the different interests in the area. There might be interest conflicts between the forest production and the nature care values, the cultural historical values and the outdoor recreation values in the Skrylle area. Hunting is another area of possible conflict (Hellström et al. 2005 p. 24).

The Neighbour Wood study focused on management planning in relation to communication with stakeholders (Åkerlund and Gustavsson 2004). During the previous Neighbour Woods study it was found out that people were very focused on the activities for their own interest group and very seldom talked about conditions for other groups. According to Åkerlund and Gustavsson (2004) could the reasons for this be that the persons were asked questions about their own interests but it could also be because the interest groups know very little about each other. If there is a lack of mutual understanding between different kinds of users this might cause conflicts.
"It already has as the conflict between the outdoor enthusiasts and horseback riders has come to a point where they are not talking with each other. The municipality is now arranging separate meetings with these two main groups of interest in order to come to a consensus. They keep separate meetings in order to avoid a polarised discussion without any solution" (Åkerlund and Gustavsson 2004, p. 28).

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[2] Personal communication Göran Mattiasson The County Administrative Board 2006-04-27

1.3 Problem statement and aim of study

Aims for the study are:
1. To describe and analyse the similarities and differences in values[3] and interests among different stakeholders[4] in the area. The study investigates the complexity of a situation with several different interests.

2. To investigate the communication and mutual understanding between different stakeholders and the level of public participation. The study concentrates on the user level, the operational level and the administrative level. The policy level is not investigated in this study.

3. To raise the awareness of differences in power and influence in decisions about the area. The study examines how the users communicate with each other and with the municipality and the manager.

Hypothesis
A lack of communication between different groups in the Skrylle forest cause new conflicts between groups. Different interest groups get in conflict because of lack of mutual understanding caused by insufficient communication and public participation processes.

Vision
The vision is to raise the awareness among different interest groups about values and interests in the Skrylle forest area and to create a sense of community. Future problems are prevented with a higher degree of understanding and better ways of communication between stakeholders.

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[3] "*Values* are connected to identity and run deeper than *interests*. If an interest is given up it is often replaced by a new interest, but to give up a value is like giving up the personal identity" (Forester 1999, p. 463). In the nature perspective; the value can be respect of nature and the interest can be plants or bird watching.

[4] A *stakeholder* can be defined as "any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of a corporation's purpose" (Freeman 1984, p. vi cited in Ramirez 2001). Another definition is: "Stakeholders are…natural resource users and managers" (Röling and Wagemakers 1998, p. 7 cited in Ramirez 2001). "The modern uses of the term stakeholder are not synonymous with persons or individuals only but also refer to groups and organisations that have an interest or are active players in a system" (Ramirez 2001, p. 102). "Parties are individuals, groups, organisations or governments capable of making decisions related to a conflict. They have a stake in the outcome. Primary parties are major players…Secondary parties have a vested interest or may be affected directly by the conflict and its outcome… but are not directly involved. The peripheral parties have an awareness of the conflict, but are not directly affected" (Daniels and Walker 2001, pp. 31-32). *Primary parties* are the *key players*: those who want or need to be actively involved. *Secondary parties* are those who have a significant interest but not are directly involved in the process (Daniels and Walker 2001, p. 158).

The study

As the green forest areas are scarce in this region and many different user groups are visiting the area frequently can lack of mutual understanding cause conflicts between them. This can result in problems to coexist in the area. Some groups might get advantages and other groups might feel excluded or that they are not welcome in the area. The management and the use of the area can be problematic and the right for everybody to have a say might be unequal. When trying to balance different interests there is a risk that some interests are prioritised. Is it possible to balance the interests in the area and to create a win-win situation?

The main questions are:
1. Are there value differences and interest differences between different stakeholders and are the stakeholders mainly concerned about values or interests?

2. Do lack of communication cause lack of mutual understanding?

3. What is the situation of power and interest between the stakeholders?

2. Method

2.1 Mapping of stakeholders

A stakeholder analysis was made in order to reach different groups and interview them trying to define as many different stakeholders as possible. Figure 2a gives a general overview of the situation. The national interests and legislation regulate use of green areas, like areas of high national interest. Some subjects are of regional interest as nature conservation and outdoor activities. The municipality plan and manage green areas in cooperation with landowners and experts. Local interests and wishes influence the area.

Figure 2b is a stakeholder analysis at the local and regional scale. The stakeholders in the inner square, the key-stakeholders, are defined as the stakeholders who are involved in planning and management. The secondary stakeholders are defined as interested in the area but at the moment not directly involved in the process. They can be involved and change position to primary stakeholders. Peripheral stakeholders like new users and non users can change position to primary or secondary stakeholders.
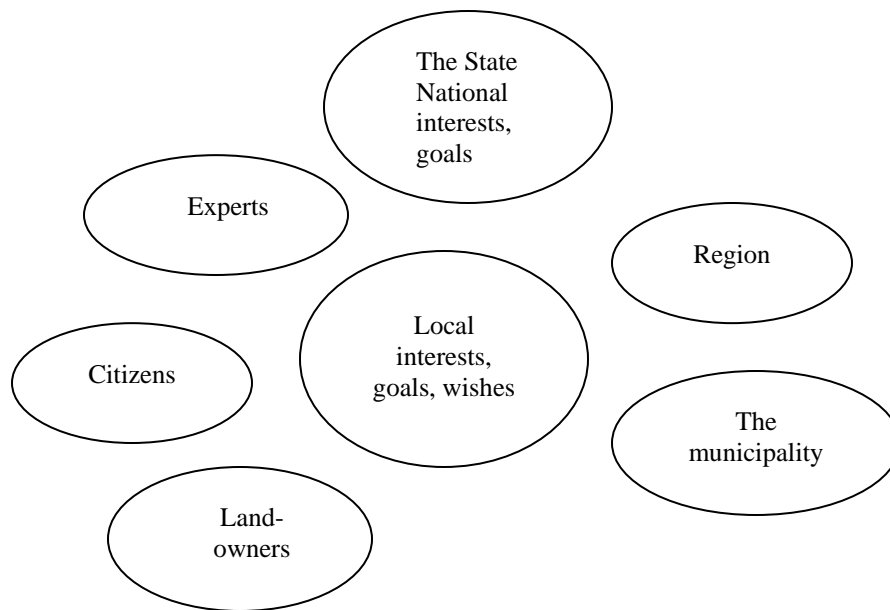
Figure 2 a. Overview of different stakeholders.
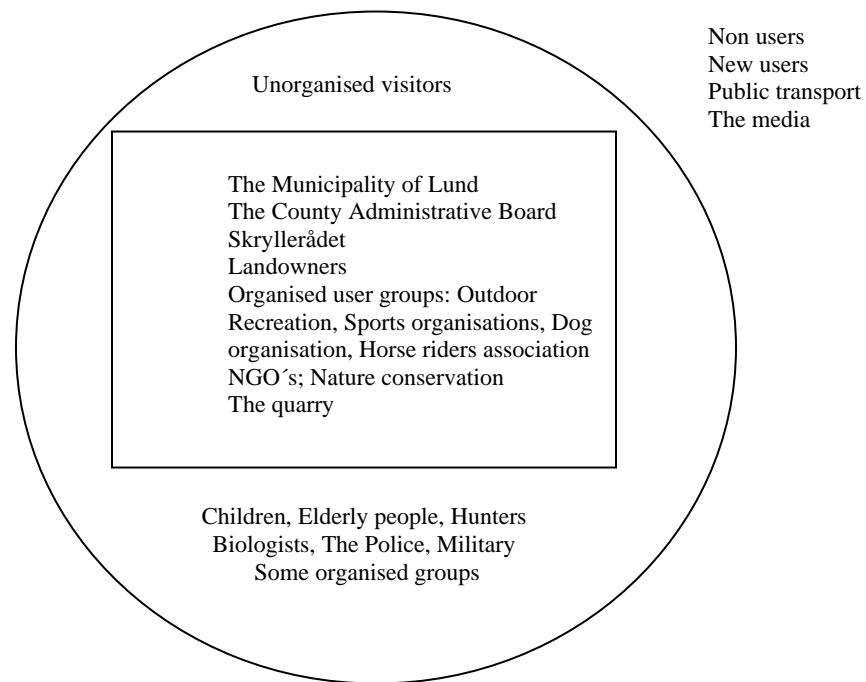

Figure 2b. Stakeholder analysis at the local and regional level in the Skrylle forest. The stakeholders in the inner square, the key-stakeholders, are involved in planning and management in the area. The stakeholders that are interested in the area but not directly involved in the process are inside the circle, but outside the square, and the peripheral stakeholders are outside the circle.

2.2 Interviews

Qualitative semi structured interviews were made during 20/4-15/5 2006. In total 14 interviews were made and 16 persons were interviewed. According to Kvale (1997) is the amount of interviews in a qualitative study usually between 5-15 interviews.

The interviews were made at personal meetings in the Skrylle forest, except one interview made at the municipality of Lund and one in Södra Sandby. Three interviews were made by telephone. Every interview, except for the telephone interviews, lasted for between one hour and one hour and 15 minutes. Notes from the interviews were taken and transcribed shortly after the interview. Six of the interviews were, after permission from the persons interviewed, recorded by a digital voice recorder and the recordings were used as a backup to the notes.

Interviews were made with the following representatives from the user level, the operational level and the administrative level:

User level	Operational level	Administrative level
The Nature School, Naturskolan, the Municipality of Lund	The local manager at Skryllegården	The County Administrative Board representing Skryllerådet
An outdoor recreation organisation, Friluftsfrämjandet (also representing the operational level)	An outdoor recreation organisation, Friluftsfrämjandet (also representing the user level)	The Planning and Building Department , the Municipality of Lund
A dog training club using dogs for tracing etc, Lunds Brukshundklubb		The Park and Nature Department, the Municipality of Lund, 2 different interviews made (interviewed by telephone)
A horse riders association, Skrylleområdets Hästintressenter, 2 persons interviewed		The Cultural and Leisure Department, the Municipality of Lund (interviewed by telephone)
A team building company Äventyrspedagogerna, 2 persons interviewed		
A sports club from the University hospital of Lund, Lunds Lasaretts Idrottsförening, 2 persons interviewed		
A NGO, nature conservation organisation, Lundabygdens Naturvårdsförening		
Landowners, 2 persons interviewed		

The persons interviewed were selected to get a variety of user groups. The representatives were chosen with information from the comprehensive plan and the Neighbour Wood study. Information from the local manager, the municipality of Lund and the County Administrative Board and from users about other user groups was used when selection of persons for interviews was made.

All interviews except for three were made with one person at the time. Three interviews were made with two persons representing the same organisation at one time. Some of the persons interviewed represented more than one organisation. One person represents the user level as well as the operational level.

All interviews were made with the use of an interview guide to make sure that all themes decided to ask were discussed (see appendix 1 and 2). However the persons interviewed were allowed to speak open about the subject as well. The interview guide and the questions were not presented to the persons interviewed in advance as the spontaneous answers were preferred. At the end of the interviews the persons interviewed were asked if they had anything else to add to the subject. The same kind of interview guide was used for the different users. The interview guide used when interviewing people at the administrative and operational level was similar to the one used among the users, but more emphasis was then made on asking questions about plans, decision making and administration. For content of the interviews, see figure 3.
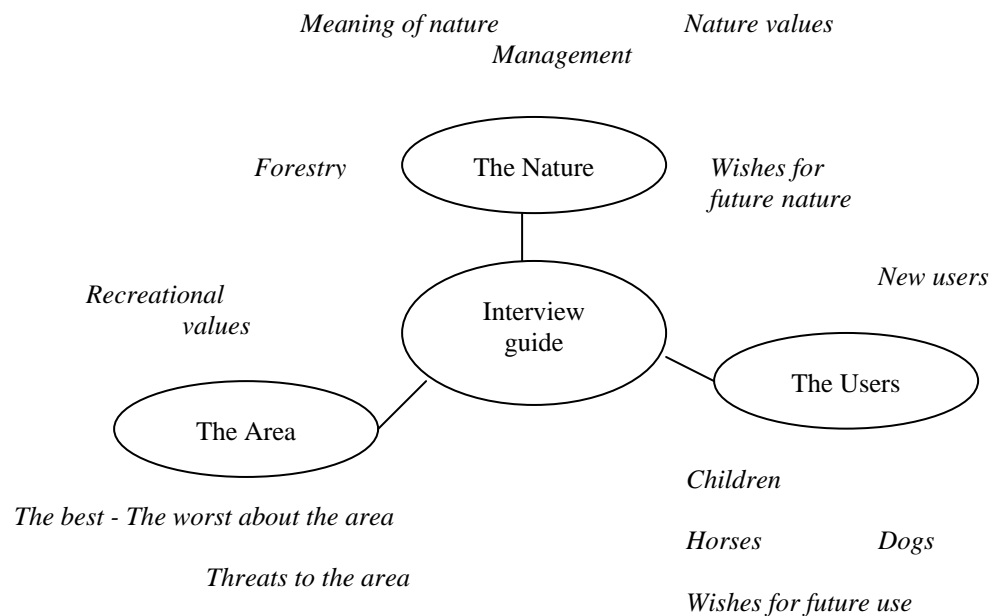
Figure 3. Content of the interviews.

After the interviews were the answers divided in different main subjects to get an overview of the answers. Answers from different persons belonging to the same subject were put together. The answers were compared a) between user groups and b) between user groups and the operational level and c) between user groups and the administrative level. Similarities and differences were investigated and analyses were made. The results from the analyses were used to make tables with the level of agreement about different issues. The core meaning (Birgerstam 2000) of the answers were used to compare the level of agreement.

The interviews were carried out in Swedish, the native language of the persons interviewed. After the interviews the answers were divided in different themes, translated to English and analysed.

2.3 Delimitation

It was decided to make qualitative in depth interviews and a limited amount of persons were interviewed. The persons interviewed represent different kind of users, however not all different kinds of users are interviewed in this study. The persons interviewed can be seen as representatives to the organisations to which they belong, thereby taking in consideration the view of other people as well.

The unorganised visitors in the area represent the highest amount of visitors in the area. They are not interviewed during this project due to a limited time for the study. Other methods could have been used to interview unorganised visitors. The interviews in the study were time-consuming and visitors could not be expected to answer questions for more than one hour if they were not prepared for this.

Children and teenagers are not interviewed in this study. To make a complete interview with children should other methods for interviews have been used and the limited time for the project did not make this possible. An organisation for retired people was contacted about an interview, but they were not able to come to the area at the time for the interviews. The non-users are not interviewed during this project due to a limited time for the project and due to difficulties to find the non-users.

The study area is the Skrylle forest. However many persons interviewed are interested in the surrounding areas and some connections and reflections are made to the larger Skrylle area as well.

Some nuances can have been lost by translation of the interviews from Swedish to English.

3. Literature/Theory

3.1 Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholder analysis is used primarily to analyse and plan around a complex situation and is part of conflict management and negotiation procedures. A stakeholder analysis can be a help to find out about who has a stake in the conflict and what issues are important, whether it makes sense or not to proceed and under what circumstances the key parties will agree (Susskind and Thomas-Larmer 1999). The stakeholders on a preliminary list can be asked to suggest others who might have as stake in the conflict, as if thinking of the process of identifying stakeholders as "moving outwards in concentric circles" (Susskind and Thomas-Larmer 1999, p. 108).

3.2 The Power/Interest Grid

INTEREST
in the strategy
making
organisation

Stakeholders	Subjects	Players
Unaffected	Crowd	Strategy Context Setters
	Bystanders	Actors

POWER in relation to strategy realization
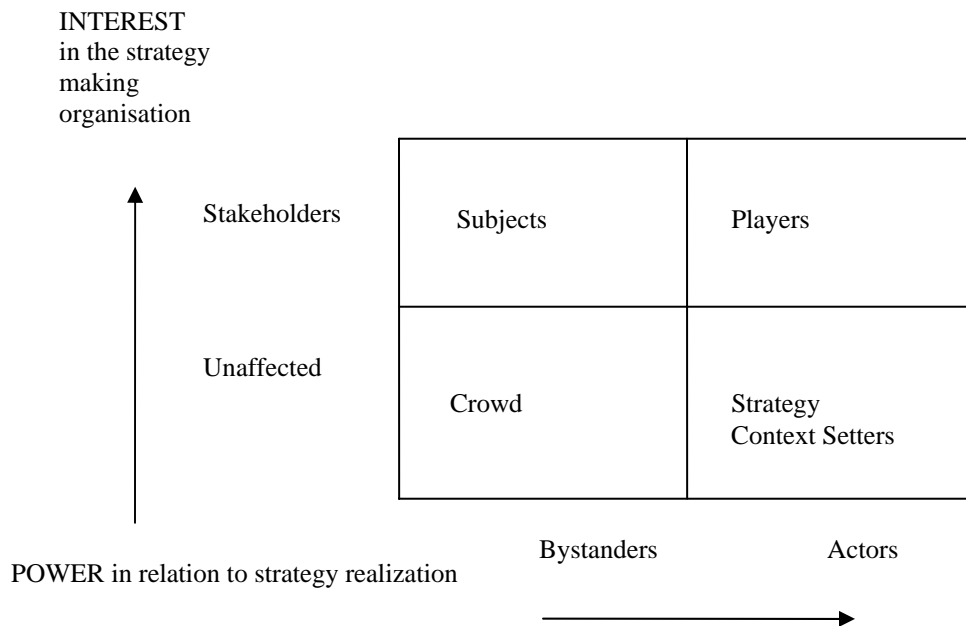
Figure 4. The power/interest grid (Eden and Ackerman 1998).

The Power/Interest Grid is a tool to uncover the interests and influence of various stakeholders on for example the plans of an organisation. Stakeholders can be identified in terms of their *power* and the nature of their *interests* (se figure 4). *Actors* have the power to act in a way that has an impact on the future and are *players* and independents or *context setters*. Context setters are "independent" actors who can affect the context. *Subjects* are those who have a high interest but do not have the power to influence. The *crowd* is the unaffected bystanders. Subjects are those who feel as though they are subjected to the consequences of strategies. They have a high interest in what the organisation is doing and seeks to do, however they do not have the power base to have substantial influence (Eden and Ackerman 1998).

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3.3 Conflict style

According to Rubin et al. (2004) implies the dual concern model that conflict style is determined by the strength of two independent individual difference variables: self-concern and other-concern. The dual concern model also serves as a theory about the impact of various conditions on strategic choice. High self-concern inclines parties toward contending and problem solving and away from yielding and avoiding. High other-concern means a tendency towards yielding and problem-solving and away from contending and avoiding. If there is both concern for others outcome and for own outcome the result can be problem solving and a win-win situation.

The dual concerns can be represented as axes on a graph (see figure 5). The model indicates that when ones´ concern for the own welfare increases there is a risk of a conflict situation. Active engagement can be contending (competing) or problem solving (collaborating), and if a party has higher value on the outcome for other there might be a tendency to an yielding (accommodating) or problem solving attitude (Rubin et al. 2004). A compromise is not the same as problem-solving, and then not a win-win situation.

High   Yielding   Problem
                                        Solving

Concern
about   (Compromising)
other´s
outcomes
                Avoiding   Contending
Low   (Competing)

        Low   High
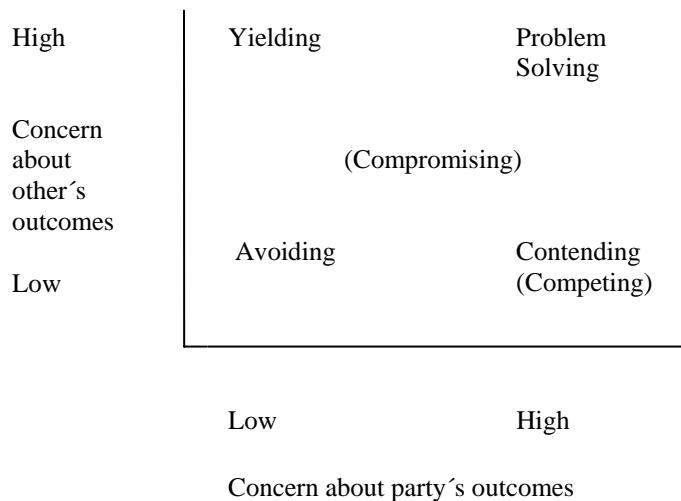
        Concern about party´s outcomes

Figure 5. The Dual Concern Model (Rubin et al. 2004)

3.4 Values and interests

Values are often learned early in life and cultures can contain many conflicting values. Environmental groups may stress different issues; like nature preservation or issues of environmental health. It is difficult to analyse all values and interests of conflicting parties. In environmental debates personal belief system can lie close beneath the surface of the debate (Petulla 1980).

Values run deeper than interests, and when a person gives up an interest it is often replaced by another interest but to give up something that we value feels like giving up part of ourselves. Because values seem connected to identity takes dealing with value differences the abilities to listen, learn and probe fact and value together (Forester 1999). It can be easier to solve problems if persons are clear about if they debate values or interests.

Framing involves "shaping, focusing and organising the world" (Gray 2003, p. 11). Identity frames focuses on individuals own identity but characterization frames focus on how someone else is understood to be (Gray 2003). People can be assumed to have special characteristics by belonging to a certain group. In order to reframe one's understanding of a conflict, some degree of perspective taking can be required; to stand back, observe and reflect. Reframing depends on the ability to entertain a perspective other than ones own (Gray 2003, p. 32).

3.5 Forest value

As discussed by Gamborg and Rune (2004) are traditional economic forest production values today to an increasing extent supplemented by non-production values in many places. Non-production values can be recreation or biodiversity. Economic as well as non economic methods to assess forest value are used. Forest value can refer to what is good about a forest. From an ecological perspective can a good forest be defined as what is natural, measured through ecosystem health and nature quality. Four criteria of nature quality can be considered; wildness, originality, continuity and authenticity. Authenticity relates to what is considered "real" or "genuine". A human-made type of nature can be seen as authentic if it fulfils expectations regarding origin, composition and species interaction. Awareness of different values of forests and new valuation systems is important in forest policy and management decisions (Gamborg and Rune 2004).

In many European countries is an interest of back to nature forestry increasing. Intensively managed production forests are beginning to be regarded as something belonging to a different era and something that should be converted to something else. What is seen as natural and what kind of nature that is wished can be different between different persons. The conception of nature may differ with regard to the values. How different values can be balanced should be considered. It is not easy to tell the demands and values of future generations. Because of the uncertainty about future wishes is multi functionality of importance. Flexible strategies allow changes and different functions in the future (Gamborg and Larsen 2005).

Figure 6. People of all ages use the Skrylle forest. Photo: I. Pålsson.

"Generalizing in the name of history" can lead to simplification in planning and management of nature areas (Gustavsson and Peterson 2003, p. 347). To look for the historical authenticity in the local context can be made by choosing the object or the idea. An object-based way to preserve an area can be to choose a time period and to preserve the area like it looked at this time, like a museum; an idea-based way of preserving nature is focusing on the idea of the place.

3.6 Communication and public participation

Environmental planning situations can be complex as they often involve many interest groups with different opinions. Communication between stakeholders can be improved by different methods for public participation. According to Konijnendijk (2000) indicate studies of European urban green areas that many people feel that conflicts about planning and management of green areas could have been avoided with better communication between involved parties. A reason for many conflicts seemed to be that interest groups and residents felt that decisions were made without their influence.

A ladder of citizen participation was defined in 1969 (Arnstein 1969). According to Arnstein is "participation the cornerstone of democracy" and "citizen participation a term for citizen power" (Arnstein 1969, p. 216). Arnsteins ladder defines the level of public participation in eight different steps, from non-participation to a high degree of citizen power. According to Arnstein (1969) can informing, which is on the third step on the ladder, be a first step to citizen participation but is often a one-way flow of information from officials to citizen with no channel for feed-back. Consultation, the fourth step can be a step to participation, but if it is not combined with other methods there is no

guarantee that the ideas will be taken into account. Public hearing is one way of consultation and participation is sometimes measured by how many that came to the meeting, but according to Arnstein (1969) is this not the same as participation.

More and more emphasis has been made on public participation since 1969, on international level as well as on national level. In the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD (1992) from the United Nations conference in Rio de Janeiro (1992) is the importance of local knowledge emphasized. The European Landscape Convention (2000) emphasizes the importance of local participation. The Swedish Government stresses that environmental work should take place with the help of local people and traditional and local knowledge (Regeringens skrivelse 2001/2002). The Swedish National Environmental Protection Board, Naturvårdsverket, (2003) describes local anchoring as increased understanding and acceptance among landowners, residents and interest groups. Local participation can be associated with a particular place in the locality, an area or a problem and, ideally, form a network of human resources with ideas and knowledge and create friendship and trust among participants (Mårsäter et al. 2002)

According to Van Herzele et al. (2005, p. 218) is "involving people all about building relationships". There is often a tendency to pursue participation to an end, with little or no commitment to long-term engagement. The involvement of users and residents is fundamental to the long-term success; to enhance the quality of decision making, to encourage a sense of ownership and to raise the awareness of the issues related to the green areas. Once involved, people usually want to have a view on what happens with their input.

The most basic form of public participation involves communication through media, workshops, field trips and public meetings. "The basic public participation has been broadly criticized as ineffective" (Daniels and Walker 2001, p. 8). Public meetings may be well attended but there is a risk that only a few people voice their opinions and this may not be the opinion of the majority. Furthermore, many people may not feel comfortable by telling their view in a meeting with a large amount of people.

There are many different techniques for public participation and the techniques can be chosen and adapted depending on the actual situation. There are "four Ms, four different activities to be borne in mind while choosing and using methods or techniques: mix, modify, multiply, match" depending on the preferences of participants (Taket and White 2000, p. 95). Several strategies can be used in improvement of the public participation; Collaborative Learning can be one approach. Collaborative Learning is a framework and set of techniques to promote creative thoughts and constructive debate (Daniels and Walker 2001). Collaborative Learning is not a single method rather an approach where the learning situation is important. Effective public participation depends on how communication is made; it needs to be structured and emphasize collaborative communication, dialogue and learning as well as opportunities to work through different viewpoints (Daniels and Walker 2001).

According to Boon (2003a) are combinations of different methods preferable as a way to reach different groups and different kind of people. It is important to be aware of what kind of participation that is possible to reach before choosing methods, as not to promise more than is possible to manage. Advisory organisations with local people involved, which emphasize communication between involved parties, can be used to increase participation. Unorganised visitors as well as organised should be represented (Boon and Meilby 2000). Involving all interested parties is important to give real influence in the process (Boon 2003b). Successful participation should be carefully planned and goals should be systematically handled (Boon 2003c).

Involving different social groups is crucial for making plans more relevant, for instance less mobile groups like children and elderly people and ethnic groups and people in different social classes (Van Herzele et al 2005). Even if a communicative approach is active, can reaching the diversity of stakeholders be a problem. Involving children in planning and management can be made by asking children to map their favourite places and places they do not like and then use the maps in planning processes (Konjindendijk 2000). Holm (2001) interviewed children about their use of urban green areas. Playing activities, nature experiences and being together in green areas were important to children as well as places with some peace and quiet for older children. According to Carstensen et al. (2004) is it, when involving children in planning, always important to take the time, to see and listen and to let the children be able to express themselves.

Figure 7. Communication in the forest. Photo: I. Pålsson.

4. Results

The data from the interviews are sorted in three main subjects; 1) The nature, 2) the Skrylle forest and 3) the users and the use. The answers are divided into the user level, the operational level and the administrative level. The levels of agreement about different issues are divided in three different groups; a high level of agreement, most persons agree except for two or three persons and a low level of agreement. The tables illustrate the level of agreement. The groups are defined as to what degree there is an agreement to a subject, but not how strong the opinion is to a certain group. The tables indicate the level of agreement to different subjects, but not what the opinion is. The tables are a summary about agreements and disagreements and the text in the results part is an explanation of the tables. For detailed answers from the interviews, see appendix 3.

4.1 The nature

Table 1. The level of agreement on questions about nature between users and between users and operational and administrative level. +++ = high level of agreement, ++ = most persons agree except for two or three, + = low level of agreement.

	1a. Meaning of nature	1b. Nature values	1c. Forestry	1d. Grazing	1e. Dead wood	1f. Forest composition	1g. Threats to the nature values	1h. The storm	1i. Wishes for the future nature
Agreement between users	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++
Agreement users-operational level	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	+	++	++
Agreement users-administrative level	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++

1a. What does nature mean to you - the meaning of nature?
All persons interviewed agree on the importance of nature. The view of nature is very similar to all different groups. Some persons express the deep importance of nature and nature as the foundation of everything else. Some of the persons interviewed talk about a very deep sense of nature and that nature means happiness.

1b. Nature values
All persons interviewed on all levels agree on that more variation in species distribution and age would improve the nature values as well as the recreational values. One opinion on *the operational level* is that there is still very much to do because of the storm, but an improvement of the nature values is made because of the new planted broadleaved trees, and in future it will be a very nice nature area.

1c. Forestry
All persons interviewed at *the user level* agree on that commercial forestry is not suitable in the area, however many of the persons interviewed still think that it is good if forestry methods like thinning and careful cutting are used to create some money. It is supposed to be good with some forestry for educational reasons. Areas with nature forest for free development as well as other areas with forestry are suggested. No one on the user level think that clear cutting should be used in the area. On *the operational level* is it agreed that commercial forestry is not suitable, but forestry to maintain the area is seen as important. One view is that all spruce is going to be replaced by broadleaved trees, and in 20 years it is time for clear cutting of the remaining spruce forest. The persons interviewed at *the administrative level* prefer forestry with nature care and careful thinning.

Figure 8. Young trees and dead wood. Photo: I. Pålsson.

1d and 1e. Grazing and dead wood
The view from *the user level* is that grazing animals are important to city people, but some people might be afraid, so there should be possibilities to walk in the area without walking exactly where the grazing animals are. The operational level and the administrative level agree on that grazing is good in the area.

Most persons interviewed on *the user level* believe that dead wood to improve the biological diversity is not in conflict with the recreational values, as long as there is information available about the purpose. The view is that if the municipality explains what they do for example when cutting trees or leaving dead wood there would be much more understanding among visitors. The opinion on *the operational level* and *the administrative level* is that it is good to keep dead wood in the area and there are some plans about making a nature forest part.

1f. Forest composition
Most representatives at *the user level* agree on that the area is better today with beech and oak compared to before the storm in 1999 when 100 ha of spruce fell. Most of the persons do not at all like the kind of planted spruce forest that used to be in the forest. They relate to the spruce planted in straight lines as not preferable. However some persons are critical about the plan to replace all the conifers with oak or beech. By doing this there will be a lack of variation in the area they say. The opportunity to use the forest for educational purpose will be missed with so little of variation and different kind of broadleaved trees together with conifers would be better. Another aspect told is that the spruce was a more calming kind of forest, and misses this kind of forest feeling today. "Trees that do not belong to the area, like spruce, larch and Douglas fir will not be planted in the area", is told at *the operational level*. The operational level says that it is much better today without the spruce plantation; it used to be dark and gloomy. One view told at *the administrative level* is that the plan was anyway to replace the spruce with oak and beech, but it happened in a very drastic way because of the storm. The broadleaved trees should replace the conifers in the future, but there can be broadleaved in a mixture with conifers.

1g. Threats to the nature values
Most representatives at *the user level* talk about the risk of the quarry expanding as an overall threat to the area, not only to the nature values. The lack of variation in the area is seen as a threat to the nature values and more nature types should be represented. There are no threats to the nature values today, are told from *the operational level*, but if horses were allowed, this would be a threat. As the overall threat *the administrative level* talk about the quarry and about if the area will be too arranged and loose some of the character of nature. Another threat could be if it was not possible to manage the area because of lack of money.

Figure 9. Spruce and young deciduous trees along a walking track close to the centre Skryllegården. Photo: I. Pålsson.

1h and 1 i. The storm and wishes for the future nature
The wish for a "genuine typical south Swedish broad leaved forest" is expressed at *the user level* but the wish for a varied forest with conifers together with broadleaved and spruce forest is expressed by other users. According to *the operational level* are there future plans to use some of the area for educational purpose. The plan is oak and beech forest in the area. One view at *the administrative level* is that the young forest of today could be more interesting and glades and interesting places would be nice. Some aesthetics in the area would increase the recreational value.

4.2 The Skrylle forest

Table 2. The level of agreement on questions about the Skrylle forest between users and between users and operational and administrative level. +++ = high level of agreement, ++ = most persons agree except for two or three, + = low level of agreement, 0 = not discussed or briefly discussed.

	2a. The best about the area	2b. The worst about the area	2c. Threats to the area	2d. Recreational values	2e. Threats to the recreational values
Agreement between users	+++	++	++	+++	++
Agreement users-operational level	+++	0	+	+++	+
Agreement users-administrative level	+++	+	+	+++	+

2a. What is the best about the area - and what else is important?
All persons interviewed express the variation as the best thing about the Skrylle forest. The fact that there is something for all kind of people is seen as important. The best about the area is the importance it has to so many people; the high recreational value, they say. The area can be an introduction into nature to people as it is easy to use.

2b. The worst about the area
Asking *the user level* about the worst in the area the problems to go to the area without a car is mentioned by most users. For some persons interviewed is the worst the bad connection by horse and that it is not possible to ride through the area.

On *the operational level* nothing is mentioned as bad.

On *the administrative level* are the areas around Skryllegården mentioned as a little boring and the young forest as not inviting. The central forest area does not have a very interesting nature but it is very nice in the surroundings. One problem told by the administrative level is the road dividing the area.

2c and 2e. Threats to the area and threats to the recreational values
Many of *the users* asked see the stone quarry as the big threat; if the quarry expands it would be a big problem to the Skrylle forest. One opinion from the *user level and the operational level* is worry about wrong kind of activities as a threat to the area, activities as horses and mountain bikes and multi sports where people bring equipment. The lack of variation is also seen as a threat. Another view at the operational level is that there are not any particular threats to the area, but the quarry expanding into the recreational area could be a problem.

One opinion from *the administrative level* is that the quarry is as a problem. One view is that too much of arrangements, buildings or equipment can be a little disturbing to visitors. Another view from the administrative level is that is important to promote the out door recreation and to prevent disturbing activities like motor vehicles, mountain bikes and horse riding.

2d. Recreational values
All agree on that the recreational values are very high; it is a place where people meet. They are satisfied with the recreational values in the area and believe that there is something to do for everyone in the area, for the beginner as well as for the advanced outdoor recreation person and for the sports interested person.

Figure 10. The centre Skryllegården is the starting point of tracks used by people exercising and walking. Photo: I. Pålsson.

Table 3. The level of agreement on questions about the users and the use of the area between users and between users and operational and administrative level. +++ = high level of agreement, ++ = most persons agree except for two or three, + = low level of agreement.

	3a. New user groups	3b. Children	3c. Horses	3d. Dogs	3e. Wishes for the future use
Agreement between users	++	+++	+++	+++	++
Agreement users-operational level	+	+++	+	++	++
Agreement users-administrative level	++	+++	+	++	++

3a. View about new user groups
One view told at *the user level* is that there is plenty of room and that new groups are welcome in the area. The importance of nature could be established to young people if they were able to go here. One opinion is that people from other cultures are missing in the area. Maybe more handicapped people could come if it was better arranged for them. Another opinion told is that everybody seems to be here already, with such a variety of visitors.

On *the operational level* it is said that everybody is here already and there is a good distribution among users. There are plans to have more health activities and to promote the physical training centre. In the out door recreation aspect everybody is here today.

On *the administrative level* is one opinion that with better facilities for handicapped people they would probably visit the area more. Immigrants are also mentioned as a new group; maybe they have other kind of cultures and habits of using green areas. Older people would probably go here more with better public transports. If people from other cultures go out in a nature area they might use the area in different ways, believe some persons.

Two groups are during interviews described as having certain characteristics or acting in a certain way by belonging to a group.

3b. Children in the area
The persons interviewed all believe that there are many activities for children in the area today but it is said that some kind of nature play ground would be nice. An adventure track could be created to improve the area to children but it should not be too complicated to children either as they like to play spontaneously. One suggestion is that the area could be improved by glades in the forest and some places could be planted with different kind of vegetation. All the persons interviewed say that no one has asked the children how they like the area and what places they like most.

Figure 11. Tranquillity on a forest walk. Photo: I. Pålsson.

3c. Horses in the area
At *the user level* it is told that there are probably no problems having horse riders in the Skrylle forest area. Different kind of users should not be separated too much. Another opinion is that it is good for people to see animals like horses, as people today are really urbanised and not so used to animals. Another view is that horse riding could be allowed in the areas where not so many visitors go, and one opinion is that it would be good if horse riding was allowed on separate tracks in the area. It is said that it is better the more kind of visitors there are and that having horses in the Skrylle forest would be nice. Maybe the meetings between horses and other visitors need to be organised, but horses would add a new and positive dimension to the area. Today it is not easy to ride from one place to another in the area. The suggestion from the new in depth comprehensive plan is a compromise and people are not all happy about it. One landowner is not able to ride anywhere from his own farm and is not satisfied with this situation. To be able to ride in the area would be good, is expressed by some of the representatives interviewed.

One view from *the operational level* is that people can be afraid of horses and the terrain will be destroyed by horses. Horses should not be allowed in the area, because there can be conflicts between users and horses need place, and they need separate tracks. People will be afraid and cannot visit the places where the horses are.

One opinion from *the administrative level* is that horse riding is not suitable in the forest area and that riding would destroy the tracks and the terrain. One problem about allowing horse riding is the places where the road is passed; it is a safety issue. Another problem is that it costs money to arrange special tracks for horses.

3d. Dogs in the area
Dogs are not seen as a problem at *the user level.* At the *operational level* is one view that there are problems between the unorganised dog owners who do not keep their dogs on a lead and between other users. Dogs can be allowed everywhere as long as they are put on a lead on the eastern side of the road. At *the administrative level* is one opinion that dogs without a lead are a problem in the area. There is a decision that dogs must be kept on a lead to protect wildlife in the nature reserve and because of visitors.

3e. Wishes for the future use
Talking about the future use with *the user level*, it is mentioned that to separate different kind of users should be avoided. There is plenty of space for all kind of users. A dream for the future is to be able to move between the Skrylle forest and all the way to Revingefältet[5] walking, running or horse riding. Another view is worry about that new trend in outdoor activities might be disturbing in the forest area, that it can be too much of stunt. One opinion is that eco tourism is ok as long as it does not destroy the nature. New user groups should be allowed, and welcomed, in the area.

The importance of the area to many schools and kindergartens are mentioned during the interviews. It is important to consider all kind of users as jogging people, the people who want to run fast, the dog owners as well as the horse riders in the future planning.

From *the operational level* is the wish to keep the area as a recreational area.

On *the administrative level* are further improvements in the area wanted and a wish that it will be a recreational area forever is told.

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[5] Revingefältet is situated 5 km east of the Skrylle forest.

4.4. Communication

Communication and cooperation
All persons interviewed at *the user level* say that there is no meeting place for different kind of users where they can gather and tell their opinion. Different kind of user groups should be invited to meetings as well as the landowners in the area. One view is that it should feel like a place for everyone and that all people should be able to feel a sense of belonging to the area. This will create a higher interest in the area. No one should feel like intruders. More cooperation would be good as it can result a higher degree of understanding between different groups.

From *the operational level* is it told that there have been some attempts to engage different organisations in the nature exhibition at the area, but without much success. The Skryllerådet exists but is not a meeting place for everyone to join, sometimes different groups are invited to a meeting but it is not a forum open to everybody.

The administrative level tells that it is only when there is a plan to be made that meetings are arranged with different users, but not in the daily management and use of the area. Communication usually takes place spontaneously. For some groups it is quite well known what they like, but this is not the case for all groups.

Conflicts and relationship
There used to be conflicts in the area, is mentioned from *the user level*. There were conflicts between jogging people, horses and dogs, and historically there used to be a conflict between Friluftsfrämjandet and other users. Today the discussion is more open is one opinion. Another view is that different groups do not go on well together. There is a good relation between most groups, is another view. One view from *the operational level* is that there is a conflict going on between the unorganised dog owners and the other visitors. It is said that there was a conflict during the discussions about the comprehensive plan, and that a compromise was made, which left everybody a little satisfied, but no one really happy. One view from *the administrative level* is that most people are going on well together and that there are not many conflicts, however many different opinions or interests exist.

It is believed that even though every kind of user group thinks mainly about their own interests is there some kind of understanding between some of the groups. Probably is there more understanding towards certain kind of groups and less towards other groups. It is told that the ground values about the nature and the importance of nature and recreation is probably shared by most people, but there are different reasons for going out in the nature, like exercising, bird watching, hunting etc, and the interests are not so similar then.

4.5. Public participation

Among the *user level* is it expressed that it earlier felt like the outdoor recreation organisation, Friluftsfrämjandet, used to have all the power in the area, with a limited influence for other users. One opinion is that decision makers should be open to ideas from the public and the public should be involved at an early stage. It is said that it is important that the communication is two-way communication. An organisation can represent many peoples opinion, but still it is important to remember that not everyone is asked. It is complicated to reach everyone, but guiding in green areas is suggested as one way to meet the public and get their opinion. Members of one organisation interviewed say that they usually tell their opinion to the local manager or to the reception, but the organisation has not been invited to the meetings about the comprehensive plan, and the representatives think that people, who use the area, also the unorganised visitors, should be asked more for their opinion.

A landowner says that they would like to have more influence in the area. People who are not organised should have ways to express their view to other stakeholders and with decision makers. The want for - and believe in - a higher degree of local influence is expressed. The risk of decisions that result in a static and uniform landscape instead of a living landscape is told.

The question about how ideas are treated today is discussed and there is a feeling that it is not sure that anyone takes the ideas into consideration; there is no guarantee for a response. Some of the organisations interviewed have a close contact with the municipality, but not all of them.

At the *operational level* is the opinion that the public participation with the municipality is working out well and that the municipality listens to ideas, but a lack of interest from the public is expressed. Democracy is said to be about being engaged and interested, and there is a lack of engagement among the public is one opinion.

A view from the *administrative level* is that a place for influence would be good in the daily management and use. Democracy and participation is good but also time consuming, some representatives say.

5. Analysis/Discussion

5.1 Present and potential conflicts of interests and value

Values and interests
The study indicates similar views about several issues in the area as well as some different views about other issues. In general it can be difficult to say through these types of interviews what are mere interests and what are more fundamental values, in the sense durable and more deeply held attitudes. Many persons are probably not aware of their underlying values. It is difficult to analyse all values and interests of different parties (Petulla 1980). It seems like most persons interviewed are discussing interests when they are talking about different activities in the area and about values when they talk about meaning of nature and the recreational value. However, to be able to tell if the stakeholders are dealing with values or interests is difficult, but still it is interesting to consider the similarities in views about some issues and the different views about other issues. As discussed by Forester (1999) takes dealing with value differences the ability to listen and learn and this indicates a need for better communication. Dealing with differences in interests requires communication as well. In the future differences in views may be more pronounced. Methods for public participation can be used to gains insight in others opinions and improve mutual understanding.

Meaning of nature and recreational values
There is a high level of agreement about the meaning of nature, about forestry production and about grazing in the area between the persons interviewed. There is a high agreement about what is best about the area and about the recreational values between all persons interviewed. The view about children's use of the area is similar. Many similarities in the views about the Skrylle forest exist. The persons interviewed might not be aware of all these similarities, and awareness of the similarities can create a sense of community. With so many shared views about the area there seem to be good possibilities for different groups to cooperate. However, new kind of users in the area might not share these viewpoints in the future. Improved communication can help to prevent future problems caused by different viewpoints.

Forest composition and wishes for future nature
The study indicates different viewpoints about some issues discussed during the interviews. Different views are told about forest composition and wishes for future nature. Not all persons interviewed agree on the plan to replace spruce with broadleaved forest. The way people experience a forest is different, some persons relate to the spruce forest as dark and gloomy whereas other persons talk about the calming forest of spruce. The views might be deeply held values and then is it not easy for people to understand each other. The different views need to be discussed carefully. Some flexibility for future is of importance as future demands and changes in conditions cannot be told today (Gamborg and Larsen 2005). Multi functional mixed forests are a more flexible kind of forest compared to a forest with a few tree species. If spruce is completely replaced by a few tree species this will result in a new kind of monoculture and lack of variation in the area.
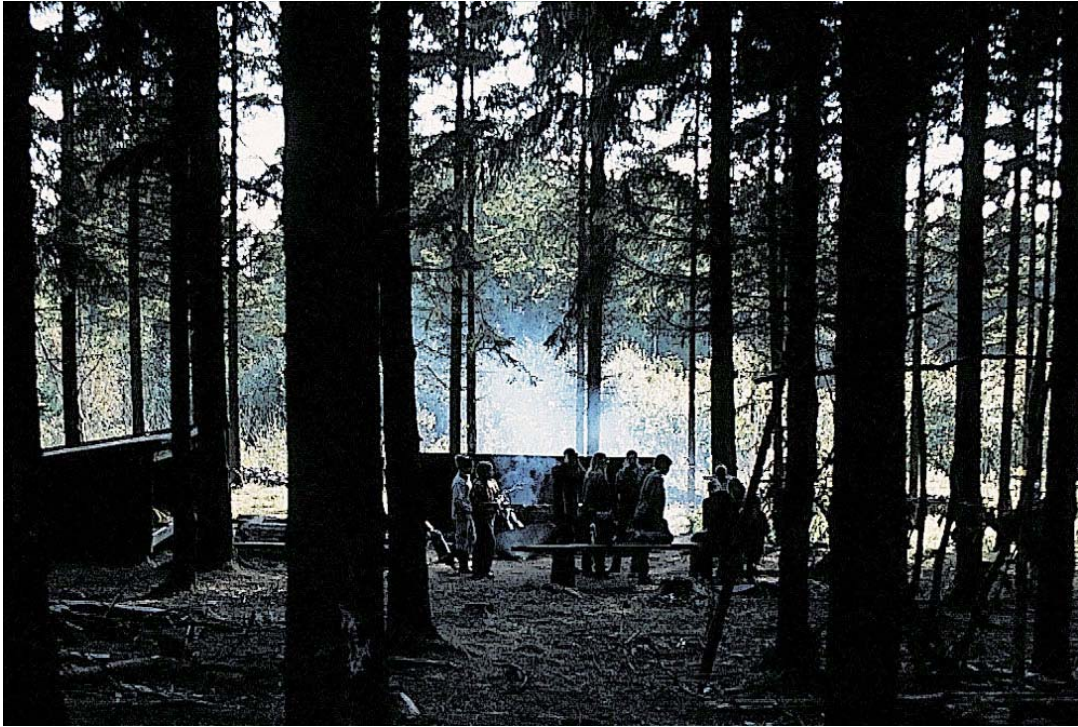
Figure 12. Preparation of food in the forest. Photo: R. Gustavsson.

The wish for a "genuine typical Swedish broad leaved forest" told at some interviews raises the question about authenticity. It is said that "trees that do not belong to the area should not be planted here"; it is interesting to reflect on what actually belong to the area, and who should judge this. Does it mean locally native or regionally native species? Probably there will be different answers depending on who is asked. If there is a wish to go back to something that used to be, there is also a need to discuss what kind of nature that is wished and how this can be realized. Different views about what is natural may exist depending on what period of time people refer to. What is seen as natural and authentic can be deeply held views that are not easily changed. As discussed by Gamborg and Rune (2004, p. 811) must authentic species be natural migrants to an area even if their presence is the result of human support.

An original landscape is one that is unchanged by human activities but because of natural dynamics is there always changes in species composition and soil structure (Gamborg and Rune 2004, p. 810). As mentioned by Gamborg and Rune (2004) can reference to past natural situations be difficult because of new situations as climate changes and other new conditions. The question about what is natural cannot easily be answered, but need to be thought of and discussed between different interested parties.

There is perhaps not awareness about the different views and wishes for future nature in the area. There might be a belief that everyone likes the same kind of forest and nature type, but this does not seem to be true according to this study. Improved communication to find out what kind of nature people prefer can be considered, even if it is not clear if people are mainly concerned about values or interests.

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Figure 13. The area close to the centre Skryllegården was a spruce forest until the storm felling in 1999. Photo: I. Pålsson.

New users - new activities
Some users express that new user groups are welcome in the area. Some of the users interviewed believe that different kind of users should not be separated, whereas some persons worry about new trends in outdoor activities that might be disturbing. What many persons interviewed worry about in the area is the risk of the quarry expanding, but from the operational level is there a worry expressed about wrong kind of activities in the area, activities like horse riding, mountain bikes and multi sports. From the administrative level is it mentioned that there can be disadvantages with too much of arrangements and equipment. Exchange of views can help to increase the understanding between stakeholders. The opinion from representatives at the user level is that there is plenty of room for everyone. Most persons interviewed welcome new kind of users in the area, and persons interviewed at the administrative level talk about improvements for the recreational use. From the operational level is the wish to keep the area as a recreational area told, however if new kind of users should be included or not is not expressed; the view is that everybody is there already. To keep the area as it is today is not necessarily a "win-win" situation (Rubin et al. 2004).

New kind of users might arrive in the area in the future. What future will bring is unknown but new kind of outdoor recreation and sports activities might appear and new views about nature and about the use of nature can be a result. This can cause conflicts in the future. There can be new ways of using green areas, like extreme sports, or maybe new noisy or area demanding ways of using the nature. Maybe the new users will be organised, maybe not. Communication and cooperation between users, managers and

decision makers can help to prevent future conflicts (Konijnendijk 2000). A long-term engagement of participation is important to the success (Van Herzele et al. 2005) and to introduce new users as well in participation should be considered.

Horse riders
Many of the users interviewed express that horse riding is welcome in the area, however different ways of how it can be arranged are suggested. Some interviewees think that perhaps some persons will be afraid of the horses, but as urban people are not so used to animals it can be an advantage to have horses in the area. From the operational level is the opinion that horse riding should not be allowed in the area as people can be afraid of horses and that horses will destroy the terrain. One view is that horse riding, if it was allowed in the area, could be a possible threat to the area. One opinion from the administrative level is that horse riding is not suitable as riding would destroy the terrain, but all representatives do not express this opinion. The low level of agreement about this issue indicate a need for improved communication, there seems to be a need for more understanding about others opinion in this case; the users interviewed in this study do not seem to be afraid of horses in the area, but the operational level believe that users are afraid of horses. To discuss this carefully together can increase the understanding between different stakeholders. More user groups and unorganised visitors should be involved in the discussion.

5.2 Communication and participation status, now and in the future

Communication and cooperation
Most persons interviewed in this study would like to have a meeting place for different interest groups. More cooperation between different groups would be advantageous as different groups can create something together and mutual understanding can be a result, they say. Most of the persons interviewed say that communication need to be improved. More investigations are needed to be able to more completely answer the question about if all persons in the area think that there is a need for improved communication. More persons should be asked, also the unorganised visitors. The persons interviewed in this study are seen as representatives to the organisations to which they belong, thereby taking in consideration the view of other people as well. However more kind of users should be interviewed to get a more complete view of the situation. Quantitative interviews with a high amount of persons interviewed could perhaps have given other results. But to concentrate on fewer intense interviews, rather than making a high amount of interviews can give a high general knowledge (Kvale 1997).

During the interviews were groups given certain characteristics just by belonging to a group; this indicates a stereotype way of seeing other persons and use of characterization frames (Gray 2003). If there is a lack of communication there is a risk of building up frames. A stereotyping view of other persons can be avoided with improved communication and can result in a higher understanding of others viewpoints. Reframing depends on the ability to understand the perspective of other persons and not only see ones own views (Gray 2003).

Conflicts and relationship
It is referred to a compromise that was made to solve an earlier conflict in the area; this left everybody a little satisfied and no one really happy. Perhaps this conflict could have been solved by a more problem solving attitude and better ways of communication. A problem solving approach can create a win-win situation, if involved parties have concern for others outcome as well as for their own outcome (Rubin et al. 2004). Improvements can be made by the use of different methods for public participation. Several methods can be used and they should be chosen depending on the situation (Taket and White 2000). All conflicts are perhaps not necessary to solve, but when conflicts result in problems to coexist can improvement of the situation and conflict management be considered. A collaborative learning approach (Daniels and Walker 2001) can be used to increase the learning of others viewpoints. Different methods for public participation can help to gain insight into others interests. Tools for communication and participation are valuable as they can facilitate the management of green areas and prevent future conflicts.

Some persons refer to an earlier conflict and that there today are better ways of communication but not everyone agree on this. It is believed that there is a higher degree of understanding between some of the groups, but less between other groups, this depend on if their interests are similar or not. It is said that the ground values about the importance of nature and recreation are shared by most people, but that there are different reasons for going out in the nature, like exercising, bird watching and hunting, and the interests are not so similar then. It can be easier for people to understand the similarities and differences in interests and values with more opportunities for different groups to listen and learn from each other (Forester 1999).

Public participation
Decision makers should be more open to ideas from the public and everybody should be involved in participation, also the unorganised visitors some representatives believe. A landowner expresses the wish for a channel for communication with other stakeholders. People have a feeling that their ideas are not taken into consideration, and that there is no guarantee for any response. Once involved, people usually want to have a view on what happens with their input (Van Herzele et al. 2005). Communication can be improved by different methods for public participation, as many of these methods focus on communication. Effective public participation depends on good communication (Daniels and Walker 2001). Two-way communication gives everybody the chance to have a say and to be listened to. Informing is often a one-way flow of information with no channel for feed-back, and different methods for participation are often needed to guarantee that ideas are taken into account (Arnstein 1969).

Concern about how nature conservation is managed is expressed. If planners do not listen to the local people can the result can be a uniform landscape. The wish for a higher degree of local influence is told. If nature areas are managed in a similar way can the result be a "generalization in the name of history" (Gustavsson and Peterson 2003, p. 347). The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and the Swedish Government (2001/2002) emphasize the protection, preservation and development of traditional

knowledge with help by local people. Local participation can form a network of ideas and knowledge and create friendship among people (Mårsäter et al. 2002). Mutual understanding and communication between stakeholders can create possibilities for new ideas and views to develop. Local anchoring and local participation can result in increased understanding and acceptance among landowners, different users and organisations.

One view is that public participation with the municipality is working out well but a lack of interest and engagement from the public is expressed and democracy is said to be about being engaged. The question is then if people will be more engaged if there are more ways of participation for them. Will methods for public participation result in a higher interest among the public? According to Arnstein (1969, p. 216) is "participation the cornerstone of democracy". The study indicates a wish for a higher degree of participation among users. A meeting place and some channel for communication are said to be of importance. Public participation can take place in many ways; there are several methods to be used. Some of the things to be remembered are that the public participation should be carefully planned and that is important to know in advance how much that can be reached (Boon 2003c). It is also important to involve people at an early stage and to try to reach different kind of people (Boon 2003b, Van Herzele et al. 2005). Involving different social groups, for example children, elderly people and ethnic groups is crucial for making plans more relevant (Van Herzele 2005).

Figure 14. A walk in the spruce forest. Photo: R. Gustavsson.

Unorganised users should be included in the communication and in participation with decision makers as they are the largest user group and most certain represent a wide variety of persons and personalities, with many different interests. It should be clear to people that they are able to influence the planning and management.

The unorganised visitors are not interviewed in this study. To get a more complete view and more opinions is it important to include the unorganised visitors as well. The results in this study could perhaps have been different if more groups were included and if mainly the unorganised visitors were interviewed. Interviewing unorganised visitors in small groups can be considered.

Non-users, the people who are not visiting the area should not be forgotten in communication and participation. Who are they and why are they not visiting the area? Are they missing something in the area or have they just not found the place? It would be interesting to interview the non-users and find out about their opinion about the area, and why they do not use it. Maybe they are future visitors in the area.

5.3 Power and interest

Disagreements and interest conflicts can be solved with communication, but if not everybody have the same power there might still be difficulties. A high interest is not necessarily coincident with a high power (Eden and Ackerman 1998).

The results from this study indicate some differences in the level of power and interest among some of the stakeholders. A complete analysis of the entire power situation is not made in this study but the situation for some groups in the area is investigated. As illustrated in figure 15 is the interest in the area high for some of the groups, like the unorganised visitors and the children but there seems to be a lack of power to influence for these groups as they have no channel for communication to tell their views. The horse riders seem to be interested in using the area but are not allowed to use it, and then it can be concluded that they have a high interest and a low power in this aspect. The new users do not seem to have a high degree of power either. These results are found from interviews with representatives from the operational level and the administrative level, as well as from other user groups. The unorganised visitors and the children are not interviewed in this study but information about their possibilities to influence the area is given by other representatives interviewed.

Children visit the area frequently, with kindergarten and school and with different outdoor organisations. Many families with children visit the area. Children are a large user group but they are not asked about what they like the area. In this way children might be a weak group. They are not asked about what their interests are and they do not talk for themselves. The persons interviewed all say that children are not involved in planning or asked for their opinion. Involving children in planning and management can be done by asking children to map places they like (Konjindendijk 2000). Special methods for involving children can be used (Holm 2001, Carstensen et al. 2004).

INTEREST
in the Skrylle
forest

Stake
holders

Subjects:

Players:

Unorganised visitors
Children
Horse riders
New users
Some organised
groups

The Municipality of Lund
The County Administrative
Board
Skryllerådet
Friluftsfrämjandet
Some organised groups

Unaffected

Crowd:
Non users

Context setters:
The state

POWER to have influence in
the Skrylle forest
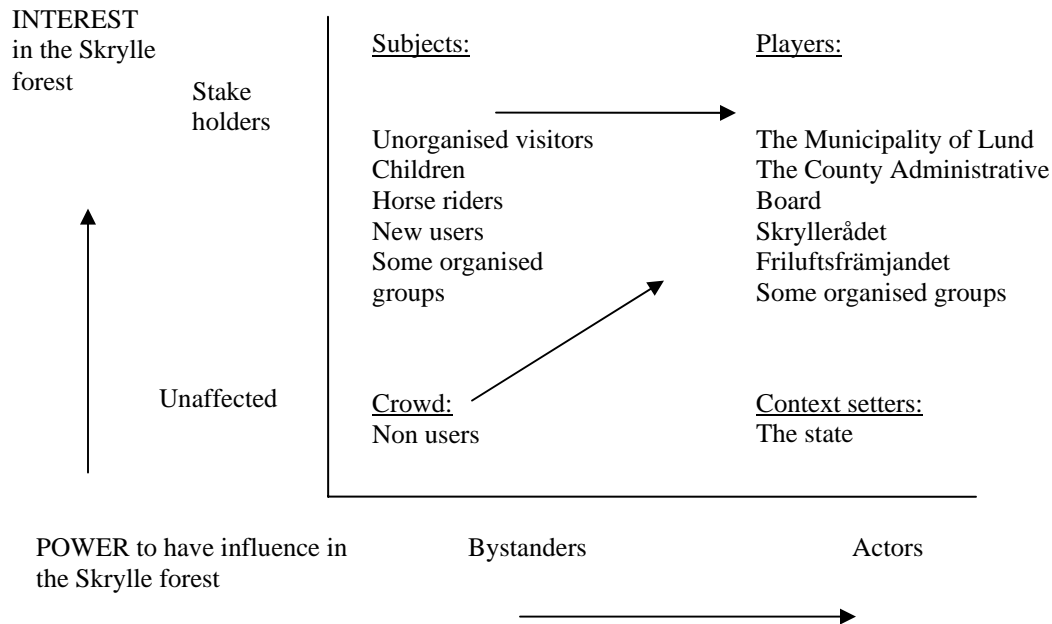
Bystanders

Actors

Figure 15. The power and interest situation between some of the stakeholders in the Skrylle forest area illustrated as a power/interest grid. The situation is dynamic and the situation can be changed; the subjects and the crowd can move position and become players.

The study indicates that two large groups, the unorganised visitors and the children do not have any direct two-way communication with decision makers and managers. There is no natural channel where they can tell their opinion or give ideas. Some of the organisations cooperate and communicate with managers and decision makers but for other organisations is there less communication with managers and decision makers. This can result in an unbalanced situation where some organisations have the opportunity to express their ideas whereas other users not have the same chance. If certain groups have more power than others the debate might not show the viewpoint of the majority of the people and some important information or ideas might be left out, or never known to the ones who make the decisions. This kind of unbalanced situation can be a risk in other green areas as well. To take into consideration that everybody should have the same right to have a say should be applied everywhere.

The power situation is not static and it is possible to move the subjects to players. Awareness of the power situation can result in a change of the situation. Different methods for public participation can be used to give some groups more influence. A user council can be a good help to leave out some of the power differences. The results from this study can be used to raise the awareness about the situation for some groups but to go into depth with this question at issue require further studies.

6. Conclusions

6.1 Differences in values and interests

Similar views are found about many issues among the persons interviewed and there are some issues with a low level of agreement. It can be difficult to see through these types of interviews what issues are interests and what are more fundamental values. To find out if the stakeholders are dealing with values or interests is difficult, but still it is interesting to consider the similarities in views about some issues and the different views about other issues. It seems from this investigation that there at the moment are shared views about the meaning of nature, about forestry, about what is the best about the area and about the recreational value of the area. Even though there are many similar views about the area, is an awareness of future changes of importance. New users with other viewpoints can arrive in the future. To prevent future problems caused by differences in attitudes should be paid attention to.

Different viewpoints are found about the use of the area, about forest composition and possible threats to the area. Perhaps value differences exist concerning the forest value and wish for the future nature. More research and further studies are needed to be able to completely tell all possible viewpoints and more research is needed to tell if underlying value differences exist. The existing differences in views can cause problems for users to coexist and should therefore be dealt with. In negotiations and discussions is it an advantage if involved parties know if they talk about values or interests, but through this investigation it is hard to tell if people are mainly concerned about values or interests. Improved communication and further studies can improve the understanding of this question at issue.

6.2 Lack of communication - lack of mutual understanding

The study indicates that lack of communication cause lack of mutual understanding among some stakeholders in the area. Persons seem to have different views but not be aware of other views existing among other persons. Low agreements about some issues can indicate lack of mutual understanding. Further studies and improved communication can facilitate mutual understanding. Different views are told about if different groups go on well and cooperate and if there are existing conflicts in the area and this can indicate need for improved communication. The views about forest composition and wishes for the future nature indicate a need for improved understanding. Exchange of views can result in a higher degree of understanding. The different viewpoints found in the study about new users and new activities in the area indicate that improved communication can help to increase the mutual understanding; some persons interviewed welcome all kind of new activities whereas other persons are worried about new users that might arrive in the area.

6.3 The situation of power and interest

The study investigates the power situation for some of the groups in the area. The study indicates that some groups have a high degree of influence in the area, whereas other groups do not have the same degree of influence. High interests in the area do not secure a high level of power and influence. The unorganised visitors and children seem to have a high interest in the area, as they use the area to a high extent but they do not seem to have much power to influence as there is no natural channel where they can tell their opinion or give ideas. The horse riders seem to be interested in using the area but are not allowed to use it, and it can be concluded that they have a high interest and a low power in this aspect. Further studies should be considered to be able to tell the entire situation of the power and interest in the area. The complete power structure in the area and how different groups relate to each other can be investigated by further research. An unbalanced situation where some stakeholders have the opportunity to express their ideas whereas others do not have the same opportunity can result in that the viewpoints of the majority will not be known to the ones who make the decisions. Important ideas and information might be left out. The power situation can be changed. Awareness of these differences in power can make it easier to change the situation and give some groups more influence. Methods for public participation can be used as one way to give some groups more power.

6.4 Methods for public participation

Methods for public participation can be used to improve the current situation and to prevent future problems. Different methods should be used to reach all kind of groups. Combined methods can result in higher possibilities to reach different kind of persons. It must be clear to people how much influence they really have and what will happen to their suggestions. Involving different social groups is crucial for a relevant public participation. Information can be a first step to get persons interested in participating. A user council where users' are welcome to tell their opinion can be one way of participation and an advisory association with different groups involved can be one way. Meetings with a relaxed atmosphere can be arranged, maybe with smaller subgroups, where people feel free to tell their views. After ideas are formulated there should be opportunities to make the suggestions more concrete. Interviews, dialogues and guiding in the area are other methods that can be used. The unorganised visitors can be interviewed in groups where they are able to elaborate their views. Children's involvements need other methods and maybe persons who are used to work with children can assist here. Early information, two-way communication and dialogue are of importance to reach mutual understanding and acceptance. Cooperation can be increased and conflicts and misunderstandings can be avoided. There are possibilities to improve the current situation as well as to prevent future problems; public participation can be one way to gain insight in others interests and for some groups to gain more power. New users as well as users already visiting the area can then feel that they have influence in the area. Further studies and investigations can result in knowledge about different views in the area. Qualitative interviews as well as quantitative interviews can be considered.

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Appendix

1. Interview guide users

View about the area; interests and values
What is the best about the area?
What is the worst about the area?
What is important for you in the area?
What is important for your organization?
What do you think is important to other people?
Can new user groups add something to the area? Why? Why not?
What does nature mean to you?

Threats to the area
What can be a threat to the area? Why and in what way can it be a risk?

Biological values:
How are the nature values/biological values today?
How can the nature values/biological values in the area be improved?
Can grazing improve the nature values?
Can the grazing animals be a conflict with visitors?
If dead wood and standing dead trees are left, can there be any conflict about this?
What do you think about forestry in the area?
Are there any threats to the nature values?

Recreational values:
How are the recreational values today?
Can the recreational values be improved?
Are there any threats to the recreational values in the area?

Production values:
What do you think about forestry in the area?
What kind of forestry can be used in the area?
Is it possible with forestry combined with nature values and recreational values?

Children:
What are children doing when visiting the area, organized and unorganised?
Can the area be improved to children?
Has anyone asked the children what they like the area and what they prefer to do? Are they asked and if they area, for what reason?

Communication:
How many other different kind of users is there in the area, organised and unorgansied?
How, in what way, do you communicate with other visitors?
Do you think that users have different values?
Do you know what they think about the area? Do you think that you have much in common?
How do you communicate with the municipality?
Do you know if there is any conflicts about the area?

About horse riders and dogs:
Do you think that horse riders can add something to the area?
What will happen if horse riders are allowed in the area is it good or bad?
Do you know where horse riding is allowed and where it is not allowed? What is the reason?
What do you think about dogs in the area? Should they only use separate tracks?

The future:

What was the area like 10 years ago? Is it better or worse today after the storm? Why do you think so?
How do you see it in the future; in 5, 20 and 50 years?
Are there any advantages by keeping it as today?
Are there any advantages by changing it? And: How should it be changed?

Public participation <u>visitors </u>view:
What is your understanding of the term public participation?
What are the aims of public participation?
When can you say it is real public participation, that public participation is reached?
How does the municipality respond to your ideas, wishes, and interests and when are you able to tell your interests? And how do they respond to other users?
Do you meet other users as well when you have a meeting with the municipality?

2. Interview guide operational and administrative level

Communication:
How many other different kind of users is there in the area, organised and unorgansied?
How do the different groups communicate with each other?
Do you think that users have different values?
How do they communicate with the municipality?
Are there any conflicts?

Skryllerådet
What is the function of Skryllerådet?
Has it changed and what were the intentions from the beginning?
What kind of contact is there with users? Is there a good communication with all kind of users, organised and unorganised?

View about the area; interests and values
What is the best about the area?
What is the worst about the area?
What is important in the area?
What do you think is important to other people?
Can new user groups add something to the area? Why? Why not?
What does nature mean to you?

Threats to the area
What can be a threat to the area? Why and in what way can it be a risk?

Biological values:
How are the nature values/biological values today?
How can the nature values/biological values in the area be improved?
Can grazing improve the nature values?
Can the grazing animals be a conflict with visitors?
If dead wood and standing dead trees are left, can there be any conflict about this?
What do you think about forestry in the area?
Are there any threats to the nature values?

Recreational values:
How are the recreational values today?
Can the recreational values be improved?
Are there any threats to the recreational values in the area?

Production values:
What do you think about forestry in the area?
What kind of forestry can be used in the area?
Is it possible with forestry combined with nature values and recreational values?

Children:
What are children doing when visiting the area, organised and unorganised?
Can the area be improved to children?
Has anyone asked the children what they like the area and what they prefer to do? Are they asked and if they area, for what reason?

About horse riders and dogs:
Do you think that horse riders can add something to the area?
What will happen if horse riders are allowed in the area is it good or bad?
Do you know where horse riding is allowed and where it is not allowed? What is the reason?

What do you think about dogs in the area? Should they only use separate tracks?

The future:
What was the area like 10 years ago? Is it better or worse today after the storm? Why do you think so?
How do you see it in the future; in 5, 20 and 50 years?
Are there any advantages by keeping it as today?
Are there any advantages by changing it? And: How should it be changed?

Public participation <u>municipality</u> view:
What is your understanding of the term public participation?
What are the aims of public participation?
When can you say it is real public participation, that public participation is reached?
How do you listen and respond to ideas, wishes, and interests and when can people tell about their interests? And how do you think that different kinds of users understand each other?
Do you meet different users at the same time or do you have separate meetings? Why?
Do you think that users have the same values?

Municipality; plans and documents
How are values and interests described in plans and documents?
How are public participation and communication mentioned in plans and documents?

3. Results from the interviews

<u>4.1 The Nature</u>
1a. What does nature mean to you - the meaning of nature?
All *user groups* agree on the importance of nature. The view of nature is very similar to all the different groups. Everybody declare nature as very important. Some persons express the deep importance of nature and nature as the foundation of everything else. Some of the persons interviewed talk about a very deep sense of nature and that nature means happiness and fantasy. Nature is also said to be a place to relax.

The answers on the interviews on *the operational level* show a similar vies as the user level, the high importance of nature is told.

During the interviews with the persons on *the administrative level* the nature is also seen as very important. One viewpoint is that one must remember that people might like different things in nature, and when working with nature one must try to imagine what different people like.

There is not any particular difference between users in their view of nature and there does not seem to be any difference between users and the operational level or on the administrative level either.

1b. Nature values
On *the user level* most interviewees agree that as the Skrylle forest is even aged more variation in species distribution and age would improve the nature values as well as the recreational values. Many more tree species would improve the nature values. Spruce forest in straight lines is not liked by most of the interviewees, but some of the persons interviewed prefer spruce. The surroundings and pastures around the Skrylle forest are seen having very high nature values by some of the person's interviewed. Also the Skrylle forest have nature values that are maybe not so well known, sometimes one can se an interesting bird life. After the storm where the spruce fell there are more broadleaved trees in the area.

On *the operational level* one person says that there is still very much to do because of the storm, but an improvement of the nature values is made because of the broadleaved trees, and in future it will be a very nice nature area.

The persons interviewed at *the administrative level* say that the flora is not so interesting in all of the central forest area, but the surrounding areas are very interesting in that aspect. The nature values should be prioritised and if the recreational use increases more there is a risk that the area will be affected. The whole Skrylle area is however very species rich and has high nature values. It is said that the combination with the central forest that can be used of very high amount of people and the borders with very high nature values is a very good combination. The area is managed to improve the nature values in the future. In some parts there are plans for more solitary trees. There area also improvements made for birds.

1c. Forestry
Most of the persons interviewed on *the user level* agree upon that commercial forestry is not suitable in the area, however many of the persons interviewed still think that it is good if some forestry methods as thinning and careful cutting are used and give some money. It is also good with some forestry for educational reasons so that people learn about forestry methods, say some of the persons. One person suggests that there could be some areas with nature forest with free development as well as forestry methods in some areas. Not any of the interviewees on the user level think that clear cutting should be used in the area, but a more careful kind of forestry is more suitable. Some persons interviewed would prefer a more uneven aged mixed broadleaved forest.

On *the operational level* it is agreed that commercial forestry is not suitable, but forestry to maintain the area is important. One person says that all spruce is going to be replaced by broadleaved trees and in 20 years it is time for a clear cut of the remaining spruce forest.

On *the administrative level* the view is that in this recreational forest area should clear cutting be avoided, but forestry with nature care and careful thinning and cutting can be used. Some areas can be left for free

development. One view is that if using forestry machines people would be disturbed. The area is not seen as an area where commercial forestry can be an alternative. Mixed forests are seen as more costly and more difficult to manage, and because of that not the best choice.

1d and 1e. Grazing and dead wood
Most persons interviewed on *the user level* believe that dead wood to improve the biological diversity is not in conflict with the recreational values, as long as there is information available about the purpose. Some of the persons say that it should not be too difficult for people to walk in the forest, but some climbing on logs is interesting. However sharp branches can be a danger to animals as well as to people one person believes, but says at the same time that nature is desired in the area, not a park. As most visitors use the tracks instead of walking into the forest makes it easier to keep dead wood in the forest, some persons believe. Grazing animals are nice to look at and important to city people, but some people might be afraid, so there should be possibilities to walk in the area without walking exactly where the grazing animals are, suggest some of the interviewees. One viewpoint is that there are farms around the Skrylle forest and the farmers could be asked to keep their animals there, instead of taking grazing animals from places further away.

The view from one person at *the user level* is that if the Park and Nature department explain what they do for example when cutting trees or leaving dead wood there would be much more understanding among visitors, and communication for example if people are able to tell about special places that they like very much, sad feelings could be avoided when suddenly this area is gone and the trees are felled. There can be a fantastic climbing tree that suddenly is gone or a tree special to people. The information and communication is important as if children are told that they are not allowed to take away any branches from trees and then suddenly many trees are felled, there will b a limited understanding if the forestry is not explained better to people, also to the children.

The persons on *the operational level* believe that it is good to keep dead wood in the area and there are some plans about making a nature forest part somewhere in the area. The persons interviewed on the operational level think it is very good with grazing animals in the area, and no complains have been made about grazing animals so far.

People can be afraid of grazing animals, one person from *the operational level* says and refer to a case where grazing with sheep was planned in the border to the Skrylle forest but where people in the area protested. Dead wood can be accepted by visitors, the person says.

The people at *the administrative level* think that grazing is good to be combined with the recreational use, as urbanised people need to see animals. At the same time one must think of the land owners and the people who own the animals that they can be afraid that something will happen to their animals or that the animals can be disturbed by the people.
Another person at the administrative level says that cooperation with land owners and the people who own the animals is of importance.
Dead wood is seen as positive; it can be well accepted by the visitors believe some interviewees but information about the purpose is good.

1f. Forest composition see also 1h and 1 i.
Talking about plans for the future forest with the persons from *the operational level* the plans are that all the spruce will be felled and in 20 years it is time to clear cut the remaining spruce, and afforestation will then be made with oak and beech says one person. Trees that do not belong to the area, like spruce, larch and Douglas fir will not be planted in the area, the person says. The persons at the operational level agree upon that it is much better today without the spruce plantation; it used to be dark and gloomy. Birch will be used with beech in the beech plantation. There are plans for the future to use some of the area for educational purpose and to be able to show people different kind of habitats.

One interviewee at *the administrative level* express that it is not better or worse but it is just different after the storm. One can experience the landscape in a very different way and see more of the view. However the plan was anyway to replace the spruce with oak and beech, but it happened in a very drastic way because of

the storm. The broadleaved should replace the conifers in the future, but there can be broadleaved in a mixture with conifers. Maybe there can also be some small half open areas with solitary trees.

1g. Threats to the nature values
Most people at *the user level* talk about the risk of the quarry as an overall threat to the area, not only the nature values. Some of the persons talk about the lack of variation in the area as a threat to the nature values, also the lack of variation in the future because of planting of only beech and oak. More nature types should be represented, they think.

There area no threats to the nature values today, one person at *the operational level* believes, but if horses were allowed, this would be a threat.

On *the administrative level* one person talks about the quarry as a problem and that the quarry does not belong to a recreational area. Horse riding is seen as problem by one person at the administrative level. A threat could be if there were not possibilities to manage the area because of lack of money. If the area will be too arranged and lose some of the character of nature would be a threat. Another threat could be if there were not possibilities to manage the area because of lack of money.

1h and 1i. The storm and wishes for the future nature see also 1 f.
At the *user level* most persons interviewed agree upon that the area is better today with the broad leaved trees, beech and oak, compared to before the storm in 1999 where 100 ha of spruce fell. The wish for a genuine typical south Swedish broad leaved forest is expressed. Most of the persons do not at all like the kind of planted spruce forest that used to be in the forest. They relate to the spruce planted in straight lines as not preferable. It is now more open and people can see more of the view and this is good, some persons say.

However some persons are critical about the plan to replace all the conifers with forest with oak or beech. By doing this there will be a lack of variation in the area they say. The opportunity to use the forest for educational purpose will be missed with so little of variation and different kind of broadleaved trees, and also spruce and pine would be better, say the persons. The biological diversity will be improved with more kind of habitats and a higher variation the persons believe. Another aspect told by some person is that the spruce was a more of a calming kind of forest, and misses this feeling today.

One person at *the administrative level* says that the young forest of today could be more interesting, and by creating some glades and small special places of interest would be nice. Some aesthetics in the area would increase the recreational value and what is beautiful for foresters is something else than what is beautiful to a landscape architect, and then the biologists find something else more interesting, the person think. More variation in the area would therefore be good, this person believes. Children would also like to play in the glades and move into the forest from the glades, it is important to consider how children use a green area, say the person.

The hope for the future is that the area will remain for nature and recreation for ever, says one person from *the administrative level*. The quarry should not be allowed in the area, since a quarry is inconsistent with outdoor recreation, this person thinks.
In the future another one person hopes for more nature education in the area and that more categories will find the place.

4.2 The Skrylle forest
2a. What is the best about the area - and what else is important?
Many of the persons at *the user level* express the variation as the best thing about the Skrylle forest. The fact that there is something for all kind of people is seen as important; that there are things to do for the beginner as well as the advanced out door recreation person and for the persons who want to take an easy walk as well as the people who want to do hard exercise. The best thing about the area is the importance it has to so many people; the high recreational value. The high accessibility is the best thing about the area is agreed upon by several persons interviewed. The nature and the existing forest and the varied terrain are seen as important. The biological values, the nature and the environment are also meant to be important.

The persons from *the operational level* talk about the variation and that urban people can easily go out in nature in the area.

Among *the administrative level* the best thing is that the area can be seen as an introduction to people into nature as there is good information available and that the area is easy to use. The modern human being can go out in nature in an easy way, and people are said to need nature for health, relaxation and recreation. It is said that it is a kind of nature reserve that can bear many visitors without being damaged, there is not any conflict between the recreational use and the nature values.

There is no big difference between users and there does not seem to be any difference between users and administrative level in the view of what is important in the area.

2b. The worst about the area
Asking *the user level* the bad communication and the problems to go to the area without a car is the worst thing about the area, almost *all users* (except for one, who actually live in the area) mention. Someone says that it is really a catastrophe that the communications are that bad.
One person at *the user level* also says that in some parts of the area it is not so well managed. Some more thinning or clearing would be a good thing to do. It is growing a little wild in some parts; this is not in the areas with tracks but out in the forest. Some parts can be difficult to walk through. Another person thinks that the play ground could have been better and more nature adapted. For some persons interviewed the worst is the bad connection by horse that it is not possible to ride through the area. People are not happy with the new plan; some landowner cannot ride from his own farm. One person thinks that it will be better when the trees grow higher; otherwise it is very good in the area.

On *the operational level* there is not really anything mentioned as bad, the question is not discussed much.

On *the administrative level* the areas around Skryllegården are seen as a little boring and that the young forest is not that inviting. The building is also seen as a little boring. The central forest area does not have a very interesting flora but it is very nice in the surroundings. One problem told by the administrative level is that the road between Dalby and Södra Sandby is dividing the area. It is also a problem that the area is not larger, as so many different users want to use the area.

2c. Threats to the area see also 2e
Almost all of *the users* asked see the stone quarry as the big threat; if the quarry expands it would be a big problem to the Skrylle forest. The risk of a power line being moved into the area is seen as a problem to some persons. One person is a little worried about wild boars increasing in amount, maybe they can be aggressive. A *user also representing the operational level* talks about wrong kind of activities as a threat to the area, activities as horses and mountain bikes and multi sports where people bring equipment. One person says that maybe some people find that the right of common decrease because the area is a nature reserve. One view from some persons is that it is actually so that the area is expanding on behalf of the landowners' interest and that the area is not really threatened.

One person at *the operational level* talks about wrong kind of activities as a threat to the area, activities as horses and mountain bikes and multi sports where people bring equipment. This person is *also representing the user level.* Another person on the operational level does not see any particular threats to the area, but also mention that the quarry expanding into the recreational area could be a problem.

On *the administrative level* one person talk about the quarry as a problem and that the quarry does not belong to a recreational area. One person thinks that too much of arrangements, buildings or equipment can be a little disturbing to visitors. It is also said that if there are changes to be made it is important to consider in what way they are made for example buildings, they should be made in a way that fits in the area. Another person at the administrative level says that is important to promote the out door recreation and to prevent disturbing activities like motor vehicles, mountain bikes and horse riding. Horse riding is seen as problem by one person at the administrative level. A threat could be if there were not possibilities to manage the area because of lack of money.

2d. Recreational values
The people on *the user level* agree that the recreational values are very high; it is a place where people meet. The values can be improved by more nature play grounds for children.

The people interviewed *at the operational level* are satisfied with the recreational values in the area and believe that there is something to do for everyone in the area, for the beginner as well as for the advanced outdoor recreation person and for the sports interested person. There is a very interesting nature in and around some parts of the Skrylle forest, is told by one person.

The persons on *the administrative level* agree on the very high recreational values in the area.

2e. Threats to the recreational values see also 2c
The overall threat to the area mentioned by many persons on *the user level* is the quarry.

Wrong kind of activities like mountain bikes and horse riding could be a threat to the recreational values in the area, one person at *the operational level* believes.

Threats to the recreational values
Motor vehicles, mountain bikes and horse riding can be a threat to the recreational values, one person believes at *the administrative level*.
Conflict
There is a conflict that the municipality wants to increase the recreation area and make more tracks but the landowners are not always happy about this, as they loose some of their right to their land, one person from *the administrative level tells*.
There is a risk that the area will be too much arranged and some of the values by being out in the nature might be lost by to many arrangements.

4.3 The users and the use
3a. View about new user groups
One view told by some persons at *the user level* is that there is plenty of room and that new groups are welcome in the area. More people without a car, like young people and teenagers as well as old people could come here with better communications. The importance of nature could be established to young people if they were able to get here. Some people think that people from other cultures are missing in the area, not so many people from other countries or immigrants seem to have found the place. Maybe more handicapped people could come here if it was better arranged. If more companies promoted the place, maybe more people would go here some persons believe. Another opinion told is that everybody seems to be here already, with such a variety of visitors.

On *the operational level* it is said that everybody is here already and there is a good distribution among users. There are plans to have more health activities and to promote the physical training centre. In the out door recreation aspect everybody is here today.

On *the administrative level* some persons say that with better facilities for handicapped they would maybe visit the area more. Immigrants are also mentioned as a new group; maybe they have other kind of cultures and habits of using green areas. Older people are another user group that probably would go here more with better communication with buses. Another person at the user level say that many school children who visit the area with there school then bring their families to the place, and this is also true for immigrants, believes the person. Some people from other countries are not familiar with the right of common and maybe not used to spend the time in nature in the same way as Swedish people. However people from some other countries pick berries and mushrooms when they go out in a nature area so there might be different habits, this person tell.

View of other users
Two groups are described by some persons interviewed as having certain characteristics or acting in a certain way, this view indicates a use of characterization frames, a view of others that they behave in a certain way just because they belong to a certain group a way of stereotyping.

3b. Children in the area
According to the people interviewed on *the user level* there are many activities for children in the area like the playground, fire places, special tracks for children a football place etc the interviewed persons agree upon. According to one person interviewed about how children use the area children and young people like agility and to run and climb, so some kind of nature play ground would be nice. Some persons think that the area is good as it is. Other interviewees agree on that a nature playground would be good to the children. Some persons think that one should not make it complicated to the children, they often like nature as it is and play spontaneously. Children usually like to build dens and climb in trees, older children and teenagers are usually interested in learning about different species in nature. Many children like to sleep outdoors and the older children usually like to be more by themselves in the forest.

Some of the persons interviewed think that the area can be improved for children with more area suitable for children's play.

When asked about communication with children, all the persons interviewed say that no one have asked the children how they like the area and what they like to do best or what places they like most. To ask them immediately after that they have visited the forest would be the best, one person says.

Operational level
There are very many activities to children already today, the persons interviewed on *the operational level* say. To improve the area to children a kind of adventure track could be made where they can climb, some persons suggest, but it should not be to complicated to children either, they like to play spontaneously, is mentioned.

Administrative level
According to one person from *the administrative level* there are many things to do for children, they build dens, look after different things in nature; climb, play and when organised they also have outdoor education and Nature school.

One suggestion is that the area could be improved by creating glades in the forest and the area close to Skryllegården could be organised with a variation of habitats, and be planted with different kind of vegetation with a variation of species, and different identities. The playground could be made in nature materials.

About communication, the children have not been asked about how they like the Skrylle forest.

3c. Horses in the area
Discussing the horse riders with persons on *the user level* some person say that there are no problems with having horse riders in the Skrylle forest area. Different kind of users should not be separated too much and the dog owners and the horse riders should be responsible as not to disturb anyone in the forest, then it will work out, one person think.

Another interviewee says that it is good for people to see animals like horses, as people today are really urbanised and not so used to animals anymore. There could be a problem with people getting afraid because they are not used to animals.

Another view is that horse riding could be allowed in the areas where not so many visitors go, and some other persons say that it would be good if horse riding was allowed on separate tracks in the area. Today it is not easy to go by horse from one place to another in the area, the suggestion from the new deep comprehensive plan is a compromise and people are not all happy about it, say two representatives. There

is some landowner who is not able to ride anywhere from his own farm, and is not satisfied with this situation, the interviewees tell.

Another person interviewed tells that it is better the more kind of visitors there are and that having horses in the Skrylle forest would be nice. Maybe the meetings between horses and other visitors need to be organised, but horses would add a new and positive dimension to the area. Most people on user level think that horse riding is ok in the area with special arrangements.

One person at *the user level* also representing the operational level is against horse riding as people can be afraid of the horses and they will destroy the terrain, the person says.
One person at *the operational level* does not want horses in the area at all, because there will be conflicts between users and the horses demand much place, and they need separate tracks. People will be afraid and cannot stay in the area where the horses are. If horses were allowed in the area they would destroy the area, this person believes. Horses destroy the terrain and must be on special tracks, but not where people are. This person also represents *the user level*. Dogs can be allowed everywhere, as long as they are put on a lead on the eastern side, says the representative.

One person representing *the administrative level* tell that many horse riders would like to be able to ride in the area, but the new suggestion in the comprehensive plan is a compromise, as some persons are afraid of incidents if horses were allowed. Another person at the administrative level says that riding is not suitable in the forest area and that riding would destroy the tracks and the terrain. This person means that the horse riders themselves should be able to make tracks somewhere. Another opinion from the administrative level is that one problem about allowing horse riding is actually the places where the road is passed, it is trafficked and a problem to go over by horse and it is a safety issue. Another problem is that it costs money to arrange special tracks for horses.

Conflicts
There is no existing conflict between horses and dogs in the area, one person says. If a dog owner sees a horse one stops and waits until the horse has passed, that is not a problem, this interviewee says. It is also said that there is no problem between jogging people and horses or dogs.

Some of the interviewees think that the conflict is not so big between horses and other users but at meetings it usually sounds worse than it in reality is. They believe that in reality only a few persons are against horses in the area.

3d. Dogs in the area
 About dogs in the area, one interviewee at the *user level* says that the dog owners should respect other users like people who are running in the area, and maybe move more outside the tracks, whereas most people who are running use the tracks. But if dog owners use the track they should show understanding to other people, this person think. If it was allowed to keep dogs without a lead then it could maybe be a problem. It is important to be able to control the dog; otherwise it can be a problem. No one of the interviewees has been disturbed by dogs in the area.

At the *operational level* one person mention that there are problems between the un organised dog owners that do not keep their dogs on a lead and between other users. Unorganised dog owners are said to be in a certain way

At *the administrative level* one person says that dogs without a lead are a problem and that the combination families, small children and old people together with dogs without a lead are not a good combination. There is a decision about that dogs must be kept on a lead to protect wildlife in the nature reserve and also because of visitors.

3e. Wishes for the future use
Talking about the future with people at *the user level*, one person interviewed says that to separate different kind of users should be avoided, and believes that there is plenty of space for all kind of users. A dream for

the future is to be able to move between the Skrylle forest and all the way to Revingefältet (situated 5 km east of Skrylle), walking running or horse riding.

Another person is a little worried about that new trend in outdoor activities might be disturbing in the forest area, that it can be too much of stunt. Some person says that eco tourism is ok as long as it is not destroying the nature. New user groups should be allowed, and welcomed, in the area say some persons. Thinking of the future in the area some persons are worried about the quarry expanding into the recreational area. Some interviewees hope that the area will develop and that more guiding in the area will increase the interest in the area.

The importance too many schools and kindergartens are also mentioned. One person interviewed from the user level said that it is important in the future planning to consider all kinds of users as jogging people, the people who want to run fast, the dog owners, the large groups as well as the horse riders.

On *the operational level* the wish is to keep the area as a recreational area.

On *the administrative level* one person talks about further improvements in the area and the recreational use, and that it will be a recreational area forever is told by one person.

4. 4. Communication and 4.5 public participation
One of the persons from *the user level* tells that meeting with some interest groups take place in connection with the comprehensive plan but not otherwise. All persons interviewed say that there is no meeting place for different kind of users where they can gather and tell their opinion. One person says that their organisation was once invited to a meeting to Skryllerådet, and this was a good opportunity to tell their view, it would be a good idea to have this kind of meetings more often, the person thinks.

About other groups interest's one person interviewed says that it should feel like our place for everyone, that all people should have a sense of belonging to the area. This will also create a higher interest in the area and a higher interest in contributing to the behalf of the area. There will be a higher interest in doing things and one must not only go running or walking here but all different kind of users should be here. No one should feel that they are intruders, says the person.
This person believe that there today are some more open discussions than used to be and hope that the old conflicts are solved.

One organisation has invited other users for meetings several times, but very few people showed up. More user groups should be invited to meetings, also the landowners around the area.

Another representative says that they sometimes cooperate with a few organisations but they think that more kind of cooperation would be very good. Not all groups meet at the same time when there is a meeting, but it would be good if the different groups could create something together, there would be a higher degree of understanding between groups and there are much to be gained by cooperation.

Conflicts
The user level
There used to be an old conflict. There was one conflict between jogging people, horses and dogs without a lead, and historically there used to be a conflict between Friluftsfrämjandet and other users, the person hope that this is better today. Now there is more a feeling of that the area belongs to everyone and that it is an area owned by the municipality and not by Friluftsfrämjandet. However the opinion have been told by someone that the area is full, and the person interviewed do not agree upon that.

One person interviewed says that there was a conflict during the discussions about the comprehensive plan, and that a compromise was made, which left everybody a little satisfied, but no one really happy.

Another person tells about that different groups are not really getting along together and there are some conflicts existing. People are meant to have many viewpoints about the use of the area.

There is a good relation between most groups, one person thinks, but some possible areas of conflict could be nature care, hunting, horse riding and mountain bikes.

Other groups' interests
One person interviewed think that even though every kind of user group think mainly about their own interests there is probably some kind of understanding between some of the groups. Probably there is more understanding towards certain groups and less towards other groups, believe the spokesperson. The ground values about the nature and the importance of nature and recreation is probably shared by most people, the person think, but then there is different reasons for going out in the nature, like exercising, bird watching, hunting etc, and the interests are not so similar then.

It would be good with more cooperation among horse riders, orienteering people and the dog owners for example, it should be able to have that, one person say.

One person from *the operational level* says that different groups never meet and discuss what they think is important in the area; there have however been some attempts to engage different organisations in the nature exhibition at the area, but without success. There is no forum for meeting with other users. The Skryllerådet exists but is not a meeting place for everyone to join, sometimes different groups are invited to a meeting but it is not a forum open to everybody.

Conflicts
One person at *the operational level* tells that there is a big conflict going on between the unorganised dog owners and the other visitors. Another person at the operational level talks more about the possible conflict with horses if they were allowed in the area.

One of the persons representing *the administrative level* tells that only when there is a plan to be made there are meetings with different users, but not in the daily management and use of the area. Different groups use the area in different ways and there is no special place where they naturally meet and discuss. Communication with the administrative level can take place in spontaneous ways, with e-mail, by telephone, with organisations or when people tell their opinion in the Skryllegården or to the local manager one person tells. One could have expected many more viewpoints about the area than there in reality is, but if there were many more viewpoint told it would maybe be difficult to handle them. One person says that when working in a nature area one must try to imagine what different kind of persons prefer. This could be improved, if there where some kind of communication with different groups about their different wishes. This could be handled better, for some groups it is quite well known, but not for all groups. Most viewpoints are about bikes, horses and dogs in the area.

One person at *the administrative level* has a feeling that two groups that used to be in conflict now understand each other better. Another person at the administrative level tell that they have to try to stop activities that can be disturbing in the area, as horse riding, mountain bikes, motor vehicles and other things that can be a problem to out door activities and recreation. Hunting is not a big problem, because hunting is only allowed at few occasions. Another person at the administrative level think that most people are going on well together and that there are not many conflicts, however many different opinions or interests can be the case. Viewpoints can be about how to use the area, some activities are not good to keep at the same place. For example the horse riders and dogs would like to use the eastern area and they are today not allowed there. View points have been made by the horse riders association during the planning of the comprehensive plan.

5. Public participation
At the *user level* some user express that it earlier felt like the outdoor recreation organisation, Friluftsfrämjandet, who manage the area, used to have all the power in the area, with a limited influence among other users and that there used to be conflicts between this organisation and other users. It is thought that maybe this problem still exists, but that it is better today. A wish that all visitors can feel a sense of belonging to the area is expressed and a hope that this sense of belonging can create a higher interest in the area. The area should be open to everyone and no one should feel like an intruder in the area.

Decision makers should be open to ideas from the public, but one must also understand that not every wish can be fulfilled is said by one person representing one of the organisations interviewed. The public and users should be involved at an early stage and it is important that the communication is two-way communication, not only information from one side. An organisation can represent many peoples opinion, but still it is important to remember that not everyone is asked. It is complicated to reach everyone, but some methods like guiding in green areas can be a way to meet the public and get opinion.

Members of one organisation usually tell their opinion to the local manager or to the reception, but they have not been invited to the meetings about the comprehensive plan, and think that people who use the area should be asked for their opinion, so also the unorganised visitor.

A landowner and spokesperson also representing an organisation say that they would like to have more influence in questions about the area. If people are not organised there should be some way for them to express their view, a channel to communication with other stakeholders and decision makers. The want for - and believe in - a higher degree of local influence is expressed. The risk of decisions about nature care that can result in a static and uniform landscape, a museum, instead of a living landscape is told. The person believes that there is a risk that several types of different areas are treated in a certain way, and that way might not be the same way as it used to be at that particular place.

Another person interviewed also talk about that the level of public participation could be improved for the public, and says that a channel for suggestions and viewpoints is needed, where one can also expect a response. The person says that if more people have a say it would also benefit the Skrylle forest area. The question about how ideas are treated today is also asked and the person has a feeling that it is not sure that anyone takes the ideas into consideration, there is no guarantee that there will be any response.

Some of the organisations interviewed have a close contact with the municipality, but not all of the organisations.

At the *operational level* the opinion is that the public participation with the municipality is working out well and that the municipality listens to ideas, but a lack of interest from the public is expressed by one spokesperson. Democracy is said to be about being engaged and interested, and that there is a lack of engagement about the area among the public is told.

A person representing the *administrative level* means that having a place for influence would be good even when no plan is to be made, but also in the daily management. Another view is that democracy and participation is good but also time consuming. One suggestion is that viewpoints sometimes could be told directly to the politicians who are the ones that make decisions. Another person also tells that it would be a good idea with a channel for communication and participation but it takes time and costs money. A place where people can meet is a good idea but the problem is how to handle it, if it is to big like a large meeting, then it is not so easy to handle.