

ECOLOGY, SILVICULTURE AND FOREST HUNTING MANAGEMENT

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ANALYSIS OF HUNTING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE FARMS IN THE REGION OF THE BALTIC LANDSCAPE «NEMAN»

Success of the hunting economy activity largely determines the development of hunting tourism. In this state are considers the effects of quantitative and qualitative changes parameters of ungulate populations on the development of domestic and foreign hunting tourism, hunting tourism is analyzed value as a source of revenue game farms are some recommendations to improve the attractiveness of game economy for the organization and conduct of successful hunting tours.

Introduction. For the hunting economy activity improvement, the State Program on Hunting Husbandry Development for 2006 [1] requires the development of hunting tourist market services, closer involvement of all economic entities into this sphere.

For the successful development of hunting tourism, it's necessary to observe a set of conditions, and the key condition is a sufficient number of hoofed animals whose trophy characteristics can meet the requirements of guest hunters. The number and trophy qualities of hoofed animals depend largely on culture and management of a hunting farm. Besides, hoofed animals are also one of the main objects of the local hunters, so it is necessary to consult their interests. In this regard, it's of particular interest to analyse the hunting tourism development by the example of two hunting farms in the same administrative district that differ in area, hoofed animals number and management conditions.

Main part. There are two hunting farms on the territory of Novogrudok region: hunting farm of the State Forestry Enterprise "Novogrudok forestry" and hunting farm of Novogrudok Republican State and Public Association "Belarusian Society of Hunters and Fishermen".

The total area of the State Forestry Enterprise "Novogrudok forestry" is 17,290 ha and the total area of Novogrudok Republican State and Public Association "Belarusian Society of Hunters and Fishermen" 1,900 ha of which is leased in nearby Dyatlovo district for hunting.

The potential of hunting farms territory is realised through the number of game animals and particularly the number of the hoofed that are important for hunting husbandry. It's necessary to mention therefore that the number of the hoofed animal in the hunting farm of "Belarusian Society of

Hunters and Fishermen" isn't high and allows to exploit only the populations of boar and roe deer. In the analysed period, elk hunting in the given farm was conducted only in 2012. Low number and density of the hoofed animals prevent from conducting hunting tours with the participation of foreigner hunters or limits this possibility due to the fact that the participation number of the trophy animals that are of interest for foreign hunters is rather low (Fig. 1).

There are about 382 to 441 persons hunting in the farm annually, and the share of local hunters takes 78 to 90%.

The number of hoofed animals allows to catch up to 210 boars and up to 27 roe deer annually, with 10 of 210 boars got by guest hunters. In 2012 elk population started to be exploited: 6 animals were caught, including one animal got by guest hunters, living outside of Novogrudok region.

In 2012 there were two hunting tours run for foreign hunters, as a result of which one roe deer was caught, i.e. the tour efficiency is rather low, which is related directly to the number of animals in the hunting farm.

The number of hoofed animals on the lands of the State Forestry Enterprise "Novogrudok forestry" is considerably higher (Fig. 2), which allows to catch annually from 3 to 6 elks, 4–8 red deer, up to 45 roe deer, and up to 140 boars. Highly efficient results allow conducting successful hunting with participation of local hunters as well as foreign ones (Fig.3).

Foreign hunters are particularly interested in elks and red deer hunting, which take about 34.3 and 41.3% accordingly of the total amount of caught animals. Roe deer and boar are less attractive as hunt objects for foreign hunters: they take 34.1 and 20.9% accordingly of total annual foreign hunters' catch.

Belarusian guest hunters get an average of 41.3% of the total elk catch, 53.8% –deer, 24.4% – roe deer and 32.2% – boars.

Local hunters get the highest number of boars – 46.9% of the total amount of caught animals.

The shares of caught red deer (11.8%) and elks (17.3%) are considerably lower than the ones of foreign hunters and Belarusian guest hunters, coming from outside Novogrudok.

In the last five years from 3 to 14 tours were conducted annually in the hunting farm of the State Forestry Enterprise “Novogrudok forestry”, and 13 to 53 foreigners took participation in them. There is a hotel complex for hunters’ accommodation on

the outskirts of the town of Lubcha, which saves time of transfer to hunting site.

The quantity of hoofed animals caught by various groups of hunters had an impact on the character of income generation of the hunting farm of the State Forestry Enterprise “Novogrudok forestry”. The major part of the income is generated by carrying out hunting tours for foreign citizens. The peak of earnings from this category of hunters was in 2009, succeeded by decrease.

The share of the income from hunts with Belarusian guest hunters as participants varies insignificantly and makes 9.31–10.55% from 2009 to 2012.

The share of the income from local hunt has been increasing from 17.01 to 28.71% since 2009.

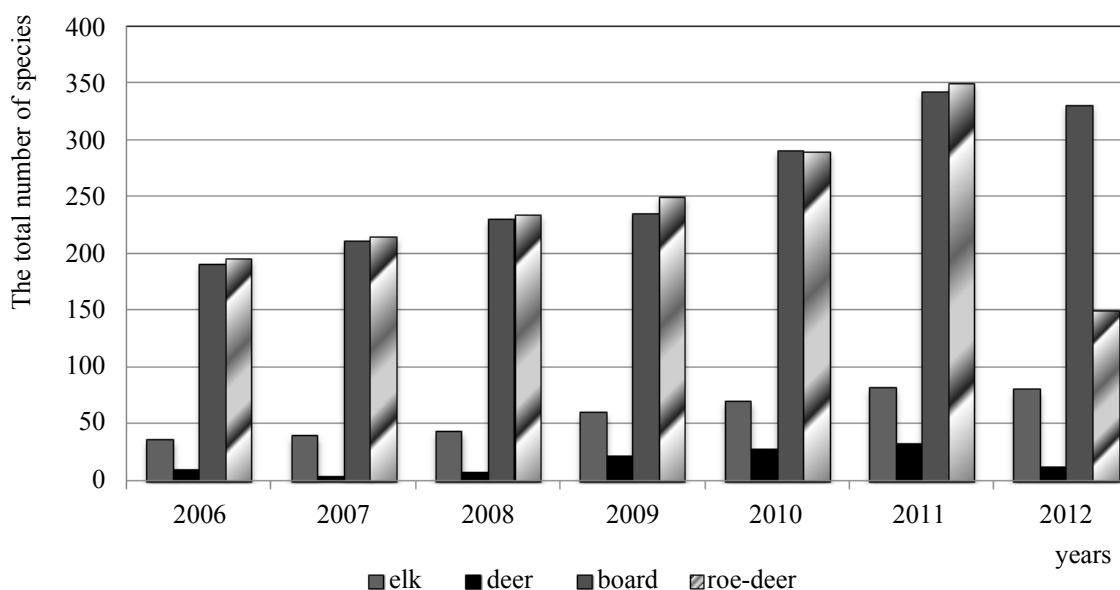


Fig. 1. The total number of hoofed animals in the hunting farm of Novogrudok RS PA «BSHF»

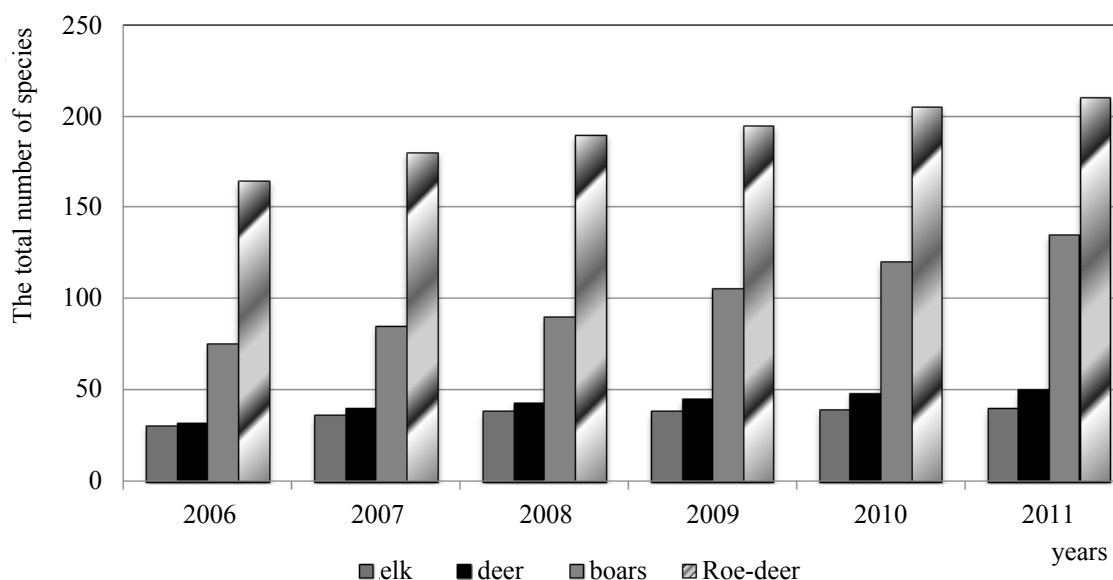


Fig. 2. The total number of hoofed animals in the hunting farm SFE «Novogrudok forestry»

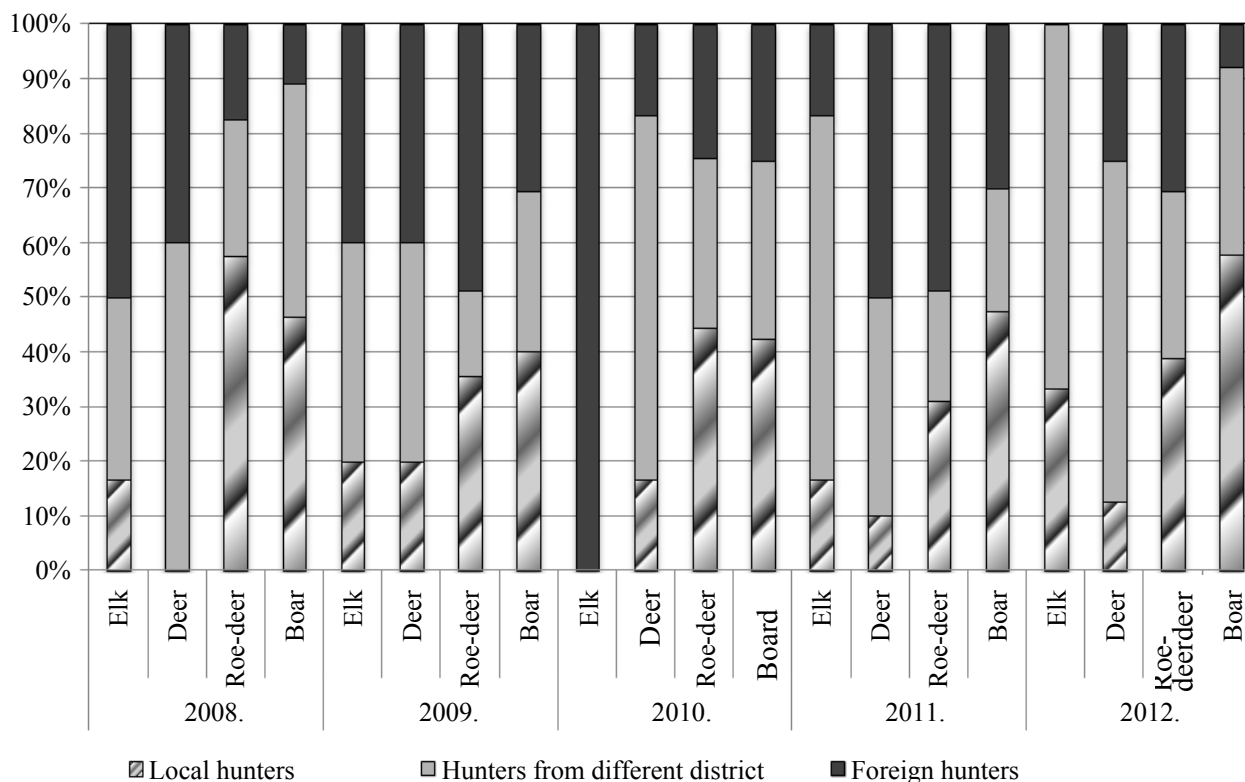


Fig. 3. The caught of hoofed animals share of local hunters, Belarusian guest hunters and foreign hunters.

Conclusion. The factor, constraining domestic and inbound hunting tourism in the hunting farm of Novogrudok RSPS “BSHF” is low number of ungulate animals, which are of the particular interest for all groups of hunters.

Domestic and inbound hunting tourism is the main source of income for the hunting farm of the State Forestry Enterprise “Novogrudok forestry”. At the present time the number of foreign hunters coming to the farm has reduced, this may be the reason of degradation of the qualitative composition of the ungulates population. Along with that,

there is an increase of local hunters’ participation, which stresses their increasingly important role for the economy of the hunting farm of the State Forestry Enterprise “Novogrudok forestry”.

References

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