



MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

DLP-I.611.16.2016

DECISION

Pursuant to Article 23(1) of the Act of 28 September 1991 on forests (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 2100) and Article 104 of the Code of Administrative Proceedings, upon examining the motion submitted by the Director General of the State Forests of 18 March, 2016, ref. no.: ZU.6005.14.2015,

I hereby approve

The annex to the forest management plan drawn-up for the years 2012 – 2021 for the Białowieża Forest Division in the Regional Directorate of the State Forests in Białystok, approved by the decision of the Minister of Environment of 9 October 2012, ref. no.: DLP-lpn-611-31/40283/12, amending the forest management plan, referred to above, in the part addressing to:

1. total area of the forests and lands intended for afforestation, as of 1 January 2016 upon amendment – 12 585.30 ha,
2. Volume contribution of timber products (mature and maturing stands), upon amendment – 188 000 m³ of net large timber,
3. Estimated afforestation and restoration area, upon amendment – 28.63 ha.

Statement of Reasons

Pursuant to Article 23(1) of the Act on forests, the Director General of the State Forests by the motion of 18 March 2016 submitted for approval of the annex to the forest management plan for the Białowieża Forest Division, drawn-up for the years 2012 – 2021, with regard to occurrence of significant damage to tree stands in effect of continuing gradation of spruce bark beetle that triggers the necessity of (incidental) logging in the period of forest management plan execution to maintain the forests in adequate sanitary state, ensure sustainability of forest ecosystems, tackle degradation and commence restoration of natural habitats, including these of importance to the Community. The annex to the forest management plan for the Białowieża Forest Division addresses for the most the issue of removing the inhabited spruces to reduce bark beetle gradation (necessary sanitary cutting). In addition, tress will be removed to ensure safety of the visitors to the Białowieża Forest (Białowieża Forest Division), since accumulation of dying-back trees poses a threat to public safety. This applies to tourist routes as well as leisure and recreation WH propertys in the forest. Drought taking place in recent years has additionally triggered dieback of spruces and spruce tree stands, which translated into increased fire risk in the Białowieża Forest.

The Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Białystok, by the letter ref. no. WPN.611.38.2015.GP of 12 February 2016 and the State Sanitary Inspector of the Podlaskie Voivodeship in Białystok, by the letter ref. no.: NZ.0523.191.2015 of 10 November 2015, acting pursuant to Article 54(1) of the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 1235, as amended), gave their opinion on the draft annex to the forest management plan drawn up for the Białowieża Forest Division for 2012 – 2021.

Therefore the decision is fully justified.

Any party not satisfied with the decision may, pursuant to Article 127 § 3 of the Code of Administrative Proceedings, appeal to the issuing authority for judicial review within 14 days from receiving the decision.

To:

Director General of the State Forests