

# Bosnia and Herzegovina



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## DESCRIPTION

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Forests and forest land in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) occupy an area of 3,231,500 hectares, or 63% of the total area of the country. There are 1,252,200 ha of coppice forests in BiH, of which 34.5% comprises of beech, 32.6% thermophilic oak, 22.5% sessile oak, and 10.4% other types of coppice. In terms of ownership, 53% of coppice forests are state-owned and 47% private.

The purpose of coppice forests in Bosnia and Herzegovina, can be grouped into five classes:

1. productive
2. in very poor management condition
3. special purpose
4. protective
5. inaccessible due to landmines.

Data on the area of coppice forests divided into the above listed five classes, are shown in Table 1.

Productive coppice forests (class 1) are managed for timber production, the most important function (Fig. 1). The coppice forest classes 2 - 4 have more environmental and

protective functions, while those coppices in class 5 are not subject to any kind of management activity because of the potential dangers of mines from the last war.

The stocking volumes of productive coppice forests in Bosnia and Herzegovina (class 1) by different forest communities are given in Table 2.

In the past, coppice forests in BiH were established as a result of patchy, uncontrolled and unplanned human activity in the forest. As a result, various types of coppice forests have developed, differing widely in structure, quality of stems and species composition.

Policy now aims to optimise all coppice forests in the productive (class 1) category by using management methods and silvicultural systems to improve the volume of quality stem production and sustainability.

To this end, four categories have been developed to divide coppice forests in terms of the quality of wood and site conditions.

Table 1. Areas (ha) all coppice forests in Bosnia and Herzegovina according to classes described above (FBiH- Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, RS Republic Srpska)

Class	FBiH			RS			BiH (FBiH & RS)		
	State	Private	Total	State	Private	Total	State	Private	Total
1	217,300	164,000	381,300	221,000	284,900	505,900	438,400	451,300	889,700
2	86,200	52,400	138,600	53,200	27,200	80,400	139,400	80,000	219,400
3	400	400	800	4,800	400	5,200	5,200	800	6,000
4	1,200	800	2,000	2,000	1200	3,200	3,200	2000	5,200
5	52,700	21,200	73,900	23,200	34,800	58,000	75,900	56,000	131,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,800</b>	<b>238,800</b>	<b>596,600</b>	<b>304,200</b>	<b>348,500</b>	<b>652,700</b>	<b>662,100</b>	<b>590,100</b>	<b>1,252,200</b>

These categories are as follows:

1. good quality coppice forests (class 1)
2. medium quality coppice forests
3. poor quality coppice forests
4. unknown quality of coppice forests

The Forestry Management Company in Bosnia and Herzegovina pays most attention to good quality coppice forest. These forests, especially coppice forests of beech and sessile oak are managed under the coppice selection system. The most frequent rotation is 40-60 years, with felling cycles of 10 years.

In addition to the aforementioned types of coppice forests, Bosnia and Herzegovina also have pollards, sometimes as individual trees or in groups. These are evidence of cultural heritage; pollards located near the villages were used by locals as a source of small dimension building materials and firewood (Fig. 2).

Table 2. Area and average stocking of large timber of all available coppice forests of productive character according to coeno-ecological units and entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH-Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, RS-Republica Srpska)

Coeno-ecological units of coppice forests	FBiH		RS		BiH (FBiH & RS)		
	ha	(m <sup>3</sup> /ha)	ha	(m <sup>3</sup> /ha)	ha	(m <sup>3</sup> /ha)	+-(%)
<b>Beech coppice forests</b>	163,500	142.73	189,300	148.99	352,800	146.04	6.49
<b>Sessile oak coppice forest</b>	69,300	77.81	160,500	98.42	230,700	92.31	9.93
<b>Termophilic oak forests</b>	123,500	31.39	85,200	27.90	208,700	29.97	17.17
<b>Other coppice forests</b>	25,000	90.04	70,900	104.15	97,100	100.76	15.18
<b>Total coppice forest</b>	381,300	87.68	505,900	104.46	889,700	97.39	5.27

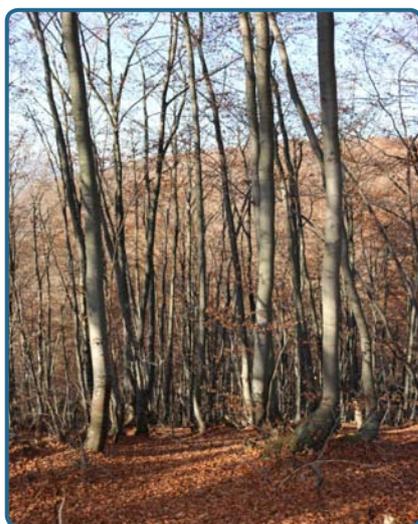


Figure 1. Productive, well developed coppice beech forest (central Bosnia)



Figure 2. Coppice beech forests with pollards (near Sarajevo)

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