Szprotawa Forest District

Szprotawa, 20th March, 2014

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Szprotawa Forest District – General Information

Szprotawa Forest District is one of 20 Forest Districts managed by the Regional Directorate of the State Forests in Zielona Góra.

- **Location:** Lubuskie Province
- **Range:** Żagań district and Nowa Sól district
- **Sub-districts:** Szprotawa and Małomice
- **Forest Ranges:** Jelenin, Nowe Miasteczko, Długie, Witków, Stara Kopernia, Zagóra, Małomice, Szprotawka, Krzywczyce, Śliwnik, Leszno Górne

Szprotawa Forest District – General Information

- Forest District area:
  - total: 19,200 ha
  - forests: 18,500 ha

- Area of individual Sub-districts:
  - Małomice: 11,100 ha
  - Szprotawa: 8,100 ha
Szprotawa Forest District – General Information

Szprotawa Forest District Inspectorate manages its own Animal Breeding Centre, raising such species as:

- Deer - 115
- Roe Deer - 360
- Wild Duck - 100
- Partridge - 40
- Marten - 12
- Wild Boar - 180
- Hare - 40
- Fox - 80
- Raccoon Dog - 10

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Szprotawa Forest District – History

Current area of Szprotawa Forest District was established by Director-General of the State Forests on 1st April, 1993.

- According to chronicles, in 1430 the town of Szprotawa already had its own forester to manage town forests. The forests covered the area of 4300 ha and were located in south-eastern area of the contemporary Szprotawa Sub-district

- The Forest District included 3 nature reserves – “Buczyna Szprotawska” (The Beech Wood of Szprotawa), “Wysoki Las” (Tall Forest), “Błota nad Szprotą” (Marshes by Szprota)

- The forests were owned by rich landowners and local farmers.
Szprotawa Forest District – History

Contemporary history

• Szprotawa Forest District was established in 1946 and covered the area of current Szprotawa Sub-district amounting to 8000 ha

• In 1970s a single large Forest District was formed to include 4 Sub-districts (Szprotawa, Małomice, Żagań and Żuków) and cover the area of more than 100 000 ha

• Currently Szprotawa Forest District includes two Sub-districts (Szprotawa and Małomice) having approximately 19 000 ha of forests each, with total territorial range of 65 000 ha
Szprotawa Forest District – History

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Szprotawa Forest District – Resources

• Forest habitats:
  • Coniferous forests: 41,0 %
  • Mixed forests: 55,7%
  • Alder forests: 1,6%
  • Riparian forests: 1,7%

• Tree species (of industrial importance):
  • Pine: 65,62%
  • European Larch: 0,18%
  • European Spruce: 1,47%
  • Common Beech: 1,4%
  • Oak: 17,46%
  • Maple, Sycamore, Elm: 0,09%
  • Ash: 1,1%
  • Hornbeam: 0,15%
  • Birch, Black Locust: 6,53%
  • Alder: 5,16%
  • Poplar, Aspen: 0,48%
  • Linden, Willow: 0,31%
Szprotawa Forest District – Resources

Age class structure:

• **1st age class and unforested** – tree stands up to 20 years old: 16.7%
• **2nd age class** – tree stands from 21 to 40 years old: 12.9%
• **3rd age class** – tree stands from 41 to 60 years old: 31.0%
• **4th age class** – tree stands over 60 years old: 39.4%
Szprotawa Forest District – sylviculture

Szprotawa Forest District runs its own nursery farm.

- Area: 9.71 ha
- The farm supplies seedlings of about 20 species of trees and bushes
- The most common species of industrial importance are: Pine, Oak, Beech, Larch, and Black Alder
- Seed production base (major species): oak and pine stands
- On average the base supplies 1.2 mln seedlings
Szprotawa Forest District – Nursery Farm

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Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

“Buczyna Szprotawska” Nature Reserve

Established: 1965

Area: 152.32 ha

Location: the vicinity of Leszno Dolne

Conservation aim: to protect mixed forest stands of natural origin including beech and having features of Carpathian beech wood.
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

• “Buczyna Szprotawska” is the largest nature reserve located within the territory of Regional Directorate of the State Forests in Zielona Góra and second largest nature reserve in Poland

• The reserve is habitat for 222 species of vascular plants and 44 species of trees and bushes

• It is also home to 38 species of birds, 15 species of mammals, 5 species of amphibians and 3 species of reptiles
Szprotawa Forest District - “Buczyna Szprotawska” Nature Reserve

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Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

“Annabrzeskie Wąwozy” (Annabrzeskie Ravines) Nature Reserve

Established: 1977

Area: 56.11 ha

Location: Lubuskie Province, Bytom Odrzański commune

Conservation aim: to preserve natural diversity of forest ecosystems with strengthening of their natural structure and maintaining valuable species of flora and fauna
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

- The highest hill in the reserve is 220 m above sea level and maximum topographic prominence is approximately 60 m
- The reserve is habitat for 25 tree species (9 species form tree stands)
- There are 192 species of vascular plants and 39 species of trees and bushes
- Fauna of the reserve includes 4 species of amphibians, 2 species of reptiles, 34 species of birds and 12 species of mammals
Szprotawa Forest District - “Annabrzeskie Wąwozy” (Annabrzeskie Ravines) Nature Reserve
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

Nature parks:

- “Dolina Bobru” (Bóbr Valley) – it is a wildlife corridor of national importance with area of 13 131 ha (including 2616 ha within Szprotawa Forest District)

- “Wzgórza Dalkowskie” (Dalkowskie Hills) – the hills stretch out for 100 km between Żarskie Hills in the west and Ścinawska Depression in the east. The area is adjacent to Głogowska Urstromtal in the north and Szprotawska Plain and Lubińska High Plain in the south
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

Nature parks:

- **“Dolina Brzeźnicy” (Brzeźnica Valley)** – the park is located in Brzeźnica commune and covers the area of 2542 ha, including 435 ha within Szprotawa Forest District

- **“Dolina Szprotawki” (Szprotawka Valley)** – its entire area amounts to 5570 ha, including over 608 ha within Szprotawa Forest District

- **“Bory Dolnośląskie” (Lower Silesian Wilderness)** – the park covers the area of 26 223 ha, including 238 ha within Szprotawa Forest District. It includes two communes of the district – Żagań and Małomice.
Szprotawa Forest District - “Dolina Bobru” (Bóbr Valley)

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Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

“Natura 2000” Areas:

• **Dolina Dolnej Kwisy (Lower Kwisa Valley)** – the valley covers the area of 5972 ha, including 115 ha within Szprotawa Forest District. The valley includes protected habitats of such species as Large Copper, Lucanus Cervus and Great Capricorn Beetle.

• **Buczyna Szprotawsko – Piotrowicka (Szprotawsko-Piotrowicka Beech Wood)** – it covers the area of over 1423 ha and constitutes a borderland position of fertile Sudeten beech wood. The wood is habitat for Common Sundew and White-tailed Eagle.

• **Borowina (Peloid)** – the area is over 512 ha and includes a complex of well-preserved temperate deciduous forests and meadows. The area includes habitats of such species as Large Copper and Hermit Beetle.
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

“Natura 2000” Areas:

- **Małomickie Łęgi (Małomickie Riparian Forests)** – it covers the area of 993 ha, including 565.54 ha within Szprotawa Forest District. The area is a sanctuary of European Beaver and Otter.

- **Stawy Przemkowskie (Przemkowskie Ponds)** – it covers the area of over 4605 ha, including only 18.67 ha within Szprotawa Forest District. The area is a bird sanctuary and a habitat for such species as Mute Swan, Eurasian Teal and Coot.

- **Bory Dolnośląskie (Lower Silesian Wilderness)** – it is a bird sanctuary with total area of 26 223 ha. It is also one of the largest compact forest complexes in Poland.
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

Natural monuments:

There are 22 natural monuments within the territory of Szprotawa Forest District:

- Pedunculate Oak – 15 trees
- Scots Pine – 1 tree
- Common Beech – 3 trees
- European Ash – 2 trees
- European White Elm – 1 tree
“Chrobry” Oak – the most impressive tree among all natural monuments.

- Estimated age – 750 years.
- Trunk diameter – 985 cm.
- Height – 28 m
- The tree bears fruit quite often
- Due to its flat root swellings (which resemble a huge elephant foot) the tree is truly magnificent
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

Areas of protected ecology:

• **Sowie Bagno (Owl Bog)** – it is located in Małomice commune and forest range. It is a boggy land full of small ponds. The area is covered with bushes and trees, including such species as Oak, Hornbeam, Linden, Poplar and Willow. Interesting plant species, such as Hare’s-tail Cottongrass, Common Cottongrass and Common Sundew can be found there.

• **Żurawie Bagno (Crane Bog)** – it is located in Małomice commune, in Śliwnik Forest Range. It is a bog with standing water – a habitat for wetland plants, breeding ground and habitat of many species of birds and a hunting ground for White-tailed Eagle.
Szprotawa Forest District – Forms of Wildlife Conservation

Areas of protected ecology:

- Łabędzie Stawy (Swan Ponds) – located in Małomice commune, Śliwnik Forest Range. The area includes an open space within a complex forest area with high plants typical of standing water. It is a breeding ground and habitat of Crane, Mute Swan and other marshbirds as well as a hunting ground for White-tailed Eagle.
Szprotawa Forest District – Species Protection

Plants
There are 28 protected plant species within the area of Szprotawa Forest District. 19 species are strictly protected species and 9 are under partial protection.

Strictly protected species include:
- Deer Fern
- Mezereon
- Common Sundew
- Marsh Labrador Tea
- Royal Fern
- Common Hepatica
- Wolf’s-foot Clubmoss
Szprotawa Forest District – Species Protection

Animals

There are 201 protected species of animals within the area of Szprotawa Forest District, with 32 species included on “Polish Red List of Animals”.

Species included on Polish Red List of Animals:

- 9 species of invertebrate
- 8 species of fish
- 1 species of amphibian
- 1 species of reptile
- 9 species of birds
- 4 species of mammals
Szprotawa Forest District – Tourist and Educational Attractions

“Szlak Popielicy” (Edible Dormouse Trail) Education Trail – length: 2.2 km. It runs through “Buczyna Szprotawska” Nature Reserve.

• There are 10 educational stops along the trail

• The trail includes both historic objects and places of cultural interest, including a wooden shelter from 19th century, burial mounds dedicated to deceased foresters and a stone signpost

• Tourists who walk along the trail can admire old beech woods and come across one of the endangered species – Edible Dormouse

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“Park Słowiański” (Slavic Park) Trail

- Length – 6 km
- The area of unique scenic and aesthetic values
- It includes 21 thematic stops
- It is famous for bog alder forests covering fertile lands with high level of standing water
- Tourists can enjoy a bonfire on a glade at the end of the trail.
Szprotawa Forest District - “Park Słowiański” (Slavic Park)

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Szprotawa Forest District – Wały Śląskie (Silesian Walls)

• Marked as Dreigräben in old German maps
• Commonly known as “Wały Chrobrego” (Chrobry Walls)
• They are defined in certain sources as “the longest monument in Europe”
• It is a line of two or three earthen ramparts and ditches based on natural obstacles
• Wały Śląskie are of scientific and educational importance as they provide in-depth insight into organization of the state in the Silesia in post-colonization period
Szprotawa Forest District Inspectorate – cooperation with our Partner

In 2014 Szprotawa Forest District Inspectorate completed a project entitled “Promotion of transboundary cooperation between Szprotawa Forest District Inspectorate and Landratsamt Bautzen Kreisforstamt”.

The project partner representing Saxony is Landratsamt Bautzen Kreisforstamt (Division of Forestry at Bautzen District Office) seated in Kamenz (http://www.landkreis-bautzen.de).

The project enabled upgrading of the Szprotawa Forest District Inspectorate website – www.szprotawa.zielonagora.lasy.gov.pl – to include information on project partners in three languages: Polish, German and English.
Szprotawa Forest District Inspectorate

You are welcome to visit our website:

www.szprotawa.zielonagora.lasy.gov.pl