Hunters as «stewards of the land»

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Part of the HUNT project

- EU funded study of hunting: Ecology, economy, culture

- Sub-project: The cultural meaning of hunting

- This part: Hunters and non-hunters from Norway, Scotland and Croatia

- Method: Interviews and focus group discussions
Grouse shooting in Norway
Wild boar hunting in Croatia
Deer stalking in Scotland
Moose hunting in Norway
Grouse shooting in Scotland
Lynx hunting in Norway
Bear hunting in Croatia
Motives for hunting:

- Obtaining food; a moral obligation to harvest
- Stewardship/management (population control, predator control, animal welfare)
- Experiencing nature, being one with nature
- Being with friends
- Maintain traditions
- Cooperation with dogs
- Excitement, thrill
Legitimizing hunting:

- The meat must be eaten, or the hunting must have a stewardship (management) purpose
- Moral obligations must be fulfilled; then you can have fun
- This *moral hierarchy* was shared by many non-hunters
Hunting *is* caring for nature

- A physical unity with nature, like other predators
- We have already messed with nature, it can’t be left alone anymore
- The idea of balance in nature
- Predator control has been a crucial task at all times
Hunters and conservationists

- Antagonists or allies with common interests?
- If conflicts are superficial, why do they appear to be so serious?
- And can they be overcome?