

Foreword

The problem of optimal thinning is highly relevant for practical forestry. Thinning generates a substantial part of the net revenue, and it shapes the future value development of the remaining forest stand. Particularly with regard to the currently observed strong shifts of forest growth, timber prices and the compositions of the product classes, a profound theoretical foundation is necessary. Astonishingly, down to the present day, the problem of optimal thinning has not been solved satisfactorily. According to my judgment, the reason for this is the high degree of complexity of this optimization problem which is often shrouded.

In the dissertation, Renke Coordes has solved the problem of optimal thinning.

He succeeded in presenting a solution with an own methodical approach in which the optimum optimorum is not to be found necessarily. Also, Renke Coordes consequent applies the Faustmann approach and follows a strong economic logic. In the dissertation, Renke Coordes presents a closed economic investigation of thinning. It is the best what I have read in this research field during the last decades.

The dissertation is not only a fairly sizeable theoretical improvement; moreover, it has guiding character for practical silviculture. Questions on the optimal thinning age, the optimal thinning regime, the problem of quality and quantity, etc. are answered. In addition, well-known Central European principles of silviculture are tested for their theoretical foundation. Furthermore, the model as well as the analysis of the dissertation is of value in the broader field of natural resource economics.

I recommend the dissertation warmly for reading and studying to forest scientists as well as to forestry practitioners, and to natural resource economists, too.

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