



# Finnskogen

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# The great journey

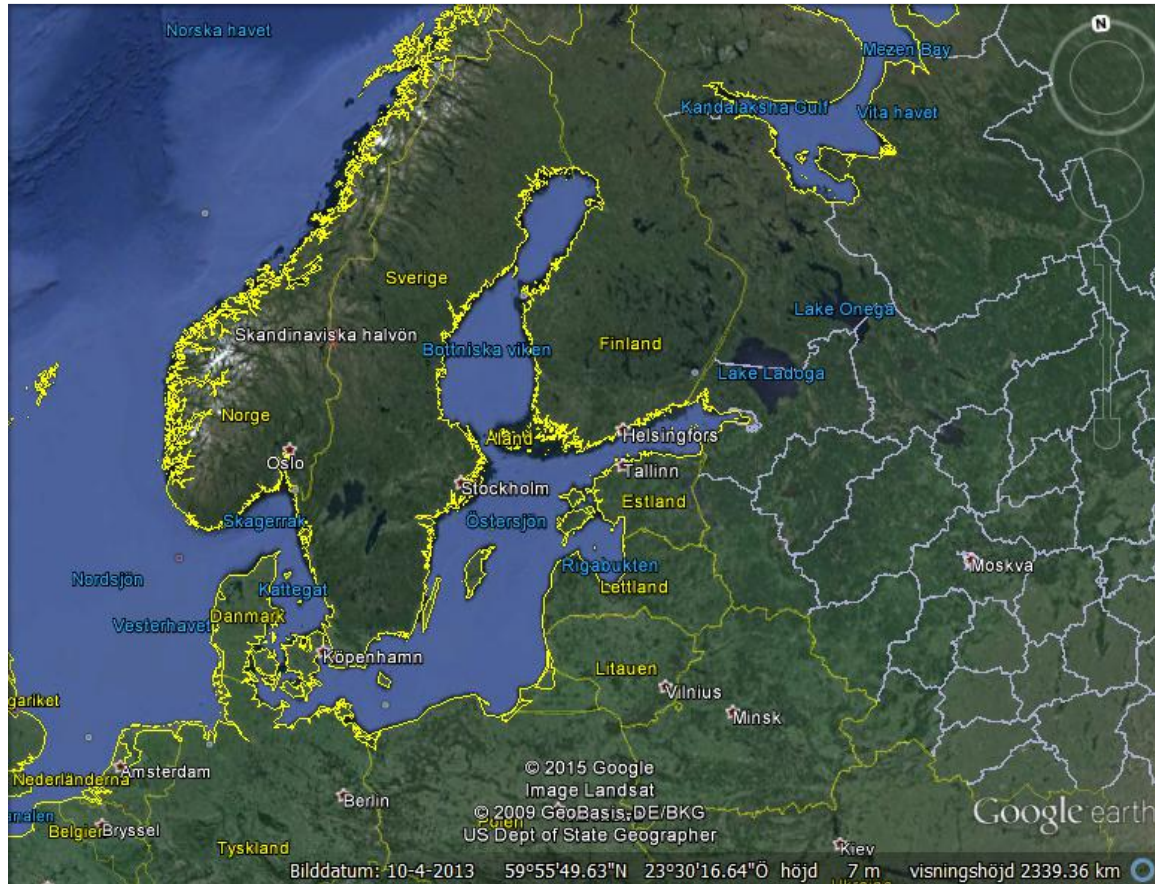
How Finnish culture from the 16th century still forms the landscape of Sweden and Norway.

Suzanne Palmquist, Finnskogen Nature & Culture Park, Swedish side.

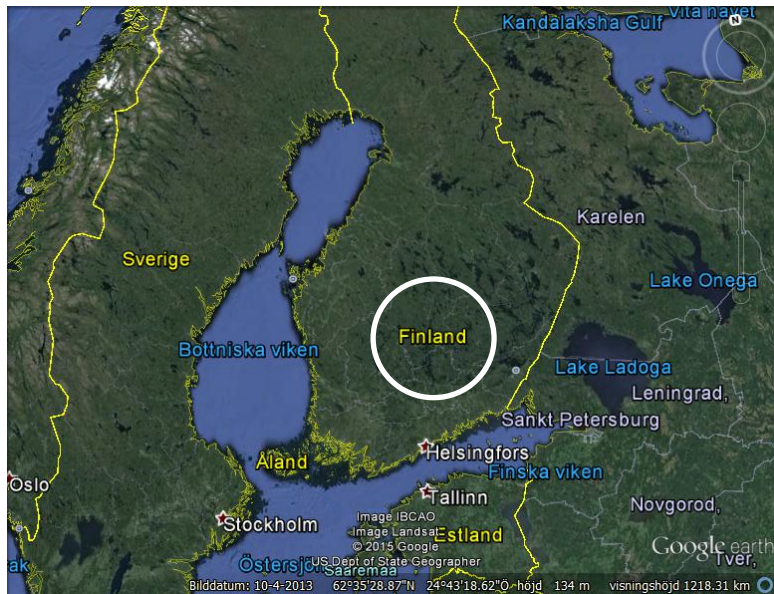
October 1st 2015



# The Nordic countries today



# The slash-and-burn culture in Finland, 15-17th century



Painting by Eero Järnefelt 1893

# The "earth's green scarf", the Taiga



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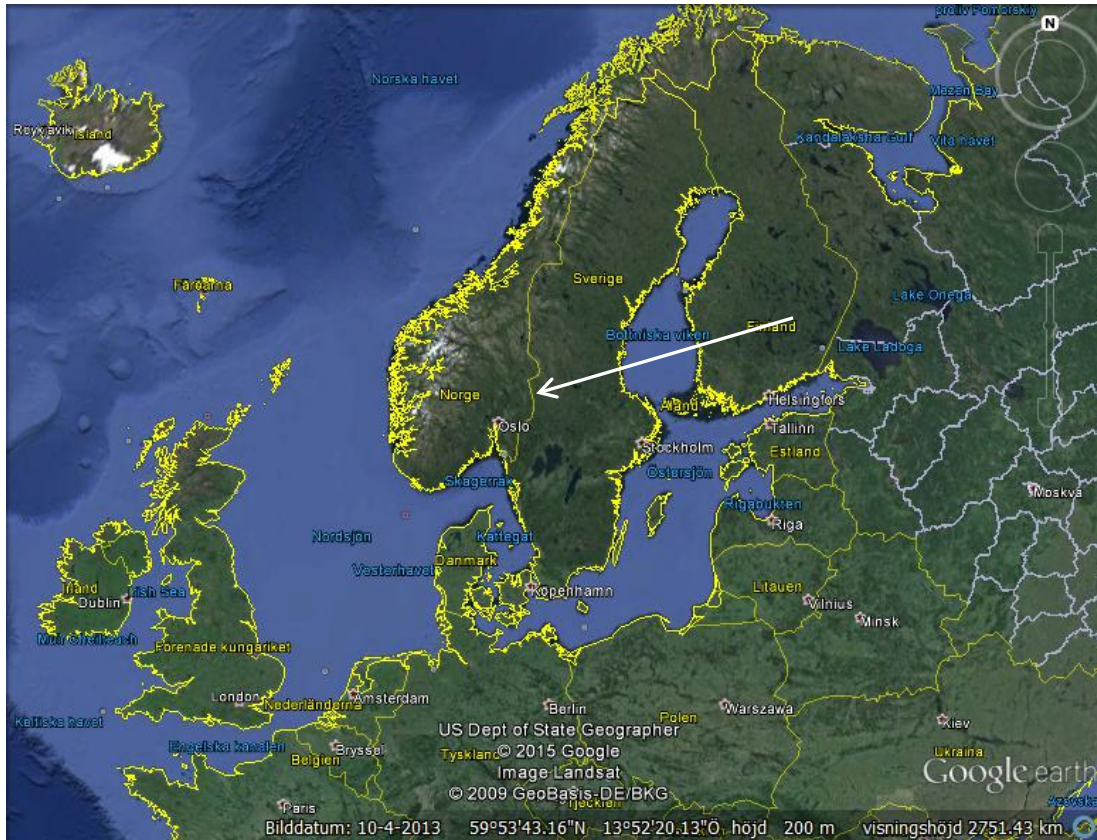


# Who were the Forest Finns?

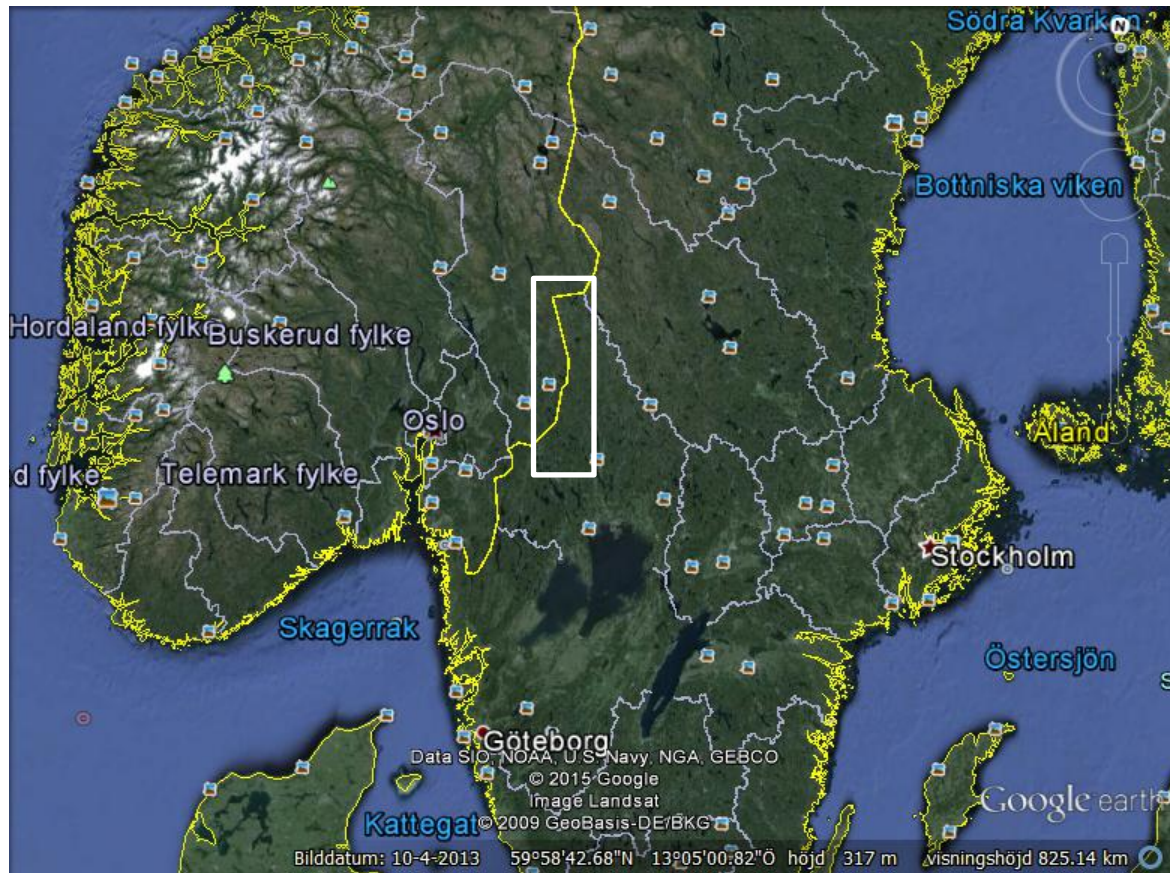
- Slash-and-burn farmers. Could get great harvests when succeeded. They also had cattle; goats and cows for milk, cheese and butter.
- They had a special way of building houses, and a special folklore.
- They migrated in the period 1580-1690, but we still see tracks of them in the area we call Finnskogen (Finn Forest): Finnish names on places and buildings. The Forest Finns are also a national minority in Norway, a historic minority in Sweden.



Between 1360 and 1809, Sweden and Finland were one country with the same king and administration. Migration from Finland took place within the country. Those who moved to Norway went abroad.



# And if we zoom in





# Landscape as an arena

- For farming; slash-and-burn, (from 18th century farming on fields), cattle, fishing and hunting
- For building houses
- For folklore. They believed that everything in nature had a spirit, or soul.



# The smokehouse

It has no chimney, the smoke from the smokeoven remains in the room, up under the ceiling. The house is kept very warm.



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# One of the few smokeovens still in use



# Can you see the smoke?



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Many of the Forest Finn homesteads can be visited. Some are protected by law.



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# The landscape is still there – how can we manage it?

- The Forests Finn cultural heritage is essential for the area. Many activities take place, but there is a need for cooperation.
- With the European landscape convention as a base, we have started working together in the Finnskogen Nature & Culture Park. It covers the Finn Forest in two countries and works with 10-year charters. It is not a project.



# A Forest Finn landscape, still to be seen and visited



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# New values in the forest

- We have reached Peak Oil – now we need the boreal forests. Everything made by oil, can also be made by wood! Forests also create CO<sub>2</sub>, offer good health gains, as recreation, outdoorlife, fishing, hunting, berries, sky with stars, wildlife and silence. Much of this is exotic to visitors from countries outside Scandinavia.



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A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, silhouetted clouds. The sun's light creates a bright glow and a lens flare effect that streaks across the right side of the image. The water in the foreground reflects the sun and the sky. In the background, a dense line of trees is silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

**“There are different types of silence”**



# What is the "Unique selling point"?



# Challenge

- Can we manage to get authorities in Norway and Sweden to unite with the European landscape convention as a base in order to get a plan for the management of the Finn Forest area?
- We hope so, and we think so.
- So, let's get it done!

# Welcome to visit the Finn Forest!

