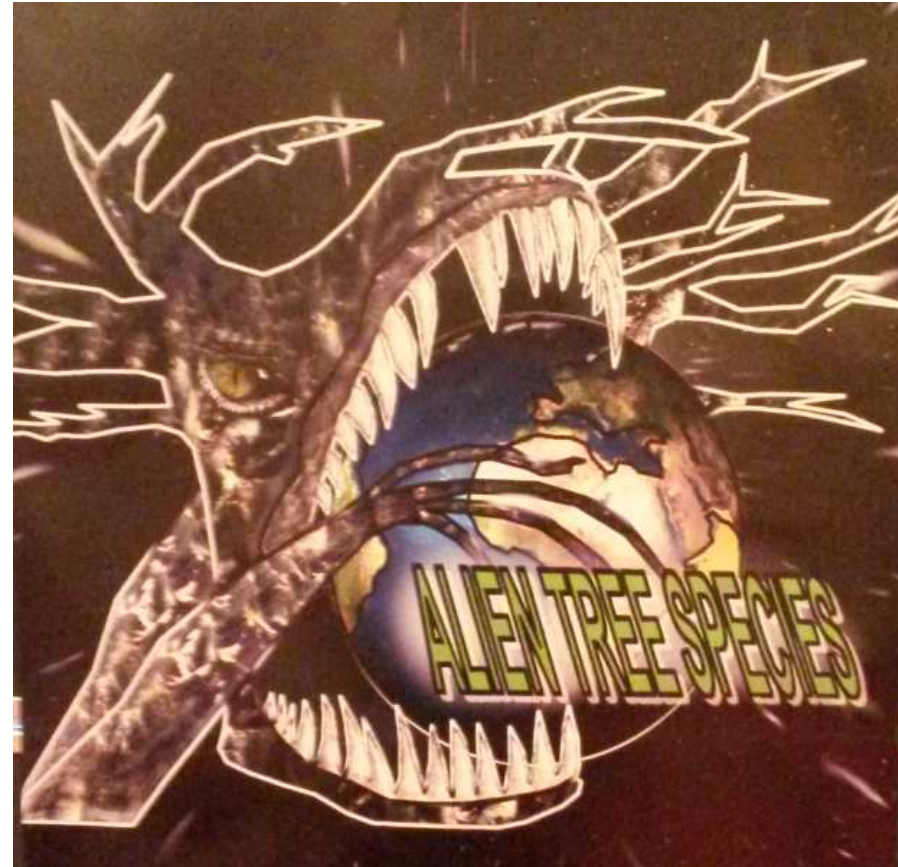




**Introduced tree species  
-  
the perspective of a  
(public) forest enterprise**

**A practical example**



**Matthias Schmitt**  
Leadership Academy for Public Administration, Baden-Württemberg  
BDF – German Foresters Association



## **Thesis: Introduced tree species are essential for multifunctional forest management in a globalized world**

### **Initial position:**

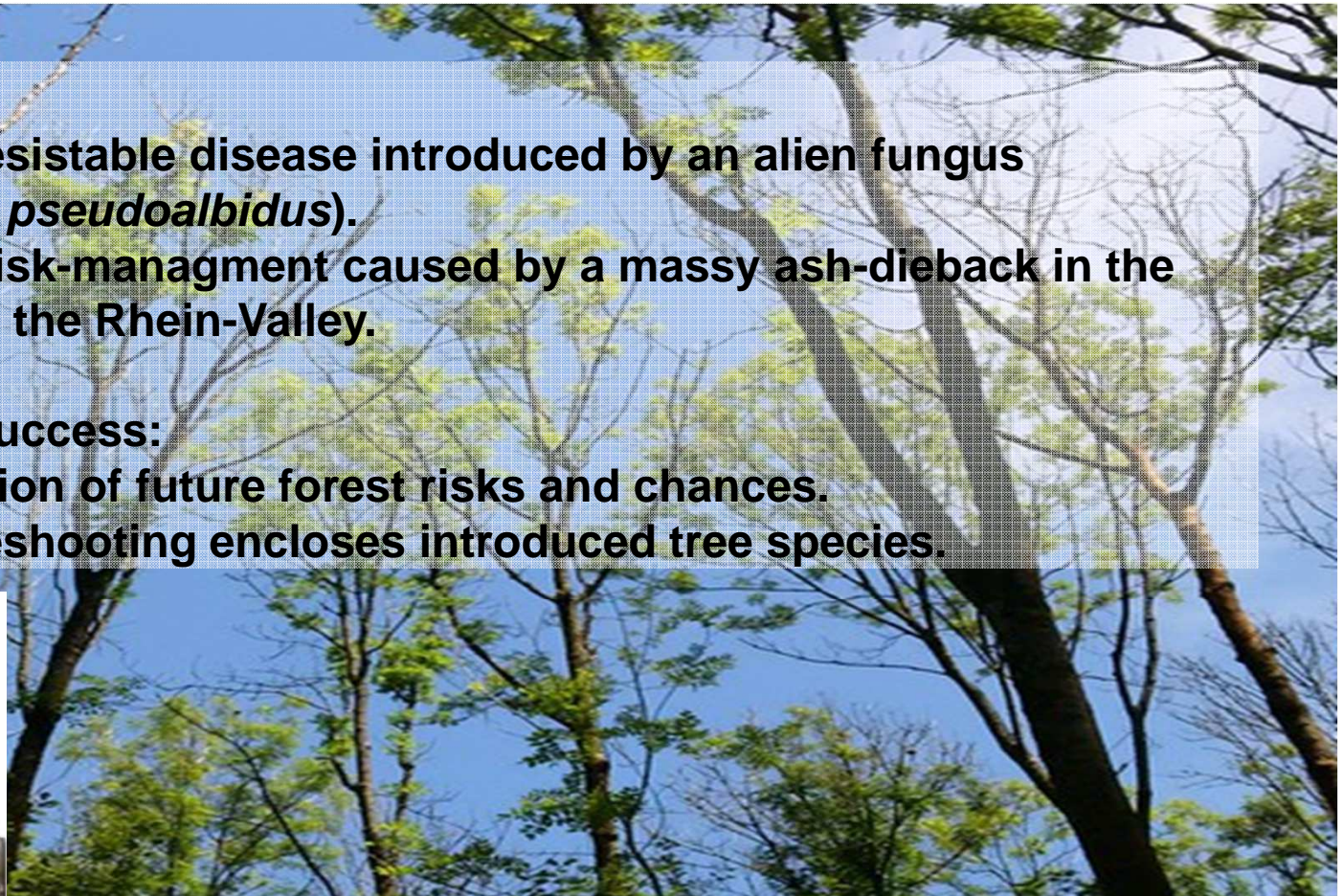
**Dealing with a irresistible disease introduced by an alien fungus (*Hymenoscypha pseudoalbidus*).**

**Longterm forest risk-management caused by a massy ash-dieback in the riparian forests of the Rhein-Valley.**

### **Basic factors of success:**

**Broad diversification of future forest risks and chances.**

**Promising troubleshooting encloses introduced tree species.**

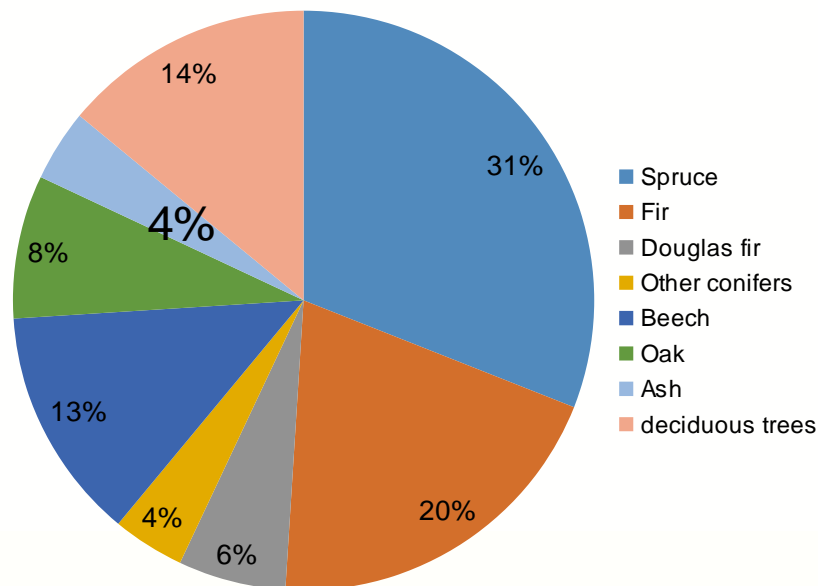




## A quick overview - the forest department in the Ortenau county

The public forest administration of the Ortenau county

- is managing the state forest assets in the county (about 9.000 ha)
- provides forest consulting and forest management for private and municipal forest owners located in the county (about 80.000 ha)
- is forest-laws supervising authority



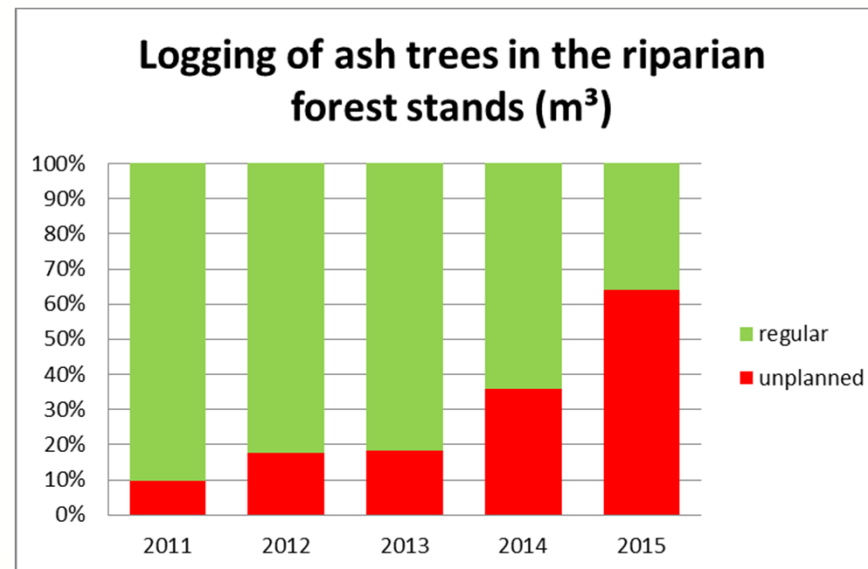
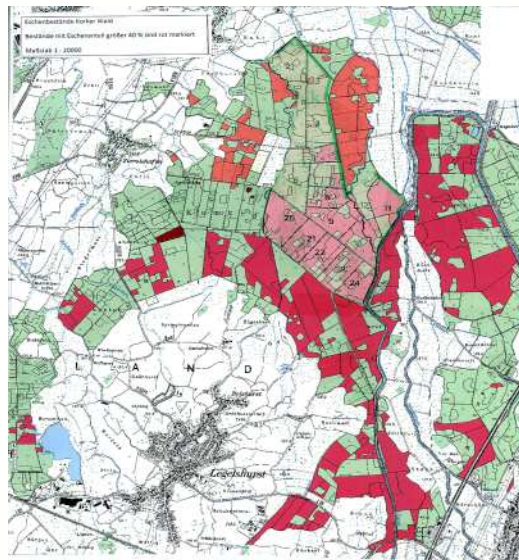
Ashes endangered by fungus covering 4% of forest stands.

So what is the significant problem?



## The significant situation in our Rhein-valley forest stands

- 12% of the forest stands are located in the Rhein-valley (11.000 ha)
- 25% is ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in this forest stands (2.700 ha)
- all forest stands are all public owned (90% municipal forests)
- most forest stands are high-potential for nature conservation, recreation, water protection (including flood control) and timber production



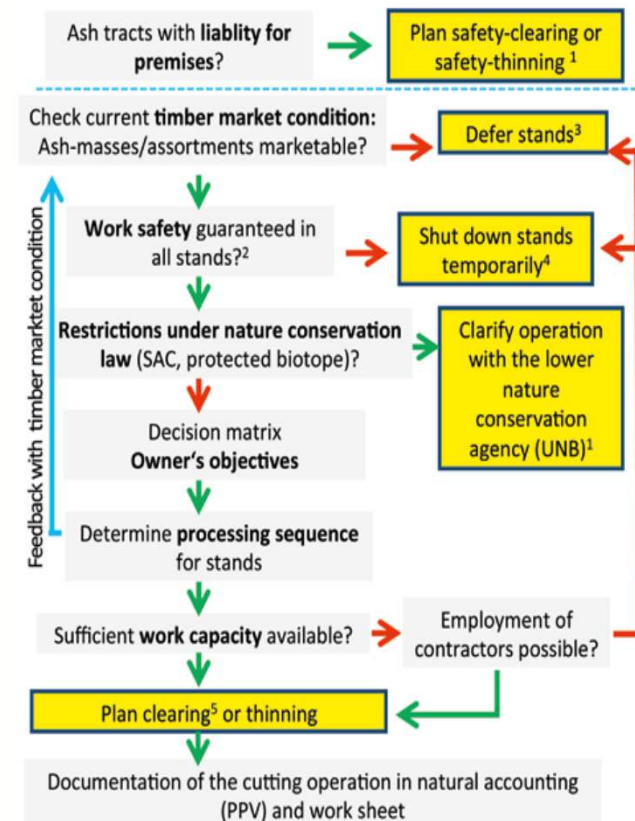


## Target-oriented forest disaster and risk management

- Forest owners demands
- Liability for premises
- Worksafty issues
- Nature conservation restrictions
- Risk prevention and diversification for future forest stands

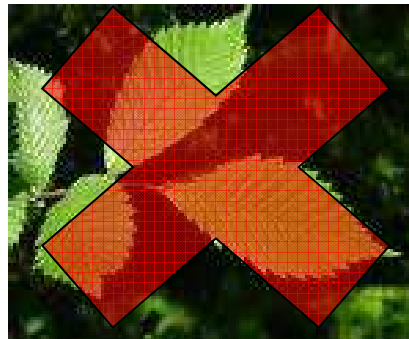
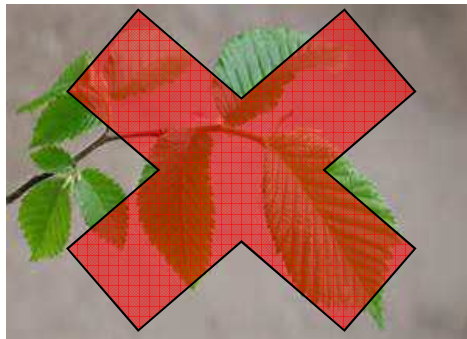
The aim is to

- establish **valuable** and **resilient** forest stands
- cut **financial losses**

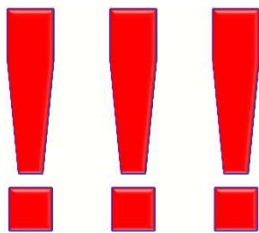


<sup>1</sup>in particularly sensitive areas if needed press release, inform population in advance, inform nature protection official- <sup>2</sup> min. work safety for harvester deployment guaranteed?  
- <sup>3</sup> defer until next cutting season, then consider all steps again - <sup>4</sup> temporary shut down until collapse (ca. 15 years) - <sup>5</sup> before clearing consider decision tree „reforestation“

## The needs for introduced tree species



We're running out of adapted native tree species for riparian forest sites!



No long-term risk diversification without a broad based portfolio of hardwood!



## Moderate input – the way it can work

Poor site quality

Common oak  
**Hybrid poplar**  
European black alder  
native scubs  
Black poplar  
European white elm  
Small-leaved elm  
(Ash)



Good site quality

Common oak  
Sycamore maple  
Common walnut  
**Black walnut**  
**Hybrid walnut**  
**Tulip tree**  
Wych elm  
**London plane**  
**Turkish hazel**  
(Ash)



## Thesis: Introduced tree species are essential for multifunctional forest management in a globalized world

Final position:

In this practical case a moderate quantity of introduced tree species

- reduces long-term natural risks
- reduces short-term financial risks
- increases diversity of replanted forest stands
- increases financial portfolio

But there's still a lot we have learn about long-term characteristics of introduced tree species in our forest ecosystems!