STRUCTURE OF THE BAVARIAN STATE INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY (LWF)
The Bavarian State Institute of Forestry is a special agency within the Bavarian Forestry Administration. We are a team of specialists that supports the forestry department of the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry and its regional offices.

The institute employs approximately 180 people. Our structure is based on working in small teams with frequent interaction and communication. This enables us to work efficiently.

Our research teams consist of graduate forestry staff, active foresters with many years of practical experience, and specialists from other disciplines. In our scientific research we maintain constant contact with working practitioners.

TRADITION AND THE MODERN WORLD
In 1881, King Ludwig II founded the Forest Research Institute in Munich at the instigation of August Ganghofer. The Forest Research Institute moved to Weihenstephan, in 1992. In 1993, the institute’s name was changed to the “Bavarian State Institute of Forestry.” In 2005, the institute was given new responsibilities as a result of the reform of the forest administration (see organisational chart). In 2011, our research institute will celebrate its 130th anniversary.

This tradition is a source of both encouragement and obligation. Our long-term forest research is based on many years of experience in monitoring sample plots. The ever more complex challenges faced by the forest and forestry industry can only be met if forestry research applies the latest methods and works in collaboration with different partners.

The Bavarian State Institute of Forestry is a member of the Weihenstephan Center of Forestry, and as such cooperates closely with the Faculty of Forestry and Resource Management at the Technical University of Munich, and the Faculty of Forestry at University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf. Our partners include many specialist agencies and research institutes and both of the national parks, the Bavarian Forest and Berchtesgaden.

HOW TO GET THERE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT
At the train station, take the bus no. 638 towards Hittostraße. Get off at the Weihenstephan bus stop. For further information go to www.bahn.de or www.mvv-muenchen.de.
WHAT THE LWF DOES

Below is a brief overview of our comprehensive services which include research, monitoring, consulting and information services.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN FORESTRY

The Bavarian State Institute of Forestry conducts environmental monitoring throughout Bavaria: 18 forest climate stations and 59 permanent soil observation areas; systematic recording of crown condition, and periodic inventories such as the soil condition inventory provide a comprehensive picture of the condition of the forest. We track long-term developments and changes and they inform our policies for forest protection plans.

OPTIMISING FOREST MANAGEMENT AND SECURING SOCIAL BENEFITS OF THE FOREST

The Bavarian State Institute of Forestry aims to help forest owners to improve the economic viability of their businesses whilst safeguarding sustainability in forestry. We make our research results available for practical forest management in the form of silvicultural strategies, recommendations for tending and forest regeneration and for the low-impact and efficient use of machinery, and comprehensive logistics concepts. With forest inventories and research on management and socio-economic factors, we provide forest owners and decision-makers with important tools to help them take economic and political decisions in forestry.

SUBJECT FOCUS: WOOD AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY

One main focus of the research and advisory activities of the Bavarian State Institute of Forestry is on wood as a source of energy, and the provision of wood chips.

PEST MONITORING AND CONTROL

We identify animal, plant and fungal pests on forest trees and shrubs, monitor their development, give advice, and provide organisational support where control measures have to be taken. Our popular services include a continuously updated information service.

NATURA 2000

The Bavarian State Institute of Forestry gives expert advice for the Natura 2000 management in the forest. This includes creation and development of practical support materials and mapping manuals for identifying and recording habitat types and species that are worth protecting. Local mapping teams receive advice and training.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

An important aim of the Bavarian State Institute of Forestry is providing information that is easy to understand. We contribute to public understanding of science by responding to enquiries from members of the public, and by providing publications and delivering training programmes that are directed to specific target groups. The institute makes a significant contribution to the public relations work of the forestry administration, by organising specialist conferences, symposiums and exhibitions. The institute is one of the driving forces behind the development of educational concepts in forestry.