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Presentations	Session 2.2	<i>Beyond Forestry: Knowledge Practices for Sustainable Landscapes with Trees.</i>

*Abstract Session 2.2 – Making up the forest: Everyday knowledge practices in integrative public forest management in Germany.*

Over the past years, foresters working for the public forest administration in Germany increasingly find themselves under pressure to preserve their traditional epistemic authority over forestry issues, being confronted with ecological challenges related to climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Dropped wood prices endanger the classical and well-oiled cooperation with the timber industry, which in the past generated relatively stable public revenues. These developments frame a rapid devaluation of scientific forestry's traditional knowledge, and its application, in public forest management. The public forest administration is often criticized for being backward-oriented and not adapting rapidly enough, despite efforts to implement and update its multi-purpose management framework. Under these circumstances, this study zooms in on particular knowledge practices in public forest management in southwest Germany. It asks what foresters on different administrative levels actually do to 'create' the forest and its multiple purposes as known by the forest administration. Following the idea that the largest share of knowledge is performed in non-reflexive ways, meaning it is incorporated and enacted through the interplay of bodies, artifacts, and natural elements in social situations, I accompanied the daily work of forest managers, forest planners, and silvicultural trainers. Drawing on my ethnographic material documenting the 'messy reality' of work situations and perceptions, I analyze specific professional practices as stabilizing elements of professional epistemologies. Results point to the fragility of this management system that is built to guarantee the handling of great contingency and based on a culture of professional solidarity that ultimately impedes change. Enormous personal efforts and affective investments are required by the individual foresters as they are exposed to a rapidly changing environment, contradicting goals and a lack of controllability.