

**Resistance to  
wilderness tourism:  
Ambivalences and contradictions**

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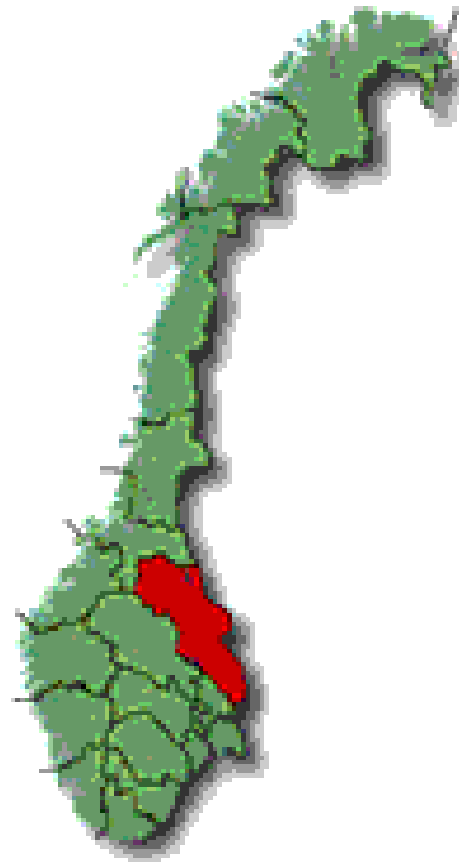
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)

- Negative reactions upon *wilderness tourism* in Norway
- Cases of commercialized angling and hunting, which often is promoted as *wilderness experiences*.
- Hedmark County as the *World of Wilderness*

# HEDMARK *County*



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# The consumptive /non-consumptive divide

- Trophy angling and hunting
  - The experience, not the meat
- “It is wrong to angle or hunt just for fun!”
  - Filling the freezer

# Wilderness landscapes or cultural landscapes?

- From agriculture and logging, to nature based tourism
- From cultural landscapes, to landscapes of wilderness
- Paradoxes of the concept of wilderness
  - Level of experience
  - Political
- Controversies over the landscape in contexts of hunting and angling tourism

*Wilderness landscapes or cultural landscapes continued*

- From agricultural farmland into leisure landscapes
- Complexity of symbolic meanings found in the landscapes have not faded, but taken on new meanings
- Landscape as
  - scenery of wilderness
  - infused with embodied practices, product of cultural activities through history

# Angling and hunting for food or for fun?

- Consumptive hunting and angling as
  - morality, not economy
  - upholding local and even national traditions
  - retaining the image of the outfield areas as cultural landscape, more than just a collection of cultural heritages.
- (Visiting,) non-consumptive hunters and anglers are portrayed as immoral figures that do not respect the cultural landscape

# The wolf – the one that also hunt for fun!

- The wolf controversy has developed into a complicated discourse, often represented by a dichotomy where rural traditionalism stands against urban modernity
- The wolf does not belong to this environments
- Locals resent any kind of carnivore tourism
- Trophy hunters is comparable to the wolf, they both kill for fun

# Elk as nature or culture?

- The min the relations to humanseaning and value of the fish and deer is found, not at representations as nature as such
- The locals' engagement with the animals are not characterised by a sharp dichotomy between nature and culture. The dichotomy becomes blurred or perhaps less relevant.
- Non-consumptive anglers are preoccupied with the relation between the fish and humans in terms of a rather sharp dichotomy of nature and culture

# Kissing the wilderness or maintaining harmony?

- Landscape – cultural model of harmony
- Wolf and other big carnivores - like bear and the wolverine and the lynx - do not belong within this model of harmony
- The meaning of trophy angling and hunting tend to rest on a sharp dichotomy of nature and culture in order to perceive the harmony of the wilderness

# Conclusion

- The mode people engage with the landscape within which they live generates cultural models that do not imply a unambiguous dichotomy between a
  - natural, non-cultural animal sphere,
  - and
  - non-natural, cultural human sphere

- The trophy hunters and anglers tend to become symbols to the locals of a fear of:
  - - a process where their own landscape is being transformed into a leisurely landscape commoditised as wilderness experiences.