

METLA – STEWARD OF RESEARCH FORESTS

The Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA) has been entrusted with the care of state-owned land set aside for research purposes. The illustrativeness of long-term experimental fields adds to their educational function.

Some of the lands and waters administered by Metla are under conservation. Kivalo contains an old-growth-forest conservation area of about 800 hectares. Kaihuavaara has a herb-rich-forest area of 6.3 hectares and almost 500 hectares at the highest areas of Kaihuavaara are under conservation.

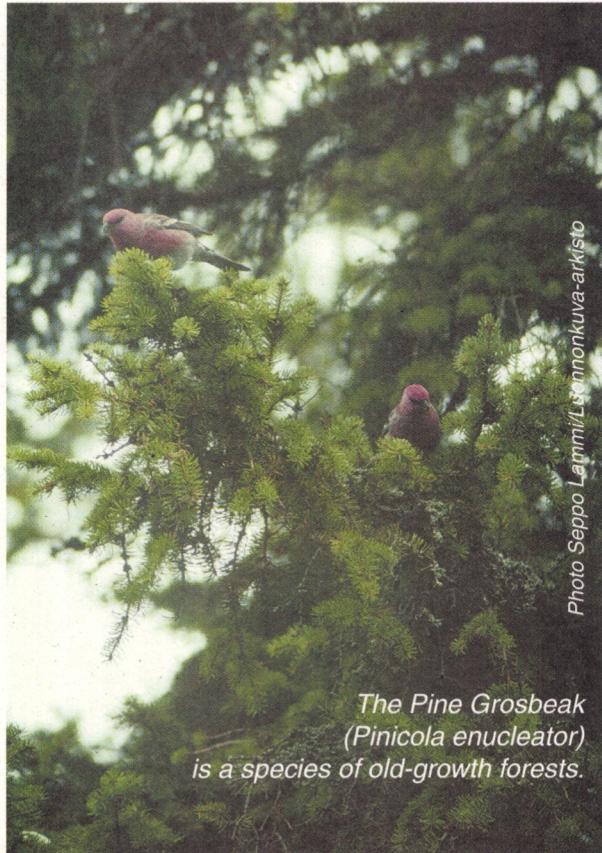


Photo Seppo Leppimäki/Leppimonkuva-arkisto

The Pine Grosbeak
(*Pinicola enucleator*)
is a species of old-growth forests.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

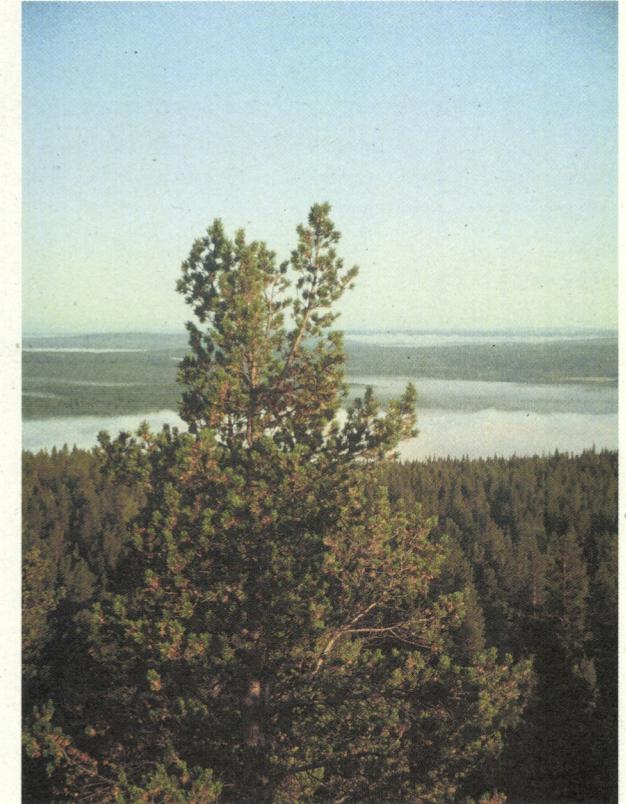
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METLA
THE FINNISH FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

KIVALO RESEARCH AREA

Welcome to Kivalo!

NATURE TRAILS

Research Trail

The items of interest along this trail, which is about 4 kms long, present the visitor with an introduction to growing and regeneration of forests in the light of research results. Old photographs bring some historical colour to the subject. The trail has been designed to be of forestry-education use as well. The immediate surroundings contain numerous trial stands.

Tree Species Trail

The 2 kms long trail, which starts from a fine stand of Siberian larch, leads to stands of over twenty tree species belonging to the boreal forest zone. Dendrology (the study of tree species) and provenance testing are important fields of research at Metla.

Mushroom Trail

There are several alternative trails to choose from ranging from a quick one to ones lasting all day. Kaihuavaara's excellent mushrooming terrain is used to introduce the visitor to edible mushrooms and their use as well as to research focusing on fungi.



Game Trail

The shoreline forests of Alajärvi provide the setting for a 2 kms long game trail telling about wildlife ranging from small predators to big game. The import of gamekeeping is presented by means of examples.

OTHER SERVICES

Hiking trails, day huts, places for campfires

Hiking trails have been laid out to the ridges of Kivalo and Kaihuavaara. Siperia and Kaihuavaara are places with open day huts (initially built for researchers' use). Now these huts also serve to introduce Metla's researchers to the public. The huts are placed freely at the disposal of visitors to be used as places of rest and as destinations of day trips.

Campfires may be lit at places so designated along the trails and in the proximity of the huts. Use firewood frugally and take any incombustible rubbish with you when you leave.

Expert services

You may order a guide from Metla for a fee beforehand. Metla expertise is available for nature-related education, professional education and recreation. Supplies of provisions can also be arranged.

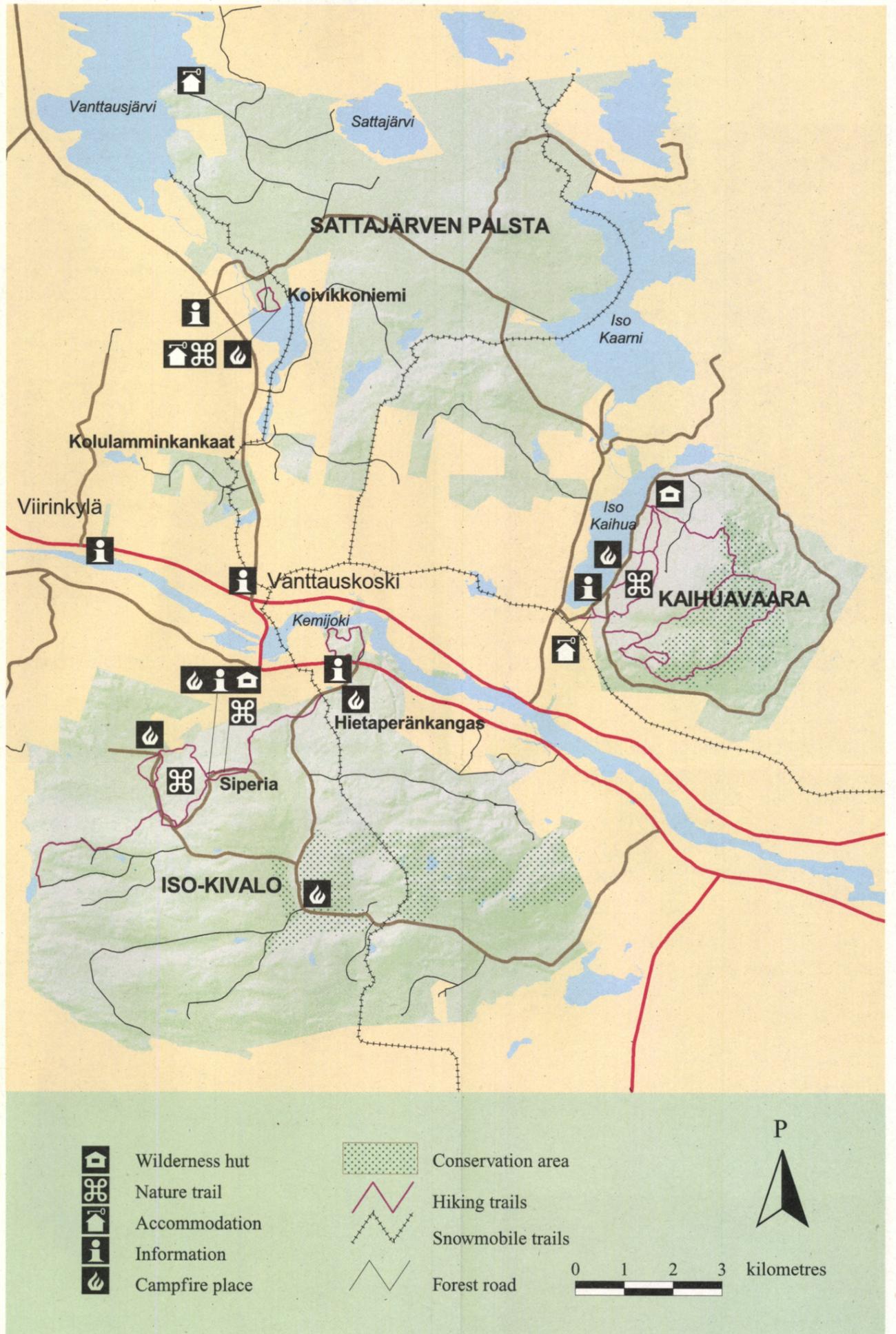
Accommodation and mobility

The buildings at Koivikkoniemi have been renovated to serve training. Huts are also available for a price. Reservations can be made via Metla's Rovaniemi Research Station.

Kivalo is provided with a network of forest roads whose accessibility in winter varies. Snowmobiling is allowed only along dedicated snowmobile trails.

Natural produce

Berry-picking and mushrooming are aspects of the public right of access ("Everyman's Rights"). Kemijoki Rive, Lake Kaihuajärvi, Lake Vanttausjärvi and Lake Alajärvi are all good for fishing. Fishing permits may be purchased via the Forest and Park Service and the petrol station at Vanttauskoski.



THE FORESTS CONTAIN EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS

whose structures and signs should not be tampered with. The oldest long-term trials are scores of years old. Information on the state of the environment is obtained from field experiments such as these.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE FOREST ENVIRONMENT

Subjects of research at Kivalo 1918-1998:

- Forest Regeneration
- Growing Tree Stands
- Peatland Forestry
- Tree Species and Provenances
- Effective Temperature Sum and Seed Crops
- Air Pollution
- Effect of Weather on Forests
- Monitoring State of Health of Forests

The load of packed snow and ice on a tree can weigh more than 3000 kilos.

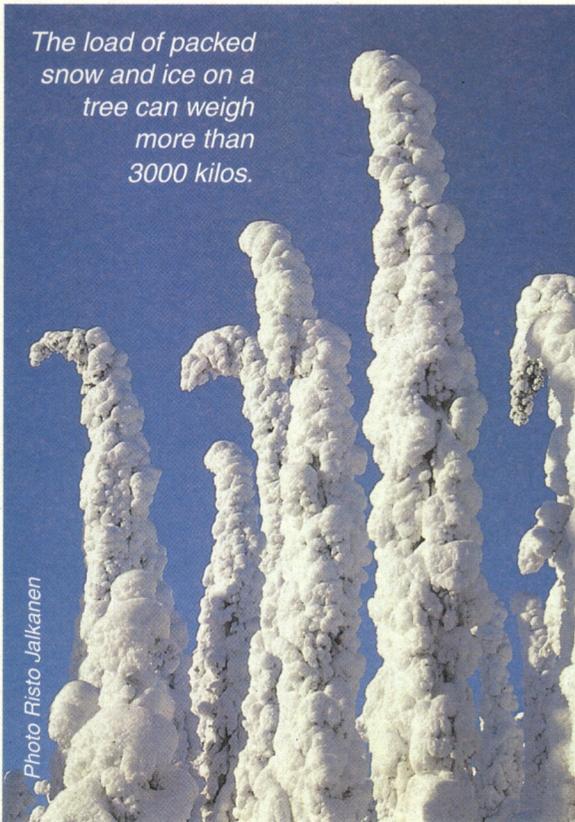


Photo Flisto Jalakanen

MAGNIFICENT FORESTS, HIGH RIDGES

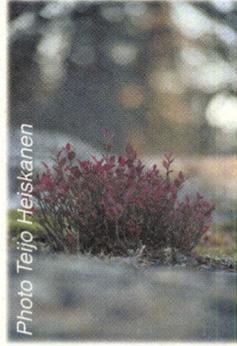


Photo Teijo Heiskanen

The research area got its name from the string of ridges south of Kemijoki River, the Kivalo ridges. The total size of this research area is about 146 sq. kilometres. Forest research began here in 1918, during Metla's first year of activity. Kivalo was found to be favourable for research purposes because of its habitats and variable elevation.

Most of Kivalo is at an elevation of 200 – 300 metres above sea level. The soils are mostly moraine soils and the forests are spruce-dominated. The nature at Kivalo is variable; e.g. Hietaperänkangas is representative of northern Finland's pineries at their very best and in Kaihuavaara there are the most beautiful birch forests of Rovaniemi region.



Illustration Tuula Vuorinen

The more fertile sites are home to Alpine Sow-Thistle (*Cicerbita alpina*).

RECREATIONAL USE ON THE INCREASE

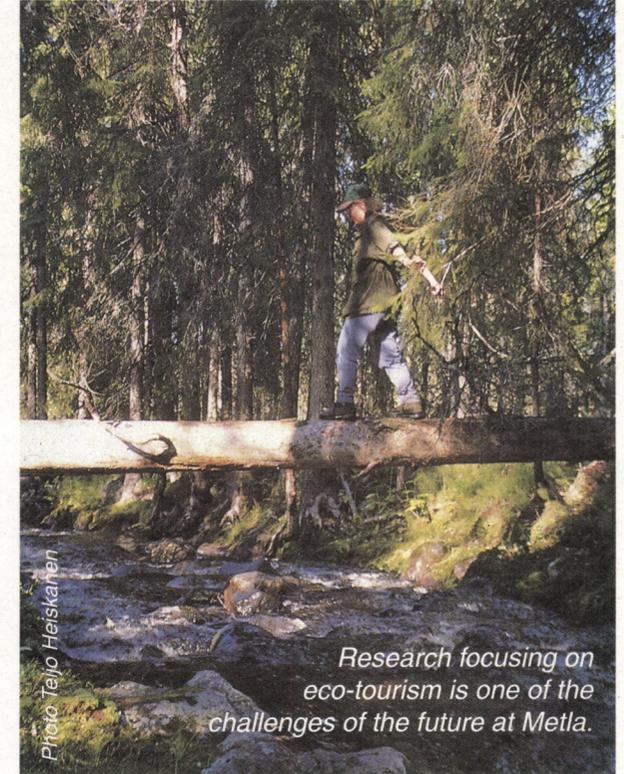


Photo Teijo Heiskanen

Research focusing on eco-tourism is one of the challenges of the future at Metla.

A service network has been established at the Kivalo Research Area to enable the public to become acquainted with research results. The growing popularity of hiking in the great outdoors opens up possibilities for studying the interdependencies in force between nature and people, to see how people enjoy the forests, and what impacts this recreational use has on the forest environment.

The emphasis in the care of the area is on research needs and overlapping of functions is supported. Research knowledge is utilised in steering the use of the area.