

New National Parks and Tourism Challenges

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During the last two years, the extension of national park areas in Southern Norway have been substantial. In the Northern Gudbrandsdal region of Oppland country five municipalities have been 'hit' by this extension - against the common will of the inhabitants. The reason is that the ways the national parks have been managed until now have meant restrictions of traditional use both for farmers and tourism. The challenge is now to make a new national park policy and practise. Some suggestions have been put forward by the environment authorities. This paper tries to examine both the state of art, the challenges and the market position of the area in the light of the new national parks and the new strategies. Much focus is put on the actual tourism patterns and the possibilities of bringing in new tourism groups.