An advisory board guides the FVA regarding substantive and strategic issues.

The Forest Research Institute (FVA) is...

- a research institution attached to the Ministry of Rural Development and Consumer Protection of Baden-Württemberg and organizationally closely connected with the State Forest Service, ForstBW;
- comprised of eight departments according to their responsibilities, which are coordinated and managed by the Directorate;
- a professional discussion partner for all persons who have questions related to the forest;
- competent in conducting long-term research, doing applied forest research, developing practical applications and transferring knowledge;
- networked in national and international research projects;
- a working place for about 250 people;
- family-friendly – with its own Childcare Centre.

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Organisation (October 2016)
How does a forest subsist?
How much CO₂ can the forest soil store?
What happens to the forest if water is scarce?
Which substances are harmful to the forest?

Department of Soil and Environment
analyses the forest soil as a focal point for the ecosytems present in a forest, as a reservoir for available nutrients and as a filter for toxic substances.

How to get timber out of the forest to the factory?
Measuring, selecting and evaluating - but how?
How does a log look like from the inside?

Department of Forest Utilisation
deals with research and development of methods for an effective and efficient use of the wood resource.

How much forest? How much wood?
What kind of forest?
Who owns the forest?

Department of Forest Economics
deals with the economic development of forest services, also the interdependency of social requirements and economic efficiency of forest services. This department creates methods and instruments to optimize ecological, economic and social aspects in the decision making process of forest services.

Sustainability in the forest - how does it work?
How profitable is the forest?
Crop - management in the forest - what does it mean?

Department of Forest Growth
analyzes the connections between growth, forest management and environmental variables. With recommendations for treatment, it delivers important facts and tools for forest practitioners.

How quickly can trees grow?
What affects the growth of trees?
What can tree rings tell us?
What do trees do when storms?

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How much forest?

Department of Forest Nature Conservation
deals with all of the various forest activities. It develops strategies to protect endangered species of flora and fauna, and develops natural forest procedures.

Is the recreational value of forests measurable?
What do people look for in the forest?
How much contact with human beings can a forest stand?
How should you react if you see a wolf?

Department of Biometry and Computer Science
is a »cross-sectional« department that gives advice on mathematical and statistical questions of the other departments. It is responsible for information technology, for forest planning and inventory. Furthermore, it deals with mathematical modelling of forestry processes.

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Department of Forest Health
examines diseases, as well as tree- and wood-damage caused by insects and fungi, or other damage caused by storm, moisture, drought and other factors.

What is the spruce bark beetle up to in the forest?
What is happening to the ash?
How forest pests and diseases arrive from foreign countries?
Who lives in the firewood?

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