„Alpine Outdoor sports – recent developments, nature compatibility & good practices for visitors guidance“

Platform large carnivores and wild ungulates“ –
Platform Workshop „Fact Finding“

Innsbruck – 02.02.2010

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„Alpine Outdoor sports – Recent developments, nature compatibility and good practices“ for visitors guidance

1. „Nature wanted“ – alpine outdoors sports on the advance
2. Relevant protocols of the Alpine Convention
3. Relevant interest groups
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance
5. Resume
1. „Nature wanted“ – alpine outdoor sports on the advance

Back to nature – reality or only hollow argument of advertising?
Nature Watch

Entdecke das Unsichtbare

1. „Nature wanted“ – alpine outdoor sports on the advance

- Increasing membership figures of alpine clubs
1. „Nature wanted“ – alpine outdoor sports on the advance

**Turnover of the austrian retail for sports equipment**

![Chart showing turnover of the austrian retail for sports equipment from 2002 to 2007. The chart indicates a steady increase in turnover during this period.](chart.png)
2. Relevant protocols of the Alpine Convention

The *conservation of nature and the countryside* protocol
- Protection of wild animal species together with their habitat (Art. 1)
- Cross-border cooperation concerning measures refering to the protection of wild animals species (Art. 3)
- Designation of protected areas (Art. 11)

The *spatial planning and sustainable development* protocol
- Policies aim to Archive swift harmonization of economic interests with the needs of nature protection (Art. 3):
  - Ecological balance and biodiversity
  - Protection of ecosystems, the species and rare landscape
- Plans and programmes should include (Art. 9):
  - Designation of protected areas and tranquil areas

The *mountain farming* protocol
- Regulation of the game population → avoiding forest damage (Art. 13)
2. Relevant protocols of the alpine convention

The mountain forests protocol
- Hoofed animals are to be contained within limits → vitality of forests
- Cross-border cooperation concerning the regulation of hoofed animal populations
- Reintroduction of predators (Art. 2)

The tourism protocol
- Promotion of environment friendly tourismus
- Development of programmes and sectoral plans → evaluation of planned developments in terms of soil, natural balances and countryside (Art. 5)
- Policy for controlling outdoor activities especially in protected areas → avoiding damage to the environment (Art. 15)
3. Relevant interest groups

- Hunting
- Landowner
- Nature user
- Sportspeople
- Tourism
- Forestry

(Natural and cultural landscape)

- (Alpine) Farming
- Nature Conservation
- Legal Framework
  - Free entry to nature
  - Restricted areas
3. Relevant interest groups

Recent developments

- Spreading of settlements, supply and transport infrastructure
- Spreading of tourist infrastructure
- Increasing hunting pressure
- Inflated game stocks
- Increasing number of outdoor sportsmen
- Diversification of trendy outdoor sports

→ Scarcity of natural and cultural landscape → increasing pressure on remaining areas
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance

A) Hiking, climbing and alpine climbing

Potential negative effects on the ecosystem

- Disturbation of bird life
- General problems caused by unorganized access to climbing sites (soil erosion, waste, hoofed game)
- Conflicts with protected plant or animal species
- Conflicts with hunting & alpine farming
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance

(A) Climbing – management concept in the Wachau

Methods of resolution

• joint development of concepts
• designation of accesses to the climbing site
  → obligatory use
• time restrictions for climbing
• spatial restrictions for climbing
• information panels at important locations
• Active public relations work
  → awareness-raising
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance

B) Mountain bike – variety from asphalt tours to single-trails

Potential negative effects on the ecosystem (off public roads)
• Soil erosion
• Disturbation of hoofed game
• Conflicts with hunting & alpine farming & hikers
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance

(B) Mountain bike concept Tirol

Methods of resolution

- Legal framework in Austria (Österr. Forstgesetz):
  → Forest roads and paths can not be used!
- Voluntarily designation of mtb routes
- Financial compensation for the landowners
- Uniform signage of all trails
- Signs with rules of conduct
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance

C) Skitouring and snow shoeing

Potential negative effects on the ecosystem

- Disturbation of several game species
  -> Grouse (wood grouse, black grouse) -> timber line
  -> Hoofed game (hibernation, game feeding)
- Conflicts with forestry (reforestation, young
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance

C) Visitors guidance in the Tiroler Brixental

Initial situation:
• Increasing pressure on the natural environments
• Problems: browsing pressure by hoofed game, damage of afforestations

Objective:
• Platform of all interest groups (forestry, hunting, OeAV, communities, tourism)

Measures:
• Infrastructure: parking places, information panels, signage, tour maps
• Intensive public relations of all the partners and environmental education
4. Alpine outdoorsports and good practices of visitors guidance

C) Visitors guidance in the Tiroler Brixental
6. Resume

• Active public relations work → awareness-raising
• Respect and tolerance for the other interest groups
• Joint development of solutions
• Solutions adapted to regional conditions
• Important partner: alpines clubs!