

Present status and distribution of the lynx in the German Alps 2000–2004

Status in razširjenost risa v Nemških Alpah 2000–2004

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Abstract: The short survey of monitoring *Lynx lynx* in German Alps was reported.

Keywords: *Lynx lynx*, German Alps, monitoring

Introduction

In spite of some reports and rumours lynx presence in the German part of the Alps could not be confirmed during the last decade (KACZENSKY 1998, WÖLFL & KACZENSKY 2001, VON ARX & al. 2004).

Results

For the period 2000 until 2004 some findings were reported as well. In May 2003 a female lynx one year old escaped from the Zoo in Innsbruck, Austria and could be observed some times afterwards in the Lower Inn Valley (LAASS, pers. communication). Unconfirmed observations have been reported before that escape in parts of the Karwendel and the Tannheimer Tal (ULLRICH, pers. communication).

During the period we have several rumours from the Western part of the German Alps, the Allgäu. However, most of the reported kills were not documented. In October 2003 a dead roe deer has been examined near Oberstaufen in the Allgäu and judged as a lynx kill by a trained person (Fig. 1). However, photos taken did not give a clear picture.

Conclusion

Apart from some rumours we still miss confirmed lynx presence stemming from wild animals. Therefore Germany will try to enforce a network of skilled people and judging and documenting possible lynx evidence, according to the actions proposed in the PACS (Panalpine Strategy for the Lynx; MOLINARI-JOBIN & al. 2003). In a first step, during a meeting of the Bavarian professional hunters' association in May 2006, 80 hunters mainly from the Alpine region have been informed about lynx ecology and signs of presence (tracks, kills, scats).

In a technical paper the Bavarian Nature conservation agency (Landesamt für Umwelt) describes the German Alps as suitable lynx habitat (Landesamt für Umwelt, in preparation). Within the next few months a regional working platform of various interest groups will be formed mainly focussing on monitoring efforts in the beginning.



Fig. 1: Map of the German Alps with some places mentioned in the text and the site of the roe deer killed by lynx (black dot).

Another step will be the organization of a SCALP core group meeting in 2007 in the Bavarian Alps probably linked with a session of the above mentioned regional working group.

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