



SCALP News

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SCALP News is meant to be a forum for scientists, conservationists, wildlife managers, and policy makers, intending to facilitate the collaboration and to improve the exchange of information.

The project *Status and Conservation of the Alpine Lynx Population* (SCALP) is an ongoing programme aimed to co-ordinate the lynx monitoring and the conservation activities in the Alps.

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Lynx radio-collared in Austria

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SCALP

In the Kalkalpen region, Upper Austria, in the late 1990s signs of presence gave rise to the suspicion that at least one lynx frequented the area. The proof came up with a lynx that was pictured by a camera trap in 2000. Since then, the camera trap monitoring within the Kalkalpen National Park has been intensified and several lynx pictures were taken. However, they all showed the same individual. This is why on initiative of the National Park a team (LUKA – Luchs OÖ Kalkalpen) was formed that consisted in representatives of the hunting associations and farmers, the National Forest Service, two conservation NGOs, and scientists with the aim to evaluate the feasibility of a restocking project.



© Nationalpark Kalkalpen / Fuxjäger

Camera trap picture of the lynx frequenting the Kalkalpen National Park since 2000.

The plan was to translocate two lynx from Switzerland to the Kalkalpen region in winter 2008/09. However, in January 2009, a lynx intruded several times into an enclosure with rabbits and eventually killed and ate them all. The lynx didn't seem to be afraid of humans. As a matter of fact it let people approach to as close as 20 m before moving away. Subsequent capture revealed that it was a male weighing 14 kg. The lynx was fit with a GPS/GSM radio-collar and released in the nearby National Park Kalkalpen to prevent damage to other enclosures. Up to know the lynx moved within an area of 85 km² and several roe deer kills have been documented.

After the unexpected appearance of this lynx the LUKA-team has decided to intensify the lynx monitoring in the region. Only if there are no further signs of other lynx present and no signs of reproduction the translocation of two lynx will be reevaluated.



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The lynx was captured in a box trap for small carnivores.