

Report of the planning meeting to the European primeval forest route on the 13th of March, 2015 in the Unterkagerer Hof in Auberg / Upper Austria

In the meeting took part: representatives of two National parks (Bavarian Forest (D) and Podyji (CZ)), of the Austrian Alpine Club, the Austrian national environmental organisation, the association Green Heart of Europe, the Bohemian Forest school, the LEADER group Danube Bohemian Forest and the association Ostwind.

Dr. Dagmar Everding introduced the idea of the European primeval forest route. In the segment South Germany, Czechia and Austria primeval forests should be connected in the National park of Bavarian Forest/Bohemian Forest/Sumava about the Nordwaldkammweg and the Thayatalweg with primeval forests in the Thaya and March region. About discussions in the regions should be explored the run of the route and the needs on site be raised. Polyglot documents of information are planned, a website on which the hikers can register. Digital travelling books can be kept. The journey and departure from / to hiking points is documented (Eco- footprint or saving CO₂). In a sponsorship model one receives against a donation reports on the development of primeval forest cells in particular in the woods of the Carpathian Mts, when required also in Germany and Austria.

On the basis of maps and local knowledge of the participants the following route segments were discussed:

Route segment Feling – Vranov nad Dyjí – Hardegg – Retz and further to Hohenau

The route would be able about the area Palava (limestone mountains at the end of the Carpathian Mts curve). A more exact route proposal is worked out by the National park Podyjí together with the National park Thayatal.

Route segment Gmünd – Feling

The area of Nove Hradské Hora should be included. Between the primeval forest Zofin and the Nebelstein hut some kilometres of marking are still absent for the available connecting way.

Route segment Mountain Dreisessel – Haidmühle – Koubova Hut – Bouriva Lada - Siebensteinkopf – National park centre of Lusen – Rachel – Falkenstein – Bayerisch Eisenstein

The connection of the primeval forest Boubin to the Lusen should occur over the Siebensteinkopf (young primeval forest). From the Lusen a sting way is to the National park centre of Lusen, alternatively a binding of the National park centre above the Reschbachtal conceivably. The route further runs about the Goldsteig by the National park Bavarian Forest (a total of approx. 5 day stages).

A more exact route proposal with inclusion of the primeval forest Boubin is compiled by the National park Bavarian Forest together with the Czech colleagues.

It was pointed out to other primeval forests in Austria, e.g., on the Dürnstein – red woodland and the National park to lime alpes – Gesäuse – with beech forests.

The next steps

The realisation of an small cross-border project in cooperation of the National park Bavarian Forest with the association Green Heart of Europe is planned. Activities: Production of height profiles, description of the open natural space surfaces and hiking guide book according to biological criteria

For the development of the whole route a central project management is required. The documentation of the planning to the run of the route can be continued by the university of applied science of Nordhausen. An application position in the programme CENTRAL Europe is prepared for the beginning of 2016.