

Impact of wolves on cultivated landscape

Risk analysis in Austria



landwirtschaftskammer
österreich

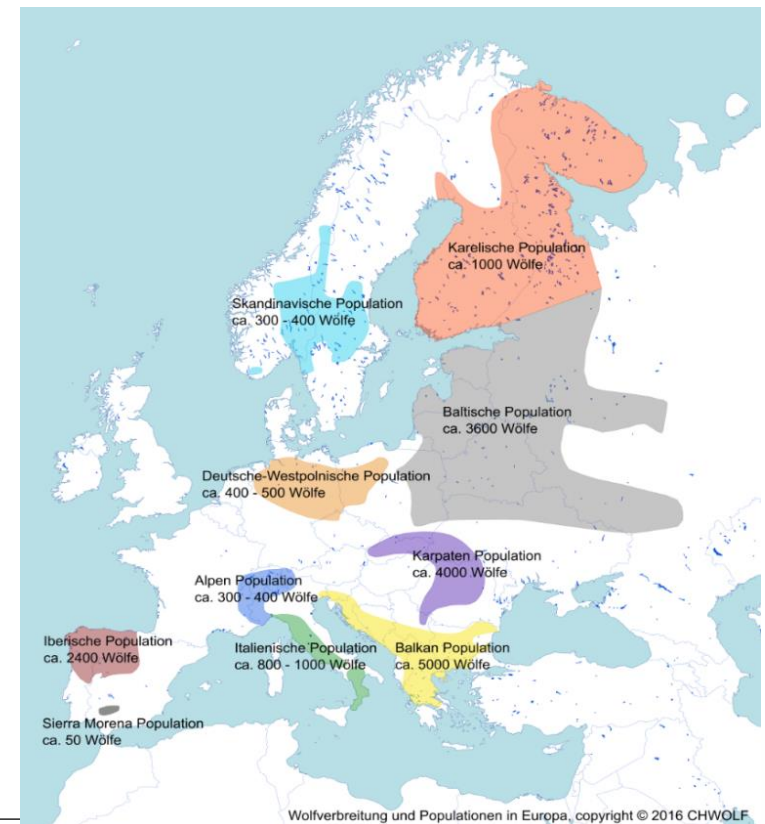
Wolves in Europe

Approx. 30.000 wolves live in Europe (12.000 - 20.000 in the EU)
= the wolf is neither endangered nor threatened with extinction!
(figures from 2012)

**9 different populations vs. 1
Eurasian population**

Growth rate: 30 % - 47 % per year.

**A wolf population can double within 3 years
(under low mortality)!**



Austria 2009 – 2016

Verification method

- Individual present only short time
- Individual > 6 months in one area

Gender

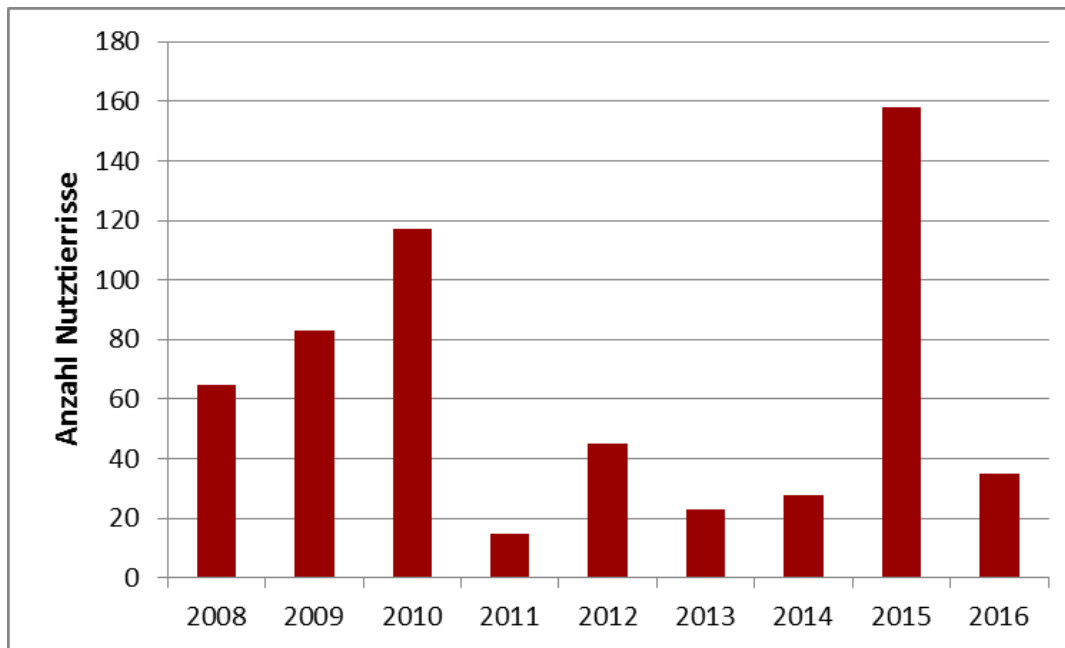
- male
- female



Wanderroute Slavc (besonderer Wolf aus SLO)

Livestock killed by wolves in AT

Consequences for livestock farming in wolf areas in Europe depend on economic sectors, number of wolves and wolf habits.



**Confirmed wolf attacks
on livestock animals in
Austria**

Anerkannte Wolfsrisse seit 2008 in Österreich, Quelle: Rauer 2017

Cost example due to wolf cracks in France

2016:

- . 2.735 confirmed attacks on livestock
- . 9.788 compensated animals
- . **€ 24.400.000,- costs** (compensation and prevention)

2017:

- . 2.989 confirmed attacks on livestock
- . 11.050 compensated animals (+ 13 %)
- . **€ 26.410.000,- costs** (€ 3,47 Mio. compensation; rest for prevention)

Cost examples from other countries

Costs for guarding dogs in Switzerland:

- Purchasing costs 2.500 – 5.000 Euro
- Annual follow-up costs 1.500 Euro

Costs for fencing in Bavaria:

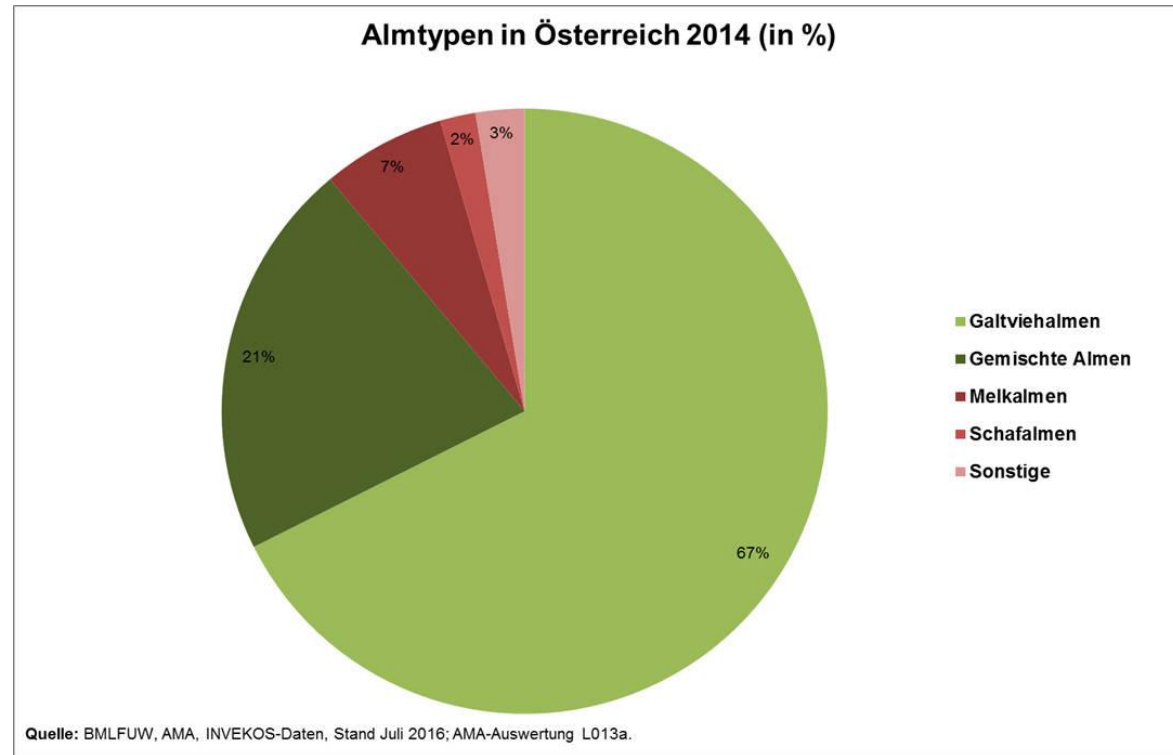
- Establishment of fences 241 - 413 Mio. Euro
- Annual follow-up costs 28 - 43 Mio. Euro
- Increased work required

(Info Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture, Nov. 2017)

Pastoralism in Austria

Total:

- 51.000 dairy cows
- 265.000 other cows
- 9.000 horses
- 114.000 sheep
- 10.000 goats



- 8.400 pastures cover around 20 % of Austria
- 2/3 of farmers part-time farmers

Herd protection – actual situation in Austria

- Alpine regions and pastures don't allow building fences in most cases
- No shepards available (a lot of good shepards are in Switzerland)
- No guarding dogs available – a lot of farmers don't want to have dogs
- No acceptance of farmers because of their life-situation as part-time-farmers – no time reserves left
- Current situation: period of alpine pasture starts in the end of May

Herd protection – actual situation in Austria

Pasture management in the course of the year

- April until June: pastures near the farm/lower regions
- June until September: alpine pasture
- September until October: pastures near the farm/lower regions
- average herd size in Austria: 25 animals, three different locations and subdivided in suckler cows, sheep, goats and dairy cows

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■ Pastoralism:

- Part-time farmers give up pasture farming
- Agricultural structure is changing very fast
- Food production is changing towards whole year stabling and industrialization of farming
- Agricultural subsidies in the public interest for pastoralism would be kicked out money
- Regional product marketing has no advantage anymore for small-scaled agriculture
- Identity/idealism of peasant families is lost
- emotional concern huge



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■ Tourism and society:

- Herd protection excludes tourism quite often (esp. dogs)
- Unmanaged pastures (forest expansion) unattractive for tourism
- Security of tourists critical - correct behavior with herd-protection dogs
- (subjective) feeling of security of the population becomes increasing factor with increasing number of wolves

■ Biodiversity:

- surface areas become overgrown
- conservation obligations
- manual mowing?



Conclusion

- Strict protection status of the wolf in its present form hardly to be scientifically proven - the wolf is not endangered in Europe, it only occurs not everywhere
- Scientifically a Eurasian population may be better argued than 9 individual populations
- Europe must take its responsibility for supraregional viewing of the big predators
- Impact must be weighed well because there are irreversible processes when pastoralism is abandoned
- Regions that actually are affected by resettlement need more scope to implement regional strategies (Annex V, management-options)

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