



Czech Wilderness

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**Hnutí DUHA – Friends of the Earth Czech Republic**

*28th February 2017, Průhonice, Czech Republic*

- The most influential Czech environmental NGO.
- Existing 25 years since 1989.
- Independent on state, political parties and business.
- Headquarters in Brno.
- 7 local groups in the Czech Republic.

## Our people:

- 25 employees.
- Hundreds of volunteers.
- Thousands of supporters.
  
- We are members of Friends of the Earth (FoE) – the biggest federation of environmental NGOs

**Wilderness is one of main topics  
of our work**



## Large carnivoras protection



**Wilderness is one of main topics  
of our work**



**Sumava NP protection – precedent case for  
other national parks (and protected areas)**



**Wilderness is one of main topics  
of our work**



**To find a new space for wilderness**



## Goals – how much



4,3% of our country is covered with concrete

Only 0.3% belong to wilderness

Let's give the same rights to wilderness as to concrete

- 3 - 5 % of Czech Republic for wilderness
- For biodiversity protection at least 10% of forests (Scherzinger 1996, Hanski et Walsh 2004, Hanski 2008)



## Representative system of large reference wilderness areas

- Representing our nature
- Current (and new) national parks
- New wilderness areas

## Smaller wild areas

- National Nature Reserves, Nature Reserves
- FSC reference forests
- Unaccessible places
- Other

# Interventions?



**Fires?** Exceptionally, depend on source, place ...

**Game management?** No

**Bark beetle management?** No

**Invasive alien species?** In national parks if necessary. Preferably no in new wilderness areas.

**Public access to wilderness?** Yes

**Further discussion necessary**

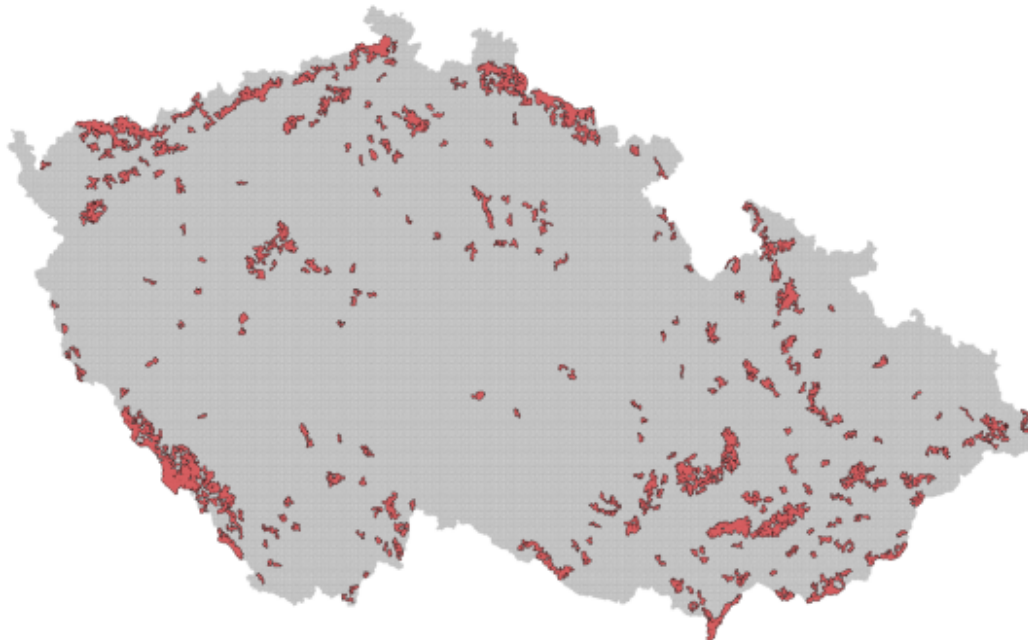
# On the way to wilderness

- 2010 – the concept (Windows to wilderness in the Czech landscape) was published



# On the way to wilderness

- 2016 – The Analysis of natural conditions of Czech Republic areas suitable for nonintervention management



# On the way to wilderness



- 2016 – conference European trends on wilderness protection and restoration and where we are going in Czech Republic
- Negotiations with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Defense Ministry
- Negotiations with Czech Forests Service, Military Forests Service, Czech Nature Protection Agency
- Discussions with experts ....

# Public awarness

- Information stalls and other work with Sumava NP visitors



# Public awarness

- Public excursions





# Public awarness

- Public projections
- Information leaflets, brochures ...
- Web page  
[www.ceskadivocina.cz](http://www.ceskadivocina.cz)
- Facebook Česká divočina  
<https://www.facebook.com/CeskaDivocina/>
- Very succesful media work



- **Public involvement:**
  - Wolf and Lynx patrols - monitoring of large carnivores, hundred volunteers each year



# Public awarness

- Public involvement:
  - Weeks for wilderness (from 1998, more than 100 courses, nearly 2000 participants)





Wilderness  
in each  
heart

Visitors questionnaires: Core, non-intervention zone in the Sumava NP?

**2010:** answered by 3,916 respondents

- Q: Do you believe that nature should be left alone on a substantial part of national parks, so that human activity is limited to tourist access?
- 63% of visitors expect to see nature without human interference.

## Visitors questionnaires: Like/dislike dead trees in NP wilderness?

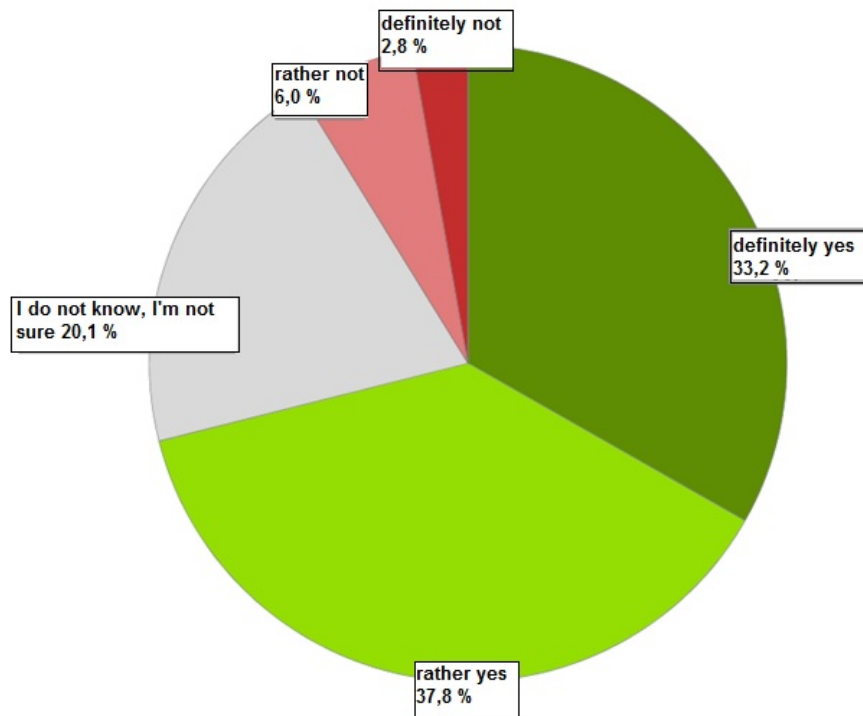
**2010:** answered by 3,916 respondents

- Q: Do you dislike that you have to see many dead trees in non-intervention zones of the NP?
  - A) I dislike them and prefer to avoid the affected sites.
  - B) I dislike them but it does not influence my choice of hiking trails.
  - C) I do not mind.
  - D) I do not mind, and I will visit the sites with dead trees because I am interested in natural changes of the forest.
- 52% do not mind to see dead trees; 33% even say that they deliberately visit these sites in order to watch natural changes of the forest. 47% dislike the view of the dead trees, but only 5% avoid the affected sites when hiking in the NP.

# Public acceptance

Czech people and wild nature protection, Faculty of social studies  
Masaryk's University Brno, 2015

➤ Is there a need to protect wild nature in Czech Republic?

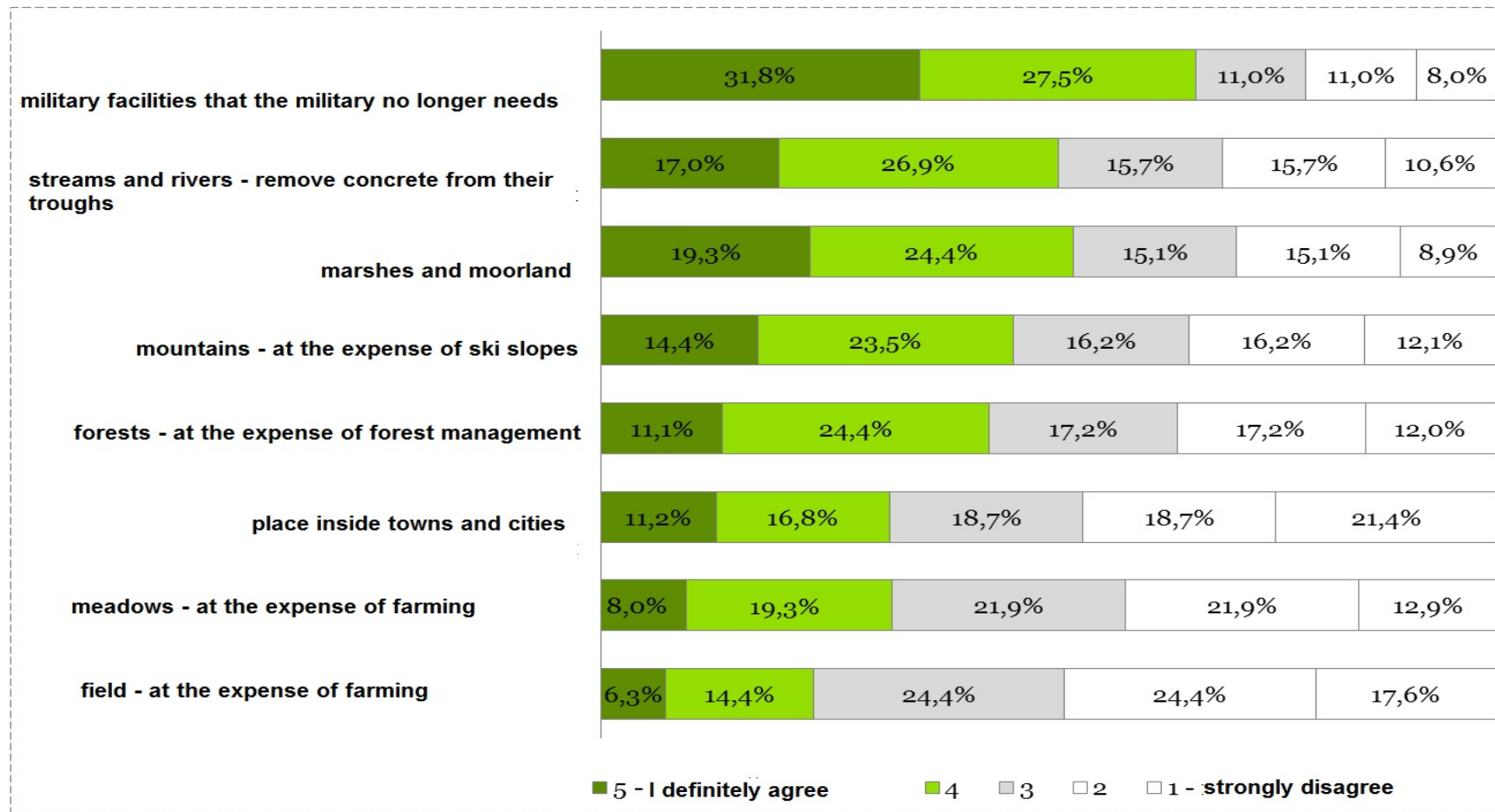


# Public acceptance

Czech people and wild nature protection, Faculty of social studies

Masaryk's University Brno, 2015

➤ Where the Czech people would like to see enlargement of space for wild nature ?





# Public acceptance



Czech people and wild nature protection, Faculty of social studies Masaryk's University Brno, 2015

- How many % of wilderness would the Czech people like to have?
  - ❖ 13,23 %!

# Lessons we have learned

- Wilderness = strong antithetical emotions



# Lessons we have learned

- Inconsistencies inside of nature protection
- No willingness from state forests governors
- Some obstacles in legislation
- Strong public support



Thank you for your attention





**Hnutí DUHA**  
Friends of the Earth Czech Republic

*U každé  
je kus Dřeviny*

[www.ceskadivocina.cz](http://www.ceskadivocina.cz)



[www.eeagrants.cz](http://www.eeagrants.cz)