



Urban Rangers in Switzerland

WS8, 4. OCTOBER 2023

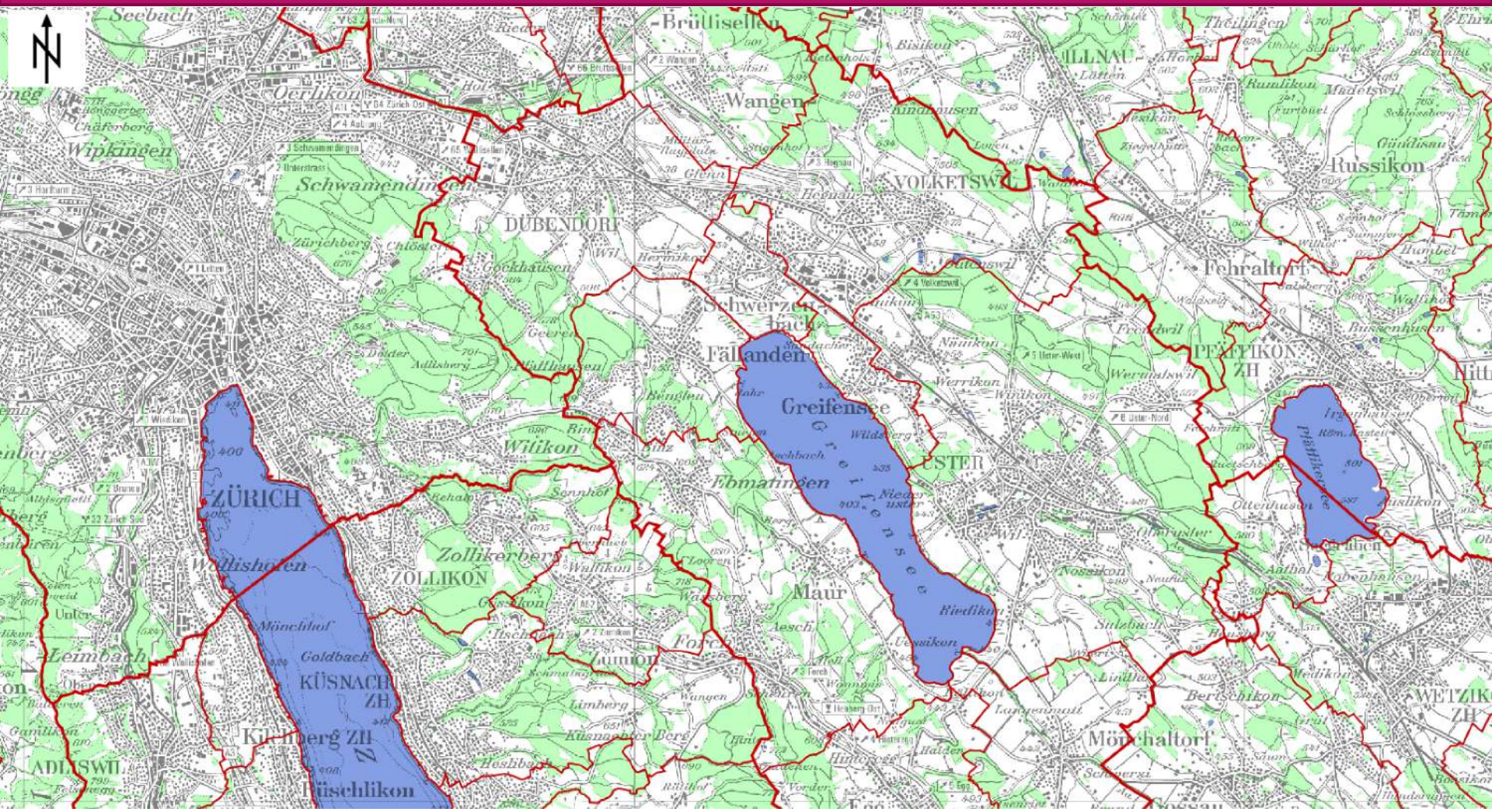


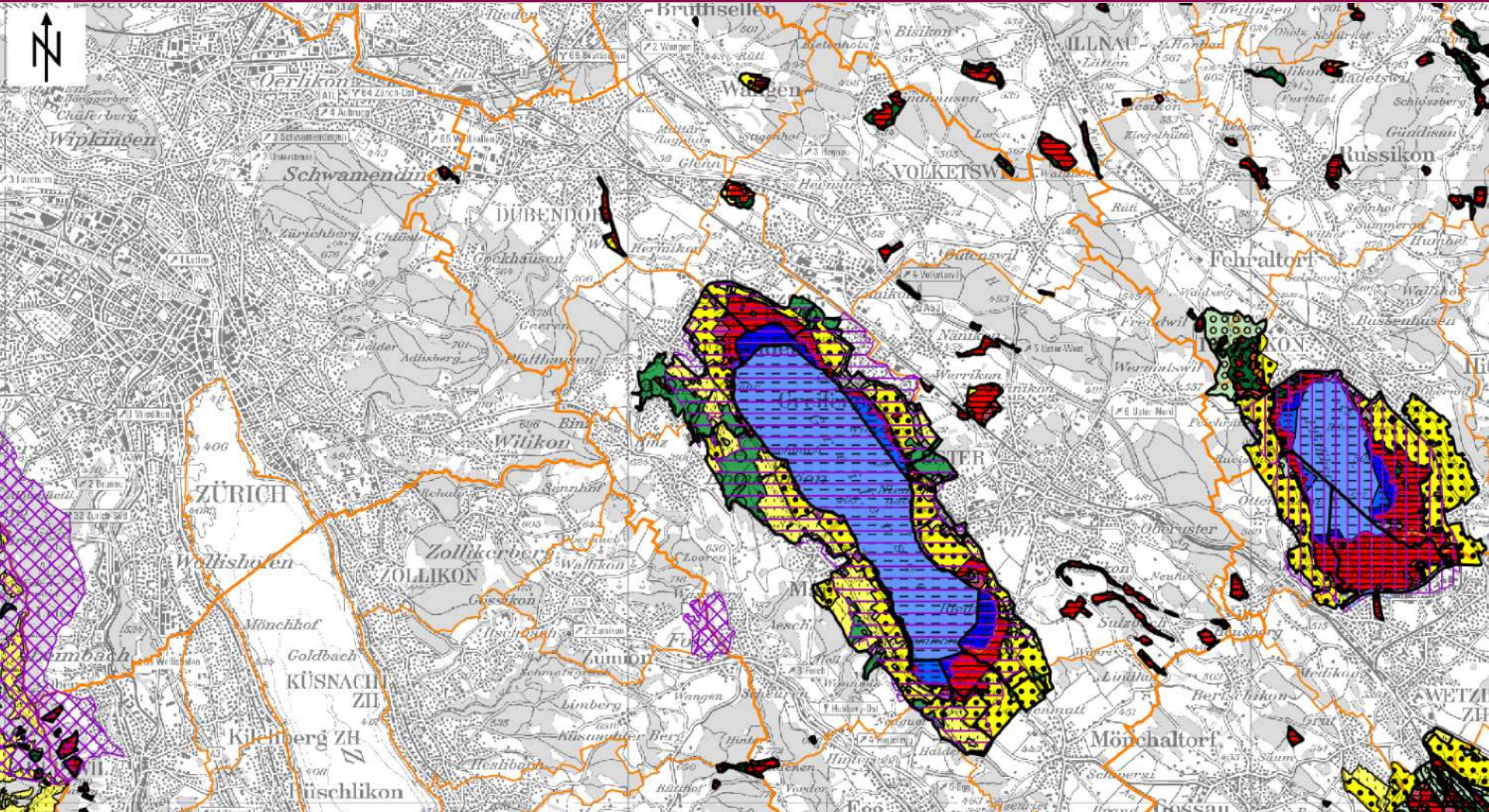
Park Rangers?

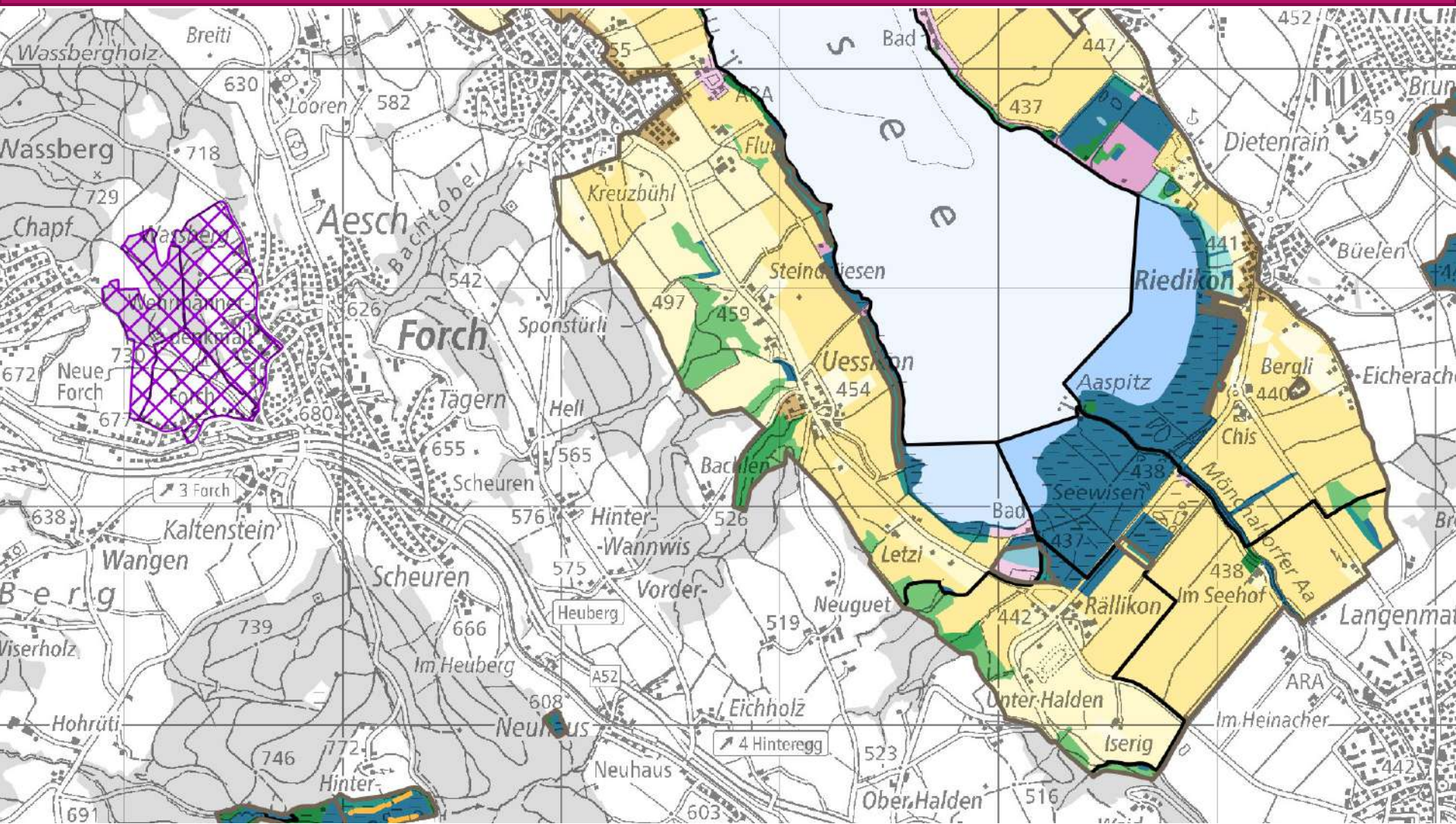
















Try and error

- ▶ Social integration project with the long-term unemployed
- ▶ Private security service
- ▶ Volunteers and people on hourly wages (students, retired people, housewives, etc.)
- ▶ **Decision: We need professional rangers and adapt the Park Ranger idea for our special needs near the city!**

Who Is A Ranger?

The IRF defines a Ranger as the person involved in the **practical protection and preservation** of all aspects of wild areas, historical and cultural sites. Rangers **provide recreational opportunities and interpretation** of sites while providing links between local communities, protected areas and area administration.

The decision

- ▶ The new people are called rangers, appear as rangers and wear uniforms
- ▶ Not only law enforcement but also information work
- ▶ The new rangers need appropriate training and character qualities
- ▶ Fair conditions of employment
- ▶ The rangers are the face and voice of the protected area and our foundation
- ▶ Involved in other projects depending on qualifications

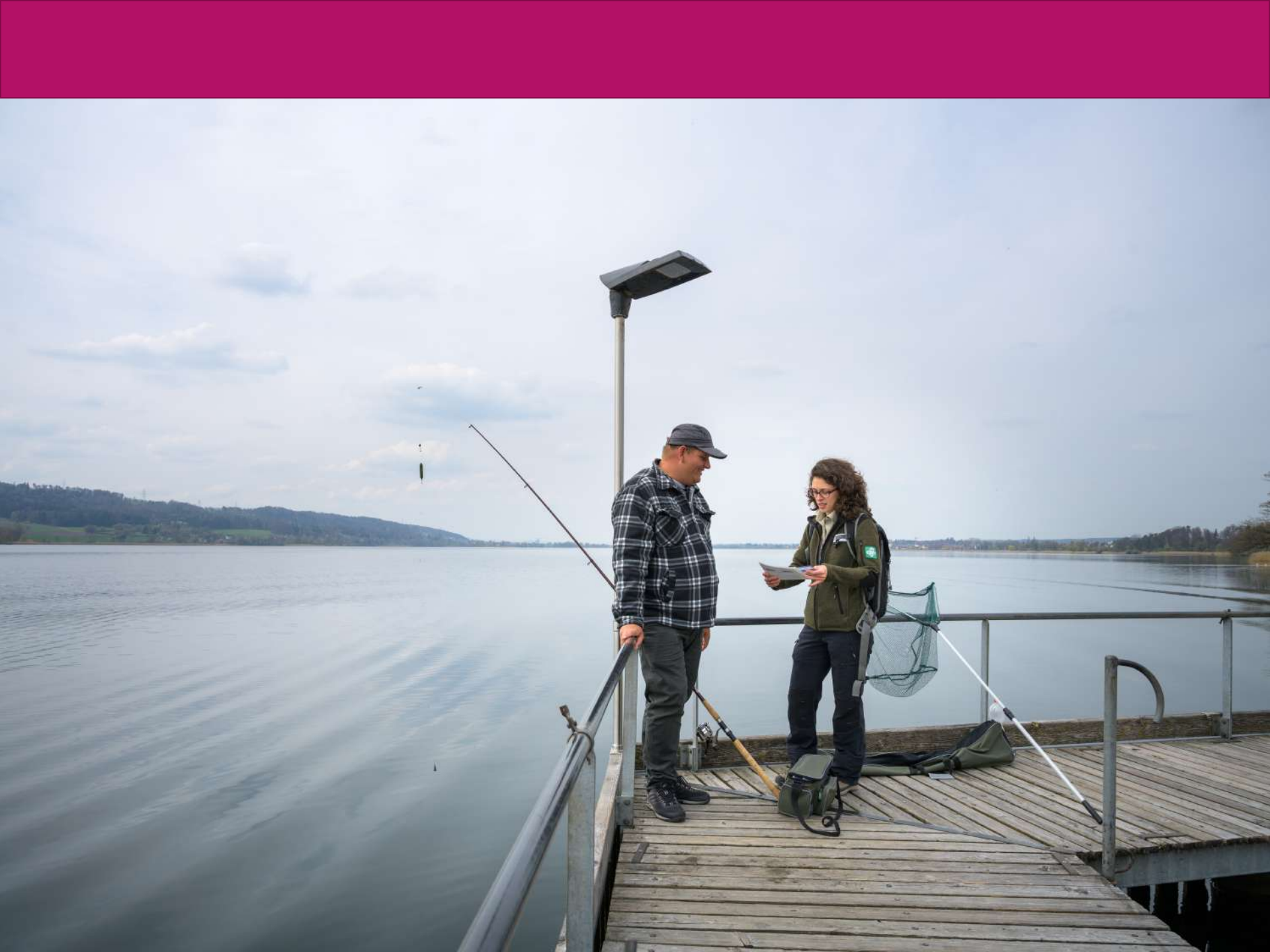
The «Swiss approach»

- ▶ no martial appearance (no weapons!)
- ▶ patrolling in a suitable uniform
- ▶ mediating instead of preaching
- ▶ inviting instead of excluding
- ▶ patrolling on foot and by bicycle instead of car









Our experiences

- ▶ Understand that our visitors are not tourists
- ▶ Understand that not all visitors have an affinity with nature and conservation
- ▶ Our rangers are a mixture of communicators and police officers
- ▶ The pressure and expectations on rangers in this environment are extremely high

Rangers: What unites us



Execution
Survey
Law
Enforcement

Prevention
Education
Interpretation
PR



Curse and blessing of the pioneer

Curse

- ▶ No role models nearby
- ▶ People did not know us
- ▶ Place in existing conservation unclear
- ▶ No guidelines, software, industry standards
- ▶ Every day a struggle!

Blessing

- ▶ Could develop everything ourselves
- ▶ Learned from other professions and rangers around the world
- ▶ Have become a role model ourselves
- ▶ Demand for our services





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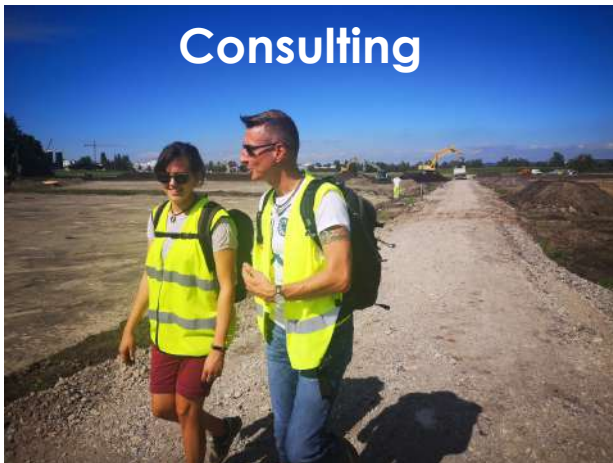
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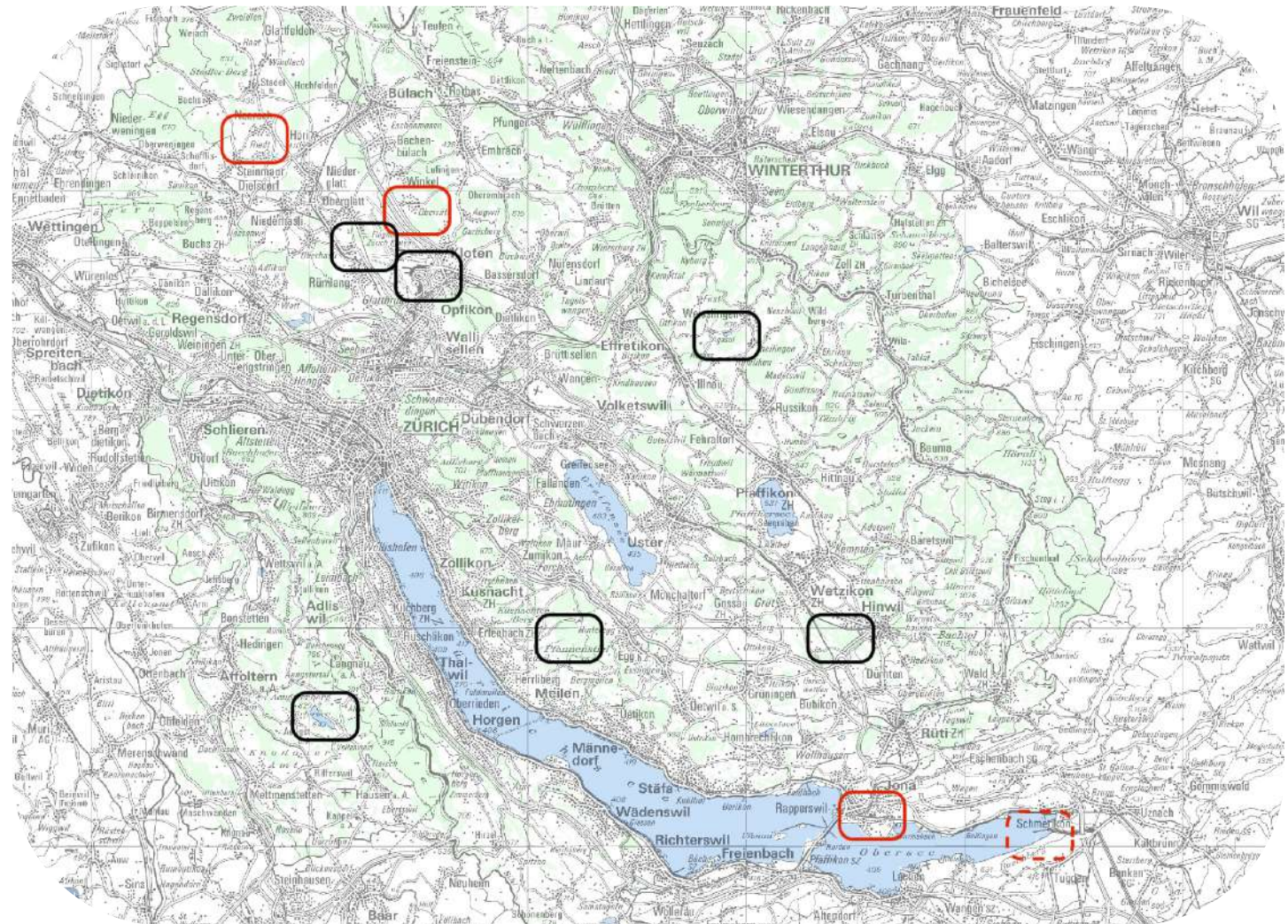
Griffin Ranger GmbH

Ihre Fachleute für Rangerdienste, Umweltbildung, Natur und Wildtiere

Our departments



A growing start-up



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