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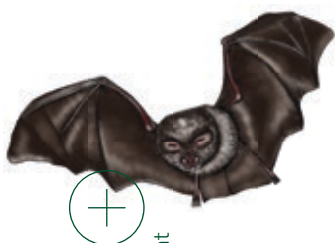


ÖSTERREICHISCHE
BUNDESFORSTE

WHERE NATURE IS AT HOME

A brief portrait of Österreichische Bundesforste

As Austria's nature enterprise, Österreichische Bundesforste (ÖBf) maintains every tenth square metre of Austria's natural landscape. It cares for, protects and manages the natural resources of the Republic of Austria – lakes, forests and mountains – based on the principle of sustainability. Only as much is taken from the natural environment as can grow back again.



Small
horseshoe bat
(*Rhinolophus
hipposideros*)

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT FOR NATURE

Protecting nature and the environment is an integral part of ÖBf's everyday activities. Around half of all ÖBf land is protected under law. Forests, alpine areas and flood plains as well as meadows, lakes and moorland enjoy special protection because of their high ecological value. The categories of protection cover national parks, nature and landscape conservation areas and natural monuments. ÖBf also plays an important role in the implementation of the Natura 2000 European network and supports initiatives for biodiversity. Roughly 26% of the total ÖBf area are Natura 2000 sites. ÖBf has contributed substantial

areas of land and know-how to three national parks, the Wienerwald biosphere reserve, and Dürrenstein-Lassingtal wilderness reserve. ÖBf business units are involved in the management of the Donau-Auen and Kalkalpen national parks.

ÖBf works closely with environmental protection organisations, federal and municipal authorities and the scientific community. There is a special focus on promoting biodiversity: For each of the 120 Bundesforste forest districts, from the valleys to the mountains, separate ecological plans are being drawn up to promote and increase the diversity of species and habitats.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANKIND AND SOCIETY

Intact landscapes, healthy forests, clean water and fresh air are decisive factors for the high quality of life in our country. Nature must remain open to all people, but must also be protected from harm.

Climate change is considered one of the biggest challenges. Extreme weather, heat, drought and the bark beetle are exerting increasing pressure on our forests. At the same time, forests are the best protectors of the climate. They save tonnes of carbon and protect against natural hazards. ÖBf meets the challenges of the climate crisis with active forest management under the motto "Forest of the future". This is because only a sustainably managed forest can cope with future ecological and social requirements.

In the coming years, adapting our forests to the conditions of the future is to take top priority. Already

today, ÖBf promotes species-rich mixed forests, natural forest communities and invests particularly in the maintenance of protective forests in order to ensure healthy forests of the future with intact flora and fauna.

ÖBf is continually expanding the basis for a diverse recreational offering in collaboration with municipalities, associations and partners from the tourism and business sectors. This portfolio includes natural swimming areas with public access, mountain bike routes, trekking trails and bridleways as well as facilities for winter sports. ÖBf helps conserve Austria's rich cultural heritage by maintaining valuable historical buildings such as Eckartsau Castle, the imperial hunting lodge in the Donau-Auen National Park, or Lamberg Castle in Steyr, Upper Austria.

ÖBf provides public access to more than 50 natural bathing spots.



MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Loibichl-Mondsee
residential park
(Upper Austria)



As the largest ecosystem manager in the country, Österreichische Bundesforste is responsible for 10% of the country's land area including 74 of the larger lakes and 15% of the forests. ÖBf was originally founded in 1925 and reorganised as a stock corporation in 1997. The sole shareholder of ÖBf AG and owner of all ÖBf land is the Republic of Austria. Each year, the company pays a contribution to the Republic's budget for the right to manage its lands (usufruct fee and dividend). ÖBf's primary business is forestry management. All related activities are conducted in full awareness of the needs of nature and in accordance with the principle of sustainability. With production cycles lasting on average more than 120 years, planning has to take into account future generations. ÖBf supplies sawmills as well as the paper, cardboard and pulp industries, biomass

heat and power plants with the renewable material of wood.

The real estate segment is becoming increasingly important, where own real estate projects are being driven forward more intensively alongside leasing, renting and the issuing of building rights. As the third business segment, services offered range from forestry consultancy and the management of private forests to ecosystem planning for customers throughout Austria.


Renewable energies are the fourth pillar, where Bundesforste focuses on small-scale hydropower, wind power, forest biomass and photovoltaic projects, thereby making an active contribution to the energy turnaround. As a nature enterprise, ÖBf contributes to bioeconomics and promotes the production of biogenous products and renewable resources.

KEY DATA

Timber harvested in 1,000 cubic metres, approx.	1,895
Total area in ha, according to ÖBf surveys, approx.	850,000
Thereof forest area, approx.	510,000
Employees full-time equivalent, average for the year	977
Management units (12 forestry units, 2 national park units, 1 forest technology unit)	15
Buildings, approx.	4,150
Real estate contracts ¹ (leasing, rent, tourism, building rights), approx.	27,000
Forest districts	120
Hunting area in ha / districts, approx.	840,000 / 1,000
Fishery districts, approx.	550

¹excl. hunting, fishery and ÖBf operations
As of 31.12.2022

In 2022, 4.7 million euros were invested in the control and eradication of the bark beetle.



FOREST MANAGEMENT UNITS

The forest management units serve as regional contacts and are at your disposal for hunting, fishing, real estate and forestry services. You can find all contact information on the respective forestry enterprise's website or at www.bundesforste.at/forstbetriebe.



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Management Board

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Lakes

Area > 100 ha, by size
 Attersee, Traunsee, Wörthersee,
 Millstätter See, Wolfgangsee,
 Ossiacher See, Hallstätter See,
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 Altausseer See

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

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