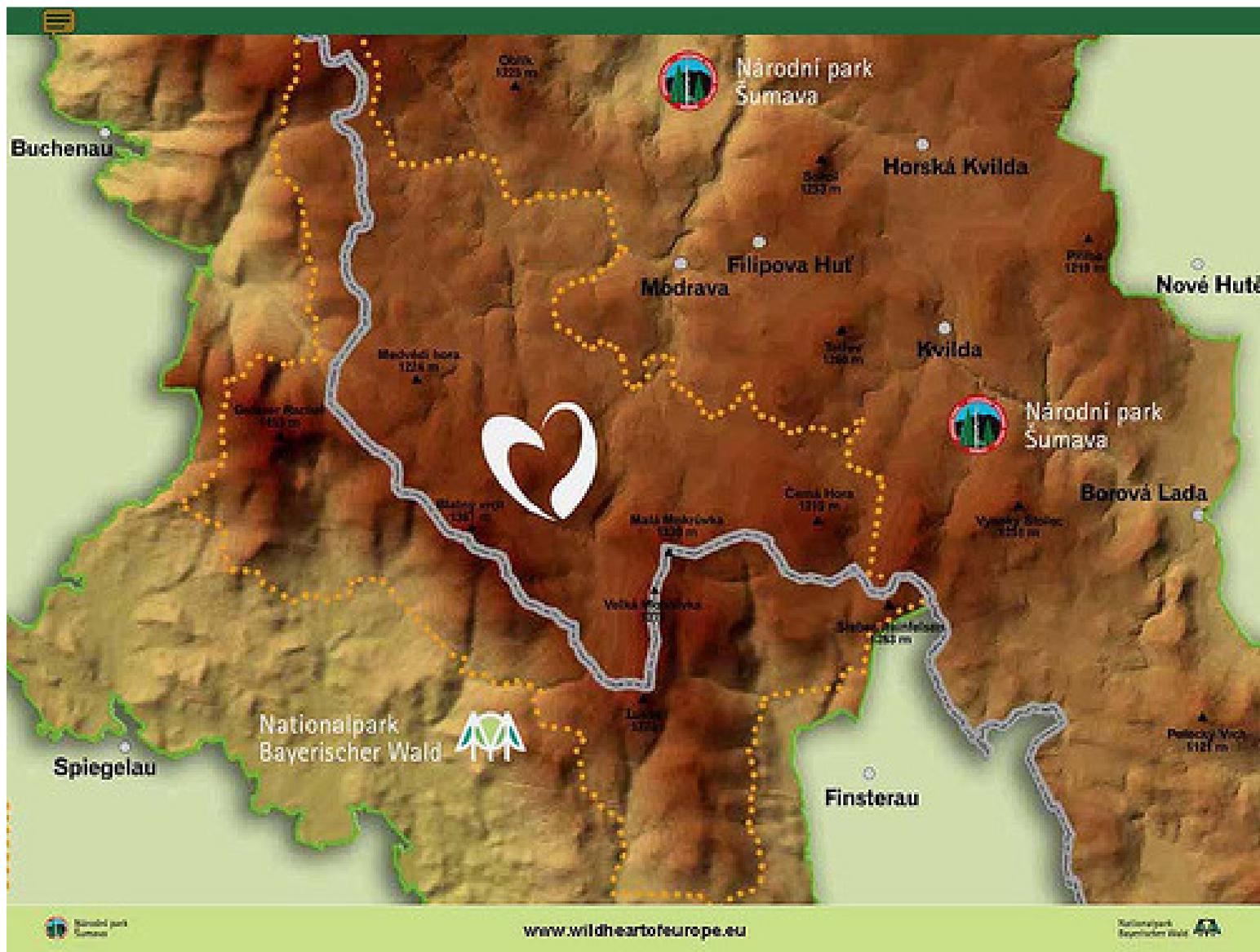


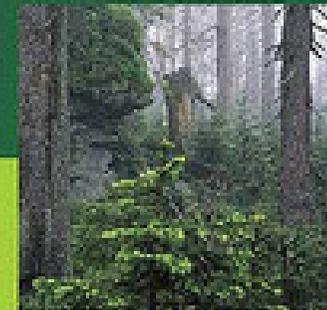
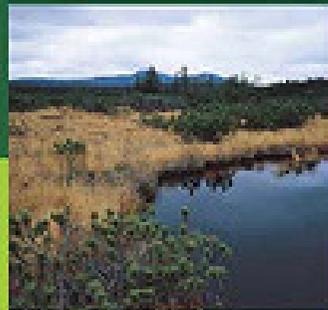


Europe's Wild Heart
Hans Kiener—Bavarian Forest National Park
TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009



The joint core area of the Šumava and Bavarian Forest National Parks, currently comprising an area of about 15.000 ha, an area which cannot be passed through on a single day, definitely has the quality of a wilderness area according to international standards (IUCN Cat. Ib). And according to the medium-range target additional 10.000 ha will be rewilded in future.

Richtlinien für das gemeinsame Kerngebiet
der Nationalparke Šumava und Bayerischer Wald
„Europas wildes Herz“



Společné jádrové území
Národních parků Šumava a Bavorský les
„Divoké Srdce Evropy“

And both national parks have committed by common guidelines to preserve and manage this unique common core area as a common wilderness heritage for future generations according to the principle “leave it as natural and wild as possible”.

Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald
 Aus dem damals grünen Dach Europas ist ein gigantischer Baumfriedhof geworden. Ungehindert breitet sich der Borkenkäfer aus. Die Anwohner protestieren gegen überzogenen Naturschutz. Auch im anderen Nationalpark in Deutschland ist ein Glaubenskrieg entbrannt.

Kaputtgeschützt

Der Borkenkäfer fressen sich durch die Nadeln und zerstört die Wasserleitbahnen der Fichte. Bis zu 50.000 Käfer und Larven attackieren einen Baum.

www.wildheartofeurope.eu

Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald

In the meantime these forests are well-known throughout Europe. A distinctive feature is that these forests have been able to develop and regenerate in a region extending almost 15,000 hectares across since the middle of the nineties – as it was the case in previous centuries – without any human interference.



Forests are allowed to grow on nearly 15.000 ha as in ancient times, only complying with the laws of nature without any exploitation or management.



Wilderness Areas

„We should aim at saving suitable areas from human influences.“

„Areas, which are close to the border, are of special importance to the further development of the system of protected areas under consideration of areas worth being protected in the neighboring countries and states.“

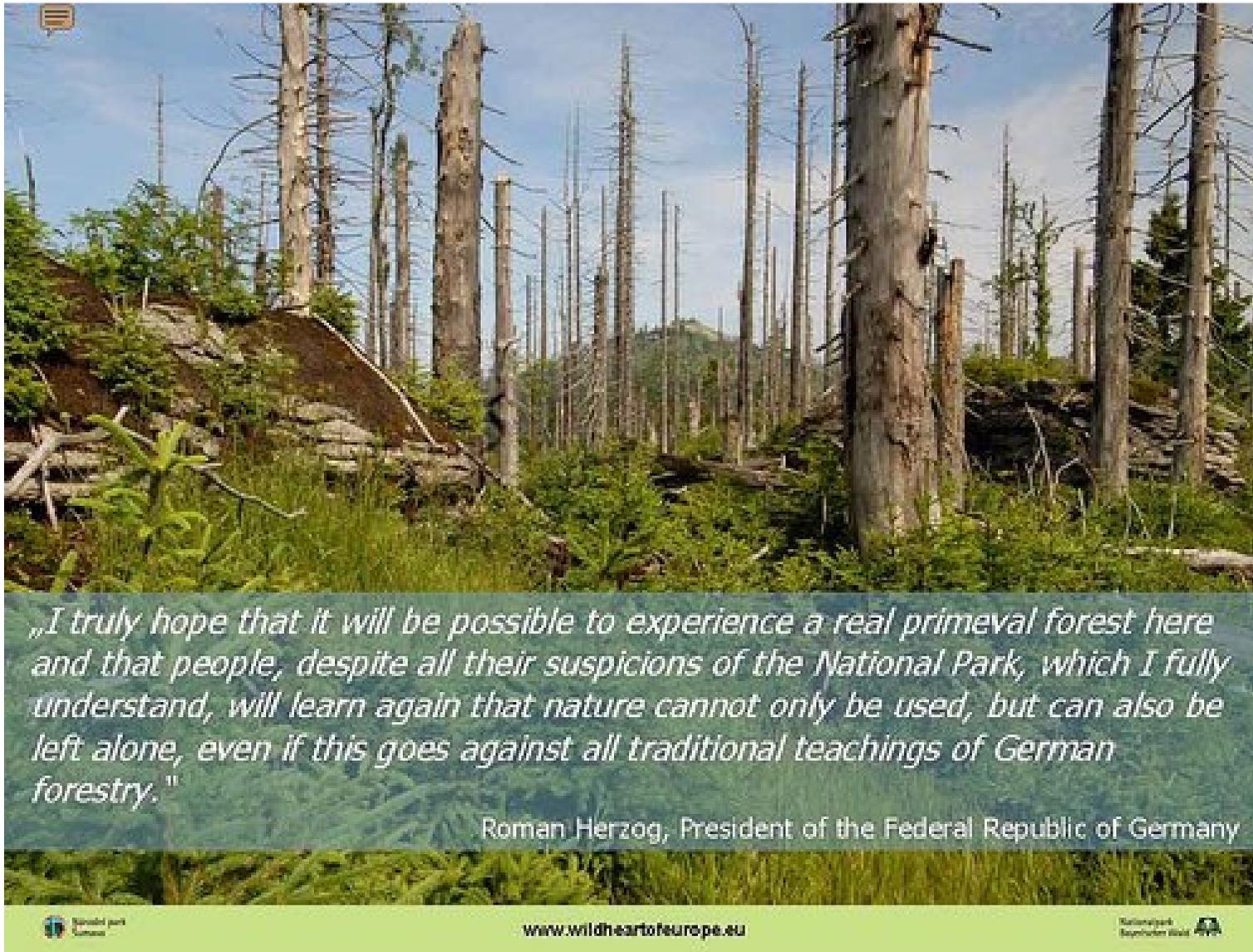
State Development Programme Bavaria,
July 18, 2006

 Nationalpark
Bayerischer Wald

www.wildheartofeurope.eu

Nationalpark
Bayerischer Wald 

And the State Development Program for Bavaria (2006) is pointing out: “We should aim at saving suitable areas from human influences.” Further on it is supplementing regarding the location of wilderness areas: “Areas, which are close to the border, are of special importance to the further development of the system of protected areas.....”



Natural spruce forests on mountain crests and high-altitude plateaus are characteristic features of this landscape. As relics from the Ice Age they are closely related to the northern Taiga forests.



Here in the neighbouring national parks Šumava and Bavarian Forest, where the Iron Curtain used to separate the political power blocs as well as humans and the nature for half a century, a clearly perceivable pulsation of reawakening wilderness beats again.



Encompassing a combined total area of roughly 22,500 hectares in both parks, this natural growth of spruce trees – which were literally ennobled by Karel Klostermann and Adalbert Stifter – in the Bavarian and Šumava National Parks we find the most significant relict forest in Central Europe outside the Alpine region.