

# Wilderness at European rivers non-intervention management

Max A E Rossberg  
Chairman

# European Wilderness Society Video



Click to play!

# European Wilderness Society

The European Wilderness Society is the only Pan-European, wilderness and environmental advocacy non-profit organization with a dedicated multi-cultural and very experienced professional team of

- wilderness and wildlife specialists,
- nature conservationists,
- researchers and scientists,
- tourism experts,
- marketing and
- business professionals,
- legal advisors and
- wilderness advocates.

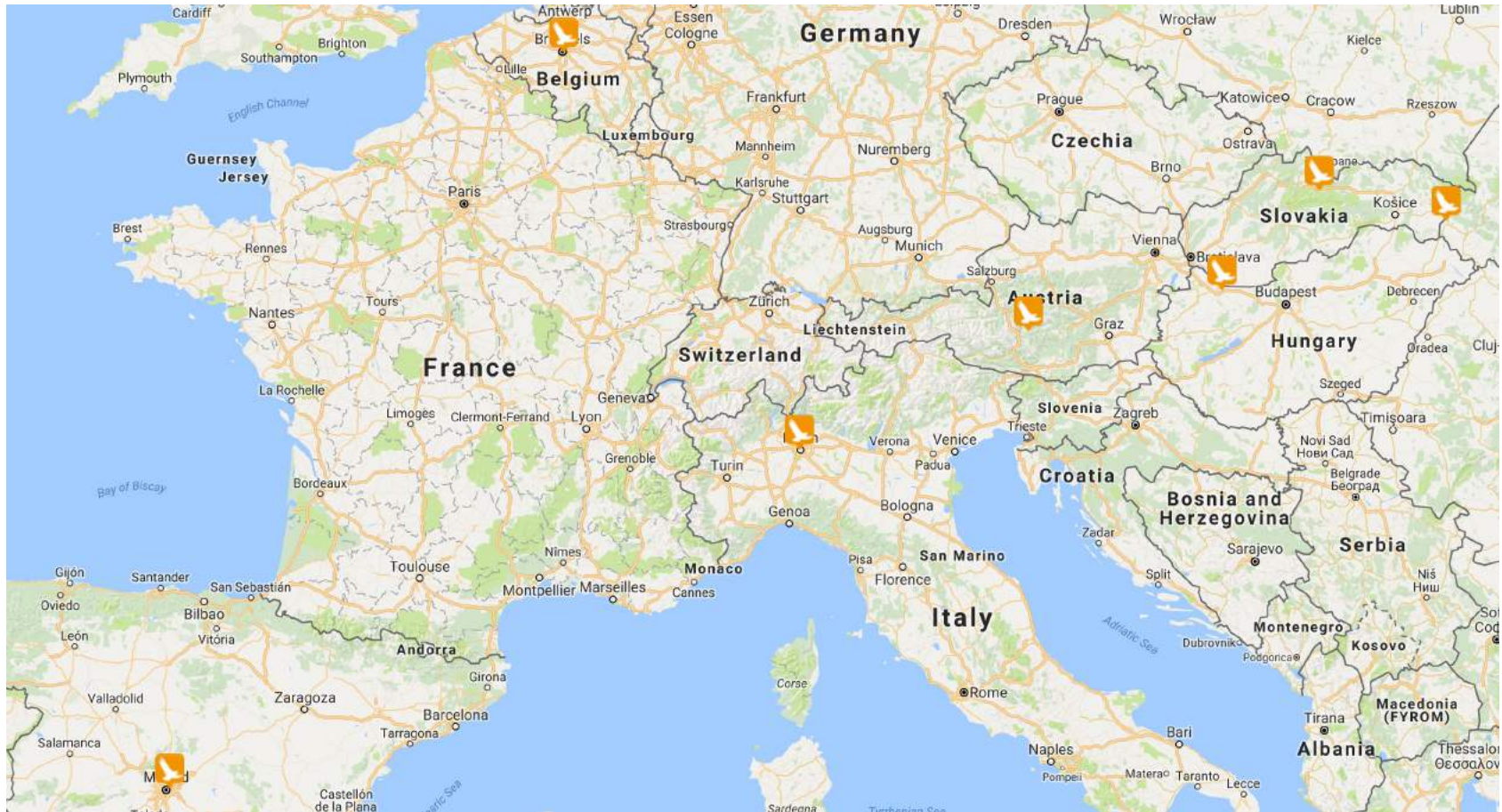
# European Wilderness Society

Its mission is to:

- identify
- designate
- manage
- promote

European wild rivers, old growth forests and Wilderness. We are also dedicated to the education of the next generation of Europeans on Wilderness.





European Wilderness Society Offices





Oulanka Wilderness

# Wilderness in Europe

3. February 2009: The “European Parliament Resolution on Wilderness in Europe” was passed, which calls on the EU Commission to:

- Develop a clear definition of wilderness.
- Mandate the EEA and other relevant European bodies to map the last wilderness areas in Europe.
- Undertake a study on the values and benefits of wilderness.
- Develop an EU wilderness strategy.
- Develop wilderness areas and carefully manage re-wilding areas.
- Promote the values of wilderness and launch information campaigns to raise awareness about wilderness and its significance.

# Wilderness in Europe

- More than 230 representatives from governments, conservation agencies, NGOs and academic institutions developed in Workshops between 2010 and 2011 the “The Working Definition of European Wilderness and Wild Areas” (WILD EUROPE INITIATIVE 2013).
- This definition was subsequently accepted and is now the European Wilderness definition.



# Wilderness Definition

*Wilderness zones meeting the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System “Gold- or Platinum Wilderness Category” are governed by open ended undefined natural processes.*

*They are composed of native habitats and species, and large enough for the effective ecological functioning of natural processes.*

*They are unmodified or only slightly modified and without intrusive or extractive human activity, settlements, infrastructure or visual disturbance.*

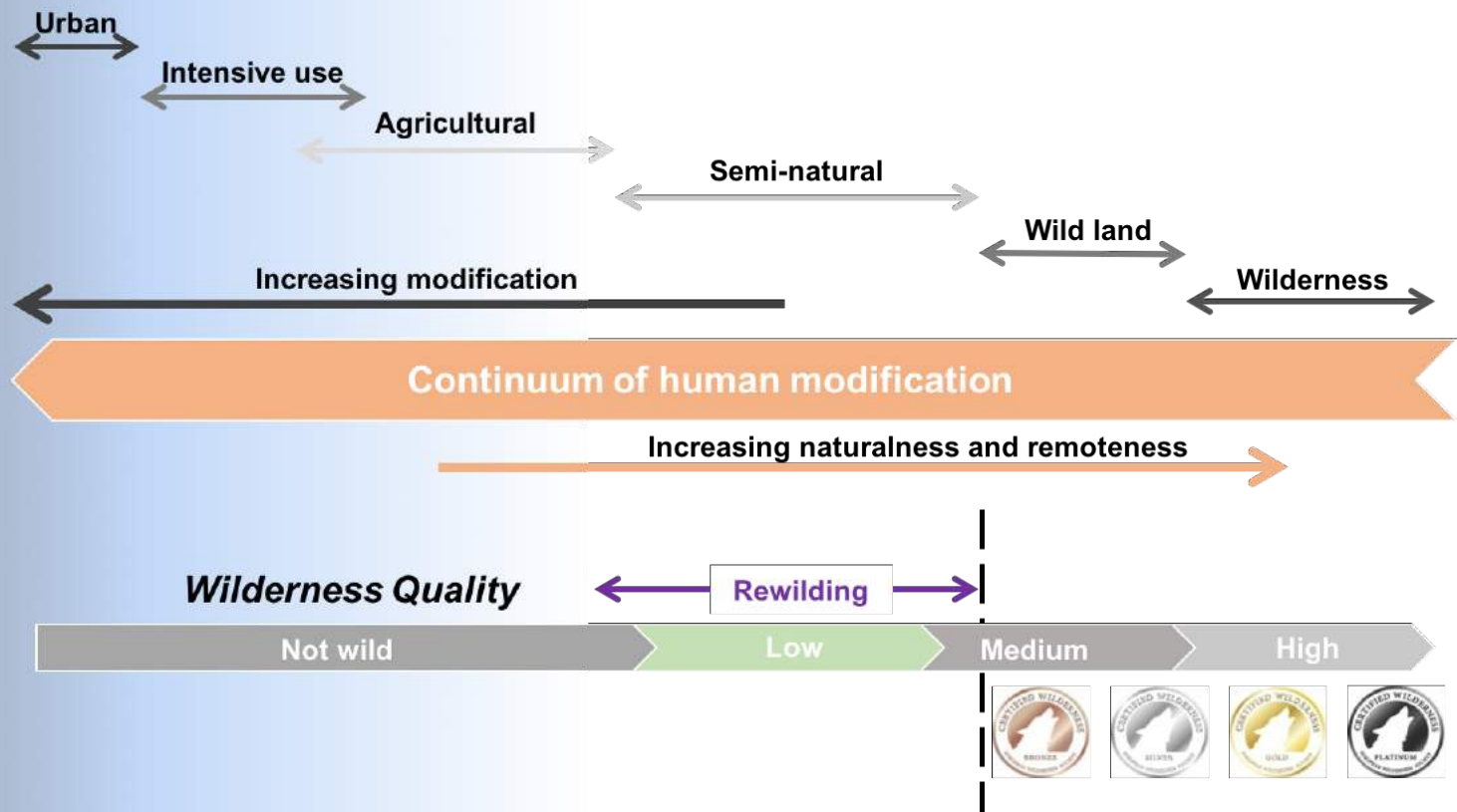
# Wilderness in Europe

*Wilderness zones meeting the European Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit System “Bronze- or Silver Categories” are wild areas that have a high level of predominance of natural process and natural habitat.*

*They tend to be individually smaller and more fragmented than the “Gold- or Platinum Category” wilderness areas, although they often cover extensive tracts.*

*The condition of their natural habitat, processes and relevant species is however often partially or substantially modified by past human activities such as livestock herding, hunting, fishing, and collecting berries and mushrooms.*

## Wilderness continuum (Adapted from Rob Lesslie, 2013)



# Wilderness thus means

- No Human extraction
- No Human intervention
- Open ended natural dynamic processes
- Some call it: Self-Willed Land





Potential Danube WILD islands

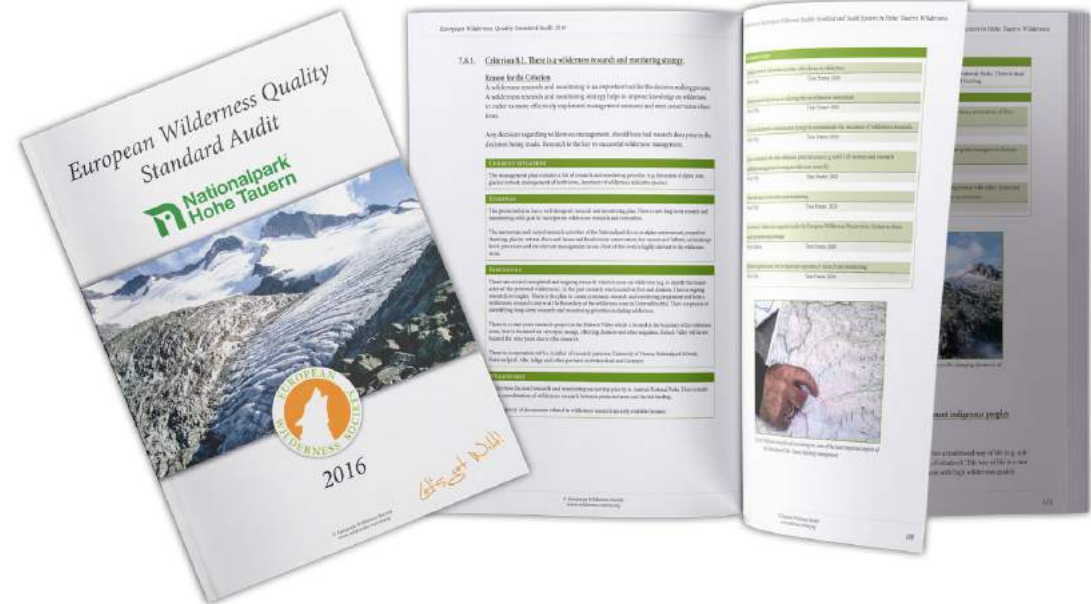
# European Wilderness Quality Standard

- 9 Principles
- 54 Criteria
- 300+ Indicators
- 14 day field audit
- 6 months research and analysis of findings
- 200-page SWOT Analysis
- Detailed recommendations
- Member in the European Wilderness Preservation System
- Habitat Independent, solution oriented, EU wide, integrated in Management plans, continuous controls and audits, full support system

# European Wilderness Quality Standard

 **European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit**  
Empfehlungen 

Section	Criteria	Score	Comments
Section 1: Wilderness Management System	1.1 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.2 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.3 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.4 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.5 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.6 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.7 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.8 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.9 Wilderness Management System	100	
	1.10 Wilderness Management System	100	
Section 2: Wilderness Management System	2.1 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.2 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.3 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.4 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.5 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.6 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.7 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.8 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.9 Wilderness Management System	100	
	2.10 Wilderness Management System	100	
Section 3: Wilderness Management System	3.1 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.2 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.3 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.4 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.5 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.6 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.7 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.8 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.9 Wilderness Management System	100	
	3.10 Wilderness Management System	100	







Kalkalpen Wilderness

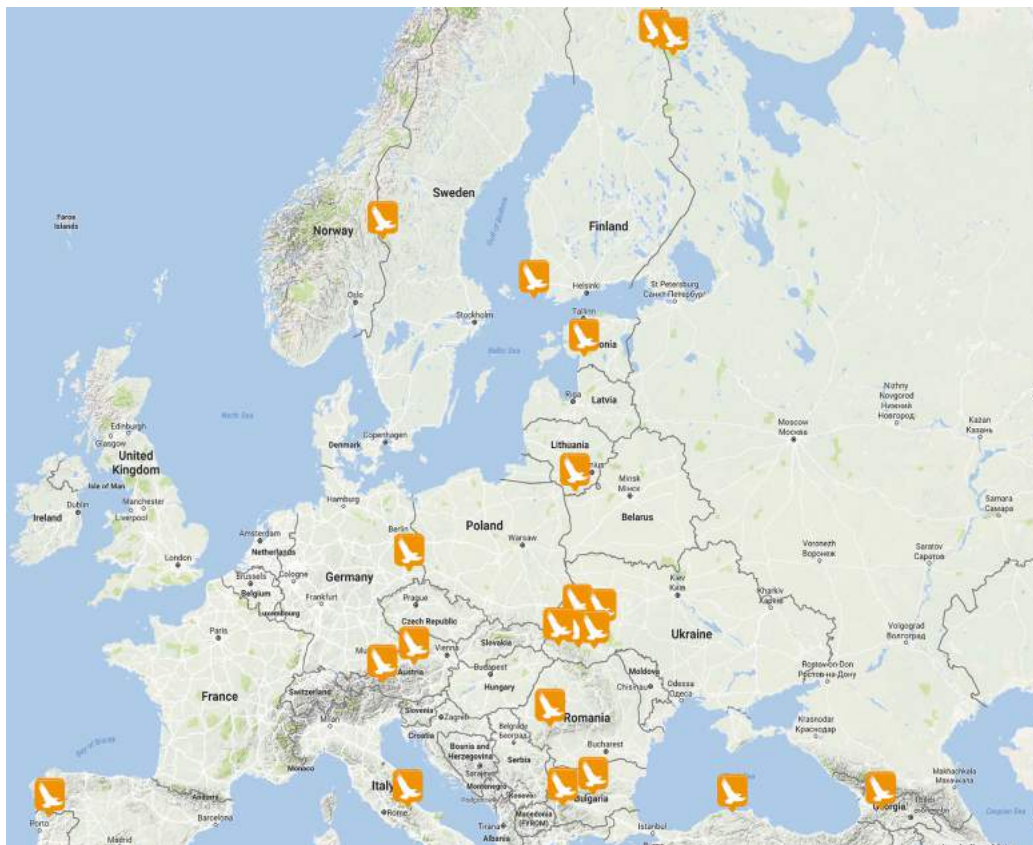


# European Wilderness Preservation System

- Europe's best Wilderness
- The European Wilderness Preservation System in 2016 has:
  - 21 audited Wilderness in 14 countries with 313.493 ha core zone.
- The European Wilderness Preservation System will be expanded:
  - **WILDIslands** (2017)
  - **WILDCoasts** (2018)
  - **WILDRivers** (2018)
- The European Wilderness Preservation System is the backbone of the Pan-European Green Corridor Network (PEGNet)
- Objective 500.000 ha by 2020, 1 million ha by 2030



# European Wilderness Preservation System



## Team in Action















# European Wilderness Days 2017

24-26 May 2017

Liptovsky Hradok

3 days presentations, workshops, hiking into Slovakian Wilderness







Potential Berezinsky Wilderness





Potential Biebrza Wilderness





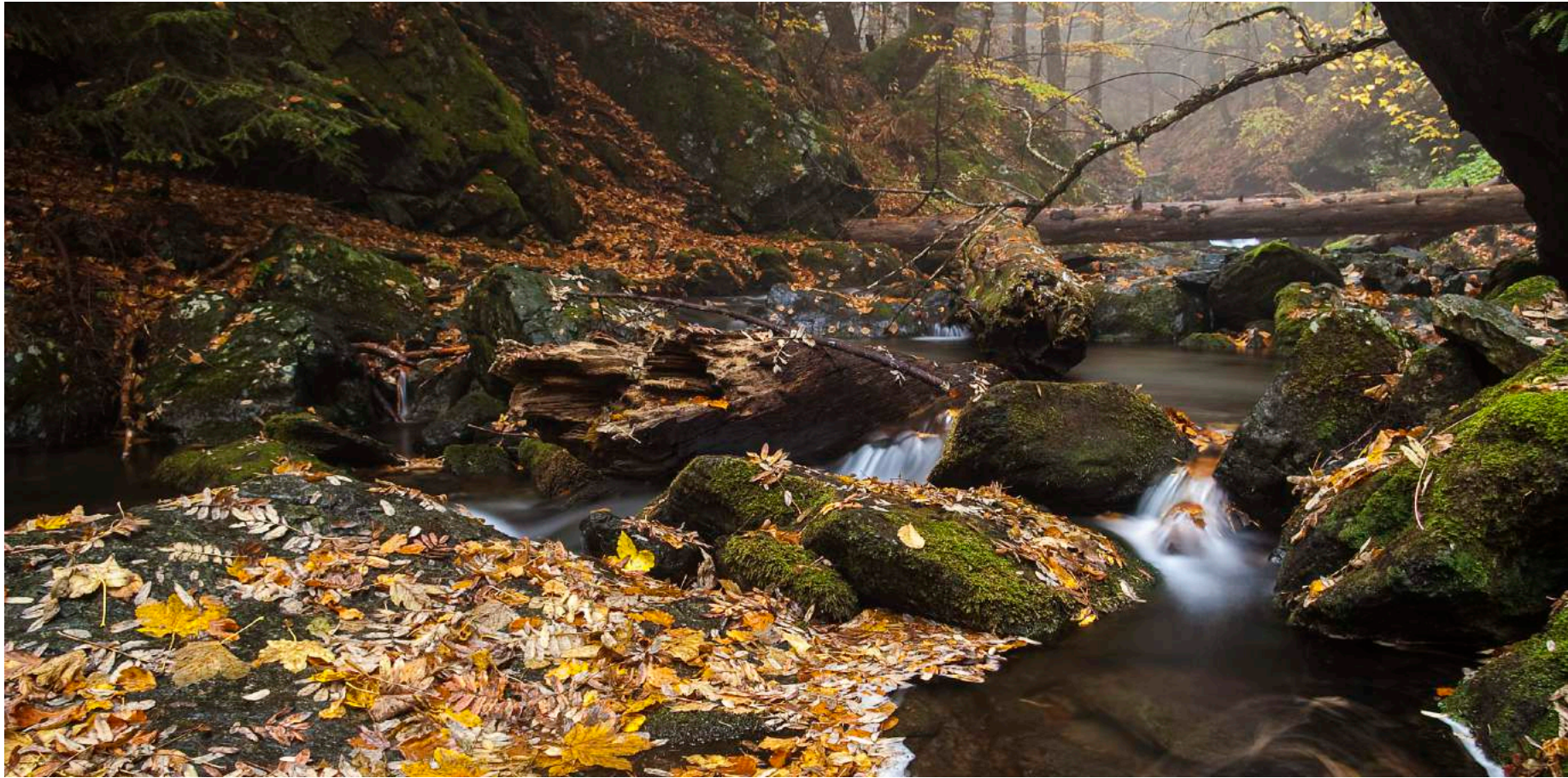
Oulanka Wilderness





Potential Jalovecka Valley Wilderness





Zacharovanyy Kray Wilderness





Hohe Tauern Wilderness





Oulanka





Soomaa Wilderness





Potential Starobocianska Valley Wilderness





Potential Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft Wilderness

# Let's get wild

