

GAME MANAGEMENT

in the Czech Republic







It is essential for our nature and cultural heritage
to conserve everything beautiful wherewith
our game management lived, lives and will live.

Game management

in the Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC





The game management and its historical development

Contemporary care for free living animals, including game, has a rich history. At the start of the development of human society, it was the hunt only. The hunt has an undeniable importance in the history of human society. There are people on our planet still at this time, who are directly dependent on the hunt and their relationship to nature can be instructive for developed civilizations as well. The more high-tech and free from the daily need to live in harmony with nature people are, the more problems relating to our relationship to nature appear and the more we are surprised by the vagaries of the weather, floods and other natural disasters.

The hunt is not the main condition of life in the industrial countries but after all it remains an important instrument for game stocks regulation in the settled and managed landscape. Our society is abandoning the traditional rural life. People are moving to the towns because of better job opportunities; therefore there starts to be a lack of them in forestry and agriculture.

The simple hunt has changed into game management in the course of human history. Game management is considered to be a collection of in-nature activities concerning the free-living animals and club activity, which is aimed at sustenance and development of game management traditions and customs, which form an integral part of the Czech national cultural heritage. Game management performs an economic role, because it creates the balance between game species protection needs, their abundance and reduction of unfavourable influences, which some game species cause by their own living activities. Game management interacts with other human activities such as the engineering industry, the food industry, the clothing industry, the leather industry, tourism, business and trade, the catering industry, zoo-pharmacy, scientific and research activities, music, painting, sculpture, architecture, literature as well as handicrafts. It performs the role in landscape formation, rural development, social contact improvement and it is a source of job opportunities. Game management survived the relatively long historical process and nowadays it plays an irreplaceable role in our society.

The development of game management legislation

The Game Management Act No.449/2001, coll.

It emphasizes protection of game and game management and living conditions of game. It set up the rules for assessment of the quality of reared game. The creation of hunting areas is connected with ownership of plots. It determines the minimal area of 50 ha for the game preserve. It eliminates the influence of state administration on game management planning, it set up game management supervision and control of taken game, it determines the state subsidy for game management and club hunting and also determines sanctions for violation of game management regulations. It strengthens considerably the proprietary law in case that it shall be decided about creation of hunting area or management in hunting area.

The Game Management Act No.23/1962, coll.

It separated the hunting rights from the ownership of plots. The hunting rights are defined not only as a competence but also as a duty. The minimal area of hunting area was increased on 500 ha. There were determined the specific banned hunting methods, conditions of game management, game management planning, game management records and game-keeper guard.

The Game Management Act No.225/1947, coll.

It connected the hunting rights with the rights of game rearing and conservation. It defined the subject matter of game management. Game management was considered to be economic and cultural values. The minimal area of guild hunting area was 150 ha and the minimal area of own hunting area was 200 ha. There were determined for the first time the rules for planning of game rearing and hunting. The protection of game management was guaranteed by the sworn game-keeper or game manager.

The Decree of government No.127/1941, coll., on game management and the Decree of government No.128/1941, coll., implementing several provisions of the Decree of government No.127/1941

It adapted the game management control to the organisational structure of Nazi Germany. It determined the subject matter of hunting rights in accordance with the game hunting and game keeping. The minimal area of guild hunting areas was 250 ha. There were established the offices for game management. It was legalized the hunting examination as a condition for the issue of hunting licence.

The Act No.98/1929, coll., on the changes and the amendment of some hunting – police regulations, game conservation above all.

There were determined hunting season and breeding season.

The Game Management Act No.49/1866, coll., on game management

The first independent Game Management Act for the Czech Kingdom, where the hunting rights were connected with the ownership of plots. It was determined the opportunity to create hunting guilds. The hunting licence was necessary for hunting. There were determined hunting season and breeding season for some specific game species.

The Emperor František Josef's I. Letter Patent No.154/1849, on game management

The hunting rights on the someone else's plot were abrogated. It was determined creation of hunting areas in the area of municipality and the minimal area was 115 ha. The game management could pursue an owner of the continuous plots with the minimal area of 115 ha or the municipality.

The Common Civil Code No.946/1811, coll.

There were determined the position of game among other objects and the position of hunting right among other rights, game keeping, hunting right as the burden and relation between hunting right and ownership of plot.

The Emperor Josef's II. Letter Patent

It united hunting regulations and defined duties of hunting rights owners. The rearing of wild boar was allowed only in game preserves.

The Emperor Karel's IV First Hunting Regulation, 1728

The Emperor Ferdinand's III. Regulation, 1641

The Czech Council Resolution, 1627

The Emperor Rudolf's II. Instruction, 15. 4. 1599

The Czech Council Resolution, 1573

Regulation on the game protection and competence for execution of game management.

The King Václav's IV. Regulation, 1388

Hunting rights can be pursued by the small owners of plots.

The reign of the Prince Boleslav I., some time around the year 950

Hunting rights can be pursued only by the regional rulers.

2000

1800

1600

1400

900

The game management organisations development

1900

1994 Safari Club International – Bohemia
1992 Czech-Moravian Hunting Union
1991 Saint Hubert Order
1969 Czech Hunting Association
1961 Czechoslovak Hunting Association
1945 three provincial associations of the Czechoslovak Hunting Union
1939 – 1945 Czechoslovak Hunting Union
1923 on the 22nd of April was established
the Czechoslovak Hunting Union in Brno
1920 Matice lesnická
1919 Czechoslovak Hunting and Cynological Imperial Association
1900 Hunting Clubs in Brno, Olomouc and Litovel
1886 Czech Pedigree Book of Hounds
1883 Hunting and Game Protection Club, afterwards
renamed the Central Club
for Hunting Protection and Hound Breeding in Bohemia
1868 Prague Club “Hubertus”

1700

1769 Association for tilth and independent art in the Czech Kingdom

1699 The Hunting brotherhood in Hosín
1695 Saint Hubert Order established by the earl František Antonín Sporck

Buffons
Naturgeschichte
der Vögel.

9. 10. Band.

Buffons
Naturgeschichte
der Vögel.

11. 12. Band.

Buffons
Naturgeschichte
der vierfüßigen Thiere.

11. 12. Band.

Buffons
Naturgeschichte
der Vögel.

13. 14. Band.

The legal regulation of game management in the Czech Republic

The game management is considered to be a legally justified activity, whose subject matter is the long-term utilization and conservation of nature. The Game Management Act No. 449/2001 regulates game management in the territory of the Czech Republic. The law consists of ten parts which contain:

- General provisions
Object and purpose, Definitions
- Game keeping and breeding
Game keeping principles, Restriction imposed to preserve the game species, Trophy shows, Game keeping in captivity.
- Hunting control and improvement of living conditions of game
Basic control, Restrictions and bans in the interest of control, Duties of the owners of domestic and farm animals, Duties of the users of hunting areas, Game keeper guard.
- Creation and use of hunting areas
General principles of the hunting area creation, Recognition of the hunting area, Change and cessation of the hunting area, Hunting guild, Use of hunting areas, Contract on the hunting area lease.
- Game management and hunting
Game manager, Game management plan, Permission of hunting in special cases, Seasons of hunting and its conditions, Use of hunting dogs, Falconry, Banned hunting methods, Hunting permit, Hunting licence, Compulsory insurance, Game control and utilisation.
- Damage caused by the use of the hunting area, by game and to game
Liability of the hunting area user, Measures to prevent damage caused by game, Claims to compensation, Compensation for damage caused to game.
- State administration of game management
State organs of game management and their powers, Game management supervision, Support to game management and hunting associations.
- Penalties, offences, fines.
- Transitory and final provisions.
- Relation to the other rules, Enabling provisions.

There were issued following rules to carry out the game management act:

Decree No. 244/2002 coll., implementing several provisions of the act No. 449/2001 coll., on game management.

Contents: Game keeper guard, game manager, game keeper examination, game manager examination, higher professional hunting examination, field - trial, falconry examination, hunting licence, hunting permit, control methods for hunting game, service uniform for the employees of the state administration organs of game management, examples of the forms.

Amendment: Decree No. 350/2003 coll.

Decree No. 245/2002 coll., on hunting season for individual game species and detailed conditions for hunting.

Contents: Hunting season for individual game species, detailed conditions of hunting.

Amendment: Decree No. 480/2002 coll.

Decree No. 491/2002 coll., on the way of setting down minimum and prescribed game stocks and categorisation of hunting areas or their parts into quality classes.


Contents: Categorisation of hunting areas or their parts into quality classes, assessment of the environment quality for the game, setting down minimum and prescribed game stocks, sex ratio, coefficient of expected production, age structure of the game population.

Decree No. 7/2004 coll., on assessment conditions for pheasantries and process of their delimitation as a part of hunting area

Contents: The way of assessment conditions for intensive pheasant rearing, process of pheasantries delimitation.

Decree No. 553/2004 coll., on conditions, model and detailed instructions for elaboration of the plan of game management in hunting area.

Contents: Structure of the game management plan, game species liable to game management, terms of plan elaboration, groundwork for plan elaboration, printed matter for game management plan.

The image is a vertical composition. The left half features a silhouette of a bird in flight, wings spread, against a light, hazy sky. In the foreground, the dark, sharp silhouettes of reeds or tall grasses are visible. The right half is a white background with text.

The game itself

Nature conditions in the Czech Republic afford life to many game species. The diversity and the number of species are, in reaction to the environment changes, relatively dynamic processes. Therefore individual game species were frequently occurred in different proportions in our territory over the run of several decades. Apart from the original ones, various game species have been introduced to the territory of the Czech State over the run of centuries. During the reign of the Karel IV., for instance, the pheasant was imported and began to be bred in pheasantries. The muskrat, released in the area of the Dobříš castle by the earl Coloredo Mansfeld, spread to the whole of Europe from the Czech territory. Imported mouflons, fallow deer and Japanese sika deer became domesticated immediately in our countryside. The American mink, which ousted the original polecat from the countryside, escaped from the farm rearing around the end of the twentieth century. The stocks of the racoon dog or the lynx have substantially increased.

On the other hand some game species have completely disappeared from our countryside due to the increasing pressure of civilisation. Today we do not see the European bison, the brown bear nor the wolf walking the countryside. Other species are re-settling here. The beaver, recently almost wiped out, is returning to our rivers again. The swan and the raven were rare in our country twenty years ago and today

they are common in our countryside. The well-known expert in game management Prof. Komárek wrote in 1949 about the wild boar, which was endangered by extinction, and assumed that there would not be any wild boar in our territory in 2000. The opposite is true and now we are faced with the problem of how to effectively reduce the stock of our wild boar. The game management legislation, continuously developing in this area, has to react flexibly to the changing stock of game, landscape changes in the forestry and agriculture.

According to the game management act, the game is considered to be free-living animals which can be managed by hunt or which are forbidden to hunt and are defined in the Game Management Act for reason of increased protection. The decree No.245/2002 coll., on hunting season for individual game species and detailed conditions for hunting, determines the hunting season for individual game species. The hunting season for the rock partridge and the starling was not determined, because the Czech Republic did not request the European Commission for their inclusion in the list of hunted species according to the Council Directive No.79/409/EEC, on the free-living birds protection. It was not determined what the hunting season would be for the polecat and the steppe polecat for the specific reason of their protection.

The game species which is banned to hunt

The game species that cannot be hunted in accordance with international treaties binding the Czech Republic and that are published in the Collection of Laws or in the Collection of International Treaties, or the game species that are specially protected animals pursuant to special legal rules and if the dispensation to hunt them was not granted pursuant to these rules:

Mammals: European beaver (*Castor fiber*), wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), moose (*Alces alces*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), river otter (*Lutra lutra*).

Birds: Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), teal (*Anas crecca*), rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), stock dove (*Columba oenas*), hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles*), common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), rough-legged buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*), gadwall (*Anas strepera*), cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), partridge (*Perdix perdix*), sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter nisus*), raven (*Corvus corax*), quail (*Coturnix coturnix*), shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), European jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*), grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*).

The game species which is allowed to hunt:

Mammals: Fallow deer (*Dama dama*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), whitetail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), badger (*Meles meles*), chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), European wild goat (*Capra aegagrus*), wild rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), pine marten (*Martes martes*), stone marten (*Martes foina*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), moufflon (*Ovis musimon*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Dybowski sika deer (*Cervus nippon dybowskii*), Japanese sika deer (*Cervus nippon nippon*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), European polecat (*Mustela putorius*), steppe polecat (*Mustela eversmannii*) and brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*).

Birds: Reeves's pheasant (*Syrnaticus reevesii*), common pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), collared turtle dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), bean goose (*Anser fabalis*), grey leg goose (*Anser anser*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), coot (*Fulica atra*), rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*), tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), common pochard (*Aythya farina*), magpie (*Pica pica*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), hooded crow (*Corvus corone*).



The game protection

The hunters became already conscious of the need of game protection at a time when the free-living game was an object of a mere hunting utilization. The first reference to game protection can be found in the 16th century when the hind-hunting for the reason of red deer conservation was prohibited for a few years. In the course of time the game conservation became to be important and in the 18th century the hunting of game transformed into game management, the subject matter of which is the intentional rearing and protection of game.

Nowadays the protection of game and the protection of game management are guaranteed by the Game Management Act. The protection of game management means the protection of game against the adverse influence of the environment, against infectious diseases, against damaging civilisation impacts and against other free-moving domestic animals, the protection of living conditions of game, the guarantee of peace and quiet in the hunting area and the protection of shooting ground fitments.

The duty of game protection for the hunting area users, hunting ground holders, and owners of the farm and domestic animals is laid down by the Game Management Act. Therein are determined the hunting seasons, banned hunting methods and detailed conditions of hunting for the reason of the game protection.

The state administration appoints, on the basis of a proposal by the hunting area user, the game-keeper guard per each inchoate 500 ha of the hunting area to fulfil the duty of game protection. The game-keeper guard holds a position of a public figure.

The general protection of free-living animals is also regulated by the act on nature and landscape conservation. The individual protection of all animals is guaranteed by the law on prevention of cruelty to animals.

The contemporary game management has an unreserved respect for the requirements of the free-living animal protection, which are the subject of the European legal rules and as well as international agreements.



**Total area of hunting grounds
in the Czech Republic is 6 750 000 hectares.**

Portions according to the character of land:

Farmland	56.6 %
Wooded land	37.8 %
Water areas	1.4 %
Other grounds	4.2 %

Total area of game preserves 42 600 hectares

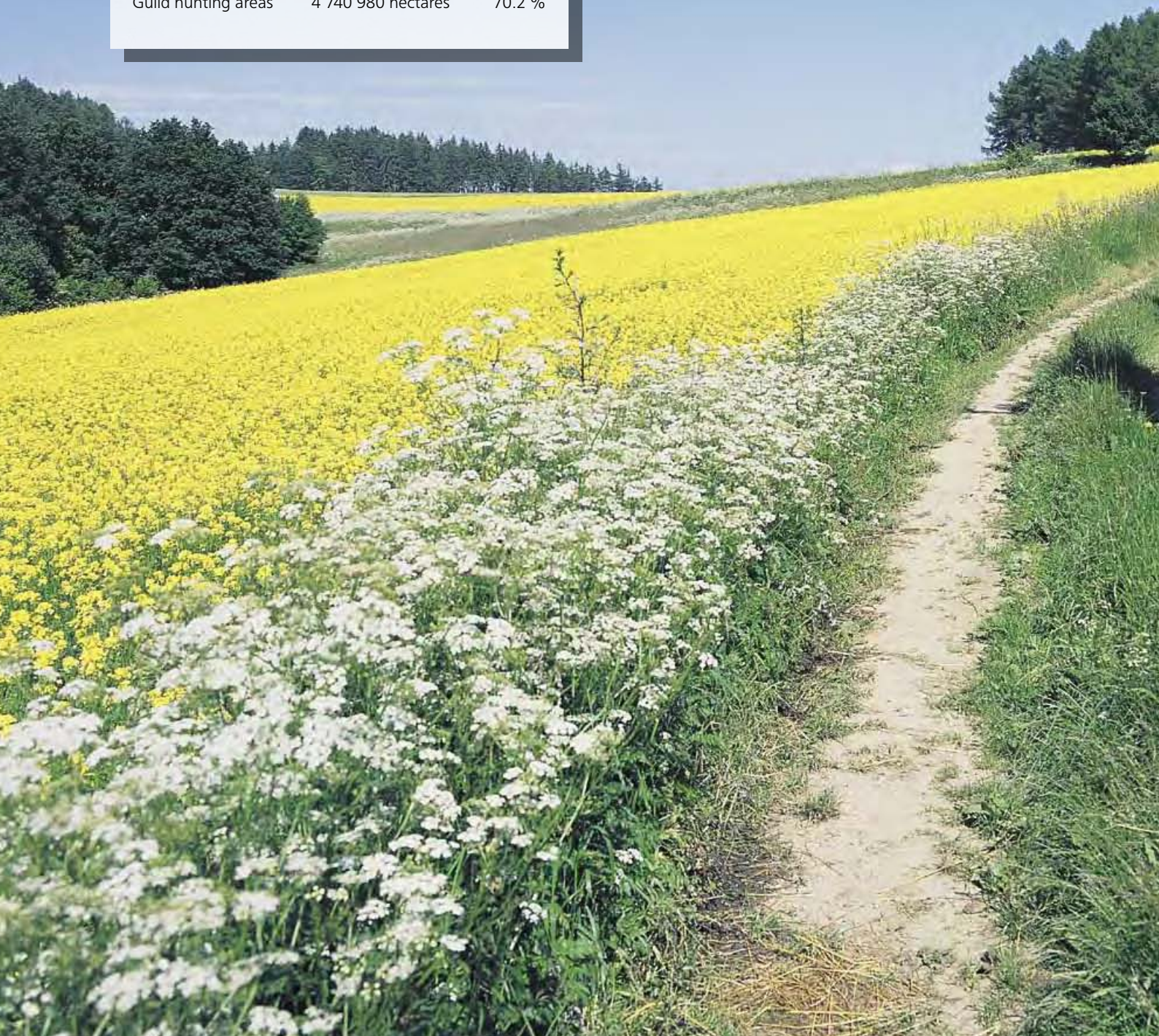
Number of hunting areas 5 600

Number of game preserves 166

Average acreage of hunting area 1 200 hectares

Utilization of hunting areas

at own expenses	720	
leasehold	4 900	
Own hunting areas	2 014 001 hectares	29.8 %
Guild hunting areas	4 740 980 hectares	70.2 %





Hunting grounds

The Czech Republic is situated in the varied, rugged landscape of the Central Europe. From the densely wooded border mountains flows down to the Bohemian midland enough life-giving water. Contribution of the natural powers and intensive agricultural, forest and fish farming activities could help to create the medley of habitats with many animal species and unrepeatable biodiversity. There are established the hunting grounds abounded not only by nature biodiversity but also by the diversity of the number of wildlife species.

Recognition of the hunting ground

Game management is allowed to be pursued only in the recognized hunting grounds. The hunting ground recognition is based on the proprietary law to the hunting plots.

Hunting ground

The hunting ground shall be taken to mean a complex of continuous hunting grounds of one or several owners defined by a decision of the state administration of game management. The principal conditions for the hunting ground recognition are the minimal area of 500 ha continuous hunting plots and fulfilment of other conditions laid down by the Game Management Act relating to the shape of the hunting ground and the course of its borders.


Game preserve

The game preserve shall be taken to mean a type of hunting area. The main conditions for the game preserve recognition are the minimal area of 50 ha of continuous hunting plots with the perimeter permanently and perfectly fenced or treated in another way that the kept game cannot leave the game preserve freely. Local authorities of municipalities with extended powers recognize the game preserves.

Division according to the proprietary relationship

The hunting grounds are further divided into their own hunting areas and guild hunting areas, according to the number of hunting ground owners, whose grounds constitute the hunting area. Own hunting areas are created by the grounds of one owner only. Guild hunting areas are created by the grounds of more than one owner. There are cases, where the area of hunting grounds of one owner does not satisfy the minimal area necessary for recognition of the hunting area, but the hunting grounds are continuous and together satisfy the condition of prescribed minimal area and their owners have founded a hunting guild.





The game management

The game is considered to be renewable natural wealth of the Czech Republic. Possibilities of game utilization stand on the principal of the sustainable development. The game rearing and its utilization by the hunt through the game management plan are regulated by legal rules. The game management plan is elaborated by a hunting area user and discussed with a hunting area holder. The state administration bodies intervene only in cases where the hunting area user does not agree with the hunting area owner on the game management plan. The field of the game management is regulated by the §36 of the Game Management Act, and the decree on conditions, model and detailed instructions for elaboration of the plan of game management in the hunting area

The game management plan includes:

- The plan of breeding and hunting for the cloven-hoofed game (red deer, fallow deer, mouflon, Japanese sika deer, roe deer, wild boar, chamois).
- The plan of breeding and hunting for the small game (brown hair, common pheasant).
- The plan of breeding and hunting for the other game species (wild rabbit, Reeves's pheasant, wood pigeon, white-fronted goose, bean goose, grey leg goose, mallard, coot, tufted duck, common pochard).
- The game tending plan
- The plan of collective hunting.
- The plan regarding a number of hunting dogs.

Elaboration of the game management plan

Classification of the hunting areas in compliance with the quality classes with minimal and prescribed game stocks is the basis for the elaboration of the game management plan. Determination of the sex ratio, coefficient of expected production, population structure (composition of males, females and young game in the population, and male composition in the age classes).

The plan is further based on the results of the game census, review of the general ecosystem condition and results of the control and comparative plots comparison, which are used as a record of damage caused by game on the forest and farm crops during the preceding period.

The elaborated game management plan is compared with the intention mentioned in the application for the recognition of the hunting area and with conclusions and recommendations concerning the game management in the rearing areas elaborated by the state administration of the game management, which the appropriate rearing areas delimited.

Integral parts of the plan are measures regarding the game tending, protection and improvement of living conditions of the game, including the construction of shooting ground fitments and carrying out duty of keeping and using hunting dogs in the hunting area.