

# Outdoor recreation activities in nature protection areas - Situation in Germany

Stefan Tuerk and Edwin Jakob

Institute of Outdoor Sports and Environment, German Sports University Cologne, Cologne, Germany  
e-mail: tuerk@dshs-koeln.de

In consequence of the actual social development the leisure situation is modifying. Sports activities are separated in new playing forms as well as each sportsman is creating his individual preferences. These changes are also influencing sports and recreation activities using countryside. In consideration of the usable landscape outdoor sportsmen in Germany are to be confronted with increasingly problems: convenient outdoor recreation areas need special attractive natural equipment. In Germany, those areas are rare and often do offer a special ecological value. Therefore national and european legislation covers many of these potential sports areas with a corresponding nature conservation status. Sportsmen often have no other alternative than to practice their sports in areas restricted by nature protection law or to travel abroad as a sports and leisure tourist. Both could be establish conflicts of interests between outdoor recreation and nature conservation. Acceptable solutions for both sides of landscape users are required.

Within a research project of the Federal Nature Conservation Agency, the Institute of Outdoor Sports and Environment points out new developments in outdoor activities in several german landscapes significantly used for sports activities. Therefore two different types of landscape analysis were chosen: First the monitoring of selected sports activities in landscapes with special equipment respectively high frequented by sportsmen (top-spot method) and second the recording of the real utilisation of near-natural landscapes (area method). The results of the scientific analytics were combined with sociological knowledge to describe the development of outdoor recreation in different sport activities (e.g.: canoeing, climbing, paragliding or canyoning). Considering these results the possibilities and the limits of modern concepts of guidance are discussed. Convenience offers, the use of police law or the establishment of a new outdoor culture (depending on skandinavian standards) will attach great importance to minimize stress and interference in natural landscapes. It is shown that the changes in outdoor activities offer the possibility for a sustainable use of the German countryside for recreation as well as for environment.

## References:

Roth, R.; Jakob, E.; Krämer, A. (2003): Neue Entwicklungen bei Natursportarten. Konfliktpotentiale und Lösungsmöglichkeiten. F&E Vorhaben Nr. 80187050 im Auftrag des Bundesamtes für Naturschutz. Schriftenreihe Natursport und Ökologie Band 15. ISSN 1612-2437. In compression.