

SU 2 Annex 1

Feasibility study of Newly emerging activities of sustainable tourism made by an external expert - Mgr. Zbyněk Pavlásek - English version.

NEWLY EMERGING ACTIVITIES IN THE ŠUMAVA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Evaluation of the potential of newly emerging activities in terms of opportunities and risks for their development

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1 Introduction

The territory of the biosphere reserve (*next only BR*) and mainly of the National Park (*next only NP*) Šumava is a traditional region for the visitors with a large structure of orientation, aims and the age, as well, and on the other side of expectations and motivations. More and more people prefer and look for the possibilities of spending their leisure time in an active way in connection with the stay in the nature.

Until the beginning of the 90s the Šumava Mountains were for the great part (mainly the large border belt and the vast military training space Dobrá Voda in the north-western part) a no-go area, because here along the borders with the Federal Republic Of Germany and Austria there was a large border zone. But at once after the opening of the borders and the real dismantling of the so called iron curtain in 1990 the Šumava as the whole came back on the map of the popular tourist destinations. In 1991 the declaration of the vast central parts of the mountains The National Park Šumava legislatively confirmed the local preserved values of the nature and the countryside. At the same time The National Park became the precious brand of the region from the point of view of the tourist attraction for both the Czech and foreign visitors.

2 Tourist activities

In the beginning of the “rediscovery” of the Šumava there were hikers. Immediately after the opening of the border zone in 1990 the Czech Tourist Club restored the nets of the tourist marked routes bound both on the small roads used for the existing forestry and on the original and traditional paths and tourist trails going e.g. along the main Šumava ridge.

Since the half of the 90s it was cycling that became the holiday-makers’ dominant leisure activity. The starting on cycle tourism met with a lively response in the Šumava, too. The reasons can be especially seen in the relief of the mountain range, when the Šumava plains offer a suitable terrain without a big drop and thus without difficult climbing and on the other hand without dangerous slopes. The other reasons are the attractive natural scenery and last but not least the large net of asphalt roads excluding the public car transport.

The Šumava offers good conditions for the enjoyment of sports in winter, too. The permanent snow cover with a lot of snow ensures the prosperous winter season. The central part of the Šumava including the vast Šumava Plains is a Mecca of cross country skiing which thanks to the machine made cross country skiing routes expanded to almost the whole territory of the BR Šumava. Even the neighbouring regions, e.g. Vimperk, Vacov or Prachatice are participated in the project “The White Track In The Šumava”. Down hill skiing and ski-centres connected with it are situated mainly in the peripheries of the NPŠ where there are no essential conflicts with the interests of the protection of the nature.

The Šumava is interwoven with a net of rivers, streams and brooks which rise here and which are soon after their rise used by water sportsmen for canoeing. The water sport tourism is irresistibly connected with our national river Vltava, next the Otava (originating by the junction of the rivers Křemelná and Vydra in Čeňkova Pila). Besides the natural limits ie. the actual lack of water in riverbeds of brooks and young rivers it’s necessary to

consider the limitation given with the abundance of the rare flora and fauna which have to be preserved for the future generations.

2.1 Characterization of the traditional tourist activities

Now we are going to present the basic characterizations of sports activities in the territory of the BR Šumava which can be labeled as traditional. As they were already presented in brief above they are: hiking, cycling, cross country skiing and water sports tourism.

2.1.1 Hiking

Both the individual and organized hiking is the classical way of spending the free time in the nature which has in the Czech Republic a long tradition and support in the Czech Tourist Club with the activity in the whole republic. The Czech Tourist Club was founded in 1888. In the Šumava the organized tourism was systematically developed after the foundation of the local unions of the CTC: in Sušice, Volyně or in Volary.

For a reliable and safe leading of a tourist the tourist marked routes (*next only* TMR) originated which together with the maps (printed or located in the terrain) and published guides make the basis for the development of the individual tourism in all the regions of our country. At present the stress is more and more put on the tourists' comfort which means in practice the production and installation of the tourist infrastructure on the TMR. These are mainly benches, shelters against the bad weather, lookout points and panoramas. With a view to the information and educational or experience side of hiking the natural trails are established which, leading through the unique territory to the unusual aim and the like, can be labeled as experience trails. Such a type of trails which isn't completely the same as the classical TMR and therefore it has its individual and specific marking in the terrain appeared for the first time just in the Šumava (in the NP): On July 1, 2005 the experience trail "The Change Of The Mountain Spruce Forest" was open in Březník, on July 5, 2006 the experience trail "The Spirit Of The Virgin Forest" at Plešné Lake.

For the maintenance of the hiking as the main visitors' activity in the Šumava it's necessary to realize the under-mentioned facts.

The present net of the tourist hiking routes in the central part of the Šumava doesn't often meet the present demands of the considerate hiking. A great number of routes go along the large hard or asphalt roads and another disadvantage are long distances between the single and sectional aims of the routes. A very often combination of the hiking and cycling routes is a disadvantage, too.

In some cases the main tourist localities in the Šumava aren't directly connected with suitable hiking routes. (The same, but often in the other localities, can be applied on cycle routes or ski routes.) E.g.: Kvilda – Horská Kvilda, Modrava – Antýgl, Železná Ruda – Špičák, etc. That's why it would be suitable to make some partial changes in the net of the tourist hiking routes with regard to the interests of the protection of the nature, but at the same time in the sense of the above-mentioned facts. The other changes of TMR could arrive for the reasons of the capacity of the present routes or during the harmful clashes of hikers with the other forms of tourism.

TMR go to the bulk of the visitors' aims, because the hiking is and will stay one of the friendliest way of getting to know the surrounding countryside, its natural, cultural and esthetic components. The hiking is a permanently sustainable form of movement not only in the Šumava, but everywhere else, too. Taking into consideration the existence of the protected landscape area and the national park and their most strictly protected parts (both the national nature reserves and the 1st zones in the NP), for the reason of the nature protection it's necessary to maintain the restrictions of the movement in these localities. The main rule is the TMR mustn't be left (see the supplement: The Visitors' Rules of the National Park Šumava)

- Up till now, the border of the capacity of the nature has nowhere been overstepped , but by the thoughtful management of the visitors' movement both the spread of the tourists and the improvement of the emotional experience of the stay in the nature would be possible. TMR should be set only for hikers and their surface should be more comfortable for walking and from the point of the view of health more suitable (out of the asphalt communications.)
- Outside the territory of the NPŠ the hikers mainly make for the well known public attractions. The other routes are used sporadically, mainly as crossings or connecting lines between routes. The increased propagation of the hiking supported by the establishment of natural trails and information points together with the setting of the small-scale tourist infrastructure could lead to the bigger spread of the hikers in the territory and to the rise of the whole attraction of the region BR Šumava.

2.1.2 Cycling

At the beginning the function of cycling was mainly the transport and it served to the transportation to the certain place for the certain purpose. The sports branch of cycling developed very quickly and the "cycle tourism" followed. Only in the last quarter of the 20th century the cycle tourism became the so called fashion trend for large masses of inhabitants in all developed countries of the world. Thanks to the financial affordability, technical perfection (mountain and trekking bicycles) and to the tendency towards the active rest today everybody owns a bike. For many people cycle tourism became a synonym of a holiday.

BR Šumava is interweaved with quite a thick net of cycle routes and cycle tourist routes determined principally with the cross country obstacles in the mountain terrain. The marked cycle routes are led mainly out of the public communications along forest asphalt paths or other hard paths. The cycle routes on the public roads and the cycle spinal routes are marked as road cycle routes, the other "cross-country " cycle routes are marked according to the system of the CTC. In the Šumava there are mainly used the hard forest roads originally built for the forestry purpose.

A great part of BR and mainly the most visited parts of the Šumava belong to the NPŠ with the stricter rules for the public use of the territory. Here the cyclists' activity is limited by the visitors rules: "In the whole territory of the NP Šumava it's strictly forbidden to cycle out of the roads, local communications and places set with the agreement of the Authorities" (*The Basic Protective Conditions, section 4, letter f*). In practice it means in the territory of the NPŠ a cyclist may use "only" the public communications and marked

cycle routes. Entering the other communications, although their technical state would be convenient, a cyclist runs the risk of sanctions from the side of the nature protection authority. It's the nature guard who is charged with the checking of keeping the visitors' rules and regulations concerning the protection of the nature.

According to the monitoring of the visit rate of the NPŠ it was shown at present over 60% of the visitors use their own or (not too often) a hired bicycle for the move in the territory. The main reasons for it are long distances, a relative lack of the people's free time and the efforts of the most visitors to see and "experience" as much as possible in a relatively short time. Last, but not least we have to mention the longing for the enjoyment of sport in the middle of the preserved nature.

At present cycling became a "folk sport" and everybody goes cycling. At the same time it came and is still coming to the growth of the individual car transport. These are the two main causes of the growing risks– cyclists' fewer practical experiences and the growth of the clash places of cyclists and motor vehicles. Of course, the positive trend of the development is building of the cycle paths, i.e. road lanes for the cycle traffic only (see the road Šumava cycle trunk road No. 33 from Gerlova Huť to Nová Hůrka and its continuation in the direction of Srní; Otavská cycle path).

- For the present, as the surveys among the cyclists say, the limits of acceptability of the cycle routes haven't been exceeded. For the "experience of the riding" it's suitable to spread of the cyclists in the region, to separate them from the other users of the paths and to discover the new "unknown" routes. It would be convenient to direct the cyclists from the so called "full" cycle routes to the other, less known aims or to the interesting routes at least from the view of the terrain. In the NP it's necessary to preserve the vast wholes of the relative quiet, mainly by keeping the rules of the movement. A large developing potential is lying out of the territory of the NP where the cycle routes are often led along the roads with a lower car traffic or even along the closed forest paths. (But here we often meet the unfriendly approach of the owners of the forest or of its managers.)
- The new marked routes with the following propagation of circuits and equipped with an infrastructure for the cyclists (cycle maps, shelters, lookout places with benches etc.) will help to the spread of the visitors on bikes in the whole BR Šumava. In the South Bohemia Region, and thus also in the Šumava the foundation Partnership develops a project supporting the cycle tourism "Cyclists Welcome" (www.cyklistevitani.cz).

2.1.3 Cross-country skiing

Thanks to the large co-operation on the regional and superregional level cross-country skiing has become an operating tourist product called "The White Track In The Šumava Mountains". The supporters of this project are Šumava villages united in the Regional Union Šumava which on their own or in the frame of certain micro regions guarantee the maintenance of the ski tracks in the Šumava Mountains. The other co-operating subjects are: The South Bohemia Region and The Plzeň Region, The Regional Developing Agency, The Authorities of The National Park and The Protected Landscape Area Šumava and the businessmen especially in tourism. The support from individuals is quite big, too.

Today from the side of skiers the regularly machine maintained tracks are required as a standard. Nevertheless, it can't be taken for granted, because its providing is quite time consuming and it requires a lot of efforts and means. The successful winter season is preceded by a terrain preparation of tracks with the respect to the subsequent maintenance by the machines of the given dimensions including the terrain marking and the other equipment for skiers, too. The machines used to the maintenance of the tracks either belong to the managers of the maintenance of the tracks (villages) or the other subjects whose services are ordered by the manager of the maintenance who guarantees the means for the maintenance. For a number of years the source have been the European Union funds which cover about ½ costs. The other means go both from the public (local, regional, other state) sources and private sources (sponsor, contributor).

The winter season extensively depends on climatic conditions and that's why the ski centre is situated mainly in the upper parts of the Šumava Mountains, especially in the National Park Šumava where is the (bigger) certainty of the blanket of snow, a longer tradition and dependence of the inhabitants on tourism and, under the influence of the given use of the territory, the more extensive network of routes let for tourists' use.

At present a net of the machine maintained ski routes in the Šumava numbers almost 500 km where in the central part the outside localities are attached to the main routes (Hojsova Stráž, Javorná, Hartmanice, Javorník, Vimperk etc.). Thus in the connection with the net of the maintained routes in neighbouring Austria (border crossings Pestrice, Zadní Zvonková, Plešné Jezero (1/10)) and Germany (Nové Údolí, České Žleby, Bučina, Ferdinandovo Údolí, Zadní Chalupy) a vast net of ski routes originates which has a potential of attraction for sportsmen and fans of winter tourism from whole Europe.

The most important sport event advertising cross country skiing in the Šumava is the Šumava Ski Marathon which takes place in the ski center Zadov the second weekend in February every year. The race is organized by SKI CLUB Šumava, Vimperk (www.skisumava.cz). In the Šumava the tourist ski routes prevail, but we can find here the sports (fitness) circuits and racing tracks, too: Hojsova Stráž – Zámeček, Hoffmanky – Godlhof, Špičák – Za Nádražím, Železná Ruda – Belveder, Zadov – Churáňov, Vimperk – Vodník, Kubova Huť, Kramolín.

2.1.4 Downhill Skiing

Downhill skiing belongs among the most popular winter sport activities. Geomorphological characteristics doesn't make the required development of this sport branch possible. The present ski centres essentially exhaust suitable localities and by their quality they reach rather regional importance. The only exception is the ski centre Špičák which is comparable to the more important centres in the other Czech mountain ranges.

But downhill skiing is a part and parcel of the winter enjoyment of sport in the Šumava which is shown in the development of smaller ski centres. The ski centres find their clientele mainly among the families with children, school ski courses, possibly the clientele from traditionally non-skiing countries.

At present the considering possibilities of the other development of downhill skiing centres bump into the interest of the protection of nature. They are mainly these localities: Špičák – Hamry, Pancíř – Brčálník, Boubín – Basumský Crest, Smrčina (on the Austria side Hochficht), in the military training space Boletice it is Špičák near Horní Planá and the Hill Chlum, next Libín above Prachatice.

You can find a list of the operating ski centres just in the supplement of this study. Downhill skiing is freely followed by today more and more popular snowboarding which is included into non-traditional winter activities – see further.

2.1.5 Water Sport Tourism

The development of the water sport tourism was in progress since the second half of the 19th century. In 1866 the first canoeing club was founded in Europe. In Bohemia the first canoe appeared in 1875. The other canoes appear on the territory of the today's Czech Republic only in 1910 when a great sport promoter Josef Rössler Ořovský let them bring from Canada. The popularity of these boats was quickly growing up and so already in 1913 the Czech Canoeing Club was founded.

In spring in the Šumava Mountains the water sportsmen's most popular river is the upper stretch of the Otava and in summer unbeatably the Vltava. The water sportsmen's routes in the Šumava are totally 59 km long and they are situated on the rivers Otava and Vltava. Partly it's possible to go down the Úhlava River under the valley dam Nýrsko, in case of the higher water level stage down the River Blanice under Blažejovice, too.

The Otava

It's navigable from Čeňkova Pila via Rejštejn as far as Dlouhá Ves from 15/3 to 31/10. The difficulty depends a lot on the state (flow) of the water of the river. The river is suitable for closed boats (canoes, kayaks), too.

The stretch *Čeňkova Pila – Rejštejn* is a fast, rapids waterway more suitable for whitewater rafting and canoeing or kayaking; waves, rollers, rapids and boulders in the riverbed, several small islands. The rapids begin nearly just after the setting, the soothing comes only 0.5 km above Rejštejn; the stretch under Rejštejn is already less hard, but the river continues being full of rapids and in some places it's necessary to pay more attention to going down the river (bends at regulation walls, big stones in the river).

Navigability: the best in spring – April to the first half of May; in summer and autumn – only after heavy rains or during the longer operation of the power plant Vydra.

The Křemelná

Not only from the water sportsmen's point of view the Křemelná is considered to be one of the most beautiful Šumava rivers, however, at present it is closed for the water sportsmen all the year round! Under the favourable level of water it would be navigable from the junction of the Prášilský Brook to the junction of the Vydra in Čeňkova Pila. It's suitable mainly for kayaks and canoes.

The Vydra

Under the favourable water level stage it would be navigable in closed boats from Modrava to Antýgl. But at present it is closed for water sportsmen for the reason of the protection of nature all the year round.

The Vltava

From the water sportsmen's point of view the Vltava is the busiest river in the whole territory of the BR Šumava. It is navigable in spring in the stretch Borová Lada – Lenora from 15/3 to 31/5 and in summer and autumn months in the stretch Lenora – Soumarský Bridge – Nová Pec from 1/5 to 31/10.

In these stretches the river is suitable especially for canoes (including the open ones) and kayaks.

A great number of water sports tourists are connected with the problems of camping and water sportsmen's moving along the banks of the river, that's why the clashes with the rules of the protection of the nature are quite frequent. In the main stretch going through the naturally valuable Vltava Meadowland going down the stream on rafts and other four- and multi-seat vessels is forbidden. For the stretch in the territory of the National Park from Lenora via Soumarský Bridge to Pěkná the minimum level in which the stretch is navigable in boats is set. (Since 2007 the main fluviometric place is placed on the right pier of the Soumarský Bridge.) Along the Vltava the camping is permitted only in the appropriate campsites (Zahrádky, Horní Vltavice, Lenora, Soumarský Bridge, Nová Pec).

The stretch of the Vltava from *Lipno* to *Loučovice* (5 km) is a whitewater river with waves and rollers, here and there with big boulders. It is suitable only for closed canoes and kayaks. The stretch is navigable only exceptionally during the discharge of the artificial lake Lipno – mostly once a year, the term is released on the water sportsmen internet pages or in the water sportsmen's press.

The development of the water tourism is also connected with the origin and practice of the supporting infrastructure for this sport branch, e.g. water sports liveries, pubs and restaurants, accommodation etc. In the liveries it's possible to hire canoes, kayaks including the equipment, i.e. paddles, life jackets, waterproof shipping sacks or barrels for one or more days. Next it is possible to borrow the maps of going routes. The liveries also provide the transport on the place of start or from the destination of the voyage and possibly the accompany of the water tourism instructor, too.

2.1 Introduction

In addition to the traditional forms of the active rest there is an increasing number of cases of new forms of spending the leisure time which up till now haven't been legislatively dealt with, neither in local ordinance and regulatory measures, nor in laws and legal norms of the Czech Republic. From the point of view of the rules for their realization we consider the more general conclusions of the interpretation of the valid legislation. We will find the reasons for this mainly in the fact these activities either came into being not long ago, in connection with the technical development, or with the extension of the offer of the existing activities for the broader class of the interested persons.

This study is summing up the present state of the use of the national park, respectively of the BR Šumava from the point of view of so called non-traditional newly rising activities. It can become the impulse for the legislative initiative. A part of this work is also the analyses of strong and weak sides, so called SWOT-analyses, for all the identified non-traditional activities in the relation to the territory of the national park and the BR Šumava on which basis it's possible to deduce the recommendations not only from the point of view of the protection of the nature, but from the point of view of the sustainable tourism itself.

In all the next introduced non-traditional activities there is graphically expressed the **potential of the territory** according to the self-governing units which are situated or at least partly lie in the BR Šumava. They are altogether 50 villages and towns. Although the borders of the BR are exactly set, the current borders are not sharp.

It's necessary to say if the self-governing unit doesn't overreach the territory with the certain legislative rules into the territory with a different valid legislation, e.g. it is situated on the territory of the NP and at the same time in the Protected Landscape Area (see Borová

Lada), then the potential is qualified according to the possibilities of the development in the territory with the less strict regulations.

From the point of view of the public use by visitors the specific territory is the Military Region Boletice which is dealt with and described separately in chapter 2.5.3.

The final potential at the single activities is the penetration of these factors:

- a) the present legislation
- b) the suitability of the locality for the given activity – it's given by the natural conditions and existing infrastructure
- c) the capacity of the locality – Will the new activity “fit” into the territory?
- d) the potential of lovers – Who can the new activity be offered to?

2.1. Present legislative measures in relation to new activities

Since 1990 the territory of the Šumava Mountains belongs to the international net of biosphere reserves of UNESCO declared in the frame of the programme Man and Biosphere – **MaB**. The BR Šumava is situated on the area of 1,670 km². It includes the whole present NP Šumava and the most of the area of the Protected Landscape Area (PLA) Šumava. We supposed the modification of the borders of the PLA, but it hasn't happened yet. (see appendix)

The biosphere reserves have been found since 1974 and they serve for making the global net of protected territories where it will be possible to follow currently the development of the biosphere, its state and possible threat. The purposeful scientific research follows the use of the nature for demands of the human society. At the same time the protection of the nature is used for purposes of the revitalization of the nature damaged by human activity. It's valid that every territory of the BR is protected according to the appropriate national legislation and according to the category of the protection proclaimed here. The conference of the UNESCO in Sevilla in 1995 radically changes the bias of biosphere reserves. The accent is on steadily sustainable use of local sources at the simultaneous maximum consideration for the nature. It's important to involve the local inhabitants in the direction of the BR as much as possible. We support ecological education and education as the whole.

The Protected Landscape Area Šumava was proclaimed on 27/12/1963 by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. **The National Park Šumava** was proclaimed by the order of the government of the Czech Republic No.163/91 from 20/3/1991. On the area of 685.2 km² it includes the most valuable natural parts of the Šumava Mountains and around it there is the Protected Landscape Area of the same name – 944.8 km². The altitude is from ca 510 m to 1,378 m.

The basic legislative document for the territory of the protected nature is **the law about the protection of the nature and the landscape No. 114/1992 of the Code of Law** from February 19, 1992 which sets the protection conditions for the NP and the PLA Šumava. From the point of view of the public use of the territory of the NP Šumava by the visitors the rules of the behaviour are put in the visitors' rules of the National Park Šumava whose selected passages are given in the individual activities of this study. In the territory of the PLA the conditions of the implementation of individual activities are treated in the appropriate chapters.

The basic rules of the use of the territory of the NP result from the division of the natural ecosystems to three zones of the protection of the nature and next to the peaceful areas with regards to the necessity of the regulation of visitors' activities. They are all heading for the tourism and relaxation not making the environment worse, i.e. for the orientation to places where they don't make any damages. In the naturally most valid territories, in the 1st zones and in the defined peaceful territories, which altogether present ca 20% of the territory of the NP Šumava, the movement of the visitors – hikers, cyclists, skiers – is restricted only on marked routes. **The other restrictions** referring directly to sports activities are bans (§ 16): no motor vehicles entry out of the roads and local communications (valid for scooters etc., too); no camping and making a fire out of the places set for it; no organization of mass sports, tourist and other public events – valid for water sports events, too; no bicycle entry out of the roads, local communications and marked cyclo routes in the terrain; no rock climbing, parachuting and paragliding; no observation flights in motor air means of transport; no spending the night in the open countryside; no dogs at large. An exception from the bans can be permitted if another “public interest distinctively prevails the interest of the protection of the nature” by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic.

In the territory of the NP the potential and possibilities of the development of so called newly emerging activities are also classified in the dependence on the **Management Plan Of The National Park Šumava** which is obligatory for the NP Šumava Authorities and its present version is valid for 2001 – 2010.

The basic protected conditions in the PLA in the relationship to the tourist and sports activities are less strict than in the territory of the NP, but here it's valid, too, they can be regulated if they were harmful to the natural values of the PLA in any way. In the PLA there is also forbidden: to camp and make a fire ; to enter by motor vehicles and caravans out of the roads and local communications and to stay there; to organize car and motorcycle races; to organize bike races out of the roads and local communications. In addition in the national natural reserves the visitors are not permitted: to leave marked routes (hikers, cyclists); to do rock-climbing; to do parachuting and hang-gliding. The exception of these regulation conditions must be approved by the authorities of the protection of the nature.

After the entrance to the European Union all the protected territories in the Czech Republic are also included in the system of protected territories of the European importance **Natura 2000**. The binding document is The Guidelines For The Protection Of Wild Birds from 1979 and The Guidelines For The Protection Of Habitats Of Wild Animals And Wild Plants from 1992. Their aim is to preserve the natural habitat and to make the surviving of plant and animal species which have been extinct in many places of Europe possible. One of the aims is the guarantee of the long-term co-existence of the local inhabitants with the nature. In general the majority of the territory will be run in the same way as up till now.

2.2 Winter untraditional activities

2.2.1 Snowshoeing

Snowshoes and snowshoeing are immemorial things which again came back to the fashion as relaxing and sports activity. Snowshoeing makes the peaceful watching of the

winter nature and countryside, which is the main aim of the visitors to the Šumava all the year round, possible. It makes the free movement in the nature possible without following the marked routes, it brings a very close contact with the nature to its lovers. The organized snowshoeing in the territory isn't done. Exceptionally the visitors take the snowshoes with them (sports clubs, experienced enthusiasts, explorers). In any case the snowshoers shouldn't destroy the skiing tracks.

Snowshoeing is a variant of hiking in the snow and that's why it must keep the same regulatory measures as the other kinds of tourism – the movement is limited only in the 1st zones and peaceful territories of the NP and the NPR out of the NP (on the marked MTR). The other territory is open to the public although for the better orientation and the easier movement it's better to use the net of MTR.

The areas suitable for snowshoeing correspond with the areas with the steady blanket of snow in winter.

Realization conditions:

- to use preferentially the territories in the background of the villages
- the limitation of the negative impact on the animals (disturbance of silence) by concentration on MTR
- doing it as accompaniment – e.g. finding the tracks of the animals

2.2.2. Dog Train

This originally a non sport event today represents a sport event popular with the spectators although not too spread. In the Šumava Mountains the dog train has the biggest tradition in the south on the Bavarian side of the Šumava in the surroundings of the village Heidmühle where the international races of mushers take part every year.

The suitable dog breeding (the most often husky or malamut), the abundance of the blanket of snow and if possible the maintained routes are the basic conditions for going in for dog trains as a sport and relaxing activities. Only several breeders live in the BR or come here together with their dogs. Mostly during the whole season the plenty of snow is provided only in the upper Šumava Mountains, but here it is cross country skiing that has the precedence in using paths and cross country skiing tracks. The operator of the activity covers the route finish and he needs the permission of the land owner.

The development of this activity is inhibited by the nonexistence of the background. It is unambiguously cross-country skiing oriented. The co-existence of these activities isn't ideal – the different technology of the fitting of routes, the clash during the training or the contamination of the routes and the background by dog excrements. It's necessary to lead the background building up out of the territory of the NP and to such places where the possible conflicts with cross-country skiing were minimized.

Realization conditions:

- only with the permission of the land or road owner or manager
- out of the net of marked ski routes
- in the territory of the protected nature the approval of the protection of the nature authority is necessary

2.2.3. Snowmobiles

For this kind of entertainment in its ideal form the Šumava Mountains are not vast enough. In spite of it in the Šumava territory there are over 120 snowmobiles.

In the whole territory of the NP and the LPA there is no vehicular access (including snowmobiles) out of the roads and public communications without the permission of the state administration as an authority of the protection of the nature. The snowmobiles owners are given an exception only for the need of the maintenance of the machine marking, i.e. permitted ski routes. In other parts of the BR the permission of the private land owner or the appropriate manager is needed. No official routes are fixed and they are not planned for the reasons of doing the other more sustainable winter activities. In spite of it there is a certain sphere of competence for downhill skiing ski centers which on the pattern of the Alpine ski centers could run the organized runs on snowmobiles at least in the frame of their downhill routes or build and maintain special not too vast marked circuits for individual runs of the clients in the closest neighbourhood of ski centers. But for them it's necessary to get the appropriate exception from the law about the protection of the nature, too.

Realization conditions:

- the difficult limitation of the snowmobiles movement in the protected territories discriminates the inclusion of the snowmobiles among the sustainable activities in the territory of the BR – the solution are the organized trips in the frame of ski centres (Železná Ruda, Špičák, Zadov, Kramolín).
- The snowmobiles owners (at present mainly mountain rescue service, police and chalets owners) mustn't commonly use the snowmobiles for commercial purposes.

2.2.4 Skialpinism

This sports event got its name in Alpine countries. Essentially it concerns all the high-mountain expeditions with downhill skis out of the maintained downhill skiing terrain.

At present we distinguish three basic forms of skialpinism: **skitouring, racing skialpinism and extreme skialpinism**, such an ancestor of freeriding and heliskiing.

The geomorphological character of the Šumava Mountains doesn't offer ideal conditions for doing this sports activity. The main obstacle of the development is the location of the most potentially suitable terrain to the most strictly protected zones of the NP and the BR where the movement is limited only on the marked routes and that's why the legal doing of this activity is forbidden. The solution of this situation, as from the point of view of the protection of the nature, as from the point of view of the adequate sports use of suitable locations, could be making the marked skitouring routes logically copying, from the point of view of skialpinism, the most interesting mentioned ridge parts in incriminated regions and in this way to guide the skiers' movement in the protected area.

Realization conditions:

- the necessity of keeping the visitors' rules of the NP Šumava
- the restriction of the negative impact on animals (disturbance of silence)

2.2.4. Snowboarding – freeride and freestyle

Just now a very attractive winter sport. The word “free” can be found in the name of snowboard events freeride and freestyle.

In **freeride** it concerns the movement in untouched (technically unfinished terrain). It offers its attraction mainly in looking for new ways of skiing in deep snow. With regard to the protection of the nature in the BR Šumava it can't be an event which could be developed in the Šumava. Snowboarding must be expelled in forest growth and in the places with the abundance of especially protected animal species (mainly a wood grouse, a small crane, a small grouse,...).

On the contrary **freestyle** is an event taking place in downhill skiing centres, today in the majority equipped with so called snowparks. It's an acrobatic interpretation of snowboarding with a load of tricks, springs, rails, etc. A u-ramp belongs to the freestyle events, too.

In the Šumava Mountains it's the ski centre Lipno-Kramolín which is very well equipped and with the ambitions to reach European snowboard locations qualities. The other quite well equipped centres are Špičák and Kašperské Hory, on the other hand the ski centre Zadov doesn't offer the freestylists much. The racing activity is limited only on local competitions.

Realization conditions:

- the necessity of keeping the visitors' rules of the NP Šumava
- the restriction of the negative impact on animals (disturbance of silence)
- to use preferentially the background of ski centres

2.2.5 Snowtubing

In a simplified fashion it could be said snowtubing is going down the snowy slopes in rubber boats.

Snowtubing is ideal entertainment for families or larger groups of people and together with its structural modesty it can easily make a suitable supplement to standard services in many ski centres.

Realization conditions:

- the suitable locations are not only a part of ski centres , but they are also locations without any ski background, it's a suitable alternative of winter entertainment for many Šumava villages whose surroundings don't offer suitable conditions for the development of downhill skiing (e.g. Volary, Lenora, Stachy etc.).
- the possibility of building a special track with the background of lifts and the surface finish

2.2.7. Ice Climbing

It is a traditional winter climbing event done mainly in the Alpine countries, Scandinavia, Great Britain or in North America.

In the Šumava Mountains the suitable localities in winter and spring seasons would be the lake walls of the Šumava lakes, but these are situated in the areas with the strict protection of the nature where the entrance to these localities is forbidden. That's why the good conditions are only in the area of Velké Javorské Lake (Great Maple Lake).

The possibility of artificially made ice walls and towers (see: Tanvaldský Špičák).

2.2.8. Skating

Classical skating on the frozen ice surface belongs among the traditional forms of pleasure relaxing sport.

In the territory of the BR Šumava this activity is done mainly on the water reservoir Lipno, then on some other larger expanses of water, e.g. at the periphery of the BR in individual villages. The water reservoir Nýrsko is in the protective zone of the water resource where the entry is forbidden.

The possibilities are far from big, but in the winter season without snowfalls, when the blanket of snow is thin, it's a suitable completion of relaxing sport activities. The advantage is modest equipment, the possibility of the engagement of all the members of the family and quite high emotional experience. As to the impact on the environment it's one of the most considerable activities, of course with regards of keeping the basic principles of good behaviour while arriving at the ice surface.

2.2.9 Sledging

Sledging belongs among the traditional forms of relaxing sport in our locality, too. The activity suitable mainly for families with children doesn't request any special demands on physical condition, nor on special equipment. Of course, the centre of the development should be in the close neighbourhood of ski centres where could be permanent natural toboggan or bobsleigh runs with a regular machine maintenance of a good quality.

The accessibility and modesty of the relaxing conception of this activity gives the chance to build a special infrastructure. The conditions of the development are in the detachment of the convenient territory, marking the run and the opening of the equipment livery. Of course, everything must be situated to the higher areas of the BR Šumava, where are the suitable slope conditions and the certainty of the blanket of snow.

2.2.10 The other winter activities

• Backcountry skiing

BC skiing is about the movement on the skis through the winter countryside covered with snow. The route isn't strictly marked, it's more the experience from the winter countryside or the transport from one place to another than the sport performance. BC skiing is lying in between the sports cross- country skiing and skialpinism – it depends on the approach of the skier.

The territory of the BC Šumava could be ideal for doing this activity. But at present it's classical cross-country skiing that prevails and it's thanks to the system of the maintenance of ski tourist routes, too. But BC has its place among the leisure time activities in the Šumava and in time it will certainly gain in importance. The network of maintained routes won't be expanded very much and for those lovers of skiing who don't put the stress on the sports side, but who want to discover and see, BC is the ideal possibility. The movement restriction in the BR is identical with hiking. On the other hand, taking into consideration the character of the protected territory, BC should be kept in the appropriate territory, and it is mainly in the

neighbourhood of human residences, not to come to the great disturbance of wild animals in winter peaceful season.

Telemark

Telemark, telemarking, Norwegian skiing, free heel skiing. These are different words for the same – “a bit different skiing”. It isn’t the separate branch, but it’s only the different kind of skiing technique.

Telemark isn’t only skiing, but a bit of retro to the beginning of the century where Norwegian going was the basis of skiing. That’s why for many telemarkers the inseparable part of the equipment is the period gear.

For the present in the Šumava Mountains it has hardly any importance, but considering the growing popularity abroad this form of skiing will certainly reach the Šumava, too. The more suitable variation for the character of the protected territory is the scion touring, but the other variation of telemark so called turning is relatively considerate to the nature, too, considering for its doing it doesn’t need any building of a centre as in the case of downhill skiing. The movement restriction in the BR is the same as in hiking.

Snowkiting – the analogy of kiteboarding, but done in winter season on the snow either on skis or snowboard. Generally the places suitable for this activity are vast plains without high-grown vegetation, sharp division and the absence of high voltage lines. In the Šumava Mountains there are several suitable localities, but thanks to its narrow specialization this activity will continue to be done only by a scattering of enthusiasts owing to quite expensive equipment, too.

Skiöring – The sports activity when a skier is towed on the rope. Originally it was a horse with a horse-rider that were used to towing – the name skiering itself without prefixes means skier’s towing by horse. In the course of time the motor traction power started to be used and from it at present the better-known alternative of this sport came into being – **motoskiering**.

Doing motoskiering freely in the territory of the BR Šumava isn’t possible just for the necessity of motorcycle or car towing. At present the activity is done on the appropriate motocross tracks out of the territory of the BR Šumava.

Skiering (a skier is towed by horse) doesn’t come to the conflict with the programme of the protection of the nature, but it’s necessary to keep the rule of undamaging of the ski tourist routes. But the potential of the development is very low for the minimum circle of followers.