



## Dealing with beaver conflicts in Styria (Austria)

MIT UNTERSTÜTZUNG VON LAND STEIERMARK UND EUROPÄISCHER UNION



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# Styria ...

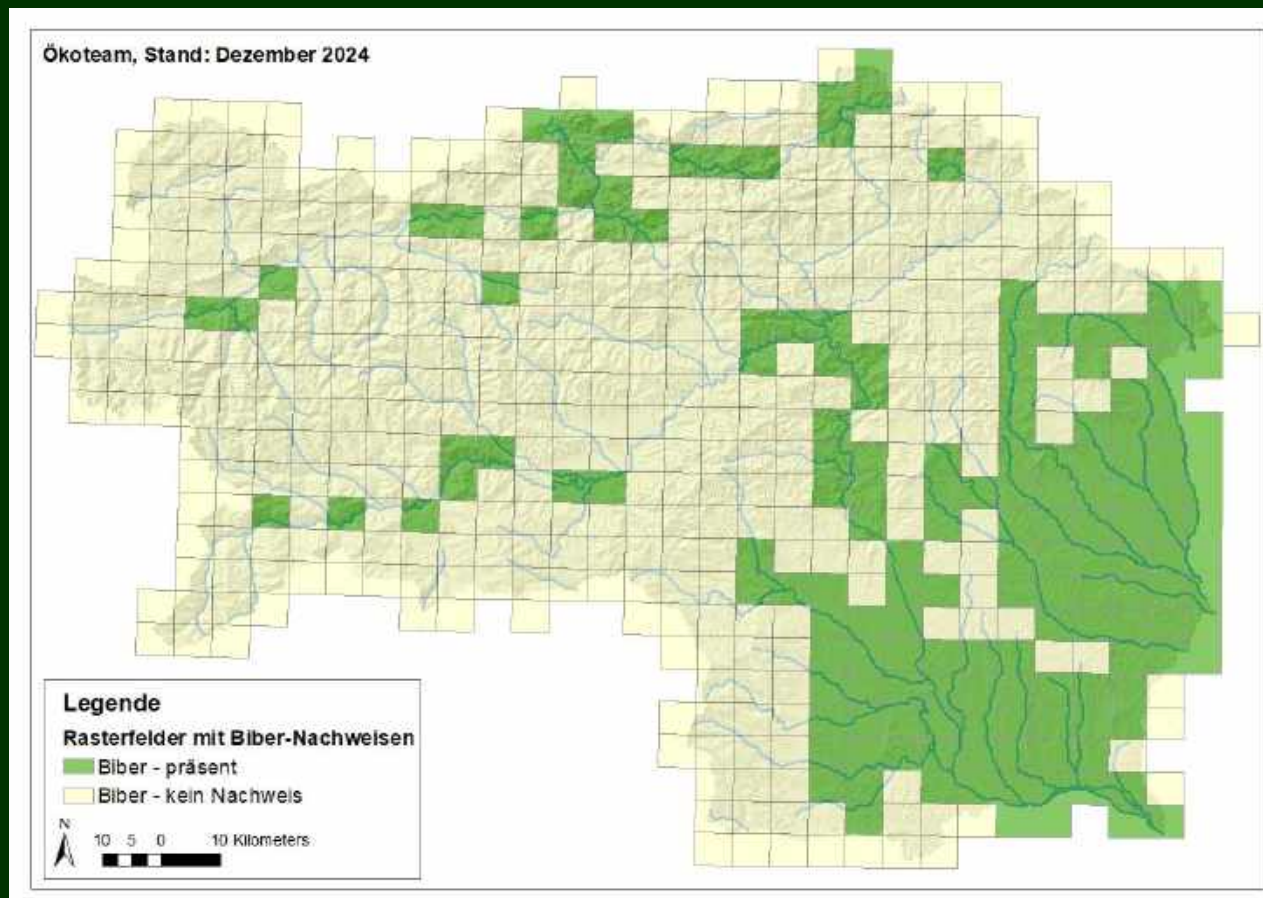
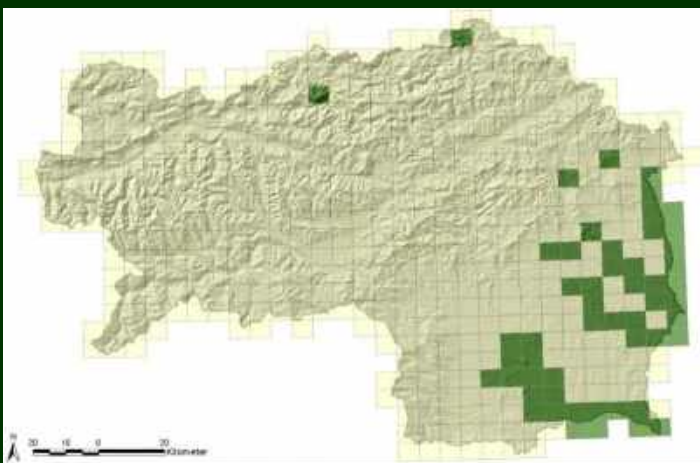
- 900 km (air line) SE from Wageningen
- Size 16.400 km<sup>2</sup> (40% of NL)
- Pop 1.300.000 (7% of NL)
- Elevation: 197 - 2.995 m a.s.l.
- 2/3 mountains (alps)  
1/3 lowland floodplains and hills
- 61% covered by forest
- 22% agriculture





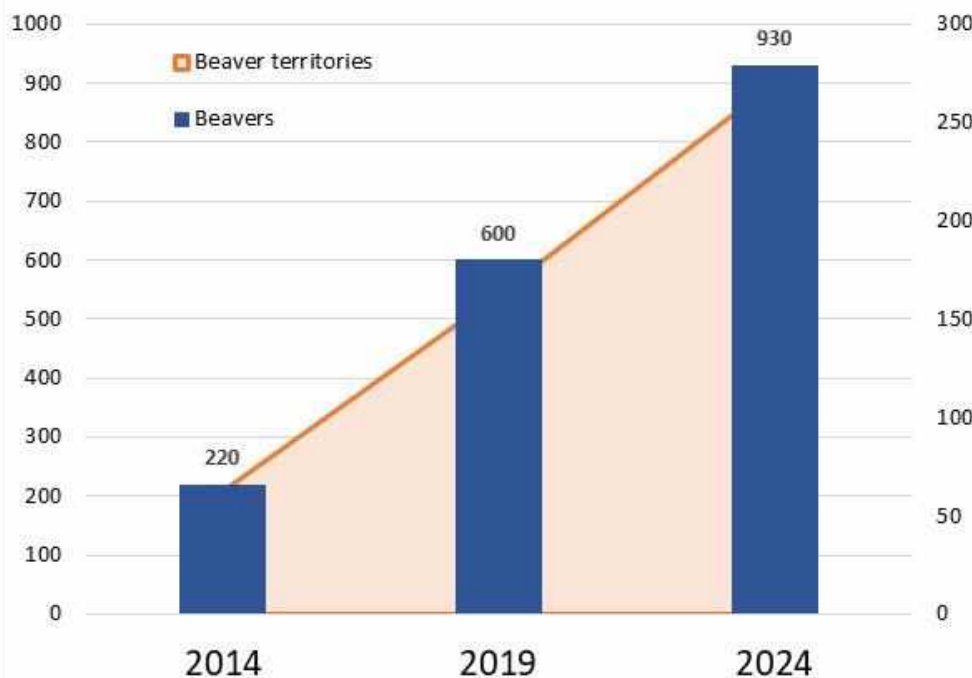
# Beavers in Styria

- ~1860: extirpated
- ~2000: start of recolonisation
- 2014: 53 grids (10%)
- 2019: 110 grids (20%)
- 2024: 162 grids (29%)

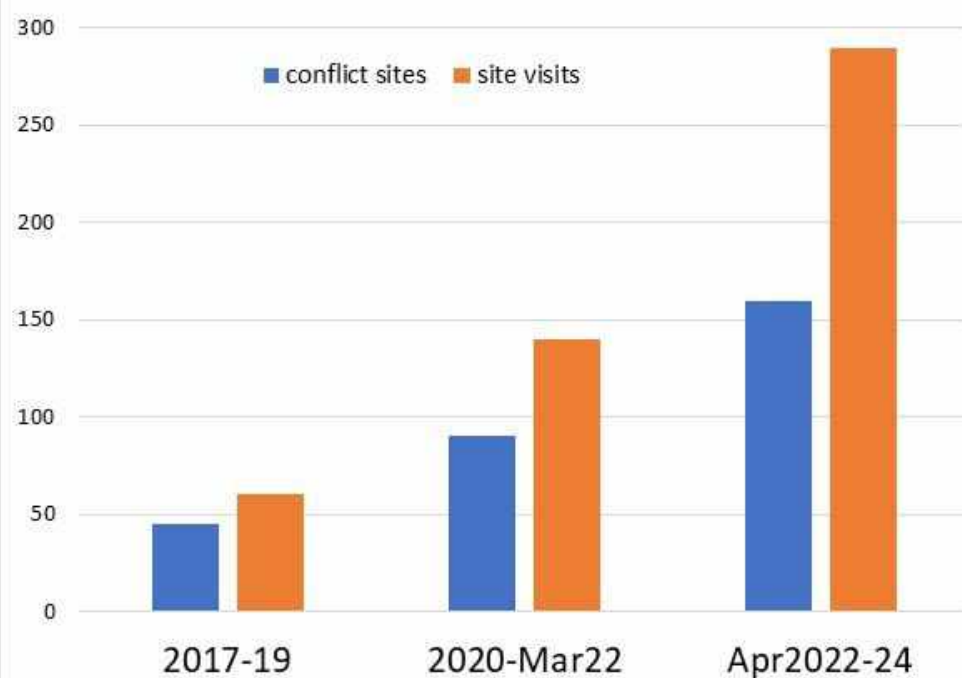


# Beaver population & conflict numbers

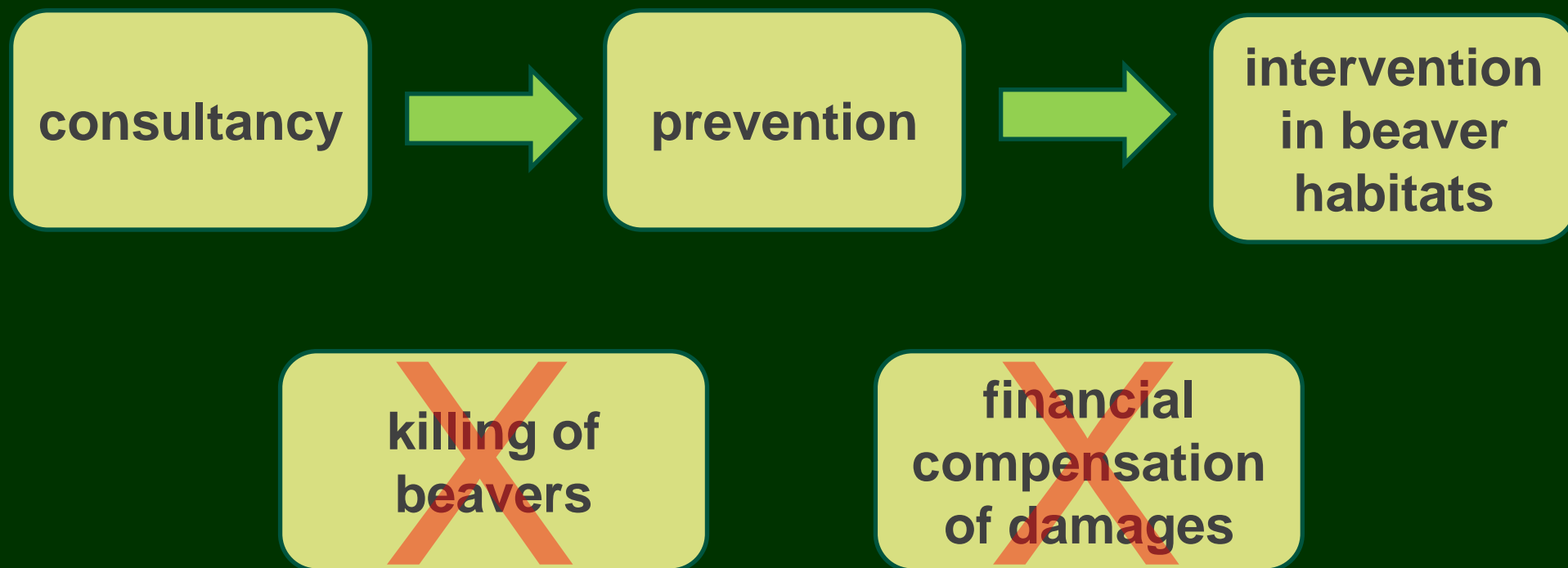
Beaver population in Styria



Conflicts and site visits 2017-2024



# Main tools of beaver management



# Consultancy

- Professional beaver manager
- Beaver-Hotline
- Beaver Website  
([www.bibermanagement.at](http://www.bibermanagement.at))
- Nature conservation department  
(<https://www.verwaltung.steiermark.at/cms/ziel/138299121/DE/>)

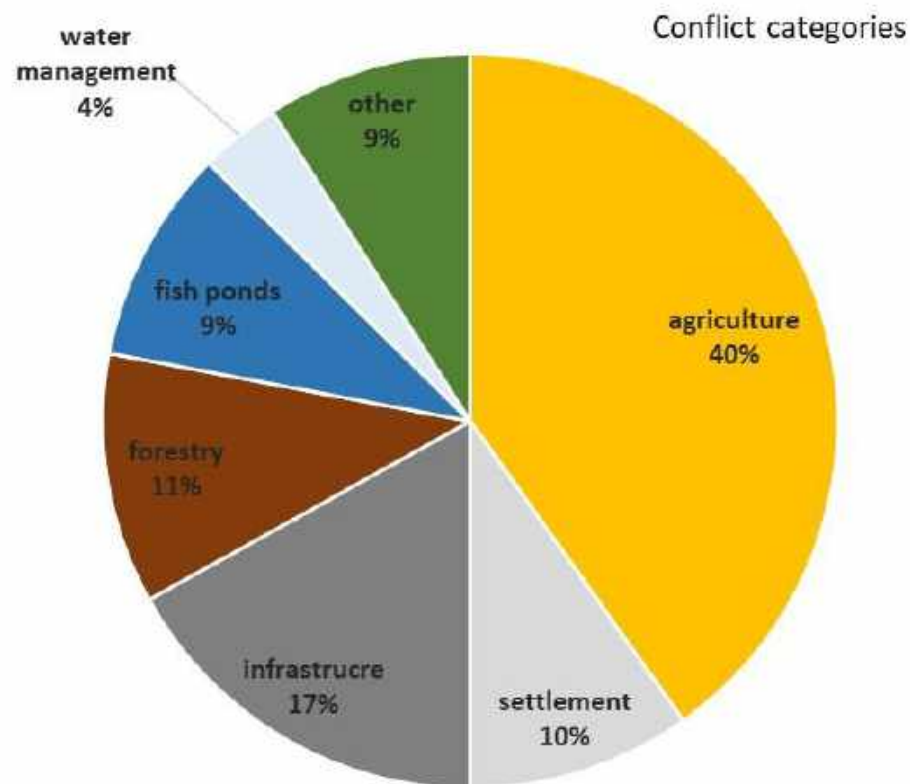
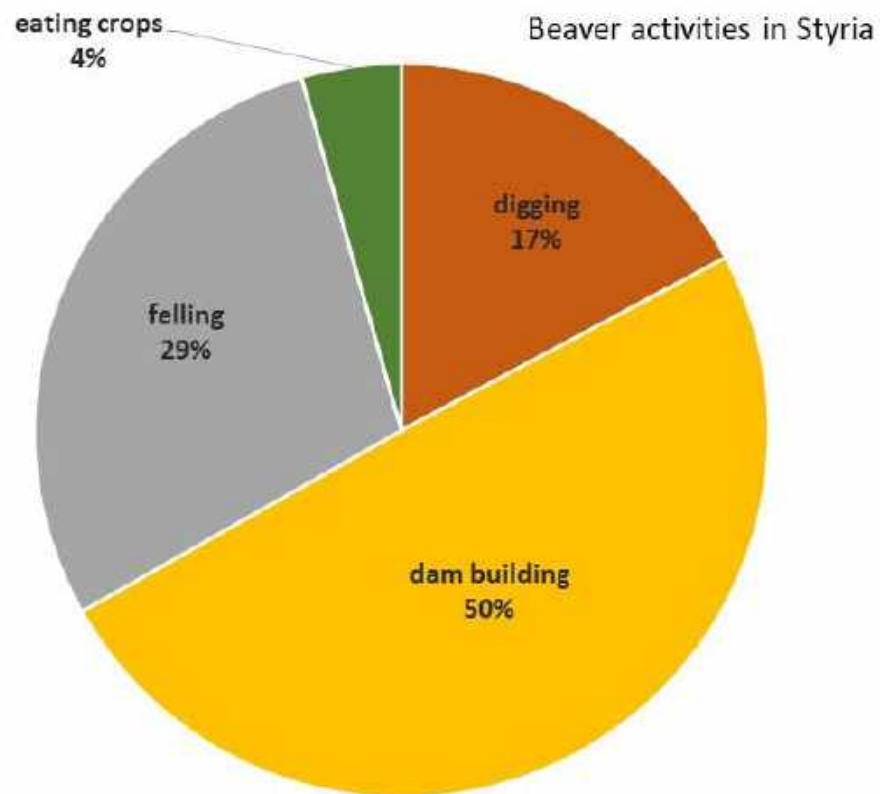




# Supporting consultants of the BNW



# Beaver activities & conflict categories







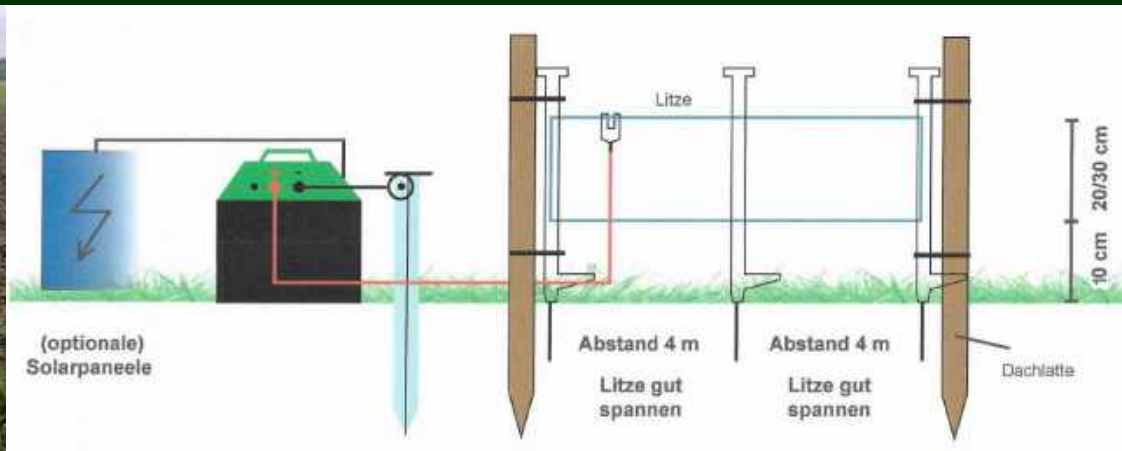
**Eating crops**





# Eating crops

- Number of cases: 11
- Solution approach:
  - Electric fencing







## Felling





# Felling

- Number of cases: 72
- Solution approach:
  - Individual tree protection with mesh
  - Paint protection(WÖBRA)
  - Permanent exclusion fencing (for plantations)







**Not like this!**







**Dam building**







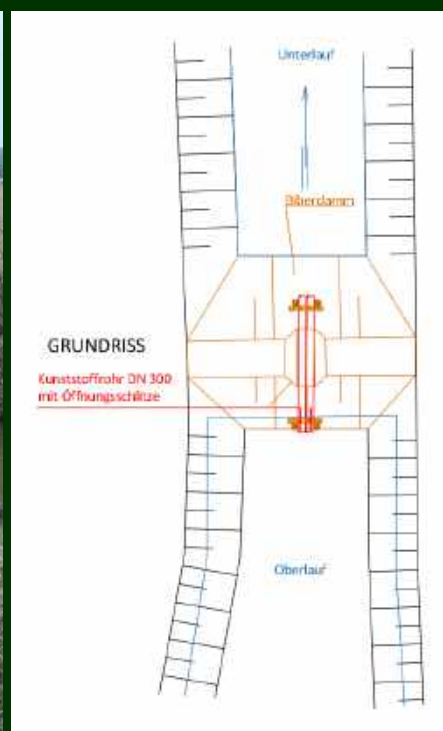


# Dam building

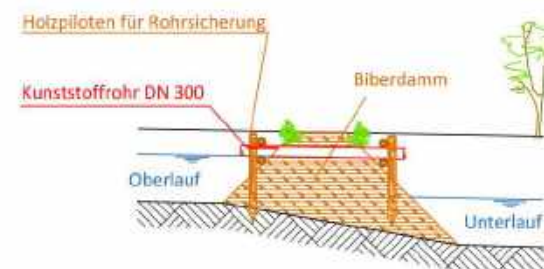
- Number of cases: 124
- Solution approach:
  - Lowering dam height
  - Dam piping
  - Dam removal



# Dam drainage



Schnitt:



Regelprofil:



**Water law authorisation is necessary in Styria!**









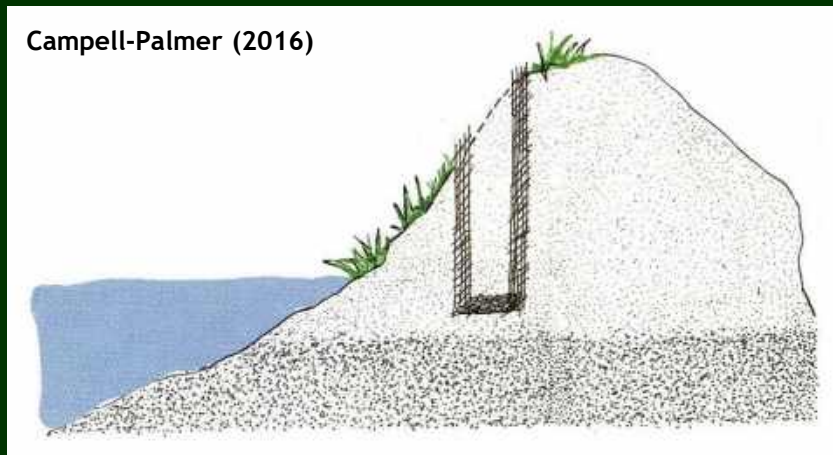
# Digging





# Digging

- Number of cases: 43
- Solution approach:
  - Bank & flood-bank wall protection



- Riparian buffer strip



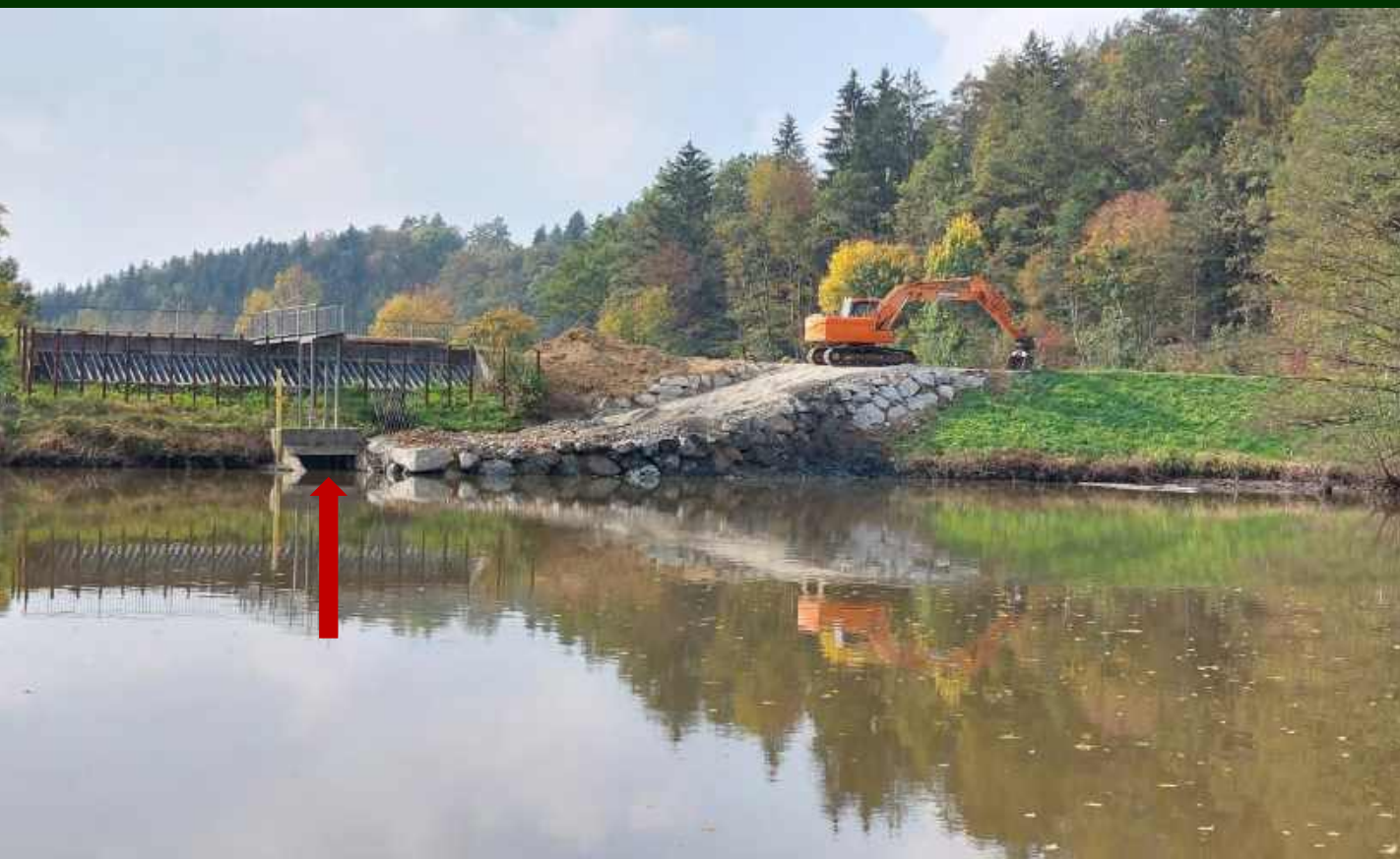


# Combined conflicts





# Combined solutions









# Subsidies for prevention measures

- Since 2022
- Nature conservation department (Abt. 13)
- Total sum for Styria € 50.000 per year

Prevention measure	Subsidy	Maximum
electric fens	€ 4.40/metres	€ 2420
single tree protection	€ 6.60-11.00/tree	€ 1210
gnawing protection	€ 5.50/tree	€ 1210
fixed fens	€ 5.50/metres	€ 3630
dam drainage		€ 3630
other measure		€ 3630



# Subsidies for habitat protection

- **LAV = Landesvertragsnaturschutz**
- **Beaver habitat protection and development**
- **Only a few requirements need to be met**



## Prämien €/ha/Jahr

Grünland	300,00
Biberhabitat auf Acker unter BoKli <sup>6</sup> 50	500,00
Biberhabitat auf Acker über BoKli 50	850,00

## Prämien für Flächen kleiner als 5.000 m<sup>2</sup> in €/Jahr/Fläche

Biberhabitat auf Acker über BoKli 50 bis 1.000 m <sup>2</sup>	300,00
Biberhabitat auf Acker über BoKli 50 1.001 m <sup>2</sup> bis 3.000 m <sup>2</sup>	400,00
Biberhabitat auf Acker über BoKli 50 3.001 m <sup>2</sup> bis 5.000 m <sup>2</sup>	500,00
Biberhabitat auf Acker unter BoKli 50 oder Grünland bis 1.000 m <sup>2</sup>	250,00
Biberhabitat auf Acker unter BoKli 50 oder Grünland 1.001 m <sup>2</sup> bis 3.000 m <sup>2</sup>	350,00
Biberhabitat auf Acker unter BoKli 50 oder Grünland 3.001 m <sup>2</sup> bis 5.000 m <sup>2</sup>	450,00





**Thank you!**



# Special case: Flooding trough

