

## LIFE for MIRES - activities as part of the AfterLifePlan in the year 2025

### **University of South Bohemia**

#### **Excursions**

6 excursions for Elementary and High school students in the Upper Vltava valley – restored sites (Soumarský Most, Dobrovodské louky, etc.; about 100 participants in total, May – June 2025)

Excursion in the Upper Vltava valley for participants of the University of the Third Age course (25 participants, May 2025)

Excursion in the Upper Vltava valley for the students of the Wetland Ecology course (8 participants, May 2025)

Excursion in the Upper Vltava valley for the students of the International Summer school EcoSocMan (September 2025, 35 participants)

#### **Presentations**

Presentation about wetland restoration and LIFE for MIRES project for the participants of the University of the third age course, students of the Wetland Ecology course, participants of the International Summer school EcoSocMan

Presentation about wetland restoration and LIFE for MIRES project at the conference in Slavonice “*Smysl krajiny*”, 20th November 2025

Presentation about wetland restoration and LIFE for MIRES project for the high school teachers within the weekend course organized by Faculty of Science, presentation of the book “*The Kingdom of Water*”, how to teach about wetlands and their role in the landscape, 30 participants, November 2025

Presentation about wetland restoration and LIFE for MIRES project for the employees of the Sumava National Park, November 2025, 60 participants  
(All activities done by Zuzana Urbanová)



**The TAČR project continues:** Restoration of springs – water retention in the landscape directly at the source, which aims to determine whether and how the restoration of springs affects their biota and basic water parameters. The Administration of the Sumava National Park is the application guarantor.

## **Bund Naturschutz**

### **Activities at LIFE for MIREs sites (K. Kleijn)**

#### Wagenwasser

- Changes in the irrigation-ditch to enlarge the irrigated surface.
- Measures for rewetting a former fish pond and the surrounding wetland, both bought at the end of the project.
- Continuing of removing shrubs and trees to complement the grazing measures and to harvest material for filling rests of former irrigation-ditches (now periodical draining) or building branch-heaps for species like birchmouse, adder, lizards, beetles.
- Measurements (opening Spruce-forest, producing dead stems and pile of branches) in a neighbouring area Hinterfirmiansreut to optimise the network of bog- areas for bog-beetles, birch mouse, adder and further reduce old drainage-systems.
- Continuation of regular guiding tours.

#### Langreut

- Digging a pond for frogs and as to buffer water entering from a neighbouring area and used in a Kneipp-basin (till now community tap water).
- Ecological management in a neighbouring former communal pasture area and complementing an older monument with a table about the Green Belt project. After installing the text-table, there was a small feast with all groups involved: Kneipp-Verein, Organisation Catholic Youth, Community Haidmühle, Bund Naturschutz.
- Harvesting branches of *Salix pentandra* for planting in the LIFE areas in Haidmühle.
- Continuation of regular guiding tours and a special tour with the University of Passau.

#### Border Haidmühle

- Mowing of small patches in fallow rewetted parts underneath the skiing slope and on places with *Lupinus* or *Populus tremula*.
- Measures to reduce the drainage effect of rests of the former irrigation system. Most of the work was done by a youth group from Passau (2 former events in 2024/ Kreisjugendring) and a group of volunteers from the regional group of Bund Naturschutz (announced in the regular program).
- Continuation of regular guiding tours and special tours with the University of Passau, two partner schools (Haidmühle, Vimperk), a group organized by the regional authority of Passau and the catholic diocese of Passau.

All project areas are managed by regular grazing and/or mowing and there is a continuous monitoring of vegetation, birds and those butterflies that are part of special measures.

### **Further projects (M. Kreutz)**

As announced, we worked on the Sicista betulina project financed by EU (EFRE) and Bavarian state means, where we restore little creeks and wetland areas to improve habitats. The title of the project is „Optimierung und modellhafte Umsetzung von Renaturierungs-maßnahmen

zur Förderung der Waldbirkenmaus am Grünen Band in den Landkreisen Freyung-Grafenau und Passau im Kontext des grenzübergreifenden Biotopverbundes“ (Optimisation and exemplary implementation of renaturation measures to promote the Northern Birch Mouse along the Green Belt in the districts of Freyung-Grafenau and Passau in the context of the cross-border habitat network). The project was mainly developed based on experience gained from LIFE for MIRES.

In 2025 we implemented measures on around 1.3 hectares:

- stream renaturation over a length of 80 metres (creek Hochmaissage in municipality of Mauth),
- river bank flattening over a length of around 50 metres (creek Saubach in municipality of Neureichenau), and
- installation of 70 m<sup>2</sup> of sheet piling to create a dam around 27 metres long (sealing of drainage ditches in the mire area "Rossdümpfel" in municipality of Hinterschmiding).

In addition, numerous measures were taken to enrich the habitat structure by planting tall forb communities and creating winter quarters for *Sicita betulina*, *Vipera berus*.



Fig. 1: Piles of branches and stones were created

## Working with the public:

- Creating a craft sheet for kids: You can cut out different peat bog species and fold them in 3D. They can also be used as Christmas decorations.



- Launching a scientific project on wetland butterflies with public involvement: <https://freyung-grafenau.bund-naturschutz.de/artenschutz/klein-und-selten-die-waldbirkenmaus-helfen-sie-uns/bioblitz>

People can help to collect information on wetland butterflies in the Bavarian Forest via an App.

And we started a call for reports of *Sicista betulina* sightings in the region: <https://freyung-grafenau.bund-naturschutz.de/artenschutz/klein-und-selten-die-waldbirkenmaus-helfen-sie-uns>

## **Administration of the Šumava National Park**

**Mowing** of wetland meadows to improve habitats for the black grouse to the same extent as in the LIFE for MIREs project (15 ha) – funded by PPK (Doležal, Zelenková, Václavíková)



**Implementation** of restoration projects (Václavíková, Bufková): Najmanka (17 ha) – funded by NPO, Pasecká slať (15 ha in 2025) – will continue in 2026 – funded by NPŽP



**Preparation** of restoration projects – project documentation (Bufková): Souš, Schatzův les, Olšinka, Nad Poválkou, Rožnov, Mlýnský potok (in preparation)

**Cooperation** on restoration projects (Bufková)

Forests of the Czech Republic – Keply, Křížový potok, Pustina projects

Refugium a.s. (environmental company) – “Výtoňské rašeliniště” restoration project

Implementation of **Days for mires** (Bufková, Doležal, Václavíková, Zelenková):

- 5. 8. Lipka (Roviny, Najmanka)
- 17. – 22. 8. Na mysli, z.ú. (Častá, Vlčí Jámy)
- 6. 9. for general public (Mezilesní)
- 7. 10. for general public (Rokytecké)
- 21. 10. SŠRV Třeboň (Zhůří)



**Specialized lectures** (Bufková):

XXII. Seminar on Wetland Ecology and Hydrobotany, February 11–12, 2025, Třeboň

Healthy Landscape of the Pilsen Region, February 20, 2025, Pilsen

LIFE project Brdy, upscaling workshop, April 24, 2025

Symposium Novohradské hory, a resilient yet fragile landscape, September 18, 2025, České Budějovice

Hydrology of Small River Basins, October 7-9, 2025, Prague

River Landscape, October 23-24, 2025, Litomyšl

Our Nature, November 11, 2025, Olomouc

Watercourses, November 19-20, 2025, Hradec Králové

ReCo Conference – European Green Belt, online, December 5, 2025

In addition to purely technical lectures, other more popular educational lectures were held for schools (Nové Město na Moravě, wilderness guides, Ministry of the Environment, foresters, and others).

**Professional excursions** (Bufková ): Czech Senate, Ministry of the Environment, LČR foresters, Partnership Foundation, Czech Environmental Inspectorate, Nature Conservation workers from Bavaria and Podyjí National Park

**Excursions for schools** (Bufková, Doležal, Václavíková, Zelenková): Klatovy Grammar School, Smetanova Elementary School in Vimperk, Trnka Elementary School in Dobříš, Waldorf School in České Budějovice - Lyceum, 2x students from the Czech University of Life Sciences, 2x students from Wageningen University, students of the University of South Bohemia, university students from Banská Bystrica, students of the Faculty of Science, Charles University



**Environmental education** (SEV and IS department staff):  
"Wetlands" seminars for teachers in the South Bohemian and Pilsen regions – July 22, 2025,  
and June 2, 2025  
Educational programs for various elementary and secondary school classes – a total of 11  
programs (206 participants)



**Monitoring** (Doležal, Bufková, Zelenková, Václavíková):

- groundwater levels, soil moisture – monitoring was carried out continuously using the measuring instruments provided in the LfM project, data downloaded approximately twice a year
- chemical analyses once a month on 25 selected profiles
- permanent vegetation plots
- photo points – the vast majority photographed repeatedly in 2025

**Articles:**

*Bufková, I.: Water Returns in Spring Areas, Veronica 2/2025*

*Bufková, I.: Returns of spring areas, Šumava Autumn 2025*

*Bufková, I.: River in a Nordic coat, Živa 9/2025, 289-290 (On the 150th anniversary of the premiere of Bedřich Smetana's Symphonic poem Vltava)*

*Doležal T.: When it rains... it doesn't dry up!, Šumava Winter 2025*

*Doležal T.: The impact of the restoration of wetlands and small watercourses in the Šumava National Park on the runoff regime, Anthology from the conference Hydrology of Small River Basins, 2025*