

Summary description of the Project

„Restoration of habitats in the Federsee bog” (ReHa Federseemoor)



The Federsee bog is situated in the district of Biberach in the Land of Baden-Württemberg (Germany). It covers an area of 2920 ha completely registered in accordance with the Council Directives 92/43/EEG and 79/409/EEG. The Federsee bog is the largest bog in South-West Germany. It is home to several FFH habitats like [6410] Molinia meadows on lime and clay, [7230] alkaline fens or [*91DO] bog woodland and also to large populations of rare animal and plant species (e.g. the annex II species [1145] *Misgurnus fossilis*, [1014] *Vertigo angustior* and [1903] *Liparis loeselii*) and ice-age relics such as *Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum*, *Betula humilis* and *Formica uralensis*.

The habitats are mostly in good shape. On large bog areas, however, there are considerable deficiencies caused by draining and intensive exploitation.

Objectives of the project:

1. Withdrawal of the airfield situated in the middle of the NATURA 2000 area by acquisition of the land and redemption of all rights connected. By the demolition of the buildings and a large-scale restoration of the area an essential factor disturbing water balance, valuable habitats and rare animal and plant species can be eliminated.
2. Acquisition and rewetting of intensively used and drained areas in the Federsee bog. About 150 ha of bog areas can be improved.
3. Expansion and reestablishment of sites of seriously endangered plants as *Liparis loeselii*, *Eriophorum gracile* or *Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum* by elimination of scrubs and reeds. After the initial landscape conservation measures on these areas succession will be controlled.
4. Elimination of invasive plants establishing themselves in the Federsee bog in order to prevent their mass expansion.
5. Rounding off of the nature reserve scenery in the Federsee bog. With the registration of the nature reserve “Steinhauser Ried” (about 570 ha) the Federsee bog protection scenery will be completed.
6. Acquisition of machinery (mower, bushcutters) and equipment to preserve and develop habitats and to control succession of restored areas. The measures taken will be monitored.
7. Visitor guidance by creation of an information point with a tower and information panels.
8. Visitor information by compilation of info material, creation of a Homepage, publicity work and guided tours.

