

Abstract: Hunting law as a tool for environmental protection

In the scope of three main chapters, introduction and conclusion, the thesis attempts to capture the relationship between the Czech hunting legislation and nature conservation. The question is whether we can consider the current concept of the Hunting Act (449/2001 Sb.) as one of the tools of environmental protection. For the elaboration I based the research, among other things, on my personal experience with pro-landscape hunting in the vicinity of the village Vinaře, Central Bohemia. Furthermore, I elaborated on interesting cases of judicial and administrative practice and, last but not least, I took into account the relevant legal norms and appropriate literature or professional texts.

The first chapter deals in more detail with the very concept of hunting, including various interpretations and therefore also meanings. The second part of the first chapter describes - rather briefly - the history of hunting predominantly in the Czech territory. In this context, greater emphasis is placed primarily on the first signs of nature protection.

The next chapter follows the very essence of the monography, namely the role of hunting in environmental protection. I pay special attention to the hunting ground and game in this regard. One of the separate subchapters then deals with the state administration of hunting. Here I point out primarily the issue of the detached from reality and undersized offices in combination with actually quite impuissant roles of hunting managers and guards.

In the third chapter, I follow up by highlighting some fundamental problems of current legislation and hunting practice, especially in relation to other human activities in nature. I mention, for example, the ever-increasing tourist pressure on the landscape, the rather negative perception of Czech hunters by the general public, generally unsatisfactory forestry and agriculture management, high numbers of some species of ungulates in contrast to the alarming decline of small game, and others. I continue to look at the possible future development of hunting legislation, especially in the light of two amendments - the first already valid, but probably never effective, and the second so far only in the form of the parliamentary press. I will critically review most of the proposed changes, outlining the main advantages and disadvantages that the changes potentially bring.

In the last part, I draw the readers' attention to my own proposal for a new concept of hunting in the Czech Republic, for which I found a great inspiration in the functioning of hunting and the overall management of wildlife in the US state of Florida. The thesis in this part is not based only on the local legislation, suitable publications or articles, but also on my own observations and observations of local hunters. I conclude only very briefly by

summarizing the essentials, while including a consideration of the possibilities of the direction of Czech hunting in the future.