Abstract

This thesis depicts the evolution of the relation of people to our forests and hunting till the year 1938. During the initial settlement of our country all members of tribes were free to hunt without regulations. Since the 11th century the wealthy aristocracy had their own hereditary woods and restricted the right of hunting animals. The first important step to protect our forests was taken by Charles IV but his legal regulation called Codex Carolinus wasn´t approved because of the aristocracy opposition. The profitability of forestry began to be appreciated in the 15th and the 16th century. Many instructions regulating the protection of forests were issued in this period. The forests were in an alarming state, exhausted and without wood reserves till the 18th century. The forest law underwent the biggest development under the rule of Maria Terezia and Joseph II. The most important legal regulation in that period was the hunting rule from the year 1754.

The biggest break in the development of hunting law was brought by the patent No. 54/1849 i. a. of the emperor Frank Joseph I. in 1849. The monarch cancelled the nobility´s right of hunting in other people´s holdings by means of this patent. A slow shift from quantity to quality in the conception of hunting started in the 19th century. In 1852 the modern forests legal regulation called the imperial patent No. 250/1852 i.a. was issued. It was the first comprehensive modern legal regulation that came with the legal instruments to protect the forests. The imperial patent was valid till 1960 when the comprehensive forest legal regulation covering forests and forestry was issued.

As the legal rules of forest and hunting law were changing and evolving during the time there had always been a common feature to protect the forests and animals and to obtain benefits from their use.