

MINISTERIUM
FÜR EIN
LEBENSWERTES
ÖSTERREICH

WILDBACH- UND LAWINENVERBAUUNG

die-wildbach.at

THE FUNCTION OF FORESTS IN NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION IN AUSTRIA

DI SIEGFRIED SAUERMOSER



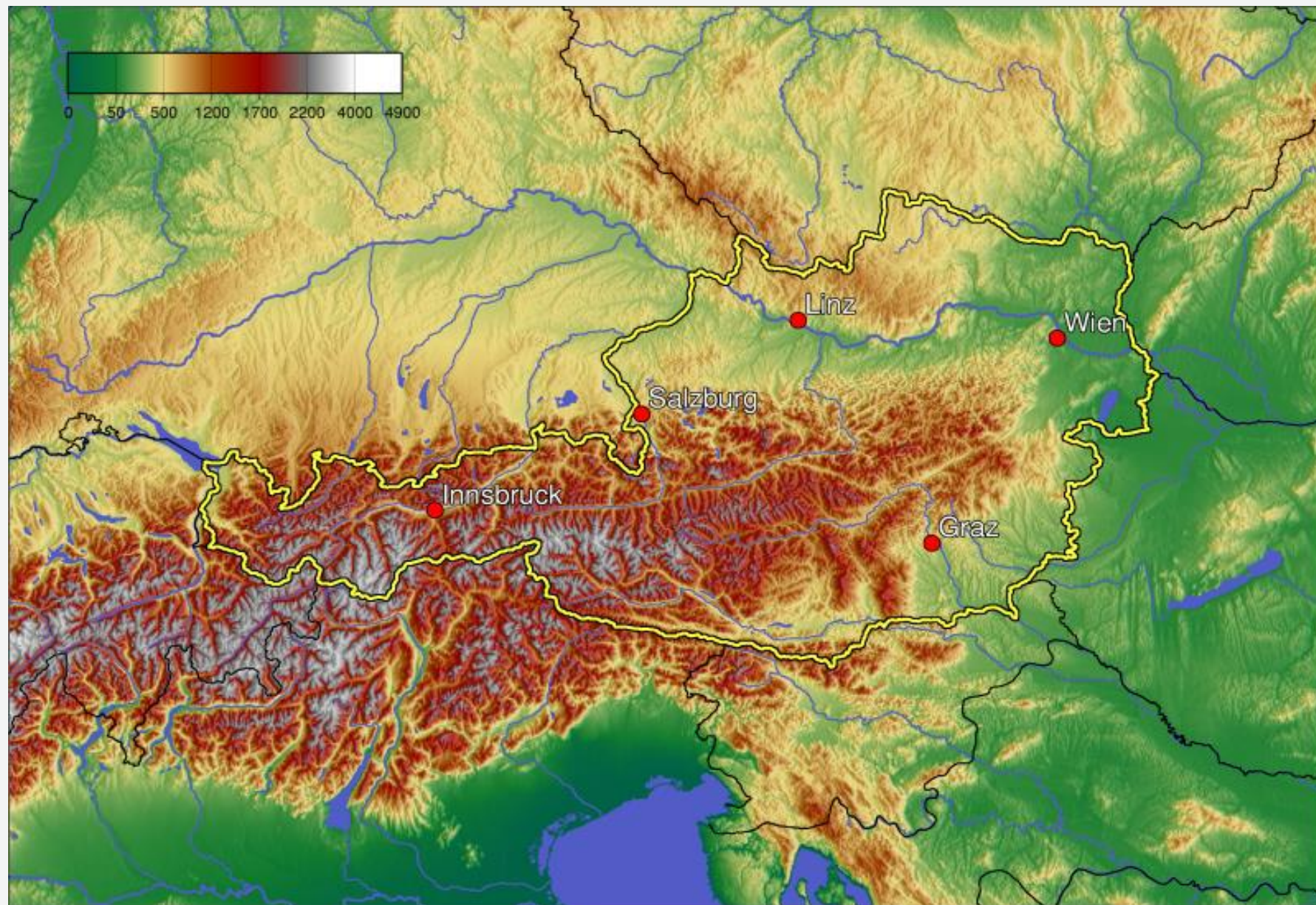


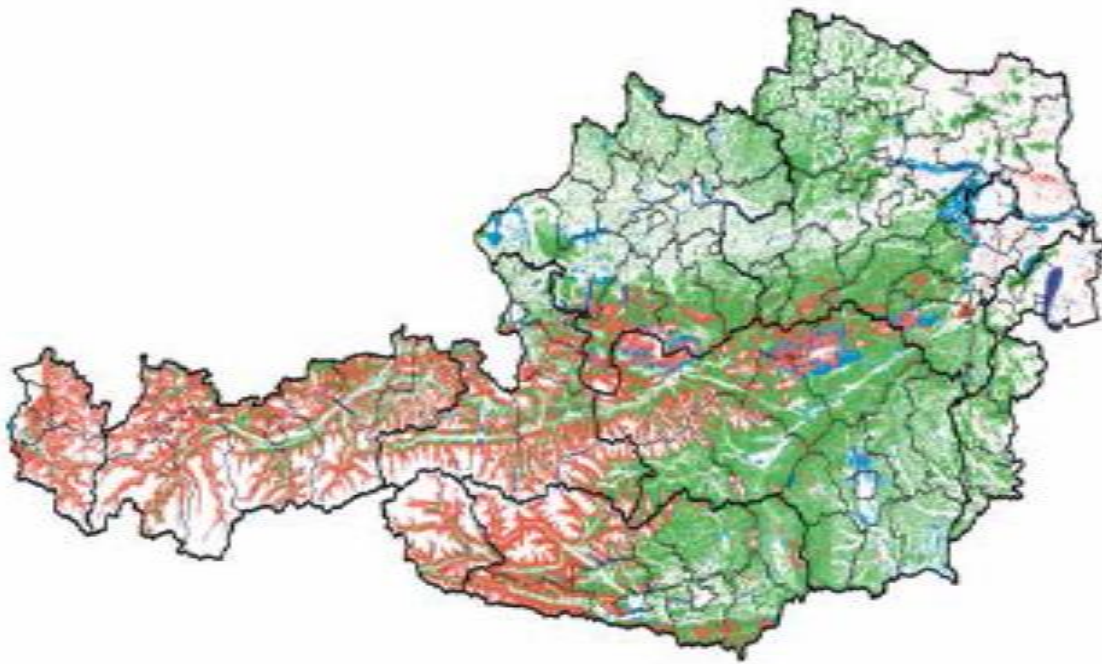


Foto: WLV Tirol

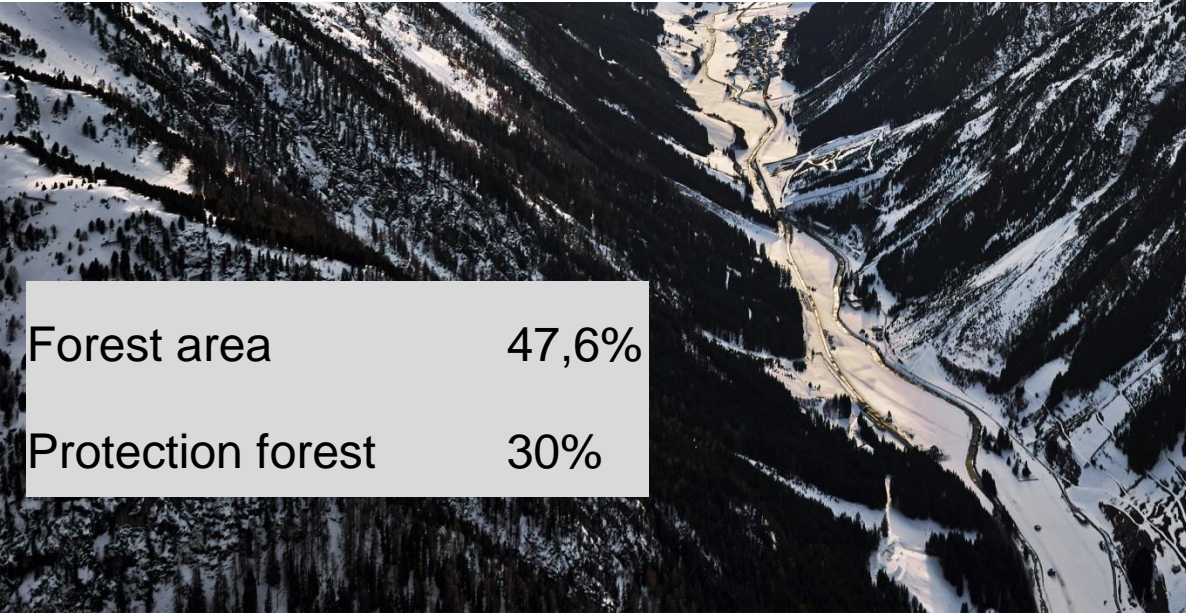
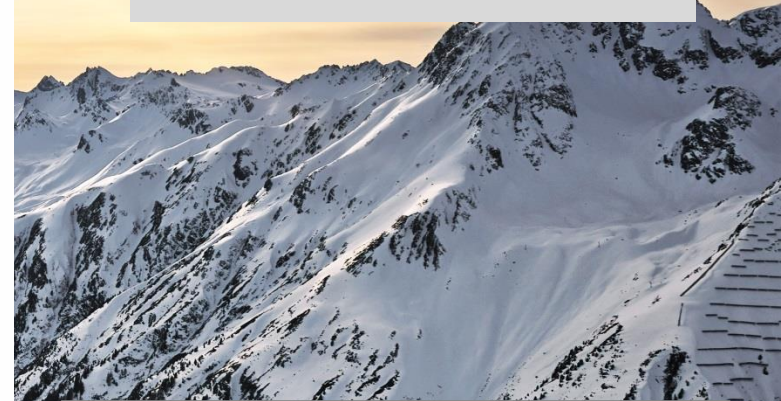


Forests offer an important contribution to protecting life in the Alps; They protect against avalanches, debris flows, rockfalls and floods;

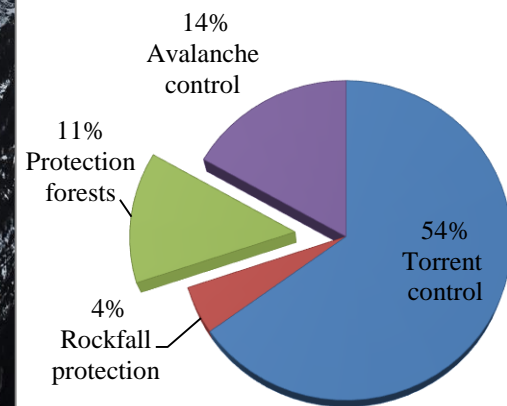
However, there are also limits to the protective capacities of forests



Every year almost
€ 120 mio
are used for avalanche,
torrent and erosion control



Forest area	47,6%
Protection forest	30%





Regeneration must be initiated as early as possible in small openings

Forest law: two different types of protection forests:

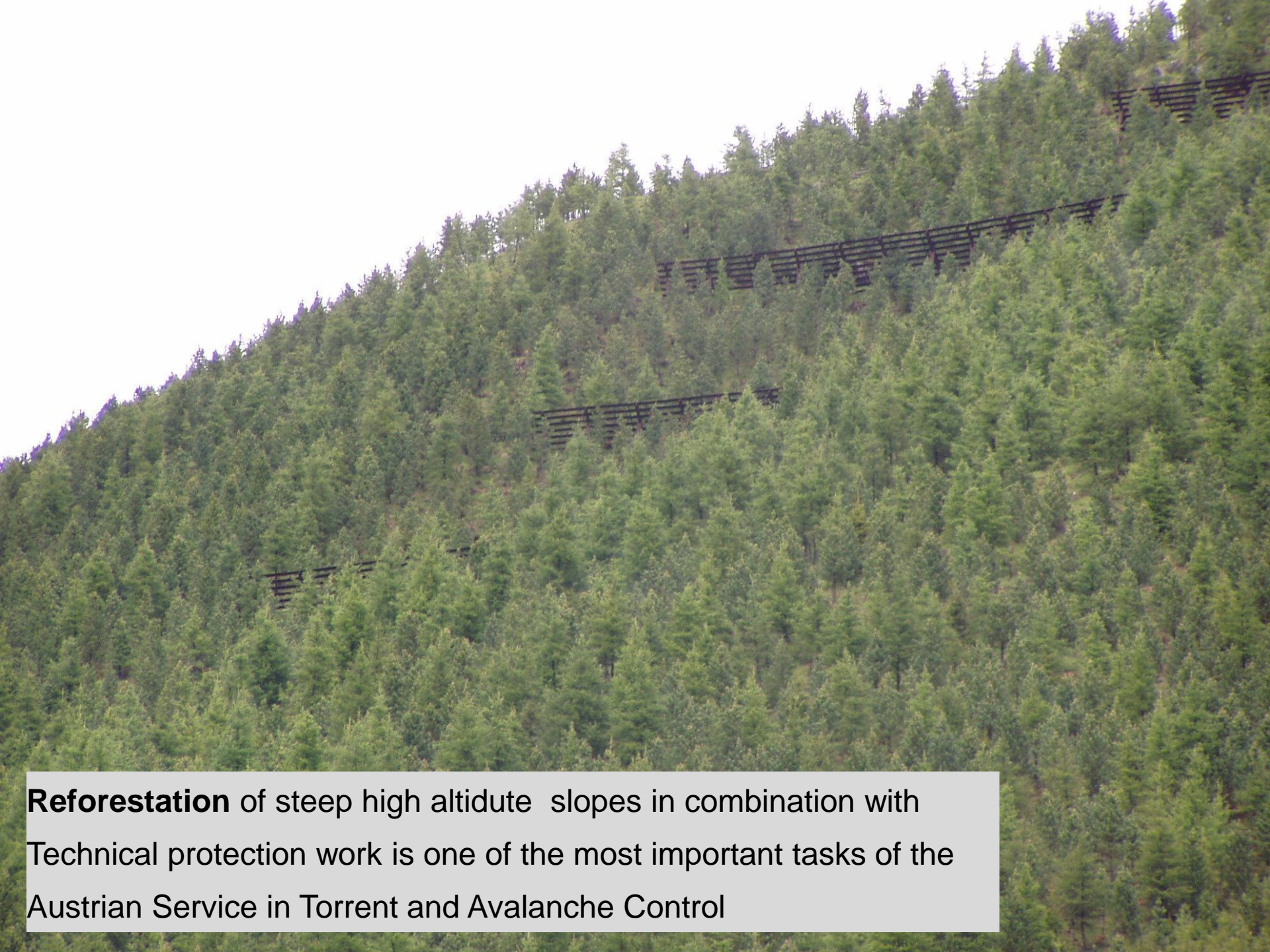
- Site protection forests
- Object protection forests

Successful regeneration is obstructed by many factors:

- damage by game
- snow pressure
- forest pasture
- erosion
- degradation







Reforestation of steep high altitude slopes in combination with Technical protection work is one of the most important tasks of the Austrian Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control

Austria's Protection Forest Strategy 2002

About ten years ago representatives of important Ministries and the Provincial Governments and the representations of interest of the territorial authorities, the economy and the hunting sector laid down their joint intentions in the binding Austrian Protection Forest Strategy.

Awareness is to be raised for this important fact.

Federal Forest protection platforms

shall serve for deciding on the measures needed for the protection forests and harmonising the different interests where necessary. This platforms unites all stakeholder groups involved.....(foresters, hunters, farmers etc...)

Projects to guide different interest into different areas.....

Protection forests concern us all!



Thank you for your attention

Foto: Sauermoser