

Red deer research in a national park – where are the limits?

Rotwildforschung im Nationalpark – wo sind die Grenzen?

Andreas DUSCHER

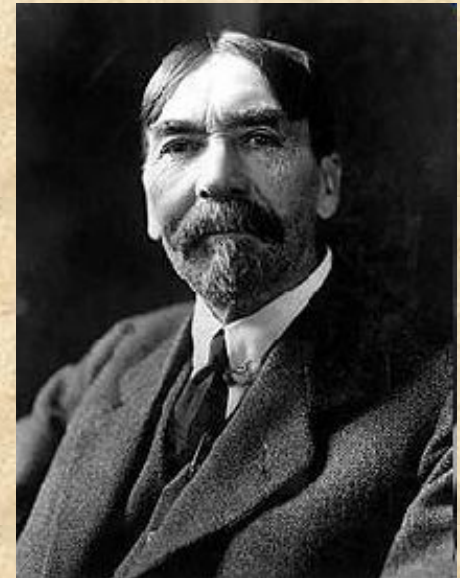


**Research Institute of
Wildlife Ecology**

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The outcome of any serious research can only be to make two questions grow, where only one grew before.

Thorstein Veblen (1857 - 1929)
Norwegian-American sociologist and
economist



Variables of a research project in a NP region

Species: Object of research

Methods: depending on aim and object of research

Size of protected area: Border NP

Size of effective used/usable area: natural borders, management units

Socio-cultural interests: hunting (tradition, cultural heritage)

Economic interests: hunting, forestry, alpine farming
(sheep, cattle, goats, horses)

Ecological interests: Habitat/spatial use, Conservation,
Biodiversity



Red deer telemetry project

Part of a long time project (since 1998)

Telemetry running 2003 - 2006

6 females, 1 male collared with GPS-GSM Collars



Duscher: Limits in research in a NP



Goals

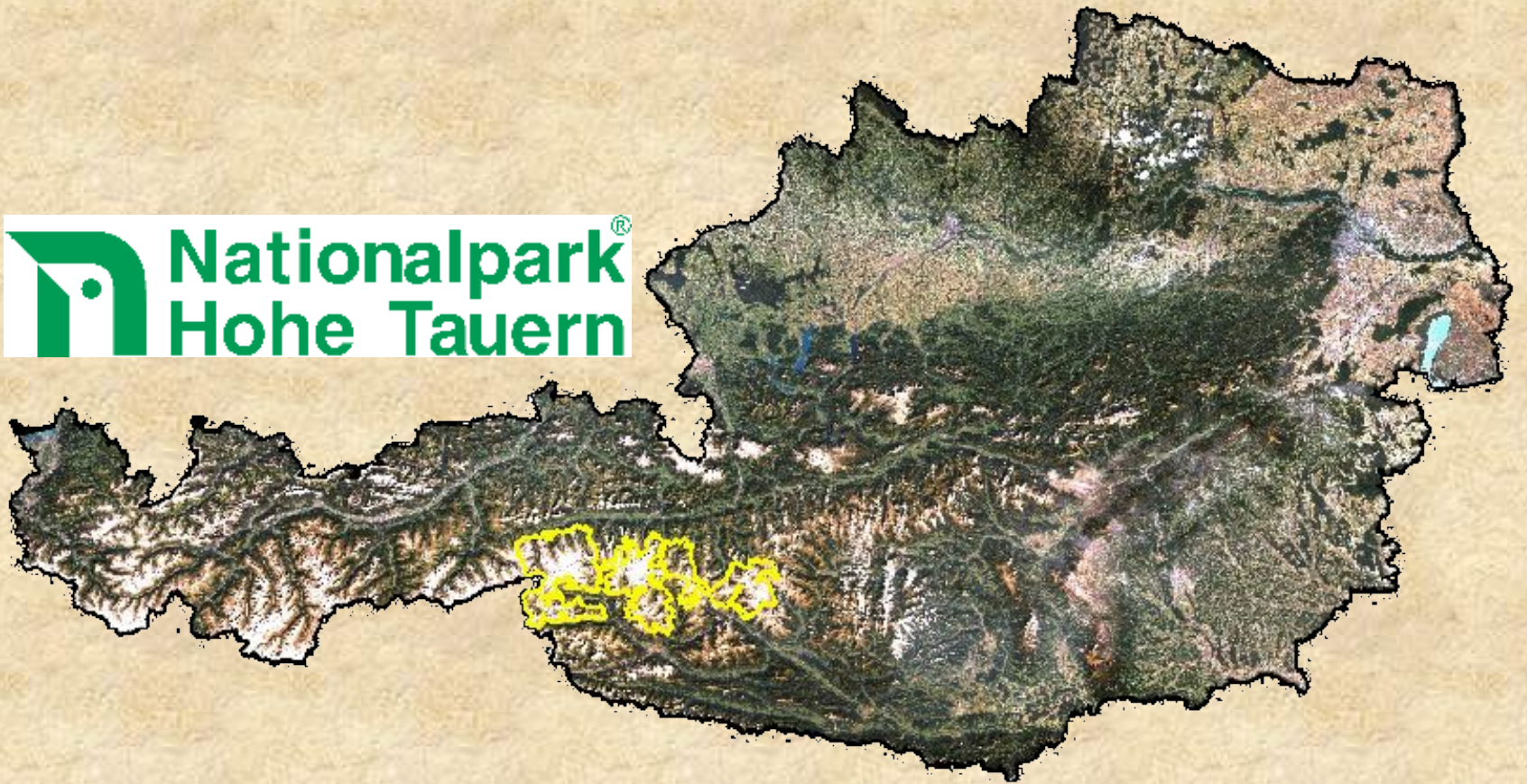
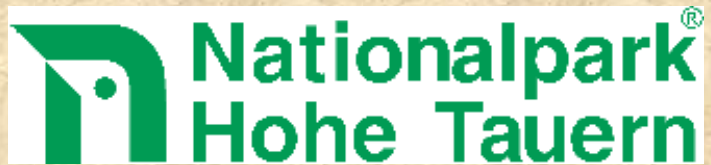
- Development and practical application of wildlife management strategies in National Parks (e.g. Red deer)
- Involving the surrounding areas of the NP
- Tolerable ungulate impact on vegetation in and outside NP



Ungulate Regulation Model

- no culling in open alpine grassland areas
 - less shy animals
 - less damage in forest
- Most of the regulation outside National Park
- No “trophy hunt”





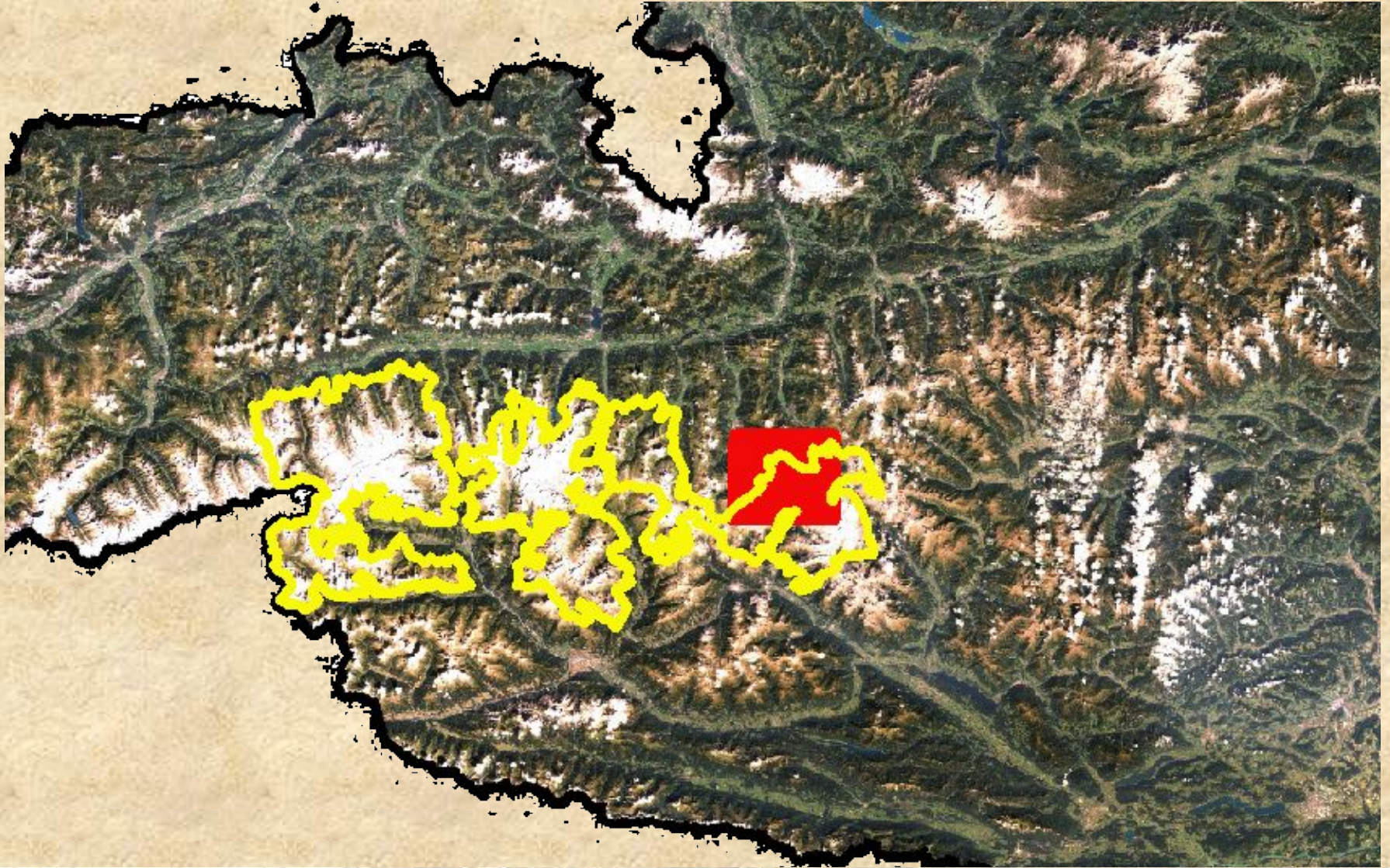
Size of protected area: 1840 km² (184 000 ha)



Duscher: Limits in research in a NP



Project area



Duscher: Limits in research in a NP



Hunting territory area: 3878 ha

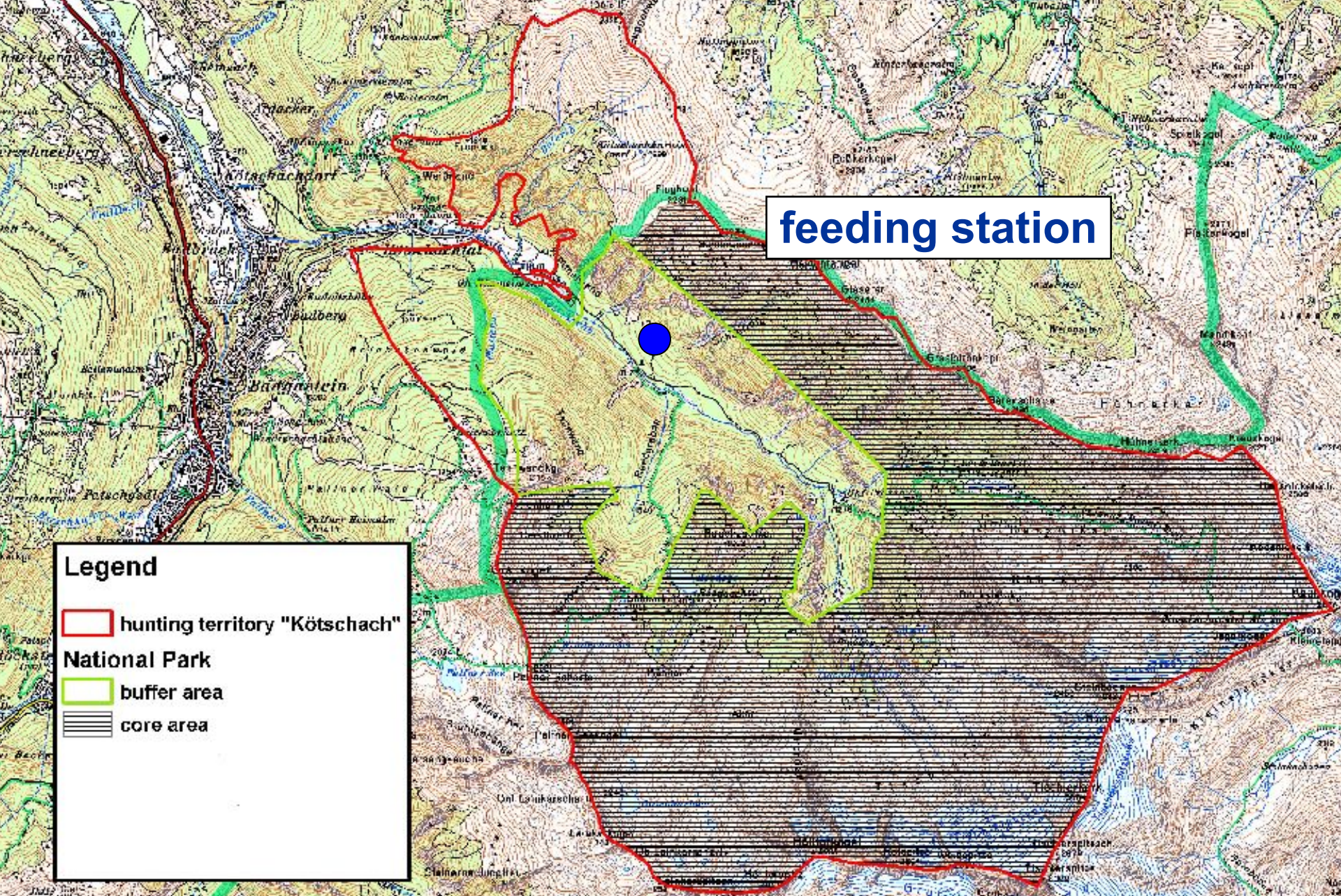
Legend

 hunting territory "Kötschach"

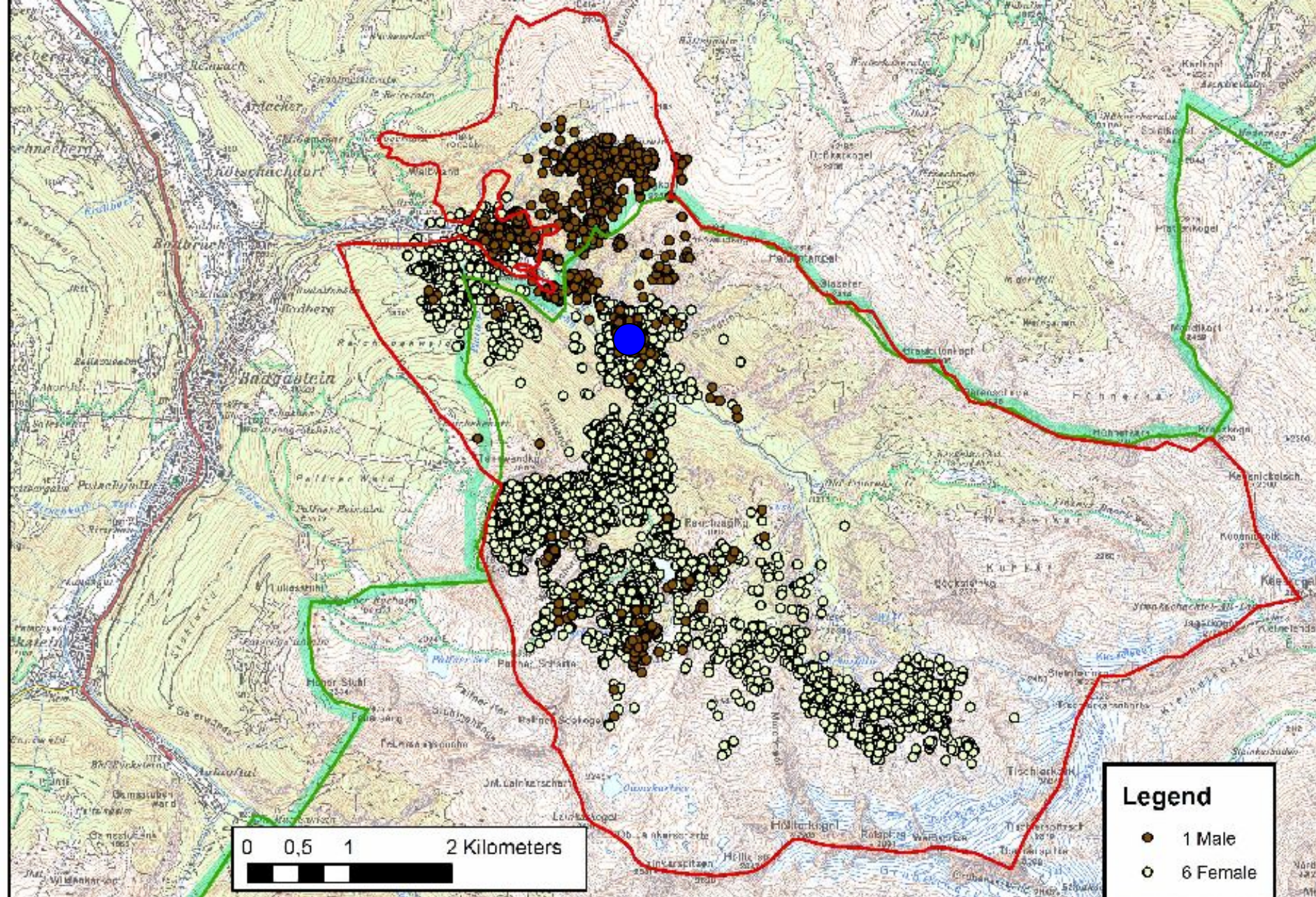


Duscher: Limits in research in a NP





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Regulation on 13% of hunting territory

1% in Core Area of NP

7% in Buffer Area of NP

5% outside NP

Legend


 hunting territory "Kötschach"

National Park

 buffer area

 core area

Regulation categories

 intensive regulation area

 intervall regulation area

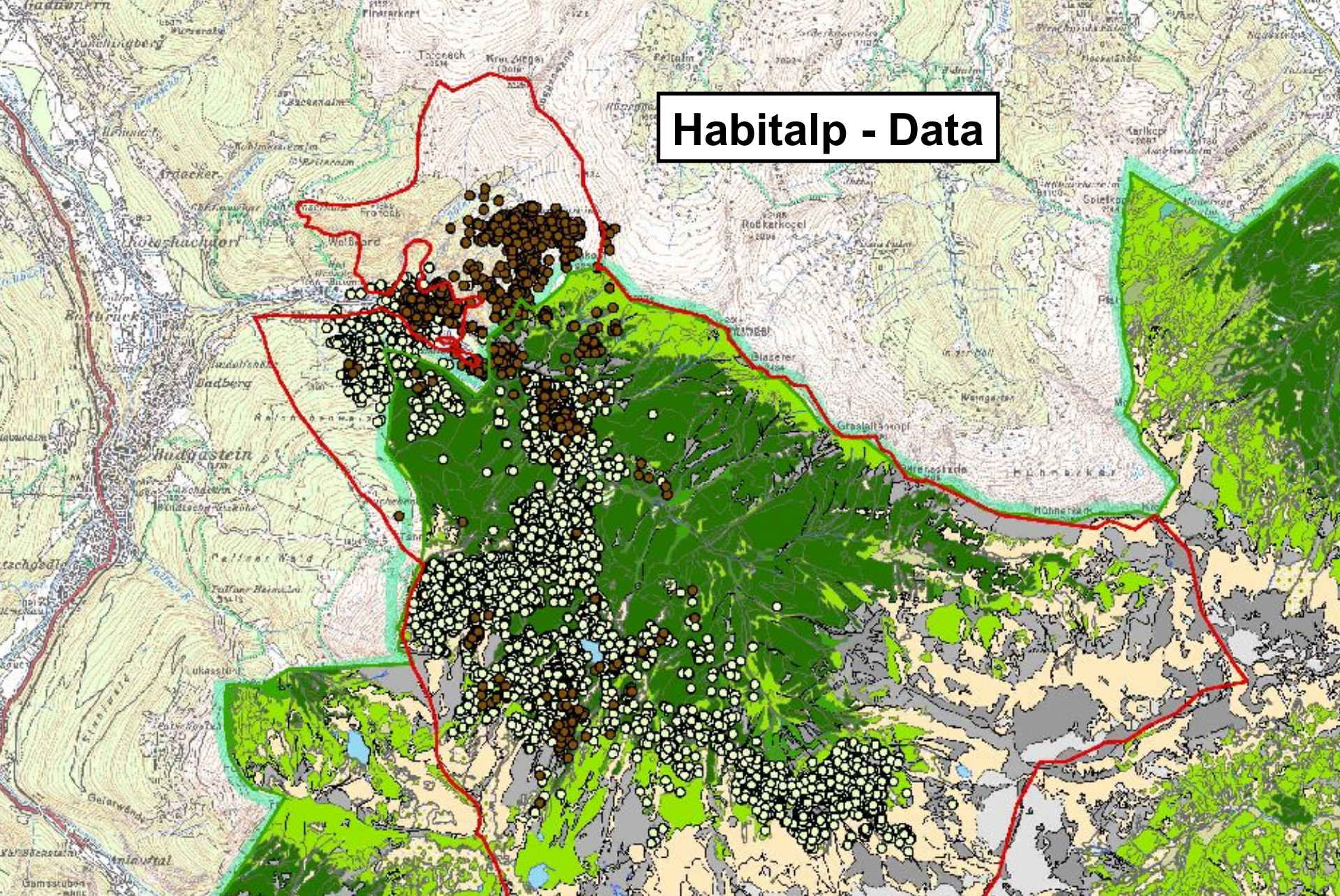
 optional regulation area



Duscher: Limits in research in a NP



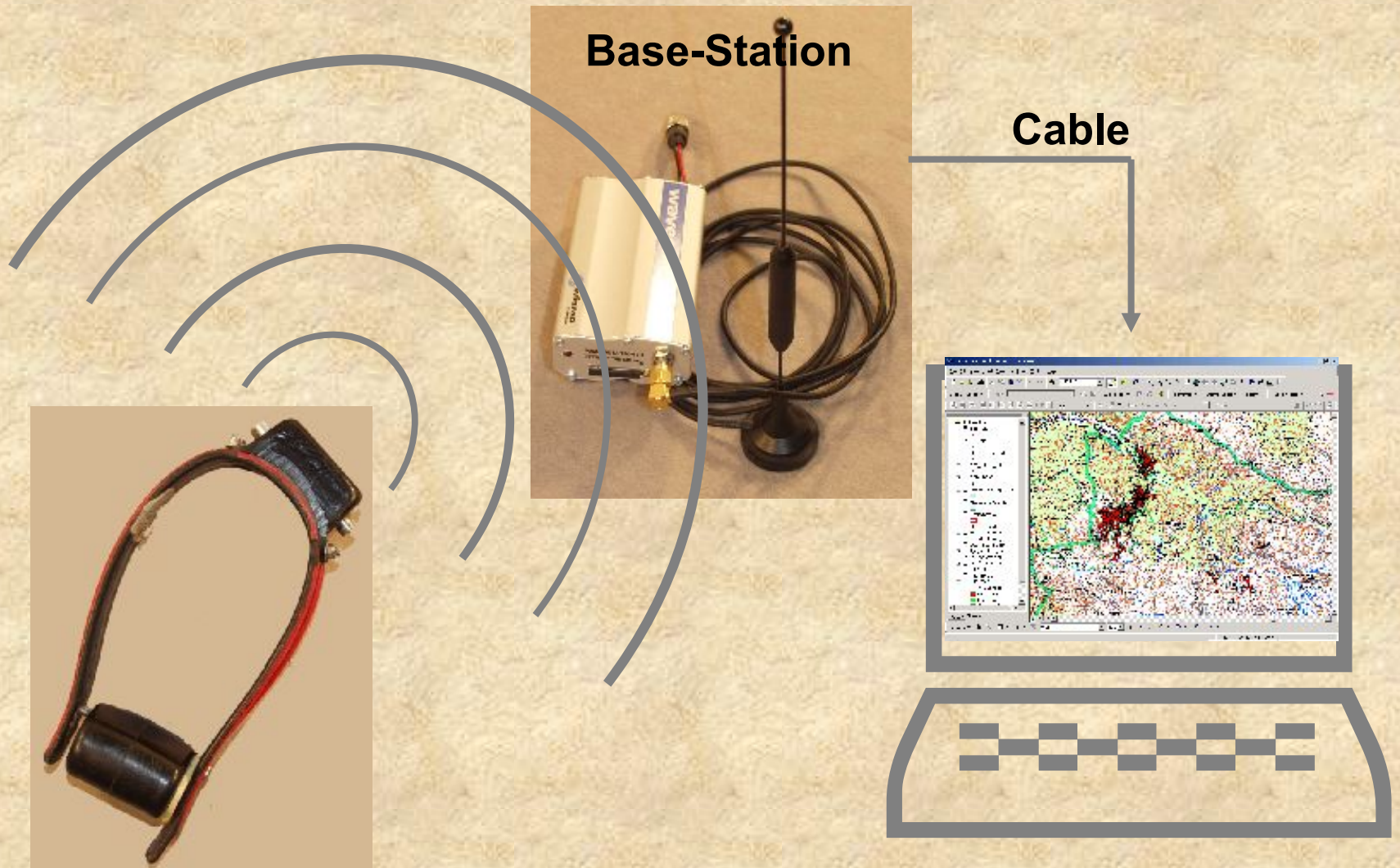
Habitalp - Data



Duscher: Limits in research in a NP



Technical limits



Personnel limits



Duscher: Limits in research in a NP



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In General:

National Park provides optimal playground for research

Area

Basic data (GIS)

Staff

Money

Time

...

But is limited on its border!!



No matter if Wilderness/ Research/ Management Yes or No:

~~**What's the benefit for the national park?**~~

**What's the benefit of the national park in getting new
(ecological) knowledge**

And

**What's the benefit for the region/ the surrounding
areas?**

