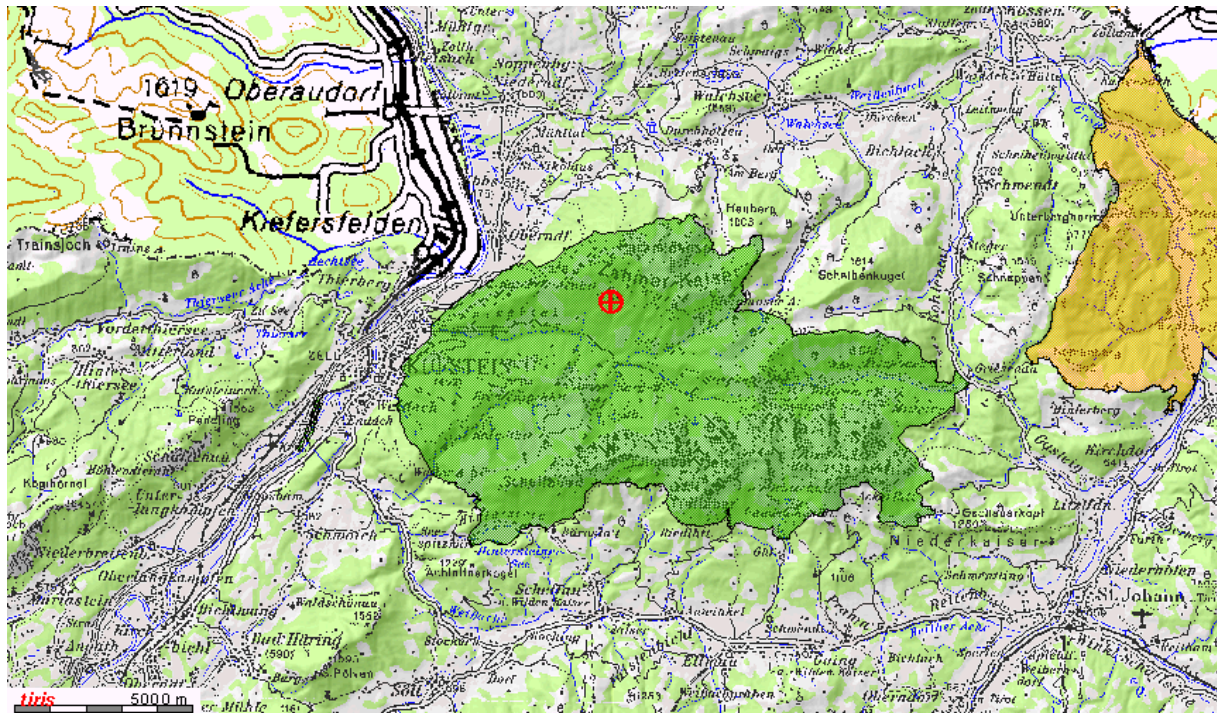


Annex 1:
The wetlands of "Kaisergebirge"

Kaisergebirge

Size: 102 km², **Altitude:** 480-2344 m. The Kaisergebirge is located in the communes Kufstein, St. Johann, Ebbs, Ellmau, Going, Kirchdorf, Scheffau and Walchsee belonging to the districts of Kitzbühel and Kufstein in the state Tyrol/Austria. It is a nature reserve since 1963.



Landscape and Geology:

The Kaisergebirge is a Karst massif to the east of the city of Kufstein between the softly shaped Chiemgau mountains to the north and the Kitzbühel Alps to the south. The two mountain ranges run parallel from east to the west with length of about 20 km and a width of 14 km. The northern range, the "Zahmer Kaiser" reaches an altitude of 2001 m (Vordere Kesselschneid) and the southern range, the "Wilder Kaiser", 2344 m (Ellmauer Halt). Bizarre shaped narrow summits and rock faces up to 1000 m are outstanding in the Northern Limestone Alps and responsible for the name of the massif (Wilder Kaiser = Wild Emperor due to the crown like shape of the southern range). The Wetterstein limestone forms the upper part of the massif and has a thickness of about 1000 m, in the valleys and lower parts younger rocks such as Dolomite (Hauptdolomit) and moraine are prevailing.

Vegetation

The main forest vegetation types of the "Kaisergebirge" are the north Alpine spruce-fir-beech forest community, the sycamore-ash forest community especially in canyons or on north looking slopes, beech forests on the sunny slopes, alder forests along brooks and around springs and spruce forests above 1400 m.

Due to human influence lasting for thousands of years many meadow and pasture communities have developed reaching from nutrient rich grasslands to dry grassland.

In the Subalpine belt the dwarf shrub community of *Rhododendron hirsutum* and the Kummholz formation of *Pinus mugo* are prevailing and in the Alpine belt up to 2300 m Alpine meadows, several sedge and pillow sedge communities are abundant.

The wetlands are characterised by different small sedge communities (*Caricetum fuscae*, *Caricetum davallianae*, *Campylo-Caricetum dioicae*), tall sedge communities (*Caricetum rostratae*, *Caricetum vesicariae*), *Scirpetum syvaticae*, *Phragmitetum communis*, spring fen communities and in one place the very rare *Allium schoenoprasum* community.

Fauna

Some noteworthy invertebrate species were found in the Kaisergebirge: a Clausilidae species (snail), an endemic *Erebia* species, a rare *Plusia* species (butterfly), *Siro duricorius* (Harvestman) *Allobobophora smaragdina* (Green Earthworm) and snakes like *Salamandra salamandra*, *Coronella austriaca* and *Vipera berus*. Typical mammals are Edible Doormouse (*Glis glis*), Hazel Doormouse (*Muscardinus avellarius*), *Myodes glareolus*, *Chionomys nivalis*, Stoat (*Mustela erminea*), Mountain Hare (*Lepus timidus*) and Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*).

Typical birds are Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*), Red Breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*), Daw (*Corvus monedula*), Raven (*Corvus corax*), Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*), Willow Tit (*Parus montanus*), *Acanthis linaria rufescens*, Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris*), Wallcreeper (*Tichodroma muriana*), Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), Snow Grouse (*Lagopus mutus*), Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Chicken Hawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*), Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*), Tengmalm's Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

Literature

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The "Wilder Kaiser" massif from the south with sandstone hills in the foreground.