

Rotmoos im Fuschertal

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

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DD MM YY

Designation date Site Reference Number

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 28 (2003)

3. Country:

Republic of Austria

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Rotmoos im Fuschertal

5. Map of site included:

- a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): **yes** -or- no
b) digital (electronic) format (optional): **yes** -or- no

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

47°17'N, 12°47'E

7. General location:

Innermost Fusch valley in the „Hohe Tauern“ - region (Community of Fusch, Land of Salzburg). The nearest large town is Zell am See (22 km distance, 8000 inhabitants)

8. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)

1270 - 1300 m NN

9. Area: (in hectares)

58

10. Overview:

Most depressed U-shaped valley in the Eastern Central Alps. Within 4 km of horizontal distance there is an altitude difference of nearly 2300 m between the lowest point of the valley and the highest peak of the bordering „Wiesbachhorn“ (3562 m). Rare calcareous fen with interesting features of fluvial elements. Uniquely developed *Caricetum davalliana* (otherwise rare in this region). High alpine plant species at the low altitude of 1300 m!

11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Criterion 1:

The *Caricetum davalliana* is a rare wetland type within the region of the Central alps, because it depends on calcareous ground, whereas silicate vegetation is typical for this area.

Criterion 2:

Peculiar mix of alpine and swamp vegetation hardly found elsewhere: e.g. *Carex davalliana* alongside *Carex firma* and *Sesleria varia*, as well as *Carex limosa*, *Utricularia minor*, *U. australis*, *Salix myrsinifolia*, *S. repens*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Dactylorhiza majalis* (very abundant occurrence!) and other orchids, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Carex dioica*, *Dryas octopetala*

Endangered animal species: *Actitis hypoleucos*, *Saxicola rubetra*, *Parnassius mnemosyne*, *P. phoebe*, *Zygaena loti*, *Hydriomena ruberata*

Criterion 3:

The vegetation in the Rotmoos mainly consists of fen plant communities such as *Caricetum davalliana*, *Caricetum paniculatae*, *Caricetum rostratae* and – less important – *Caricetum nigrae* and *Eleocharitetum quinqueflorae*.

13. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

a) biogeographic region:

depending on Council Directive 92/43/EEC: Alpine biogeographic region

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Eastern Central Alps („Hohe Tauern“)

14. Physical features of the site:

Valley head with amphitheater-type elevation at a low altitude unknown to other „Tauern“- valleys. Significant differences in altitude of valley and surrounding

mountains producing various levels of vegetation and climate. Various geomorphical structures (i.e. humps, kars, troughs, moraines, cones of rubbles and avalanches). Transition of uncultivated mountain streams into fenland. Recent glaciers and avalanches. Manifold geological changes.

Origins: On a layer of Phyllite there is a layer of solid calcareous schist and alluvia.

Hydrology: High inflow and outflow during spring and summer due to melted snow and ice and precipitations

Soil type and chemistry: Peat layers in a sandy sediment

Climate see 15.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

Rotmoos is fed by Fuscher Ache, several torrents and waterfalls. Outflow through Fuscher Ache.

Climate: Mean temperature 5°C, precipitation 1300 mm/year, snow cover from early November to late April. Depth of snow: 50 - 150 cm. Avalanches may cover parts of the wetland throughout the summer

Extensive land use (e.g. pasture)

16. Hydrological values:

Through rivulets and waterfalls (glaciers and mountains from the catchment) sediment is deposited to the effect that new living spaces originate constantly. In this area the rock stratum should be rich of silicate, however, in the wetland the rock stratum is made of limestone.

17. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Marine/coastal:

-

Inland:

LMNOPQRSpSsTpTsUVaVtWXfXpYZgZk(b)

Human-made:

-

b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

U (dominant) – Va (sporadic) – M

18. General ecological features:

Rotmoos is a calcareous fen although silicate vegetation is typical for this area. Due to the movement of the water, debris and pebbles are displaced thus creating new habitats. The dynamics of the vegetation on new habitats and the transition to underbrush is vividly demonstrated in this area.

The fen is interspersed with rock-slides.

Vegetation types:

1. *Caricetum davallianae* well developed, accompanied by e.g. *Primula farinosa*, *Tofieldia calyculata*, *Eriophorum latifolium*.
2. *Alnetum incanae* – the forest is predominated by *Alnus incana*. *Picea abies* and *Acer montanus* are rare. Subalpine species like *Adenostyles glabra* and *Senecio fuchsii* at the undergrowth.

Seasonal variations – due the movement of water, debris and pebbles are desplaced.

New habitats appear, old habitats disappear.

Winter – hibernation

Spring – vegetation grows and blossoms

Summer – vegetation blossoms and bears fruit

Autumn – fruits ripen

Natural plant communities in adjacent areas – mainly *Alnetum incanae* in moist places. Slopes on both sides of the fen are wooded (*Adenostylo - Piceetum*).

Present vegetation – *Alnetum incanae* along Füscher Ache and rivulets. Due to moderate use by domesticated animals an sufficient drainage *Agrostio-Trifolio-Deschampsietum-Cespitosum* is found on adjacent moist pastures.

19. Noteworthy flora:

Caricetum davallianae with rare species like *Primula farinosa*, *Eriophorum latifolium*, *Dactylorhiza majalis* and *Sphagnum warnstorffii*. Alpine species grow alongside swamp species eg. *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Carex firma*. On some rock slides in the wetland and on dryer parts *Caricetum firmae* has developed next to alpine species like *Dryas octopetala* and *Globularia cordifolia*. Fen vegetation and *Alnetum incanae* make up a seldom vegetation structure.

20. Noteworthy fauna:

A large number of insects were found in the „Rotmoos“: More than 293 different butterfly species, more than 330 different species of beetles. In addition 41 snail-species are representing more than 10% of all species found in Austria. Especially *Vertigo modesta* is very rare. 48 bird species were found in the area, of that 24 breeding birds, 11 probalby breeding birds and 10-14 species which use the area for foraging and/or breed near the „Rotmoos“. *Actitis hypoleucos* possesses in „Rotmoos“ one of the very few breeding places in the „Hohe Tauern“ at high altitudes.

21. Social and cultural values:

An ancient path leads through the valley (2nd Century B.C.). In the Middle Ages this was an important trade route to the South (Italy esp. Friaul). Following an old tradition there is an annual pilgrimage form Ferleiten over the Tauernhauptkamm to Heiligenblut.

In former times fences were built of stone. This kind of fence is rare in this region. Fences like this are important cultural monuments.

The restricted agricultural use is important for the preservation of the current vegetation which would otherwise revert to forest.

22. Land tenure/ownership:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

Some Private owners

Austrian Federal Forest Association

- (b) in the surrounding area:
Partly private, partly public property

23. Current land (including water) use:

- (a) within the Ramsar site:
The „Rotmoos“ is restrictively used for extensive farming. Fishing and hunting is permitted. The area is not inhabited

- (b) in the surroundings/catchment:
There is agriculture, forestry and tourism in the surroundings and catchment. The area is thinly populated during tourist season (two restaurants, one toll-house for the road „Großglockner-Hochalpenstraße“)

24. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

- (a) within the Ramsar site:
In the Northern part of the wetland some drainage. Therefore water drains off the wetland, the consequence is more livestock grazing, which probably could alter the vegetation

- (b) in the surrounding area:
-

25. Conservation measures taken:

The Southern part of the Ramsar site was designated to a nature reserve in January 2003 and nominated as a Natura 2000-site, type E, in April 2000. The Northern part of the Ramsar site is protected by the Law of Nature Conservation (Salzburger Naturschutzgesetz 1999, § 24).

Near the Ramsar site the National Park „Hohe Tauern“ (also a Natura 2000-site) is located, which was founded in 1984.

A landscape management plan („Almpflegekonzept“) has officially been approved. It guarantees extensive farming in the protected site

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

For the Northern part of the site a management plan was drawn up in 1993, but has not been implemented, because the land-owner did not agree with this plan

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

Ongoing monitoring of the ecological communities in the wetland area. Many expertises and assessments have been made in the past. Most of them were ordered by the Government of Salzburg.

28. Current conservation education:

The National Park Hohe Tauern runs a visitors´ centre in the nearby situated community of Fusch. The NGO „Österreichischer Naturschutzbund“ has published

an information booklet.

Another booklet, which describes the Austrian Ramsar sites, is currently in preparation.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

Due to the „Großglockner-Hochalpenstraße“ mainly one-day-tourists visit the area. The wetland can easily be reached on paths by hikers of all age groups. Along the „Großglockner-Hochalpenstraße“ there are many points of view. Most visitors do not go into the wetland, but enjoy the view of the famous area. The „Großglockner-Hochalpenstraße“ is open for tourists from the middle of May till the beginning of November

30. Jurisdiction:

Northern Part: Bezirkshauptmannschaft Zell am See (District Authority), Gruppe Umwelt und Forst, A-5700 Zell am See

Southern Part: Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung, Naturschutzabteilung, Friedenstraße 11, A-5020 Salzburg

31. Management authority:

Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung,
Referat 13/01 (Naturschutzrecht und -förderung)
Referat 13/02 (Naturschutzfachdienst)
Friedenstraße 11
A-5020 Salzburg

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