

## **Project Update October 2008**

### Setting a trap for a wolf

With the purpose of safety catching wolves a trap like a tunnel is constructed, opened from both sides with the mechanism for closing the cage, when a wolf pulls the bait. The trap is made of steel armature net Q131, steel cord W541 and steel pipes 40V20. It is painted with harmless colour, something between grey and dark green. Total weight is 73, 5 kg.

### Making the feeding and water place and salt lick

For the purpose of rational feeding of wild animals we constructed feeding place with the corn, for different wild animals (bears, deer, chamois and wild boars). We made a feeding place of wood with a corn elevator of 60 litres, with a cover to protect it from rain and food damaging. Feeding place is coloured with harmless colour for the wood. In total there are 5 feeding places like this one is.

For the purpose of exhibiting hay for wild herbivorous we are using forks of wood in different locations to avoid misuse of the hunters and poachers.

For the purpose of exhibiting stone salt for the needs of specific sorts of the wild animals, we made wooden troughs of 35 litres. In total we made 5 of these troughs.

For the purpose of enabling optimal amount of water for the animals, we bought black, plastic troughs with volume of 90 litres. In total we bought 10 pieces of these troughs. Depending on the terrain and position, in one place will be two and in the other just one trough.

### World Animal Day-04. October.

Regarding 4th of October we organized the conference of the local ECO organizations with the title - "White mountain-perfect wilderness". In the work of the Conference besides us (Zoological organization "Southern Blue Sky") also were active Speleological association "Green hills", Scouts of Trebinje and Mountain association "Wolf's Tooth", as well as our associates from Spain, Juan Jose Sanchez Artes and Pablo Manzano, BVCF.

Besides the exhibitors in the discussion were also involved the rest of the guests there, representatives of the municipality Trebinje, Ecological inspection, Veterinary inspection, Hunting association etc.

Southern Blue Sky as zoological organization, all exhibitions pointed to the significance of the wild fauna and main problems we are dealing with in our work. Poisoning of the wolves as a problem not only limited to the destroying animals but as a problem affecting all the people, through dead animal body becoming rotten and leaking juices into the underground waters, and then to all of us, is something that needs to take significant place on the list of the priorities that are to be solved.

It is emphasized that the project Wildlife conservation centre \*Gorski Vuk\*, financed by Rufford Small Grants Foundation from London, that anticipates and enables high-quality and optimal additional feeding of the animals (natural wolf's quarry), and then high-quality

surveillance and study of the wolves with VHF collars and telemetric surveillance, needs to solve many mysteries concerning wolves, their way of feeding, size of the territory they are covering, mortality of the wolves, poisoning etc.

Unfortunately, some people and organizations in our town and the country for years were unreachable, so our conference stirred up the local spirits. The hunters feel guilty for the usage of the poison in the fight against the wolves, Forest affairs management feels guilty for unplanned and excessive felling of trees. All the information mentioned at the Conference are true and confirmed, so we do not feel the need to say sorry to someone and we are ready to take the responsibility for our deeds.

Conference was recorded by two TV companies, two local radio stations and local newspaper. This is the first conference like this in our town, and I hope not the last.



Left: Study area. Right: Conference.



Left: Camera trap. Right: Trap for wolves.