

IMPACT OF HUNTING TOURISM ON SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT: *Precondition for a successful managing of hunting ground and competitiveness on the hunting tourism market is to have a certain number of healthy and trophy valuable game. Game management assumes a number of activities and certain measures in the hunting ground. In order to have appropriate conditions for game management as well as tourist accommodation it is necessary to have appropriate hunting facilities. Construction of these facilities can have a significant impact on appearance of a hunting ground unless it is done with a proper planing. Therefore it is up to the managers to reduce the negative impact on environment in the hunting ground and enable sustainable development. Purpose of this paper is to explain through the example of an open hunting ground how the managers affect the hunting ground and what impact does it have on spatial transformation in the hunting ground.*

Keywords: *hunting, hunting tourism, spatial transformation*

INTRODUCTION

Throughout its development man has acted and is acting on nature and the area around it a greater or lesser extent. Every human activity is in some way affected by the space and the environment. These impacts of man, as can be concluded, can be positive and negative. Of course, if we observe the tourist industry, and particularly their intensity in modern times, it is obvious that tourism should have a relatively significant impact on the transformation of the area and represents a major agent of transformation space (Jovicić, Ivanović, 2006. Comić 1998; 2005; Tomka, 1998 ;Garača et al., 2010). Tomka (1998) the changes that have occurred due to the development of tourism classified, positive changes (improving the aesthetic qualities of the space, recovery, restora-

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tion, reconstruction and rehabilitation of existing facilities and cultural spaces; transformation of the old part of the town and facilities in tourism facilities, improving and protecting natural resources; improving the availability of space by building roads, marinas, airports, creating a new geographic space and creating a positive attitude of people towards their environment) and negative changes (excessive concentration of tourist facilities and superstructure; different types of soil, water and air pollution, degradation of fauna and flora; degradation of cultural heritage, landscape and scenery; simplification and self-destruction of space).

In order to properly understand the relationship of tourism and space, as well as the environment in general, Stojanović (2006) points out that it is necessary to have regard to the nature of tourism activities, whether it comes to mass forms of tourist movements or individual movements and the visit of tourists. Also, the impact of tourism on the environment is determined by the nature and destination, more precisely sensitive destinations and ecosystems are more susceptible to the negative impacts of tourists and tourism than is the case in urban areas or cities.

On the other hand, a certain space, ie its attractive parts represent a possible tourist attraction and part of the tourist offer (Kušen, 2001). To the tourist offer to satisfy the needs of tourists it is necessary to the planned reconstruction of the tourist area which would be arranged as a functional spatial unit (Jovicic, Ivanović, 2006. Comic 2005; Garača et al., 2010). Tourist landscaping is a planned activity designed to selection of the optimal composition of facilities and equipment in the space provided on the basis of a performed valuation, and in the function of pre-determined volume of demand, supply and the potential socio-economic goals of society (Jovicić, Ivanović, 2006; Kicošev, Dunčić, 1998). Comic (2005) points out that, if the attractiveness of the area based on the natural values, the space needed to equip new tourist facilities and equipment which must not threaten the basic facilities that are motive for tourists. Garača et al. (2010) added to the staff as well as operators in the area can not be neglected when planning a tourist area, which according to them, is a classic example of management of tourist destinations because, it is a form of control over the area and people in this space. They define the integral concept of tourism planning facilities that constitute certain criteria tourism planning: communal (minimum requirements), technical and technological, organizational and human resources and space.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

If hunting is viewed from the aspect of the relationship between man and nature, it can be defined as a form of man's relationship with nature which is manifested through the management with wildlife and implemented, through a set of human activities aimed at settling the relations between humans and animals that are the subject of hunting (Prentović , 2006).

Hunting tourism

Hunting tourism is a “movement, residence and consumption of hunters-tourists in nature and hunting units in which the main factor of meeting the needs of present wildlife and the act of their hunting” (Marić, 2003). According to Ristić (2004) under hunting tourism means the “providing services to interested domestic or foreign tourists-hunters, to organize a visit to our hunting grounds for hunting of game, or only observation or shooting game with the payment of certain fees that are regulated in the price list of every hunting grounds.” Similar definitions are found also in foreign literature where under hunting tourism means traveling of hunters from their homes and hunting grounds mostly, to foreign hunting grounds for hunting purposes (Brainerd, 2007). These tourists sometimes well-known hunting tourist destination and the type of game they love and want to travel and hunt only on hunting grounds they know. However, there are hunters tourists who are more attracted to ‘exotic’ and unknown hunting tourist destinations (Brainerd, 2007). As a segment of hunting, hunting tourism is associated with a number of economic and non-economic activities, especially with forestry, agriculture, water management, sports, education, science, culture, and as such relies on the resources of these activities (Štetić, 2007). Hunting provides to hunting tourism the main resources of specific tourism and recreation, and these are wild animals and natural space environment. On the other hand, hunting tourism returns a significant part of the earned income to hunting, which for the most part focuses on the production and protection of wild game, ie. the introduction in the hunting grounds at least number of certain species of wildlife, as far as tourist hunting stated. Part of funds acquired through hunting tourism focus on investment, to improve the overall conditions for the implementation of hunting in the hunting grounds. Therefore, the main conclusion is that hunting tourism is the main generator of hunting (Štetić, 2007).

It can be said that the character of hunting tourism product a hunting ground determined several elements, the most important hunting tourism resources of the hunting grounds and natural and geographical characteristics of the hunting grounds. Hunting tourism product is determined by the level, quality and accessibility of reception facilities, quality services and tour hunting, and other activities (Prentović, 2005).

Tourist hunting

Tourist hunting is a specific type of hunting that is organized in hunting ground for hunter tourists. It can be classified by several criteria, including: the duration of the hunt, participants in hunting and wild game which is being hunted. Organizing tourist hunting presupposes implementing a series of measures, procedures and actions in order for a timely and adequate reception and accommodation of tourist hunters to make their stay comfortable, and for a successful hunt. (Prentović, 2006).

The main feature of hunting tourism lies in the fact that, in the domain of supply and demand in the hunting ground, the focus of interest are animals intended for hunting. In this regard, the hunting tourism economy pays special attention to the cultivation of appropriate quality and trophy valuable species, while tourists have the need to

hunt certain game. Thus, in this type of tourism demand is extremely prominent. Demand in hunting tourism determines the quality and structure of tourism products and services (Štetić, 2007).

Thus, the above mentioned characteristics of this selective form of tourism suggest that hunting tourism is indeed a very specific form of tourism. The main motive of hunter tourists is hunting game, and almost all hunting tourism activities take place in nature or in the hunting grounds, as primary environment in which to perform hunting tourism services.

Establishing of the hunting ground and management

Law on Wildlife and Hunting (Official Gazette of RS, no. 18/2010), Art. 4, **hunting ground** is defined as “a natural rounded environment where there are conditions for permanent protection, management, hunting and utilization of game populations.” Prentović (2006) under the hunting ground implies a certain area of land, water and forests, as a rule bordered by natural boundaries, which is the habitat of hunting game in which the ecological (natural, anthropogenic and other) factors allows the cultivation, protection and sustainable use of hunting resources. The hunting grounds can be divided into open and enclosed. Open hunting ground is a hunting ground in which the daily and seasonal migration of wildlife is possible, and the fenced hunting ground is area of land, water and forests surrounded by natural or artificial barriers that prevent or reduce the possibility that wild animals leave the area “(Ristić, 2011).

The hunting ground is established by the minister responsible for hunting, and may be established as an open or enclosed. Open hunting ground cannot be less than 2000 ha, except for the special purpose hunting grounds and hunting grounds on the surface of the fishpond. Fenced hunting ground may not be less than 300 ha, except hunting grounds of special purpose (Law on wildlife and hunting, 2010). The hunting ground management is being determined through a public listing or the Hunting Association of Serbia for a limited time that cannot be shorter than 10 years, except for special purpose hunting grounds. In our country, the open hunting grounds are established and given to the hunting associations, while enclosed hunting grounds are formed by the public companies of the country.

Managing a hunting ground includes a series of measures undertaken by the expert service of the hunting ground. These measures include the protection, breeding animals, regulation and maintenance of hunting ground and hunting. Hunting management is done by staff service authorized by the hunting ground user who got the hunting ground for management. Professional service consists out of hunting manager and game warden. Professional service is carried out by planning documents. Basic planning documents when it comes to the management of the hunting ground are hunting plan and annual management plan. Hunting plan is adopted for a period of 10 years and includes basic information about the hunting area, view of the status of the hunting area, condition of the game, goals of management, and maintenance plan of the hunting grounds and wildlife protection measures. Unlike hunting plan annual management plan is adopted for each year, based on data from the hunting grounds and with the help

of the hunting plan. Planning documents are the basis for all the planned transformations of the environment in the hunting ground.

Fostering of wildlife involves taking specific planning and systematic measures in the breeding procedure, as a rule within the hunting ground, with the goal of providing optimal conditions for the game (Ristić, 2011). To make it easier to understand the concept of fostering, the very concept of the game must be defined. *Game* is divided into furry and feathered game. Furred game can be divided into big (red deer, roe deer, wild boar, etc.) and small (rabbit, fox, etc.). The general objectives are the protection of the hunting ground, maintaining, hunting and harvesting of wildlife in as much volume as to allow the natural conditions in the hunting ground. Specific management objectives include achieving a certain number of quality game, gender and age structure, population density and improve the natural habitat conditions (Stojanović, 2008). The remainder of this paper will discuss how management measures may affect the general appearance of the hunting grounds, in the case of an open hunting ground.

SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE HUNTING GROUND FOR THE NEEDS OF HUNTING TOURISM

As the Law on Wildlife and Hunting prescribes in Article 1, “the goal of this law is the sustainable management of wildlife populations and their habitats in the manner and to the extent that permanently maintains and enhances the vitality of the game population, productive capacity of habitats and biodiversity, thereby achieving fulfillment of economic, ecological and social functions of hunting.”

So, we could say that this should be the goal of the whole hunting organization that works in hunting and hunting tourism. Game represents the natural wealth and property of the Republic of Serbia that hunters have the right to use under strictly defined conditions.

In order to better reflect the way in which one hunting ground transforms as an example we take hunting “Jezera” that belongs in the Severnosremsko hunting area, and is located in the municipality of Šid and includes the settlements Erdevik, Bingula and Ljuba. Hunting ground “Jezera” is established as a hunting ground and is a lowland type of hunting ground (altitude 200 m). The total area of hunting ground is 7,603.87 ha.

Map 1. presents the hunting grounds located as an adjunct in the decision on the establishment of the hunting area, which is published in the official Gazette of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The user of the hunting ground under the Law on wildlife and hunting can be a legal entity established as a public company, corporation, other types of companies, as well as hunting associations and other associations which are established and operate in accordance with the law. The advantage in giving the hunting area to a subject that has managed it in the previous period of tenure, usually open lowland hunting grounds managed by hunting associations, which are located in the municipality in whose territory the hunting unit. After the establishment of the hunting ground it is one of the tasks to make the planning documents. Basic planning documents when it comes to game management are hunting management plan and annual management plan.



Map 1. Borders of „Ježera“ hunting ground

Source: Official Gazette of APV 17/13

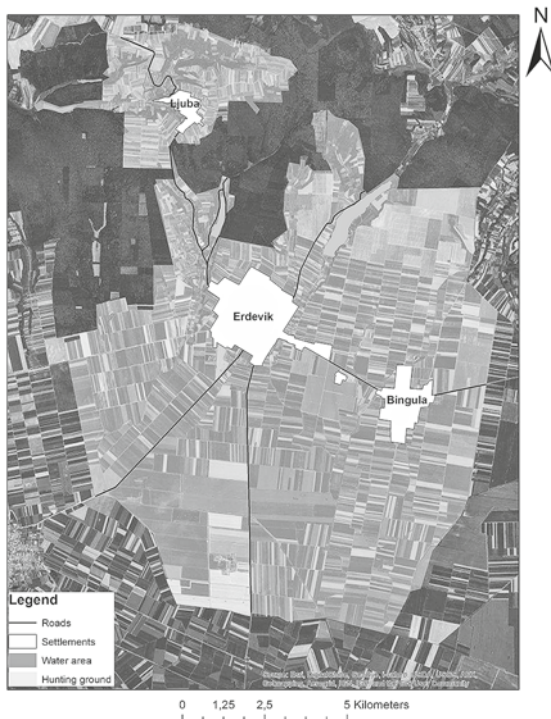


Figure 1. Modified map of „Ježera“ hunting ground

Source: I. Ponjiger



Figure 2a and 2b. Hunting areas and an example of a green bridge

Source: I. Ponjiger; M. Kovačević

Management plan contains all the data on hunting area, the history of hunting ground, and planned dynamics of population development of all types of farmed game, as well as the plan to build facilities in the hunting area. Management plan is the most important planning document because it represents a long-term management plan which has great influence on spatial transformation within the hunting ground. In order to better reflect the hunting area boundaries, settlements, objects in the hunting and the like. we used GIS software (ArcGIS 10), version 10.1, and made the maps of the areas with marked facilities in the hunting ground. Thus, in a convenient way shows how the hunting is transformed from the moment of the establishment.

Figure 1.shows the limits of the hunting grounds with marked settlements, roads that intersect the hunting ground and water surfaces that are in the hunting area.

As the hunting activities are permitted only in the hunting productive areas in Figure 2a.shows the dispersion of hunting - productive parts of the hunting ground. So, you can see the hunting ground boundaries, roads and settlements are divided into several hunting hunting - productive land. Hunting productive areas are the parts of the hunting ground where the wild animals mostly stay, feed and thats the only place in the hunting ground where hunting activities are permitted. One of the problem are the roads which are an obstacle for wildlife in the transition from one part of the hunting ground to another. It often happens that the game during the crossing of the road gets

hurt. In order to ease the daily migration of wild animals within the hunting ground and to connect parts of the hunting ground, manager determines a place where the so-called corridors for wildlife are, and builds green bridges (Figure 2b), which are built in a way that does not deviate from the general appearance of the entire hunting grounds. Green bridges are in most cases built over a highways.

For the process of managing it is necessary to build adequate hunting facilities, so below will be discussed in more detail on the dispersion of these facilities in hunting area “Lake” and their effect on the environment. It is important to build farming and technical facilities, and when the population count reaches the optimum level part of the wildlife can be offered in hunting tourism. The number of facilities in the hunting ground is based on the needs determined by the number of required facilities for the actual game. In this section, the focus will be on dispersion and building facilities in the hunting ground as well as the impact that such construction can have on the space within the hunting ground. The impact on the space when it is taken into account the general appearance of the hunting area is not large, when facilities are constructed from natural materials and if you comply with the rule that their installation is in areas that are covered with vegetation. If the buildings are constructed from artificial materials it is necessary that such facilities are well-positioned and possibly sheltered so they don’t disturb the appearance of the hunting ground.



Figure 3a and 3b. Disposition of small game feeders and an example of one

Source: I. Ponjiger; M. Kovačević

In the figures 3a. and 3b. are shown the location and layout of the feeding areas for small game. In this case, given the lowland type of hunting ground where the most game represented are rabbit and game birds (pheasant, partridge, etc.) and therefore places emphasis on the construction of facilities for small game. Feeding areas for small game species are small in size, while the feeding area of big game are larger, but are built of natural materials and their appearance completely fits into the general appearance of the hunting ground. As the roe deer is also represented in the hunting ground a significant number of feeding stations for the big game was built.

In addition to feeding areas usual practice is the dispensation of salt but it is usually improvised, so that in the bark of an old tree the salt is put so during precipitation it pours down a tree.

In addition to the salt licks construction of watering places is also practised but as can be seen in Figure 1 and 2a. there is no need for that at this hunting ground due to the natural water sources that serve as a natural wildlife watering hole. If the offer of natural food in the hunting ground is satisfactory, during the winter it is required when needed to bring out the food. However, if the supply of food in the hunting ground is reduced that can result in significant damage to wildlife and to space in the hunting ground. This is particularly true if the number of feeding areas is small, and offer food of in the hunting ground reduced. In this case, a large number of animals are coming to the feeding



Figure 4a, b and c. Disposition of big game feeders and salt licks, example of both

Source: I. Ponjiger; M. Kovačević



Figure 5a and 5b. Impact of game on area around feeders and stripping of bark

Source: M. Kovačević

areas where they regularly can find food. This causes great damage to the environment around feeding area since there is a large number of wild animals concentrated on a small area (Figure 5a). This has a very bad impact on the environment itself as is coming to the destruction of vegetation around the feeding area which creates preconditions for the emergence of various infections.

In addition to this the game in the hunting ground damages trees and make the biggest damage to the bark of tree saplings (Figure 5b). This can have major consequences for forest plantations. It is important that staff service take all measures to ensure adequate food in the hunting ground by planting agricultural land and the constant presentation of food. So, for this a prerequisite is a sufficient number of facilities in the hunting area. Although the appearance of the facilities changes the hunting ground, these facilities have a major contribution to reducing damage to the hunting ground, whose consequences can be extremely detrimental to the entire population of wildlife, and thus for the hunting organization that manages the hunting ground.

Hunting blinds are extremely important hunting facilities and are used by staff service for observation of movement and keeping of wildlife. Given that the game is very cautious hunting blinds are necessary for its monitoring. The game has places where it more reserves in the hunting ground so hunting facilities should be built precisely in the vicinity of these places. As can be seen in Figure 6a. distribution of hunting blinds in the hunting ground is uniform. Besides observation hunting blinds are used for hunting, and since being built from natural materials nicely fit into the overall appearance of the hunting ground. Usually the hunting blinds are objects that are first noticed from the roads that pass through hunting ground, and is an important to pay attention on layout and appearance of hunting blinds, in order not to violate the environment of the hunting ground.

When it comes to lowland type of hunting grounds the problem, especially in Vojvodina, represents weak coverage with trees in the hunting grounds. Forest cover is essential because it allows a natural shelter for wildlife, while roe deer can also browse on it. If in the hunting ground there is not enough of undergrowth staff service should under-

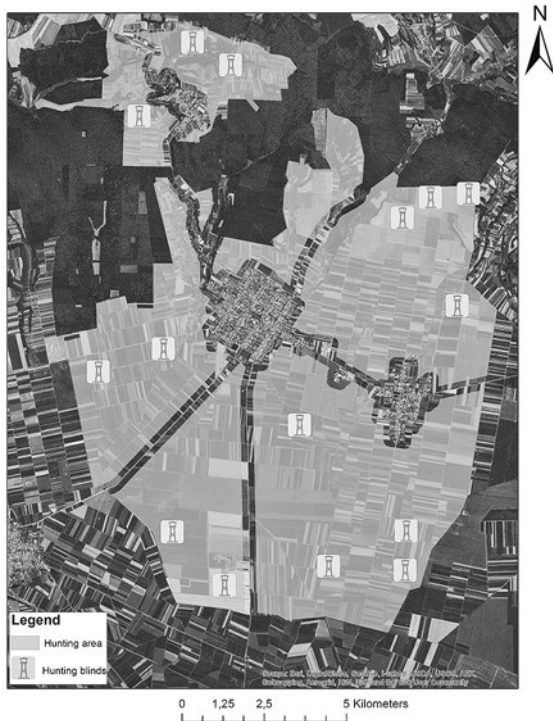


Figure 6a and 6b. Disposition of hunting blinds and an example of one

Source: I. Ponjiger; M. Kovačević

take activities in order to plant green patches on certain parts of hunting ground. Green patches (picture 7b) represent overgrowth of various perennial plants that are planted in order to enable conditions for the stay of wild game in adequate shelter. Usually all kinds of wild the fruit trees, that can thrive on given area, are planted, then acacia, hawthorn, a fiddle, oak, blackberry, raspberries and etc..

The next part of the paper will discuss on the facilities that are built to complement the offer of the hunting grounds in the realization of hunting arrangements for domestic and foreign tourist hunters.

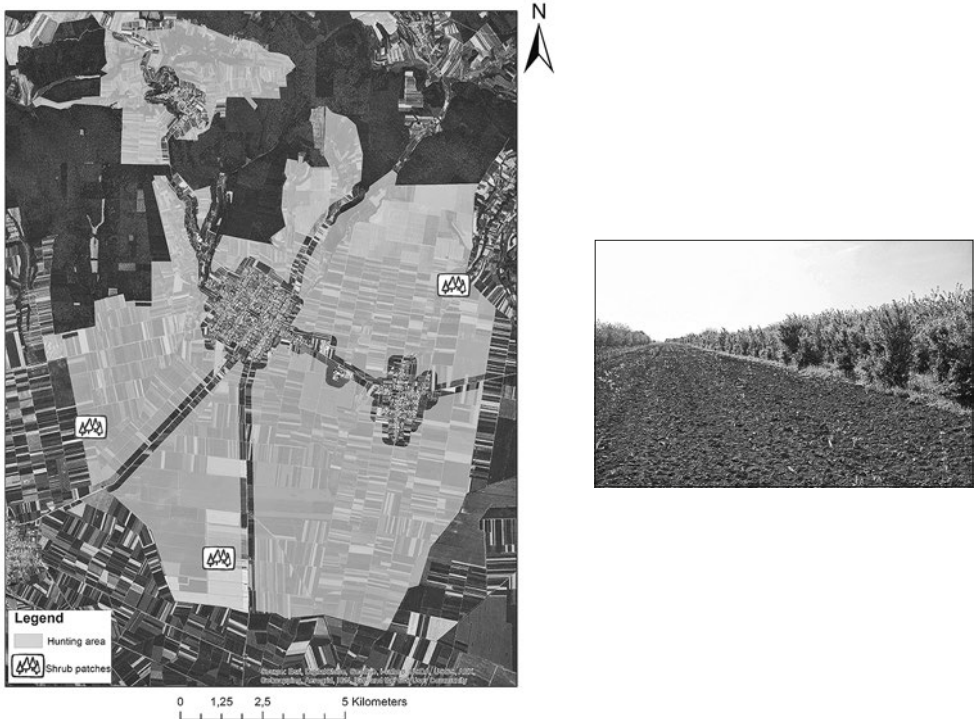


Figure 7a and 7b. Disposition of shrub patches and an example

Source: I. Ponjiger, M. Kovačević

FACILITIES FOR PROVIDING THE HUNTING TOURISM SERVICES IN THE HUNTING GROUND

Basics of tourism planning in the hunting ground concerns the construction of adequate facilities for tourists, with accompanying facilities. Accompanying facilities make all objects that can complement the activities of hunters during and after the hunting activities. For the purposes of tourism planning there can be constructed accommodation facilities, a shooting range, a training ground for dogs, shelters for pheasants, a range for the commercial hunting of game. The main accommodation facilities that are made for visiting, eating and staying of hunters and workers who work in the hunting ground are hunting lodges. Hunting lodges (Figure 8), in addition to offices used by the users of hunting grounds, has rooms, suites, kitchen, dining room and living room for hunters. Building a hunting lodge can have a lot of influence on the transformation of environment in the hunting ground, as well as the general appearance of the hunting grounds and are usually built in combination with a lot of natural materials in order to better fit the look of the hunting grounds.



Figure 8 and 9. Hunting lodge and shooting ground

Source: M. Kovačević

It often happens that in the vicinity of accommodation facilities other interesting objects are built to complement the hunting tourism offer the hunting ground. One such facility is a shooting range for mobile and stationary targets (Figure 9). Shooting ranges are built for competition of shooting moving and stationary targets but also for shooting and checkup of hunting weapons when hunters come for tourist hunting.

Shelters (Figure 10) are facilities for breeding of new species of wildlife or the introduction of species from artificial breeding of wild animals, and they are intended as better utilization of existing manufacturing capabilities hunting area for wildlife adaptation to new conditions and meeting the biological needs of the species we introduce in the new habitat. The main objective is to increase the number of wild animals in the hunting area and thus to provide a sufficient number of animals for harvesting by domestic and foreign hunters.

Facilities which have great importance for the functioning of the hunting ground are polygons for game hunting. They can be polygons for hunting feathered and furry game. This depends on the type of game that are managed, and therefore the game that is being offered in hunting tourism. These polygons are built mainly in fenced hunting grounds. In open hunting grounds polygons are usually constructed for hunting game birds. Most often the hunting polygons are made for pheasant and duck hunting.

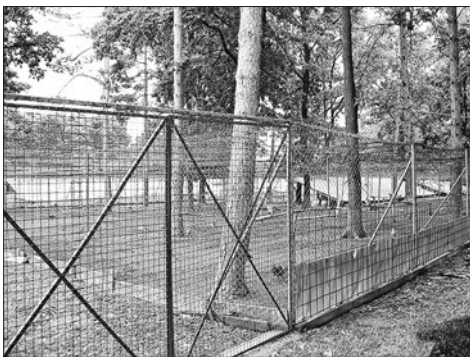


Figure 10 and 11. Game shelter and duck hunting polygon

Source: M. Kovačević

Polygons for hunting ducks (Figure 11) are being built near or on water surfaces. Small hunting blinds made of cane or other material where hunters are waiting to raise ducks from the water or during flight. These polygons are usually have plenty of influence on the look of a part of hunting ground which includes the water surface, so their construction is practised in the fenced parts of hunting grounds while the other hunts are organised from water surfaces that are waiting along the coast. At the end we should just mention the polygons for dog breeders who do not have such a big impact on the environment itself because as a part of the polygon are buildings but the boards that mark the part of the hunting ground on which is allowed to run and train hunting dogs. It is important that the polygon is regularly maintained especially after exhibitions and competitions in order to prevent the destruction of environment that would violate the appearance of the hunting grounds.

The impact in the open hunting areas is less pronounced than in fenced hunting grounds. The reason for this is that game due to poor management in an open hunting ground has the ability to migrate while in the fenced hunting ground it is compelled to reside in a given area. In fenced hunting grounds specific methods of management are applied and the feeding is practised throughout the year. Fenced hunting grounds are being built in areas where there is large percentage of forest cover.. So for the purposes of hunting it is needed to make roads in order to allow professional service successful management. Also, the principle of construction of facilities on the hunting ground is the same as in open hunting grounds so there is no need to write further.

Characteristic for fenced hunting grounds is that there is less possibility of movement of unauthorized staff in the hunting ground, which significantly simplifies management. Also in the fenced hunting grounds big game is primary, and forested habitat corresponds to it and is therefore not to be found in open hunting grounds (fallow deer and moufflon). In the hunting grounds in our country deer and wild boar can be found in the open and in fenced hunting grounds, but the majority of European deer is bred in fenced hunting grounds because of the great damage to agricultural crops. In addition to that, deer habitat does not correspond with a small percentage of forest cover so this is one of the reasons why this game does not inhabit open hunting grounds. These are some of the basics when it comes to the management of the game when it comes to the fenced hunting grounds, while an open hunting ground management and the impact it has on environment was sufficiently discussed in the paper.

CONCLUSION

The influence of man and of man's activities on the nature is very important, both in a positive way, or even more often, and in a negative context. Hunting also left both positive and negative effects on nature and environment. The negative effects are less common, but if planning is not conducted systematically, can have a far greater impact in nature. The management of wildlife in Serbia is carried out in open and fenced hunting grounds. In open hunting grounds impact on the area is quite smaller. Usually the facilities that are built in there are used for breeding of wild animals and are dispersed

throughout the territory of the hunting ground. In the fenced hunting grounds there is some larger transformation and impacts depending on the needs of the hunting ground. There are parts that are used for intensive breeding of wild animals, and then there are parts that are used exclusively for hunting, special polygons for game hunting and finally to the buildings used for accommodation of hunters and other hunting-tourist activities. In the fenced hunting grounds, which are often special purpose hunting grounds, there is a more intense impact on the environment. This impact is made not only by a staff service in the hunting ground, but also the game due to higher population density in a small space. However, hunting-technical facilities, breeding facilities and all of the infrastructure in a hunting area transforms the space, but only to the extent that is almost invisible, especially if you watch hunting productive surface. Hunting and hunting tourism often enrich the environment in which they are developing, and preserve natural resources allowing its tourists to enjoy them.

In order to preserve environment during the conducting of hunting activities (wildlife management and hunting tourism) it is necessary to implement and to stick of the planned measures. Well-organized professional service will, on one hand enable the development of high quality and strong trophies, while the other side to come to the realization of substantial financial resources that will be subsequently returned back the hunting ground through investment. This will allow to avoid excessive density of wildlife in a given field, which will have a positive impact on the environment itself and hunting ground which, combined with other effects allow sustainable managing.

However, the biggest and most important exploitation of natural resources in hunting tourism refers to the hunting of wild animals. This kind of exploitation may be a threat to the environment as it relates to physical destruction of the resource that is only partially extended. Game as a resource is partially renewable, but only if it has the help of man through breeding measures and / or through protection measures. Therefore, it is crucial that hunting and hunting tourism are strictly based on planning documents and that their writing and implementation are under strict controls. Laws and strategies of development of these activities, and their implementation on the ground, must be based on the principles of sustainable development. This will on the one hand enable the sustainable use of environment and wildlife in order to preserve natural resources for future generations.

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