

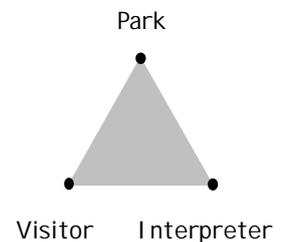


Wilderness interpretation promotes the national park idea

Wilderness interpretation bridges gaps between

- the park's almost unspoilt nature
- the national park visitor
- the interpreter.

Each cornerstone of this triangle has an equal meaning.



Interpretation is not just information. Interpretation respects the visitor's individual perception as well as the personality of the interpreter. It has developed a range of relevant methods in order to support a lively exchange between man and nature.

Wilderness interpretation is an international concept, which has arisen from practical fieldwork within national parks.

Wilderness interpretation is up-to-date

In interpretation the park visitor is more than just a receiver. Interpretation provokes an active role, and therefore supports personal growth.

Personal development depends on different factors. One of these factors is the security we derive from set structures. We are surrounded by such structures and continuously expand them on our own. However, we also need be able to face the unexpected, and to react in an appropriate way. We need to be creative.

Our era is characterised by individuality, flexibility, and dynamism. Wilderness interpretation paves the ground for a moderate encounter with chaos; chaos as a personality-forming and at the same time creativity-enhancing temptation.

Wilderness interpretation supports sustainable development

The idea of a sustainable development is essentially based on two pillars:

1. the increasingly effective use of raw materials (efficiency) and
2. the decrease of man's own demands on his natural environment (sufficiency).

Current public discussion focuses on the pillar of efficiency.

Sufficiency is hard to anchor within typical western consumer society.

But putting the needs of our natural environment above our own is exactly what the idea of wilderness protection stands for.

Wilderness interpretation focusses on the abstract concept of sufficiency from a new perspective. It encourages us to discover the sanity of omission. And it finally provokes us to use this experience in a future-oriented way through our own actions.