

Use of wildlife individuals as tools in management

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Management authorities are regularly confronted with dilemmas in decision-making. This includes deciding upon methods to ensure a given result in management of different species. Roughly the issue can be divided into managing populations consisting of large numbers or low numbers. For highly viable populations established management regulations and long term research and monitoring constitute the necessary background for any management decision.

For species/populations with a very low number of individuals, and likewise for conflict species like large carnivores, a different approach is needed. Management authorities do not have the option of awaiting long term research results, and must act on information based on ongoing conflicts, single individual reference data, and the current political situation. This generates a need to separate the role of research from management. The Directorate has therefore advocated to the animal research authority and the food safety authority that management-initiated capture and subsequent radiomarking/culling is a viable management tool, and should be handled differently from traditional research. This policy does not imply that capture/marking of individuals is taken less seriously. It is still a general policy to keep the number of wildlife individuals captured as low as possible. But the general technological development and development of standard procedures legitimate the use of such techniques also in management institutions.