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The decision against construction of the Greina hydro-electric plant marked an important milestone in the history of Swiss landscape preservation, and saved a unique hiking region from the threat of submersion.

(Photo: Herbert Maeder)

IMPRESSUM

Swiss Review, the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 26th year of issue and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in more than 20 regional editions. It has a total circulation of over 355,000. Regional news appears four times a year.

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Some of you may live in a country where bears, wolves and lynx can be observed roaming free in forests, mountains and lowlands.

In Switzerland, however, the eradication of the bear began as early as the 15th century, and the last Swiss bear was probably killed in 1898 in Misox/GR. Now there are hopes, as well as fears in some quarters, that bears may be returning to the alpine regions via Italy and Austria. Recently there has even been talk of releasing bears from captivity.

Wolves inhabited Swiss territory until the end of the last century, and in recent times an increasing number of wolves have been observed and even killed. Conservationists and sheep-farmers violently disagree on the practicality and purpose of rehabilitating wolves.

Although the last living lynx was reported in 1894 in the Valais, this fascinating wild cat has once more made the Alps and the Jura its habitat, and has enjoyed a relatively stable population since 1971.

Have you ever watched deer, fox and hares grazing at the fo-

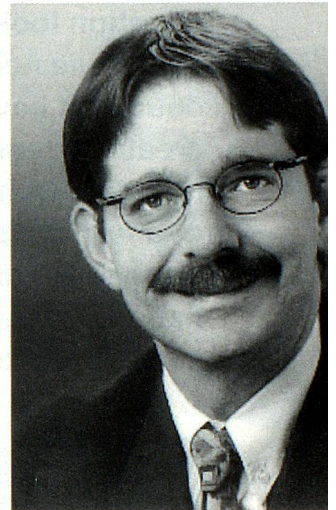
rest's edge at break of day? Is it not an unparalleled pleasure to encounter such animals in the wild?

When I was young I once camped at the forest's edge with a fellow scout. Suddenly we were roused from our sleep by a

loud snuffling and scuffling. Frightened to death, we wondered what could possibly be the source. The braver of the two opened the tent flap and shone his flashlight around to illuminate the darkness. All at

one two enormous eyes were reflected in the light, and a familiar mooing broke the tension. We broke into nervous laughter!

Would it not be wonderful to see not only lynx but also bears and wolves on Swiss territory again, and perhaps encounter these three (from a safe distance!) when hiking? An experience many of you may take for granted, depending on where you live.



Robert Nyffeler