

A Visible Bestiary. Handbook to the Visitors of Our Mountains

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Interreg



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Ranger Seminar - "Management of visitor flows in sensitive natural areas by Alpine ranger and available tools"



REGIONE
PIEMONTE

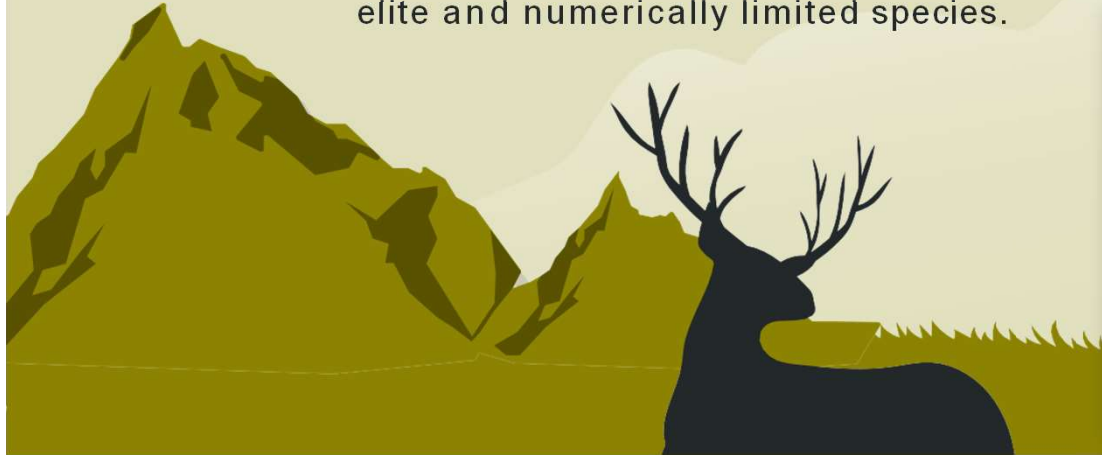
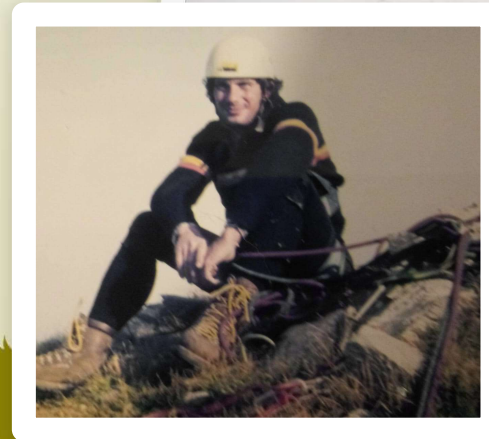
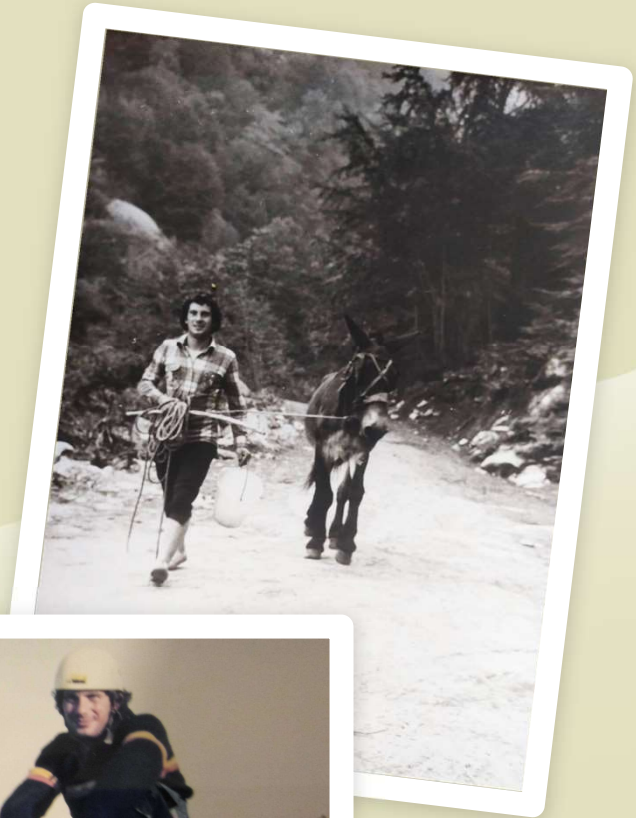


Aree Protette
Alpi Marittime



Once upon a time...

Until recently, the human fauna present for recreation in the Alps was not very varied: there were hikers and mountaineers, and that was it. They could only be documented during the summer. Rangers reported sporadic sightings of a few cyclists on primitive mountain bikes on dirt roads. Spring was the season for ski mountaineers, a rather elite and numerically limited species.





Today

Today's mountain "lovers" are not only **more numerous, but also more adventurous, demanding, and better equipped** than in the past.

They don't just walk or climb: They run, cycle, fly with wingsuits and paragliders, fly drones.

They can afford equipment and gear that allows them to enjoy the natural environment in **all seasons and at any time of day.**

Mountain “lovers” are numerous and omnipresent.
And they have an impact on biodiversity.



Limiting ourselves to data from protected areas, there are 8 billion visitors worldwide each year, 80% of whom are concentrated in Europe and North America.

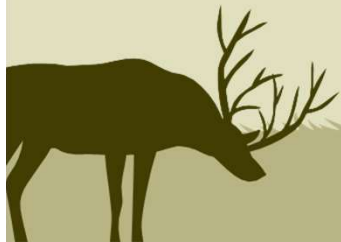
In the US protected areas the number of hikers increased by 800% between 1960 and 2020.

In the period 2001-2021 in Italy in the eighteen Alpine provinces, arrivals have grown by 93% and overnight stays by 46%, exceeding the national growth rate (+45%)*.

Visits to parks and nature reserves have received a **further boost after the Covid-19 pandemic**.

Many novices with more enthusiasm than preparation have discovered then the mountains near their homes... and now continue to visit them. **Accidents and mountain rescue operations have skyrocketed** (record year: 2023, 12349 rescue operations).

* Il turismo alpino di Diego Cason e Annibale Salsa (2023) in [Economia montana e politiche territoriali di sviluppo alpino](#)





Spread: Anywhere

Damage potential: High

Special move: As the ranger approaches, exclaims: "My dog is an animal too, so he has the right to be free in nature. And besides, he wouldn't hurt a fly."

Weakness: Can't read signs (it's written everywhere that dogs must be kept on a leash)

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Ban on dogs in protected areas



Spread: Widespread

Damage potential: High

Special move: He/She is outraged by the existence of the large ski resorts. He/She thinks of himself as an element of the mountain, like rocks and ice.

Weakness: To him/her, winter means all the animals are chilling in the Maldives (rangers included).

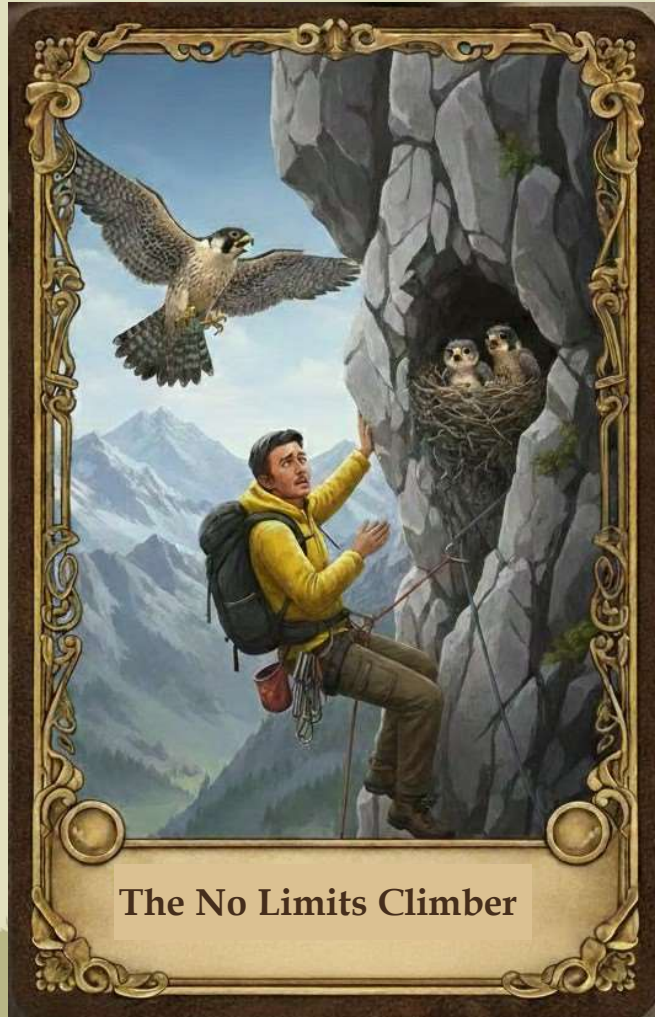
Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Regulation of access to the most vulnerable areas





The No Limits Climber

Spread: Widespread

Damage potential: High

Special move: In his/her mind, mountains exist only because he/she climbs them. He/She hides from the rangers on the steepest walls. He/She's a free spirit, rules just aren't his/her thing.

Weakness: Although he spends half of his/her life in the mountains, he/she is unaware that plants and animals aren't just decorations.

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Regulation of access to the most vulnerable areas

ARRAMPICARE NELLE AREE PROTETTE

a cura dell'Ente di gestione delle Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime

Tutte le attività umane hanno un impatto sull'ambiente naturale, anche l'arrampicata. Le regole in vigore all'interno delle Aree Protette (Parchi, Riserve naturali e siti della rete Natura 2000) servono proprio a limitare i danni che possiamo fare scalando, a beneficio della biodiversità e dei climber di domani.

Con scalatori in aumento e periodi di frequentazione delle pareti sempre più lunghi a tutte le quote, negli ultimi anni l'impatto sulle piante e sugli animali che vivono in falesia, sui blocchi o comunque nei paraggi dei siti di arrampicata, è sempre maggiore. Per questo diventa importantissimo che ogni scalatore e scalatrice faccia sempre la sua parte per la protezione della biodiversità, dentro e fuori dalle Aree Protette.

Per divertirti senza danneggiare le specie più fragili e contribuire a mantenere l'integrità dei luoghi in cui scali (senza rischiare sanzioni se ti trovi all'interno di un'area protetta), basta tenere a mente pochi accorgimenti:

- verifica sempre da casa sul sito (www.aareeprotettealpimarittime.it) che la via o il settore che hai scelto siano agibili (potrebbero esserci divieti d'accesso temporanei o permanenti a tutela di nidi, tane o specie minacciate);
- non parcheggiare l'auto sui prati;
- durante l'avvicinamento evita le scorciatoie: favoriscono l'erosione dei versanti;
- rispetta la vegetazione in ogni sua forma, lungo il sentiero e in parete;
- pulisci delicatamente le prese con una spazzola a setole morbide;
- lascia al loro posto muschi e licheni: garantiscono la vita ad altri organismi;
- limita al massimo l'uso di magnesite;
- quando hai finito di scalare, spazzola via i "tick marks" e la magnesite in eccesso;
- se vedi un nido abitato, allontanati con discrezione e segnala il sito al Parco. Eviterai calate anticipate ad altri scalatori e permetterai di monitorare i piccoli fino all'involo;
- fai sempre attenzione a non spaventare gli animali: in inverno troppo stress può causarne la morte;
- porta i rifiuti a valle (mozziconi di sigaretta e rifiuti biodegradabili inclusi);
- seppellisci i tuoi bisogni insieme alla carta (oppure, almeno quella, portala con te).

ATTENZIONE: Parchi e Riserve naturali hanno confini ben segnalati da paline, invece i siti della rete Natura 2000, aree importanti per la conservazione di habitat e specie in pericolo, non sono segnalati sul terreno. Per sapere se la parete che ti interessa si trova all'interno di un sito della rete Natura 2000 consulta il portale dell'Unione Europea: natura2000.eea.europa.eu.

Interreg  Conferenza per il Dialogo Strategico dell'Unione Europea

France-Italia ALCOTRA

BiodivTourAlps



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L'APERTURA DI NUOVE VIE DEVE ESSERE AUTORIZZATA

All'interno delle Aree Protette e nei siti della rete Natura 2000, l'apertura di nuove vie d'arrampicata deve essere autorizzata (in Piemonte si rischia una sanzione di 1.152 euro ai sensi della Legge Regionale 19/2009). Per richiedere l'autorizzazione basta compilare una scheda e inviarla all'Area Protetta di competenza che è tenuta a rispondere nel più breve tempo possibile (nel peggiore dei casi entro 60 giorni).



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Spread: Growing

Damage potential: High

Special move: He/She thinks that to “connect with nature” all you need is Wi-Fi. He/She promotes wild places, hoping a café will open there soon.

Weakness: His/Her popularity is inversely proportional to his/her mountain expertise and ecological awareness.

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Institutional social media campaigns



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The Enthusiastic Drone Pilot

Spread: Widespread

Damage potential: High

Special move: Jealous of the birds because he can't fly, he/she harasses them with his/her drone. He/She tries to win over the Park with a free promotional video of the area.

Weakness: Can't read signs (neither D-Flight)

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Shooting down drones



Spread: Widespread

Damage potential: Medium

Special move: Strava is his/her best friend. He/She complains to the rangers about the lack of charging stations on the trails.

Weakness: At the first climb where he/she has to push his/her bike, he/she puts it up for sale (*"Strava, you betrayed me!"*).

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Regulation of access to the most vulnerable areas



The Merenderos

Spread: Widespread. They tend to cluster in large groups on holidays by lake shores.

Damage potential: Medium

Special move: They sweet-talk the ranger with some lasagna and providing shelter from the sun under the umbrella.

Weakness: They risk breaking an ankle every time they go to the mountains.

Actions:

Step 1: Self-elimination

Step 2: Awareness-raising and education

Step 3: Create designated areas in already impacted or low-vulnerability zones



Spread: Medium (trend: increasing)

Damage potential: Medium

Special move: Convinced that ultra-professional gear makes up for years of inexperience, he/she ventures 'where no one goes' (*often for very good reasons*).

Weakness: He/She genuinely believes that the rangers are there just to give him/her information, not to enforce the Park's rules.

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising and education

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Tattooing the LNT principles on his/her body

Leave No Traces Organization

<https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>



01 PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

02 TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.
- In popular areas:
 - Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
 - Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
 - Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.
- In pristine areas:
 - Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
 - Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

03 DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

© Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Leave No Trace is an international movement, nonprofit organization and educational program dedicated to protecting the outdoors by teaching people to enjoy it responsibly. The organization accomplishes this mission by delivering outdoor ethics education and research to millions of people across the country every year. Learn more at www.LNT.org.

04 LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

05 MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the environment. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

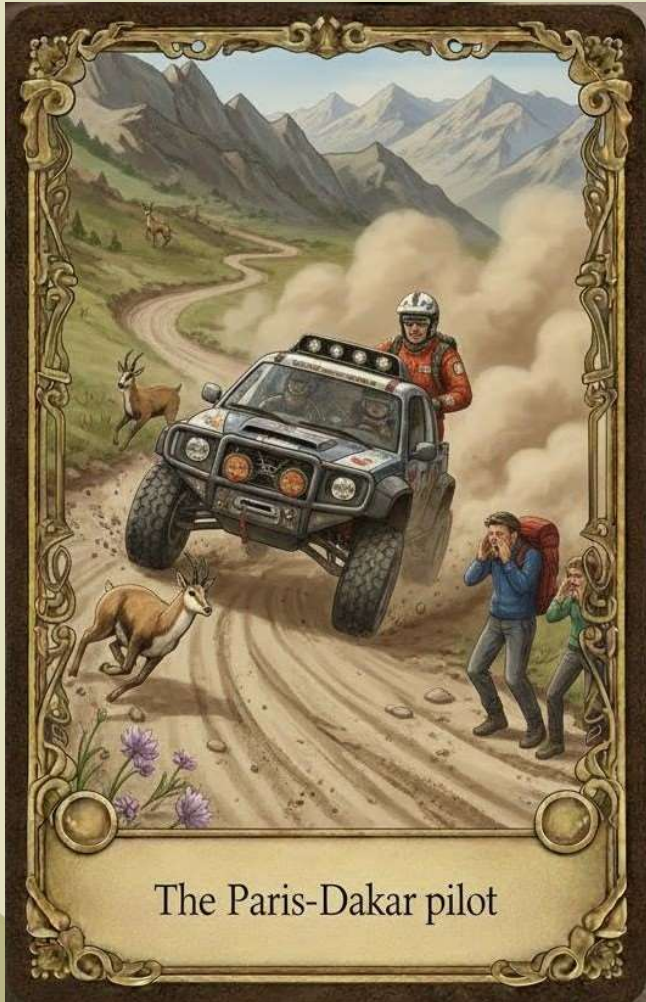
06 RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

07 BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.





The Paris-Dakar pilot

Spread: Minimum in the Park - Extreme on the Alta Via del Sale route

Damage potential: Devastating

Special move: His/Her vehicle is part of the local wildlife (after all, it roars like the Alpine lion). As the ranger approaches, exclaims: "I have the mayor's authorization!".

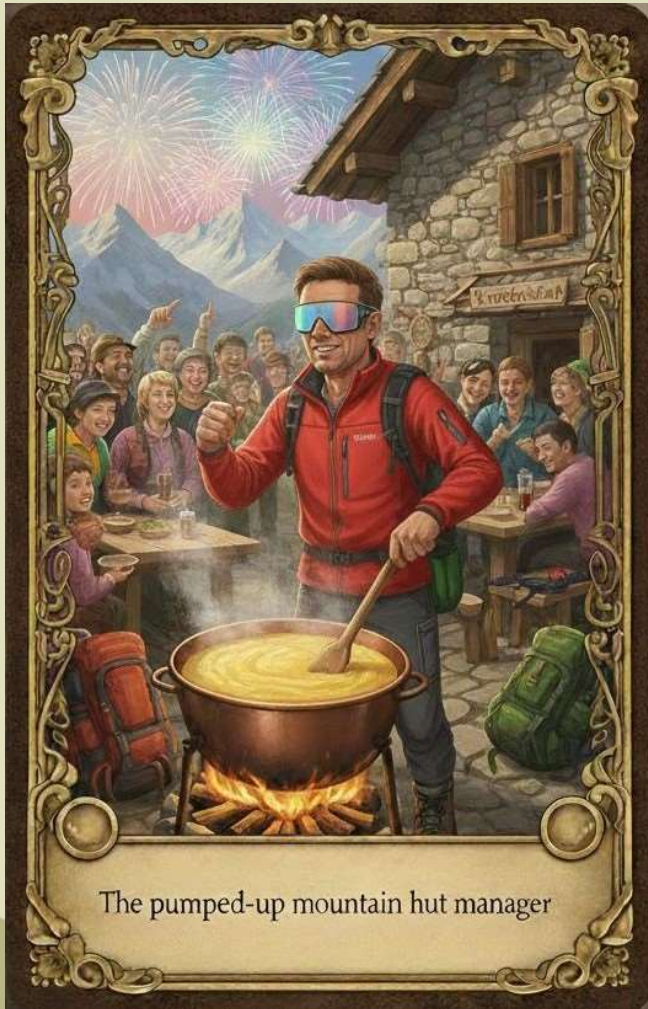
Weakness: Too fast to read the signs, too loud to notice the rangers behind him.

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising for road managers (municipalities)

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Vehicle impoundment



The pumped-up mountain hut manager

Spread: Medium (at least one per valley)

Damage potential: High

Special move: He/She's on a mission from God, Blues Brothers style; if he/she doesn't hype the mountains, the whole alpine world would fall apart.

Weakness: He/She's so good-hearted that he/she breaks the rules in broad daylight.

Actions:

Step 1: Awareness-raising

Step 2: Fines

Step 3: Establish a collaborative and supportive relationship between the Park and the hut manager



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ATTI DEI

RIFUGI AL CENTRO DELLE TRANSIZIONI





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Thanks!

www.areeprotettealpimarittime.it



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