

Environmentalistika – Prednáška – 4

ORLICE NATURE PARK – ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES

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The aim of this abstract is to outline the main characteristics of Orlice Nature Park and of the procedure of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and to evaluate public interest in the nature park and in nature protection in general. The concept of a 'nature park' is defined in the Czech Nature and Landscape Protection Act, law No. 144/1992. Orlice Nature Park was instituted in 1996. The function of the park is to protect the character of the area of landscape around the River Orlice. Orlice Natural Park covers an area of 115 sq. km. The main environmental risks to the park are: intensive agriculture, forest monoculture, industry, transport, channel improvement, the building of holiday cottages, sport, and recreation. Among the conflicts of interest in the park are: nature protection, water management, building constrictions, business, fishery, water sports and recreation.

During the process of Environmental Impact Assessment in Hradec Králové, the public voiced its opinion against the building of a supermarket within the grounds of the nature park. In this case the public showed its interest in the value of nature and landscape, the value of human health and the value of plant species. In general, the public and the local media show an interest in the park only in exceptional circumstances.