

## **Fire reservoir Vyšný Tajch - Ľubochnianska Valley**

Forest enterprise Liptovský Hrádok, an organizational unit of state enterprise Lesy SR s.e., has realized the construction of fire reservoir Vyšný Tajch since July 2008. The project was conducted in Ľubochnianska valley in Veľká Fatra, which is a national park since 2002. This area is classified in The Rural Development Program of the SR 2007 - 2013 as forests with a high risk of forest fires. The purpose of the construction is the lack of fire water, and despite of that it is difficult to keep fires down in this area. Up to now, the fires were quenched mostly by helicopters with fire bags, using water from the reservoir Hrabovo in Ružomberok. Scheduled end of the project is set for November 2009.

### Chronology of the project:

July 2008 - start of the construction

July 2009 - the inauguration of the fire reservoir Vyšný Tajch

November 2009 - completion of project

Tajch was previously used for floating timber. Before the implementation of railways in this area, carrying of wood was realized by floating on river Ľubochnianka a its tajchs, which also served as a water reservoirs. Currently there is under reconstruction only one of the two historical-natural reservoirs - Vyšný Tajch in Ľubochnianska valley. For now, there is no scheduled plan of reconstruction of the second – Nižný tajch. Building itself consists of two objects: the dam of fire reservoir, inflow area and the riverbed. The total water surface after soaking of tajch is 0.50 hectares with a retention capacity of 8012 cubic meters of water. Dam height is 7 m. Part of the new construction is a feed-pipe, slippage, the salmon-leap and log spreader bars.

Financing of approximately 570 000 euros was covered by the resources of Lesy SR, s.e. Directory General Banská Bystrica. These finances will be refunded on behalf of the agreement with Agricultural Paying Agency .

The project was conducted in cooperation with Lesy SR, s.e., Banská Bystrica, and forest enterprise Liptovský Hradok as a initiator of the project. Consultations took place with National Park Veľká Fatra, which is also the administrator of the flow, on which is this construction built. It was also necessary to obtain a permit from District office of environment in Ružomberok (Division of State water administration). There were no serious objections against the construction. Other comments and recommendations have been addressed in the consultations. It was concluded during these consultations with the concerned authorities that the construction will not cause an unnatural intervention in the local ecosystem.

Tajch also offers more options of use than retention fire reservoir. FA Liptovský Hrádok is preparing to set up a fishing ground in this area. Besides future fishing ground, FA Liptovský Hrádok administers another 7 functioning fishing districts, including 3 water reservoirs - Tajch Lacková, Tajch Malužiná and pumping reservoir Čierny Váh (where is, for example, successful fish-scale reading of grayling). Other fishing grounds are watercourses - Ľubochnianka, Malužiná, Čierny Váh No.1 Čierny Váh No.3. Daily or seasonal permits are sold in every fishing ground. (The prices are from 15 euro for daily permit up to 299 euro for

seasonal permit.) These are issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, state enterprise Lesy SR, s.e. or Forest administration Liptovský Hrádok. Their are limited only with regard to carrying-capacity of fishing grounds.

It is possible to diversify activities with regard to the reconstruction of tajch in several areas. The plan is therefore to use tajch for fishing purposes, which is supposed to have economic benefits related to the sale of fishing permits. Forest administration Liptovský Hrádok tries to meet fishermen needs and makes arrangements to help fishery, such as cleaning the shores for better accessibility. Consequently, recreational and tourist services will have to be improved. There are also some cottages near tajch, that are under administration of FA Liptovský Hrádok and are rent to tourists and fishermen. Ľubochnianska valley locality will be used for forest tourism and environmental education of children and youth.