



# Der Landrat

des Landkreises Emmendingen

**Hausanschrift:** Bahnhofstr. 2-4 - 79312 Emmendingen

**Eingang:** Cornelia-Passage

**Telefon:** 07641/451-202

**Fax:** 07641/451-201

**E-mail:** [landrat@landkreis-emmendingen.de](mailto:landrat@landkreis-emmendingen.de)

**Internet:** <http://www.landkreis-emmendingen.de>

Landratsamt Emmendingen – Postfach 1120 – D-79301 Emmendingen

---

Dear Professor Goldammer,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I want to thank you for the invitation and for the opportunity to talk to you at the opening of the international “Symposium on Fire Management in Cultural and Natural Landscapes, Nature Conservation and Forestry in Temperate-Boreal Eurasia”.

In the name of the Emmendingen County I also want to welcome you, especially our guests from all over Europe and our Eastern neighbours Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Mongolia. As you can imagine, for a county Commissioner in the southwestern part of Germany it is a quite uncommon but never the less an attractive task to welcome an international audience on a scientific fire-ecology and fire-management conference.

As the commissioner of the Emmendingen County I am by virtue of my office the chairman of the “Landschaftserhaltungsverband Emmendingen” (in English: the Emmendingen Association of Land Care). This association was founded in 1992 in order to improve the conditions of land care and nature conservation in our home county by integrating all relevant groups of land-users, administrative bodies and nature conservation agencies. And in the review it turned to be very clever because we have a exceptionally good and constructive relationship between the land-use and nature conservancy agencies in our county. And I believe that this is the most important reason, why the very controversial discussed introduction of the use of prescribed fire in land management worked especially well in Emmendingen County.

In 2002 our new chief operating officer Mr. Page started his work at the land care association. And with him also the project of the integration of prescribed fire in an ecologically based slope management in the viticulture areas of the Kaiserstuhl became an integral part of the work of our association. Mr. Page and his staff members, Dr. Friedländer and Stefan Wießner, will give you a closer look about the background, the results and the future perspectives of this Kaiserstuhl project in the next two days of this conference.



Festplatz am Elzdamm, gebührenfrei  
Parkplatz “Am alten Schloss” gebührenpflichtig



Behindertenparkplatz  
beim Hauptgebäude



Bahn und Bus  
1 Minute zum  
Hauptgebäude



Bankverbindungen der Kreiskasse:  
Sparkasse Freiburg - Nördl. Breisgau (BLZ 680 501 01) 20 014 344

May I take the opportunity and state that I am very pleased that we succeeded in integrating a new fire-management component together with Prof. Goldammer in connection with the creation of the LIFE Project "Rohrhardsberg und Obere Elz" here in the Black Forest. The major part of our county belongs geographically to the Black Forest – a very unique and in my opinion fascinating landscape. A landscape with a very high ecological value and with a high attraction and potential for tourism in a cultural landscape, which has been shaped by traditional land use over historic periods and which has an enormously rich nature and biodiversity. These cultural and natural assets are threatened by the rural exodus as a consequence of a changing modern society and the problems that the agricultural sector is facing in this region as well as in many other regions of Germany and all over Europe. It is not easy to develop appropriate measures to maintain this precious landscape for the nature and the people who live here in the future. This will become a very big challenge and in this context I am very happy that we succeeded in establishing the EU sponsored LIFE project in context with the Natura 2000 and FFH area "Rohrhardsberg and Obere Elz". Of course it is only one but an important module for the nature and the people of this region.

To develop and maintain this landscape we need new concepts based on the traditions, which have shaped the landscape. Besides hard labour, mechanical treatment and grazing animals in the past, there was also the use of fire, which contributed to the formation of the traditional cultural landscape of the Black Forest Mountains.

The aim of this part of the LIFE-Project is to develop new fire management strategies that on the one side are based on this old, traditional knowledge. On the other side we need modern, science-based approaches in fire management to support the decisions most suitable for the use and protection of this valuable landscape. I am sure, that you will get good impressions about these ideas over the course of this conference – and also that you can give advice from your experiences in the use of fire for the benefit of landscape and nature protection. In this context it is important for me to mention, that conferences like this are very important to distribute knowledge and to work together for common aims. So I want to thank you, Professor Goldammer, for organizing this event. I wish you all new and useful impressions and a good stay here in this beautiful part of southwest Germany.

Thank you for your attention!