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"REINDEER HERDING IN THE NATIONAL PARK - SUSTAINABLE HERDING PRACTICES AND MULTIPLE USE OF MOUNTAIN PASTURES"

INTRO.

My name is Harald Rundhaug, and I am working for the government by Department of agriculture by Reindeer herding administration in Nordland county. My work is to take care of questions about reindeer herding. The main issue is to help those who have reindeer herding as their occupation and life, by trying to secure the areas which are required so that reindeer herding have a future. An important part of this is to take part in the environmental resource management.

Anyhow- I have been asked to talk about Reindeer herding in the National park - sustainable herding practices and multiple use of the mountain pastures.

I have decided first to talk about. Reindeer herding, What is it? and What influence their behavior?

Next: The same-people who have herding as their occupation have several rights true law, what are they, and how are this rules in according to their own set of rules which they have made true many generations.

How can a National park gain the same-people in their reindeer herding? or why is it so important to establish them?

I have decided first to talk about. Reindeer herding, What is it? and What influence their behavior?

The reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) is in most of Scandinavia in domestic herds. In south Norway we also have wild herds. Herding is only allowed for the same-people. It is an exclusive right they have. Reindeer herding has existed here for many - many years. According to history it has developed from hunting to people started to domesticate reindeer.

Reindeer forage outside 12 months a year. That means they are adapted to the difference in amount of food available and the snow. They have different needs to different times of year, which means the animals have to use different areas through the year. Nordland County is split up in several pasture areas where we have independent herds. In this area we are now it is approximately 3000 reindeer in winter herd. And they have most of their pastures in Saltfjellet/Svartisen national park.

Spring - summer - early autumn - late autumn - winter.

In a reindeer herd both sexes have antlers, but they have different function and fall of at different time of year.

During spring - which is april - may - june, male and female live separately, and the female is dominant because they have antlers. In may is the calving- or birthseason and mother with calv forage in the best pastures - early spring - less snow s.o. The reindeer are now changing their diet from lichen to gras.

Summer - late june - july - august. Reindeer are now grazing most off time, and they follow the spring up in to top of mountains. They are dependent of glaciers or snow in this time because of insects. In midde/ of july the calva are big enough for beeing markt. They cut the calvs in both ears with a knife, and each owner have his own marking.

Autumn - august -september- october- november. The temperatur goes down and the quality of gras decreases. Fungus is an importan part of diet in this time. Reindeer are now in very good condision, and in september we can see bigger gruops of animals, both males and females. When this occur they will be driven together in fenc where males who not needs for matingseason is taking away - first slaughtingseason. Det matingseason is normaly in oktober and the males try to get harem of females. In november/desember is the second slaughting-season where we take away calvs, females and other young animals of pure quality. As the temperatur decreases below zero the diet to the reindeer changes drastichy. Lichen will during this time be a bigger and bigger part of diet.

Winter - december - january - february - mars Lichen is the moust important food item during winter. The availability of lichen is depentent of snowcover. In this area the animals goes out to coastareas because of less snow. At the same time they spread over bigger areas - availability.

In this area they take part in a aggrement between Norway and Sweden for mutual use of seasonal pastures along the board. That means herds from Norway have right to use pastures in Sweden during wintertime while herds from Sweden can use pastures in Norway during summer.

Next: The samy-people who have herding as their occupation have several rights true law, what are they, and howe are this roots in according to their own set of roots which they have made true many generationes.

Rights according to law:

- pastures for their herd outside cultivated areas - independent of who owns it. This right is a right for using the area by herding, but they does'nt own it. On the other hand do they have the same protection as a farmer - against building of roads or powerplant etc.

- build cottages - fences who are necessary for herding both on state and privat property.

- right to catch fish and hunt only in state property. In some parts of Norway the samy-people have an exclusive right to catch fish inland.

- use snow-recycle, helicopter s.o.

Like in the local society the samy-people have developet their own roots for managment of resources they use. That means they have another system which they also use in practice. They have true their cultur and life seen the importanse of good enviromental managment, and they say they have now right to change the enviromental condisons f.eks. by overgrasing - to big herds. It has been of very big importanse that the pastures could be given to next generation in same shape as they got it from their parents.

This means that they never have thought they own the pastures, but they just have got the chance to borrow it for their lifetime and therefore it is a matter of honor that they leave them in good condition to next generation.

In the last 20 years we have had an enormous mechanical development - also in reindeer herding. We have now got snow-vehicle, helicopter and motorcycle in to this business and the economical aspect has got much more influence on the management than what we had before. In northern parts of Norway we see this problem by overgrazing on lichen, and we have also seen it in fisheries. To many fights about limited resources because of short economical gain. In long term this is no good strategy!

Today the same-people fight for an accept of their rights in the region they live. They want to take over the management of land and water from the State.

**How can a National park gain the same-people in their reindeer herding?
or why is it so important to establish them?**

Saltfjellet/Svartisen National park was established in 1989. It is one of the largest parks in Norway. The discussion started already in 1937 between different interests. Some wanted to protect this area, while other wanted to build powerplant for production of electricity. It was in the 70s the fight really started. In Norway and Europe it was expedient lack of electricity and this area were attractive.

In the same time started different movements of environmental resource management and the reindeer herding became a part of it. In Saltfjellet/Svartisen the reindeer herding were a main reason why we have a National park here today, and of course to keep this culture alive here for the future.

For the herding of reindeer this gives an important effect because the pastures are protected against other interests.

But a National park has not just positive effects.

As people get more time to spend for recreation we see that the competition above the areas increase rapidly. The pressure increase with the population in the neighbourhood.

A national park gives the area another status and the pressure on the environment increase rapidly. Tourists want to visit the park and you become in a conflict between protection of the environment versus resource management. For the reindeer herding this is also a problem. The reindeer needs time to forage during a short summer and to achieve that the reindeer owners participate in the local management to reduce the effects of tourists. The management-rules for the park is strictly and allow very few encroachments.

There are also problems between environmental government and reindeer herding because of new technology also has come in to this lifeless or industry. This case is now send to the court and they are disagree about use of motorcycle in the park.

At the same time the Same-people has their own way of environmental management, which they have used for hundred of years. Before 1970, when Norway became their first laws about environmental management it was the local community who took care of this, by farmers and the same-people. I think one of the main reasons why we still have areas which is of big interest from environmental protection view is because of Same-peoples management an fight to secure their own rights and their pastures.

Maybe this should continue, but what sort of management this gives seems to be very much dependent of the economical situation in time. An this discussion is of big importance in this county now.

Without making any statement about what is best, there are several good reasons for both systems, but comparison to what experience we have from other parts of Norway with more local management the reindeer industry doesn't seem to have any gain of that.

It look like the main reason is that there are few people who have reindeer herding as their occupation in big regions, and therefor little possibility to expose their intrests in same dimension as f.eks. farmers. Another problem is that, true history, there have been many disagreements between samy-peoples rights on privat property.