

**POTENTIELLE LEBENSÄÄUME DES BIBERS IN DEN RHEINAUEN
BEI KARLSRUHE – EINE HABITATANALYSE IM MÜNDUNGSBEREICH
DER ALB (OBERRHEIN)**

**POTENTIAL HABITATS FOR THE BEAVER IN THE RHINE FLOODPLAINS
NEAR KARLSRUHE – A HABITAT ANALYSIS IN THE MOUTH AREA
OF THE ALB (UPPER RHINE)**

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SUMMARY

After the almost complete extermination of the beaver in the 19th century, resettlement efforts started in the second half of the 20th century in Germany, France and Switzerland with ecological intentions. After the initially tentative population development, the beaver is now at home again.

Due to the rapid spread of the beaver in recent years, the floodplain areas and surrounding waters of larger waterways such as the Rhine and Danube are again becoming settlements of this type. This development is the basis for the research project of this work. It deals with the question of whether and to what extent the floodplain areas and backwaters of a section of the Rhine in Baden-Wuerttemberg are suitable for the resettlement of the beaver. For this purpose, a catalog of criteria was developed and applied to the waters of an almost 90 ha wetland area in the mouth of the Alb (Upper Rhine). This showed that the habitats near the water in the exemplary Rhine floodplain area with 57.1 % of the area are good to very good habitat suitability for the beaver. The result therefore represents a positive prognosis for a return of the beaver to this section of the Rhine as well.

Keywords: Upper Rhine, Alb, beaver, floodplain, habitat analysis

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Nach der fast vollständigen Ausrottung des Bibers im 19. Jahrhundert starteten in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts Wiederansiedlungsbemühungen in Deutschland, Frankreich und der Schweiz mit ökologischen Intensionen. Nach anfänglich zaghaften Bestandsentwicklungen ist der Biber mittlerweile wieder heimisch.