The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide professional association representing the railway sector and promoting rail transport. UIC leads an innovative and dynamic sector, helping our members find opportunities and build success. The purpose of UIC's Ecological Effects of Railways on Wildlife (rEvERsE) project is to understand railway's role in the loss and gain of biodiversity and its habitats in Europe. It will seek to set out how railways can manage land in an ecologically sensitive way, providing solutions and best practice examples.

ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF RAILWAYS ON WILDLIFE
REVERSE

UIC is seeking solutions and best practice to manage rail lineside in a way that can help **halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity**.

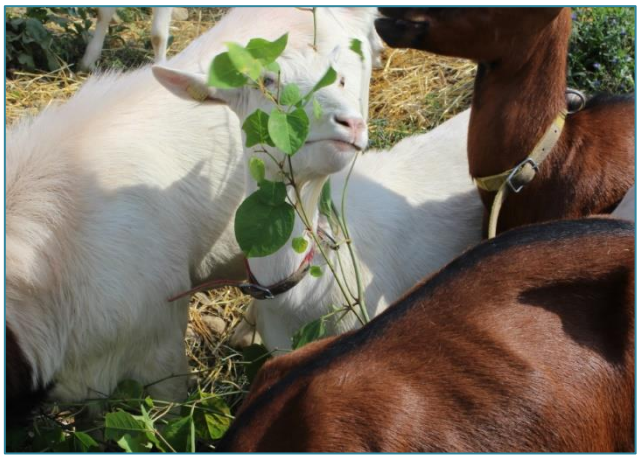
This poster provides information about Theme 4:
"Management for control of invasive non-native species

AUSTRIA

Railway embankments and other infrastructure properties often act as corridors for invasive alien species. In some cases, such as Japanese knotweed, conventional vegetation management using machinery can worsen the problem by transferring seeds and roots from one site to another

THE SOLUTION

In 2014, ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG initiated a pilot project to control Japanese knotweed by grazing with goats and sheep. Following double fencing to prevent the livestock escaping, the railway embankment was grazed as additional pastureland for a local organic farmer. The grazing keeps the Japanese knotweed from spreading and saves the money that would otherwise have been needed for disposal of the cut material.



Outcomes

This has benefitted biodiversity, generated local income for the farmer through regional products, and provided positive media stories.

Keywords: Invasive species, grazing

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