The key to staying out of trouble is often within your reach! But, out of laziness or - even worse - arrogance, we ignore it and end up unwillingly paying the price. Poor Mr Birdwhistle experienced this first hand, when he saw his dream holiday, which was meant to be a relaxing break from employee work, turn into an actual "life lesson", with a few unexpected bruises. This happens because we would often like to do what we want, without too much effort, and without the effort of following the rules. Moreover, if they are unwritten rules, like the rules of the woods, things become even more complicated. In Lofty Haven, however, there are rules, and we decided to put them in writing so people can follow them. They include no flying in the areas where birds of prey make their nests, so that we don’t disturb them during brooding. There is also a rule to only ride bicycles on the designated trails, avoiding high speed, out of respect for those who prefer to experience nature by walking or picking mushrooms, but also to avoid damaging the trails and the flora and fauna. In the car, especially in mountain areas, driving at moderate speed is essential to avoid unpleasant accidents with animals which, following trails unknown to us, may suddenly cross the road. These are just a few examples describing the many possible types of interactions with animals or other people who use the territory according to patterns that are different from ours - which means that sharing these spaces requires precise rules, besides common sense. Understanding that we are not above the natural environment, but rather a part of it, leads us to respect others, whether they are humans, animals or plants. This awareness helps us to avoid negative and painful consequences, but it also helps us to see the wonder of this world, full of opportunities that go beyond the “postcard” images in our minds. Our friend Birdwhistle learned this lesson well. Next time, he will surely listen to the advice he receives, and will be happy to return to Lofty Haven better informed and ready to discover a shared mountain environment, full of life thanks to being intact in all its parts, and that we are privileged to be able to share.

Have Fun!
IN MY OFFICE!
I’LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER...

AND...
BIRDWHISTLE, I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU!
YOU ARE STRESSED.
YOU NEED A BREAK!

WHAT GAVE YOU THAT IMPRESSION?

TAKE A WEEK OFF! GO SOMEWHERE PEACEFUL! LIKE “BLISSFUL WOODS”, UP IN THE MOUNTAINS! THAT WAY WE CAN GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET, TOO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ‘HOLIDAY’?
... AH! YES!

THE QUIET OF THE MOUNTAINS AND WOODS WILL GET YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET...
OR I’LL KNOCK YOU OUT MYSELF!

EHM... GOT IT!

AND SO...

WELL! I THINK I Managed TO PACK THE ESSENTIALS FOR A WEEK! PHew!

I’M OFF!
OFF WORK...
TO A BLISSFUL PLACE!

BIRDWHISTLE!
ARE YOU MOVING?
WHAT GOOD NEWS!

VROOM!
A FEW HOURS LATER...

WOW!

WHAT A NICE PLACE!
I FEEL BETTER
ALREADY!

WELCOME TO
BLISSFUL WOODS

POF
POF

AND SOON...

BEFORE HEADING FOR MY BUNGALOW,
I'LL ASK FOR SOME CULINARY
INFORMATION! SLURP!

TOURIST
INFORMATION

CITY FOLK,
BLEAH!

RIGHT!
BLEAH!
WELCOME TO BLISSFUL WOODS!
MY NAME IS POPPY, AND I AM HERE TO HELP YOU FIND OUT HOW TO ENJOY YOUR STAY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

Thank you! But I only want to know where to go for the best lunch around here and...

HUMPH!... as if you have to study to go on holiday!

OK! I'll do some reading! Now what about the food?

...contains advice and some rules on respecting the environment!

The "Golden Mushroom" is the best place in town! And don't forget, in the guide you'll find...

HAM... this guy...

FINALLY...

BUNGALOW '18! MINE! WHAT A NICE GARDEN!
AFTER UNPACKING HIS BELONGINGS...

I ALWAYS ENVIED THOSE FEARLESS PARASAILING HEROES! I WANT TO GIVE IT A GO!

HOW HARD CAN IT BE? YOU JUST JUMP OFF, PULL THE LINES...

ZOMP

PLOP

GULP! WHAT...

CREEE!

YAHOO! THE BOUNDLESS SKIES ARE MINE!

STUDDA BIRD! I'M COMING FROM THE RIGHT!

CREEE! STUPID HUMAN!
SCREEE!

GO AWAY! GO FIND YOUR OWN SKY!

SRRRR!

Uh-oh! What are you doing?

POOR ME!

No! No! Help! Help! He's making holes in my paraglider!

TUMP

EHM... Hi there little eagles!

Cree! How ugly!

Cree! And he doesn't even taste good!

Hey, why are you bussing the eagles?

Vlap Vlap Vlap

Poppy? But they started it...
THERE WAS A CLEAR SIGN ON THAT CLOUD AND THE GUIDE I SAW CLEARLY PROHIBITED PARASAILING IN AREAS FREQUENTED BY LOCAL BIRDS OR PREY! I GUESS YOU DIDN’T READ IT, DID YOU?

WELL... I READ THE TITLE, AND...

WHY DON’T YOU TRY SOMETHING DOWN IN THE VALLEY, SOMETHING LESS INTRUSIVE AND DANGEROUS... FOR YOU AND THE ANIMALS?

BACK ON THE GROUND...

WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO RELAX? HMM... MTB... WHY NOT?

YAHOO!

HERE I COME, MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS! YEAHHH!

HEH! YOU'RE RIDING AGAINST THE FLOW!

SWISS

JUST AS WELL, I PACKED MY SUPER BIKE! THIS WILL BE GREAT!
YAHOO! OUT OF MY WAY, COUCH POTATOES!

RUDE!

TUMP

HOOLIGAN!

!

I HEAR A COMMOTION UPSTAIRS...

AAHH! LOOK OUT!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
EEK!

Ouch!

Sniff! Lucky the tree was hollow!

Out of my house!

Ehm... I see you are still breaking the rules...

Poppy? It’s not my fault! I was just riding my bike and...

... and I bet you still haven’t read my booklet!

Do I need a book to ride my bike?

You need to know which trails you can ride, how to ride them, how to recognise burrows, and...

Do some reading, then you’ll enjoy your holidays! And so will everyone else staying in blissful woods! Why don’t you try something that can’t do any damage? Going for a walk, for instance!

All that stuff in such a little book?

All right then!
AND SO...

A MUSHROOM RISOTTO! WHAT COULD BE MORE PEACEFUL, RELAXING, AND TASTY?

BUT YOU'RE A B...B...BEAR!

WERF!

HELP! HE'LL EAT ME!

WAIT... WHAT AM I SO SCARED OF? HE'S JUST A BUNDLE OF FUR!

SROOWL!

TIME TO GET SOME GOOD PICTURES FOR MY GRANDKIDS!

HERE BEAR! HERE!

HERE BEAR! HERE!

CHERE BEAR! HERE! HE...

UH-OH...

UHM...
GO ON, BERTHA, GO! GET OUT OF HERE!

SNORT!

YOU AGAIN? WHERE DID YOU...

DON’T YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD NOT BOTHER THE PUPPIES OF ANY ANIMAL SPECIES? THE PARENTS ARE NEVER FAR! AND IF YOU ONLY HAD READ THE GUIDE...

I’M JUST UNLUCKY!

I CAN’T TAKE A STEP WITHOUT CAUSING TROUBLE! I’M GOING BACK TO THE COTTAGE! I’LL ENJOY SOME SUNSHINE, THE SWIMMING POOL AND THE FLOWERS!

MAYBE YOU COULD DO SOME READING! YOU KNOW WHAT I’M TALKING ABOUT!

AND SO, LATER ON...

THERE! I CAN FEEL MYSELF RELAXING ALREADY! I'M RELAXING... I AM DEFINITELY RELAXED!

BUT THE CRUEL FATE, DISGUISED AS WHITE SHEEP HAS OTHER PLANS...

SISTERS, LOOK AT THAT MEADOW OVER THERE!

SLURP! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

BROOM
THAT’S CURIOUS! SOUNDS LIKE... AN ARMY OF LAWNMOWERS!

BRRZ
BRRZ

GASP! A HORDE OF HUNGRY SHEEP RUNNING STRAIGHT TOWARDS ME!

BAAH?

NO! NO! GET OUT OF MY GARDEN! LEAVE MY DAISIES ALONE! MY TULIPS!

FLEECY DESTROYERS! THEY’VE WIPE OUT MY MEADOW! ALL MY FLOW...

GULP! EVEN MY FLOWERED TRUNKS? GONE! CHEEKY PESTS!

GIOMP
GNAM
I WILL NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!

NOW I’LL SHOW YOU!

MMHHH... I MISSED THIS MORSEL!

YOOW!

OUCH!

TSK! TSK! THIS TIME I CAN’T BLAME YOU!
WE ARE TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO MANAGING OUR FLOCKS SO THEY DON’T DAMAGE THE CROPS!

OH, GREAT! BLACK AND BLUE BUT... FOR ONCE... INNOCENT!

BUT WHY DO YOU KEEP POPPING UP EVERY TIME SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME?

MY DEAR FRIEND! THIS MAY BE A REMOTE VILLAGE, BUT YOU’RE NOT THE ONLY PERSON HERE...

I’LL INVITE YOU ONCE AGAIN TO READ THE BLISSFUL WOODS GUIDE AND...

WITH PLEASURE! SEE YOU SOON! THEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT...

AND I’M HUNGRY! WHY DON’T YOU JOIN ME AT THE GOLDEN MUSHROOM?

LIKE A BROKEN RECORD!

LATER...

I MUST HURRY, I’M A BIT LATE!
WHAT CROSSING?

AAHH! GOT IT!

THAT WAS CLOSE! COULD YOU PLEASE GET OUT OF THE WAY?

COME ON! I'M IN A HURRY! AND I PAY MY TAXES (NOT THAT YOU CARE!) SHOO!

DID YOU HEAR HIM? HE'S IN A HURRY!

LET'S HELP HIM OUT...
NO! NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

CLANK

AAAHHH!

SVLiiiiNG

ARE YOU OK?

EXCEPT FOR A FEW BROKEN BONES... OH, YES! I'M LOVING THE MOUNTAINS!
I'm sorry you've had a hard time, but maybe now you understand...

Well...

Maybe I was a bit lazy and arrogant! If I'd followed your advice...

Yes, but all is not lost! You still have a few more days!

Your guide mentions everything! Air space for birds of prey, respecting animals, rules to follow...

You've already learned a few things at your own expense... As for the rest...

As for the rest...
...I’ll read carefully so I don’t miss a thing – besides using my common sense!

...The mountains and valleys will bring you nothing but joy! Well done!
The AlpBioNet2030 Alpine Space project has the main objective of studying the ecological connectivity throughout the Alps, and identifying physical, natural and social barriers that currently prevent concrete implementation throughout the territory. By ecological connectivity, we mean the discipline that studies the potential of a specific territory to guarantee an ecological continuum of natural environments, and at the same time the minimum area required to ensure that flora, fauna, and even human beings may enjoy a high-quality living space. In light of this, the project is intended specifically to identify the existing barriers and, at the same time, put forward concrete measures capable of overcoming them and building them into a strategy shared by all Alpine towns. This objective was translated into the identification of Strategic Alpine Connectivity Areas (SACA).

In relation to the Work Package Thematic 5 (WPT5), guided by Eurac Research, particular importance was given to the study of social, environmental and economic factors, which may hinder the implementation of actions and projects intended to support ecological connectivity at a local level. The main types of interaction between man and the natural environment that could potentially turn into conflicts were identified. The project areas involved groups of high school students and local stakeholders, in order to explore the level of consciousness and interest, and to open dialogue on the topic.

The work presented here, in the form of an illustrated tale, is intended to capture the attention of the “youngest” (but not only), through a simple and fun form of communication. The objective is to reach a broad public, in order to favour a process of increased awareness and appreciation of the issues concerning wildlife and any possible interactions with man in sharing a limited space. Through exciting adventures, the leading character deconstructs the idea of a picture-perfect Alpine location, making us aware of the issues linked with possible interactions, as well as of the opportunities provided by living in a biologically intact natural environment. The presence of wildlife emphasises the concept of limiting anthropic activities in the mountains in order to allow free movement to flora and fauna. Accepting the challenge of a limit, correct information and solid motivation are the elements that make coexistence possible.
Based on an idea by Isidoro De Bortoli, Filippo Favilli and Federica Maino, researchers at the Eurac Research Regional Development Institute, coordinators of Work Package 5 of the AlpBioNet2030 Alpine Space project.

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