

BEAR WARNING



A bear, probably a stray animal from the eastern part of Norway, has been spotted in Jostedalen the last two weeks.

The bear has killed 10-12 sheep, and therefore the Ministry of Environment has issued a limited hunting permission.

The last observation indicate that the bear is still in the marked area on the map to the left.

The area is between the Jostedal River and the Jostedalsbreen Glacier, to the south west of the Krundalen valley.

Until the middle of the 19th century, there were large populations of the four large carnivores, brown bear (*Ursus arctus*), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and lynx (*Lynx lynx*), throughout much of Norway. All four species were relentlessly hunted, and as a result wolves and bears were almost exterminated by the middle of the 20th century.

Today's principle is that Norway should maintain viable populations of the four large carnivores. It is also stated that an active agricultural sector is to be maintained, including opportunities to use uncultivated land for grazing by sheep and reindeer. The Storting has also agreed to these recommendations. Steps to reduce conflicts between livestock and large predators are therefore very important.

In order to achieve our goals both for the large carnivores and for agriculture, the authorities intend to vary the management regime from one area to another, so that agriculture is given priority in some districts and the large carnivores in others. Close contact with the local authorities and others who are affected will be very important.