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RANGERS: HOLDING THE THIN GREEN LINE. SERIES TWO

"Spending time during the day or even better stay the night close to the reindeer, listening to the mountain waking up after winter is one of the best days at work. I have the job of my dreams in the area I most wanted to work."

I have been a ranger in the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate (part of the Directorate for Nature Management) in Norway for 5 years. I am responsible for Reinheimen National Park, 6 surrounding landscape protected areas & a number of smaller nature reserves. The park was established in November 2006, I am one of the 2 first park rangers for the area.

Reinheimen National Park lies in the second largest intervention-free area in southern Norway, & wildlife characterise this very varied mountainous region. The highest mountains in the park rise above 2000 meters, while the lowest point, the Troll Wall is 130 meters above sea level. The total protected area is about 260 000 hectares.

The areas has a diverse range of vegetation communities & fauna. Key species include wild reindeer, wolverine, golden eagle, gyrfalcon & over 155 nesting bird species.

The area has a rich diversity in terms of cultural heritage and landscape. Traces of hunter culture are visible in a number of places including pitfalls, mass trapping & remnants of old settlements for hunting wild reindeer. In Romsdalen there are 150-200 graves around 1000 years old.

My main role is to inform & guide visitors in the field, park patrolling, regulation enforcement, registration, documentation of wildlife, flora & check buildings etc.

The best days at work are in early spring when the light has returned, the daytime sun is warm, the snow has melted away in the valleys & the leaves are starting to spring out on the trees. I have finished the registration of wolverine were I have to use a snowscooter. Using cross-country skis I go to the areas were the wild reindeer herds calve during early May. Here in the time between winter & summer the mountain has woken up from a 6 month long cold winter. Birds have returned & have started their nesting, the reindeer herds get their calves and if i am lucky I will see golden eagle, foxes or a wolverine that visit the reindeer herd looking for a meal.



"I have the first years as a ranger been most focused on things going on in my home country Norway, but have now started to be interested in rangers work in other parts of the world. We have a lot to learn from each other & the World Ranger Day is one opportunity to learn about challenges in other countries. "



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