



# Stitching Aurochs

The search for genotypic, phenotypic & ecotypic equivalents of an extinct species

*October 6, 2016, Uppsala, Sweden*



Center for Fish and Wildlife Research  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Photo: Lucas Gölén

## Stitching Aurochs: The search for genotypic, phenotypic and ecotypic equivalents of an extinct species

### *Synopsis*

Many species have become extinct because of humans, either directly by hunting and competition but also indirectly through habitat destruction and spread of environmental toxins. The disappearance of the postglacial megafauna of the northern hemisphere is believed to be caused primarily by hunting and competition from humans. Some of these megafauna species have, however, been domesticated and thus preserved in other forms than the ancestral wildtypes. Such species includes the aurochs, but also the tarpan, the wild horse.

The recreation of extinct species has inspired researchers and others since long. There are good reasons for trying. When a species is lost, we don't only lose the actual species, but also its role in the ecosystem. Modern genetics provide interesting opportunities with respect to recreation of extinct species, such as cloning, but also the search for ancestral, wild genotypes among domestic breeds. In addition to research, there are also several, ongoing efforts to rewild cattle and horse all around Europe.

The purpose of this mini-symposium is to present the current knowledge on, primarily, aurochs genetics and ecosystem function, discuss next step conservation practice and ecosystem management efforts, opportunities and challenges. A series of presentations of 'best practices' of how to recreate genotypic, phenotypic and/or ecotypic aurochs and the ethic and legal framework for "rewilding" will be followed by group discussion on research opportunities and management needs. We aim to learn from practical experiences from rewilding of cattle, and discuss possibilities (needs, impacts & prerequisites) for cattle rewilding in Sweden.

The workshop is primarily directed to researchers, management officials and NGOs. Other interested are also welcome – Please contact [carl-gustaf.thulin@slu.se](mailto:carl-gustaf.thulin@slu.se) for further details.

**Where:** Lecture Hall Audhumbla, VHC, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden

**Language:** English

**Time:** October 6, 2016

**Admission:** Symposium is free thanks to Center for Fish and Wildlife Research, SLU

**Registration (OBS! Needed!):** [www.delegia.com/aurochs2016](http://www.delegia.com/aurochs2016)

- Draft program:** 13.00 *Welcome Address*, Carl-Gustaf Thulin
- 13.20 *The ecosystem function of extinct megafauna*, Jens-Christian Svenning (plenary)
- 14.00 *The genetics of dedomestication*, Göran Andersson/Richard Crooijmans
- 14.40 COFFEE
- 15.00 *Stitching Phenotypic Aurochs*, Ronald Goderie
- 15.20 *The search for eco-equivalents of extinct grazers*, Petter Kjellander, SLU
- 15.40 *Ethics of rewilding domestic species*, Helena Röcklinsberg, SLU
- 16.00 *Legal prerequisites for rewilding in Sweden*, Lotta Berg, SLU
- 16.20 *Discussions – management needs & research interests*
- 17.00 *Conclusions & Suggestions*

### **Organizing Committee**

Carl-Gustaf Thulin, Center for Fish- and Wildlife research, SLU

Ronald Goderie, Taurus Foundation

Mats Niklasson, Nordens Ark

Richard Crooijmans, Wageningen University

Göran Andersson, Animal Breeding and Genetics, SLU



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