

gauer Jura and Binntal (Canton Wallis). This led to the emergence of regional nature parks. The Federal Inventory of Landscapes and Natural Monuments of National Importance (so-called BLN areas) also represented an important basis in this context (Siegrist 2002).

The spate of initiatives of this sort can also be attributed to the increasingly international orientation of the regions and accelerated structural transformations in rural areas. More rural regions started to develop their own visions for the future. Some of the regional actors saw the founding of a park as an opportunity to pursue regional development and shape the future of the regions.

Figure 1

Map of the parks of national significance in Switzerland (as of July 2015). The two national parks Parc Adula (No. 2) and Progetto Parco Nazionale del Locarnese (No. 3) and the Regional Nature Park Schaffhausen (No. 18) have candidate status and are not yet officially recognized.

