




LE VIE DEL PASCOLO


of Veneto

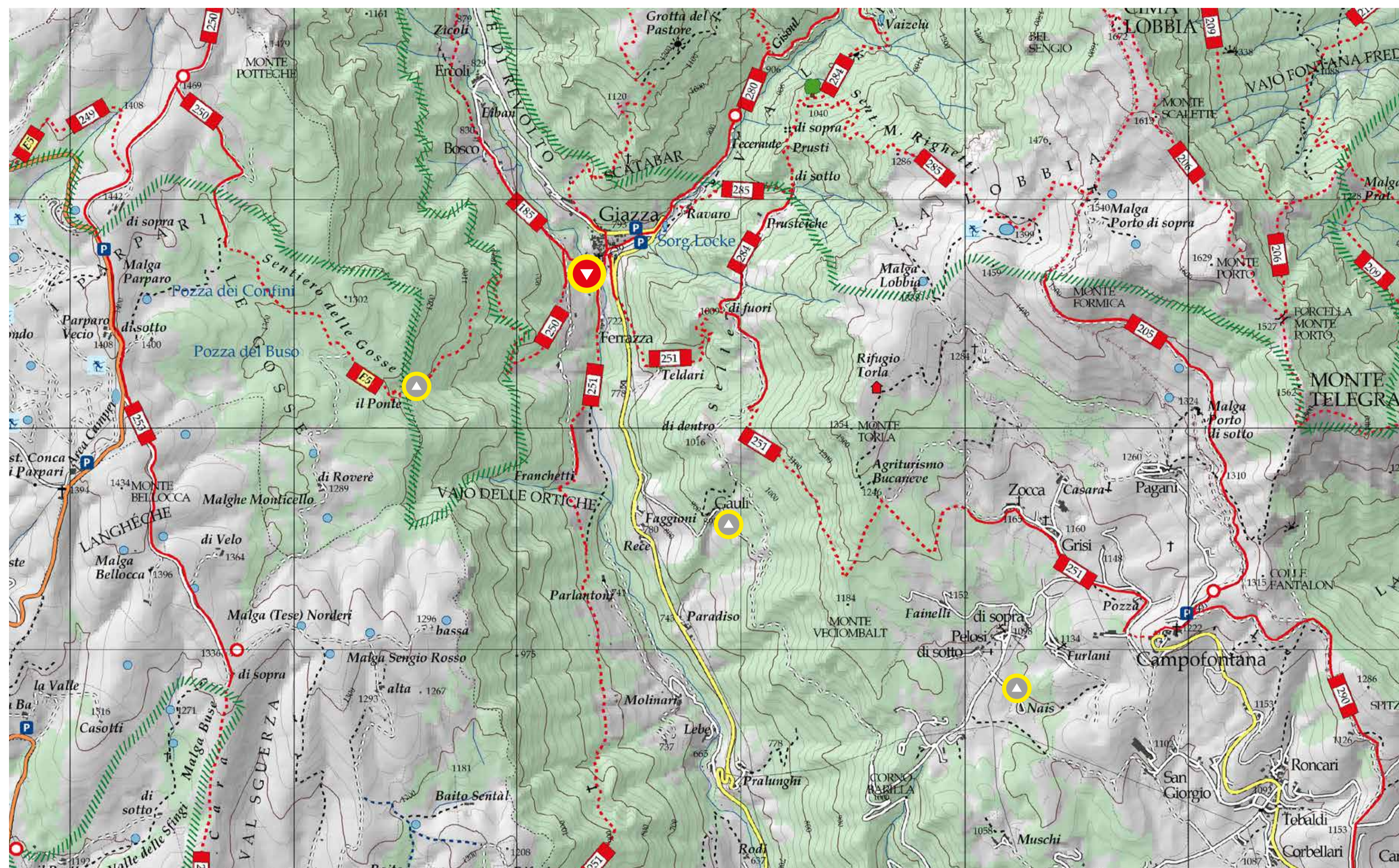
VALORIZATION OF TRANSHUMANCE
 INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

YOU ARE HERE
 **GIAZZA (SELVA DI PROGNO)**
 START OF SENTIERO DELLE GOSSE

 Other information boards about the project.

 CAI Hiking Trails

 Boundaries of the Regional Natural Park of Lessinia



Elaborazione tratta dalla Carta Turistica per Escursionisti "Lessinia" del Comitato Gruppi Alpini Veronesi, ed. 2022

THE FOREST OF GOSSE DI GIAZZA: HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS

THE FOREST

The Forest of Gosse di Giazza is a vast woodland located on the right orographic slope, west of the village of Giazza, within the boundaries of the Regional Natural Park of Lessinia. It extends along the entire slope, ranging in altitude from 800 to 1400 meters above sea level, reaching the high pastures of Parparo and Malga Monticello.

In the lower part of the forest, the predominant tree species include field maple, hornbeam, black ash, hazel, wild cherry, spindle, mountain rowan, and laburnum (now rare). As you ascend in altitude, beech trees dominate the middle and upper slopes. On the summit, one can still see the depressions in the ground known as "buche," which are remnants of the extensive felling of beech trees carried out by the Cimbri settlers to make room for grazing. In past centuries, the forest clearings were used for sheep grazing by families from the neighboring villages. Grazing with goats was prohibited as they would destroy young saplings, causing harm to the forest. However, this prohibition was often disregarded, resulting in disastrous consequences for the vegetation.

The forest also provided the raw material for numerous charcoal kilns, which represented a significant resource in the modest economy of the Cimbri families. It should be noted that the Cimbri were actively involved in logging, depleting the slope of essential vegetation and exposing it to the risk of avalanches and landslides. In the 19th century, the forest was owned by the municipality of Roverè Veronese, and there were numerous disputes with the local inhabitants regarding illegal logging and unauthorized charcoal production.

When caught in the act, offenders would be prosecuted and fined. They



The Carbonaia ignited every year in Giazza (Foto: Sigfrido Corradi)

often presented a *Certificate of Poverty*, issued by the mayor or the priest, to avoid paying the fine or imprisonment.

THE CATTLE TRAIL

Since ancient times, the Gassa, an important cattle trail for both sheep and cattle, passed through the Forest of Gosse. It is believed to date back to the time of the Lombards. Through this trail, transhumance herds coming from the upper Vicenza area and other eastern regions would reach the high pastures of Lessinia.

During World War I, as part of the preparations for the construction of the second line of the front, the Cattle Trail, connecting the upper Val d'Illasi with the Lessinia Plateau, underwent modifications by the Military Engineers. These modifications included widening the path, reinforcing walls, building a stone bridge, and a short tunnel under the rock (approximately 10 meters long). The section between Parparo and Giazza was about five kilometers long and featured bends and straight stretches. In 1933, it was handed over to the municipality of Selva di Progno for civilian use, designated as the "Giazza-Gozze Municipal Road." To this day, the Cattle Trail is used for the transhumance of livestock by the malghesi (mountain dairy farmers) from Campofontana. They descend with their herds from Campo di Dentro, following the road that passes through the Gauli district and leads to Giazza. Once they cross the square, the challenging ascent begins (with an elevation gain of approximately 550 meters) until they reach Parparo and other mountain dairies. Today, hikers traverse this road along the marked trail indicated by the trail marker number 250, which



"Scargar montagna": Return of the herd after the summer grazing period

intersects with the European trail E5 at its highest point. The trail is popular among hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders. It offers a picturesque route through the beech forest, where in summer, the undergrowth is adorned with fragrant cyclamens.

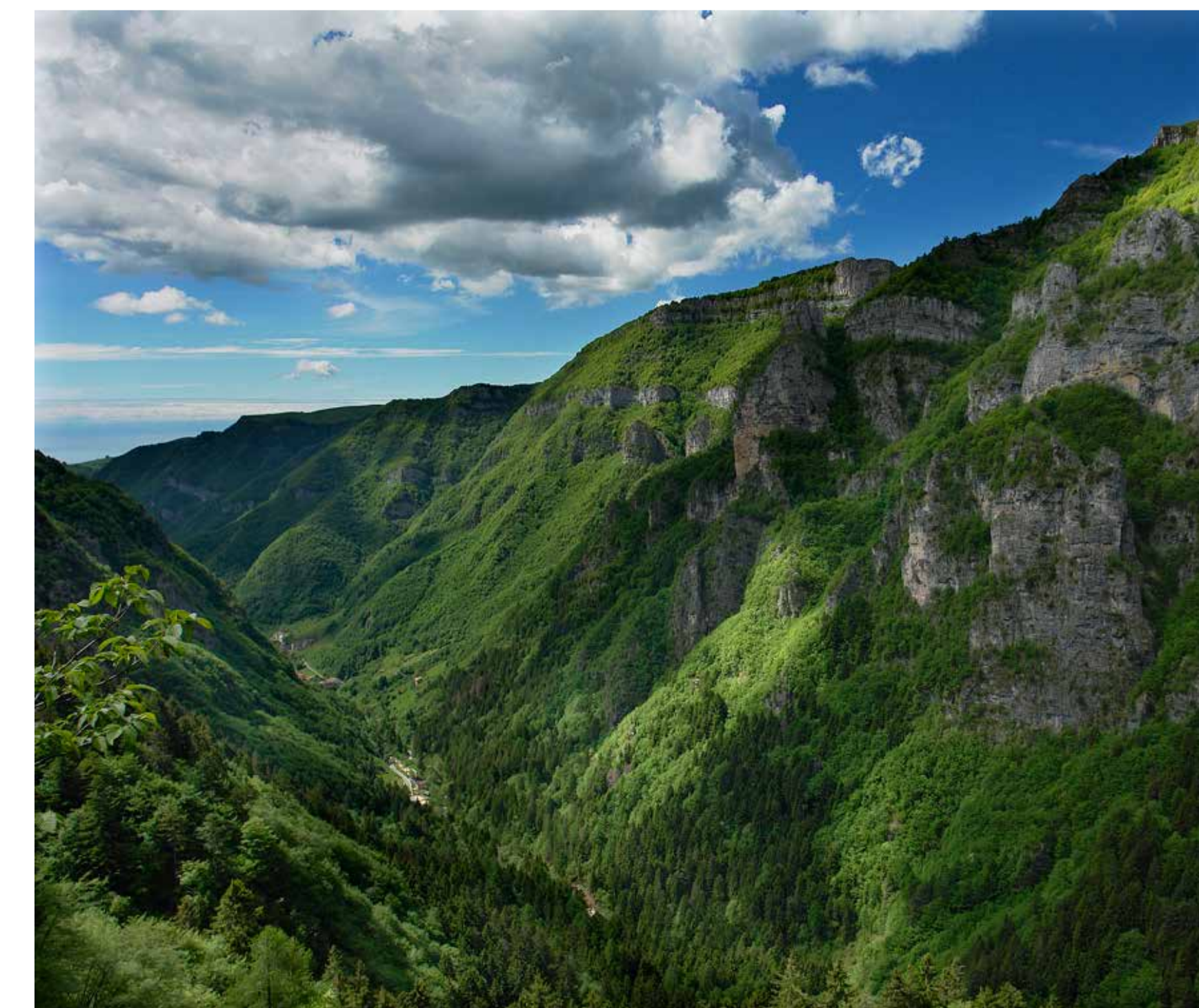
CURIOSITIES

In 1882, during the disastrous flood, the Tiefe-hulbe/Deep Pond, located at the top of the slope, overflowed, releasing a mass of water towards the village of Giazza. It passed close to the Nouc district before reaching its end in the Pach, sweeping away the Rami district situated along the stream. In 1944, during World War II, the partisans, in an attempt to stop the Germans, transported a couple of cannons to the Gosse. However, the cannons did not even fire a single shot.

TOPONYMY

The presence of the Cimbri and the Cimbrian language remains alive in microtoponymy, which sometimes conveys stories and facts that are no longer remembered. The term "Gassa" derives from the ancient High German (pre-Cimbrian) and means "road" or "cattle trail." It is believed to have been corrupted to "Gosse," which the Cimbri themselves translated as "De Troupfan" (the Drops). Another interpretation derives it from the Cimbrian word "Goatze" (goats).

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The rugged slopes of the Forest of Giazza (Foto: Flavio Pettene)

RULES OF RESPECT

Rules of the Environmental Plan of the Regional Natural Park of Lessinia (D. C. Regione Veneto n. 42/1997)

