



Forest Wildlife-Habitat Relationships

Guest Editor:

Dr. Jakub Borkowski

Department of Forestry and
Forest Ecology, University of
Warmia and Mazury, Pl. Łódzki 2,
10-727 Olsztyn, Poland

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Recent years have witnessed a biodiversity crisis, one of the major causes of which is habitat loss and degradation. Forests are the richest in biodiversity among all land ecosystems, and therefore, proper management of forest ecosystems is a key factor in biodiversity conservation. Many wildlife species (for the purpose of this Special issue understood as mammals and birds) attract human attention (e.g., wildlife tourism, hunting). Understanding of the forest habitat characteristics as a factor responsible for wildlife abundance is therefore important from a sociocultural point of view.

However, wildlife species not only depend on their habitat but also tend to affect it. Some of them are considered keystone species (e.g., wolves, deer, beavers or woodpeckers), i.e., having particularly high impact on their habitats but also on other animal species. That way, some species may also exert a significant economic impact on forest stands. Large herbivores, especially certain deer species, are particularly well known in this respect in many regions of the world.





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Forests Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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