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Interactions between Ungulates and Forest Ecosystems

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (25 November 2023)

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear colleagues,

A huge number of ungulate species are living in forested habitats. Their diverse effects mean continuous disturbances to the forest ecosystems causing modifications in plant morphology, physiology, and growth in local scale, but also shaping vegetation development, structure and composition on a landscape-level. Consecutive events of ungulate activities can trigger cascade processes by changing soil characteristics and vegetation patterns and, thus, the availability of adequate habitat patches and resources for plant and animal species. The quality of the habitat and the vegetation features also have a bottom–up regulation on the occurrence, quality and activities of ungulate species influencing their top-down effects expressed in the ecological regulatory mechanisms of herbivory and forest game damage.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Ungulate impact on forest soil;
- Ungulate impact on forest plant individuals;
- Ungulate effects shaping vegetation and faunal patterns in forests;
- Management of forest ecosystem influencing distribution and effects of ungulates;
- Factors influencing forestry damage caused by ungulates.

mdpi.com/si/126244

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Journal Rank: JCR - Q1 (Forestry) / CiteScore - Q1 (Forestry)

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