Special Issue

Wildlife in Forest Ecosystems: Game Damage vs. Conservation

Message from the Guest Editors

European landscapes have faced dramatic changes over the last 100 years, especially in recent decades. Moreover, forest ecosystems are affected by ongoing global climate change which significantly modifies the structure of forest stands, tree species composition, and consequentially habitat conditions for a wide range of wildlife. Those changes have indeed exposed the winners and losers of wildlife species. On the one hand, wild ungulates have successfully increased their numbers in human-dominated landscapes with substantial negative impacts on forest stands associated with tree regeneration, bark stripping, or fraying damage. The population increase has not only been concerned with native species such as roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), or red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), but also introduced ones, especially sika (*Cervus nippon nippon*) or fallow deer (*Dama dama*). On the other hand, mentioned changes negatively affected protected wildlife species, such as forest grouses including black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) and Western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) or owls, and many other species.

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