

Impatti della fauna selvatica sulla dinamica dei popolamenti forestali- L'esperienza maturata nel Parco Naturale Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino

**Wildlife-forest dynamics relationships in
Paneveggio-Pale di S. Martino Park**



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Outline of presentation



- 1) Introduction: deer, forests of the Paneveggio Pale di S. Martino NP**
- 2) Results: Forest regeneration inventory, impact on the blueberry cover**
- 3) Discussion and perspectives**
- 4) Further developments**



1) Introduction



Paneveggio: the forest of violins



Dendrochronologia 21/1 (2003) 41–45
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<http://www.urbanfischer.de/journals/dendro>

DENDROCHRONOLOGIA

Short article

Stradivari, violins, tree rings, and the Maunder Minimum: a hypothesis

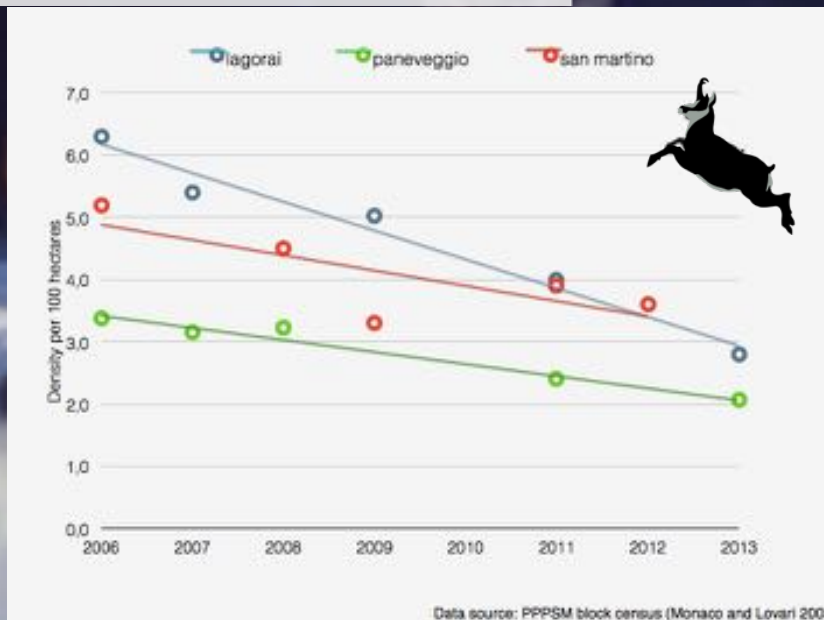
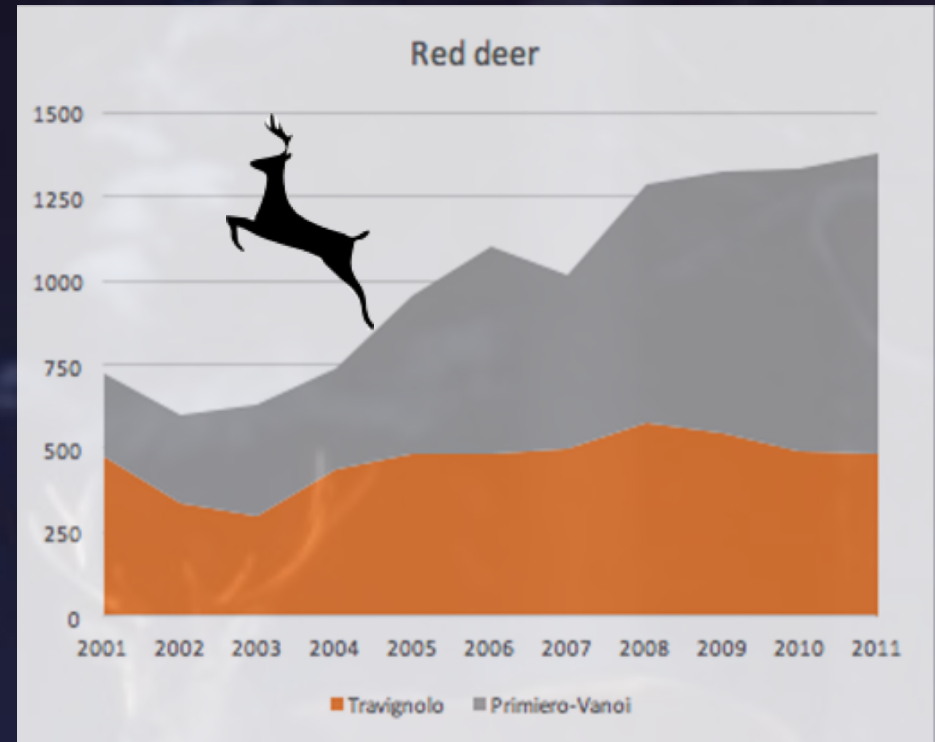
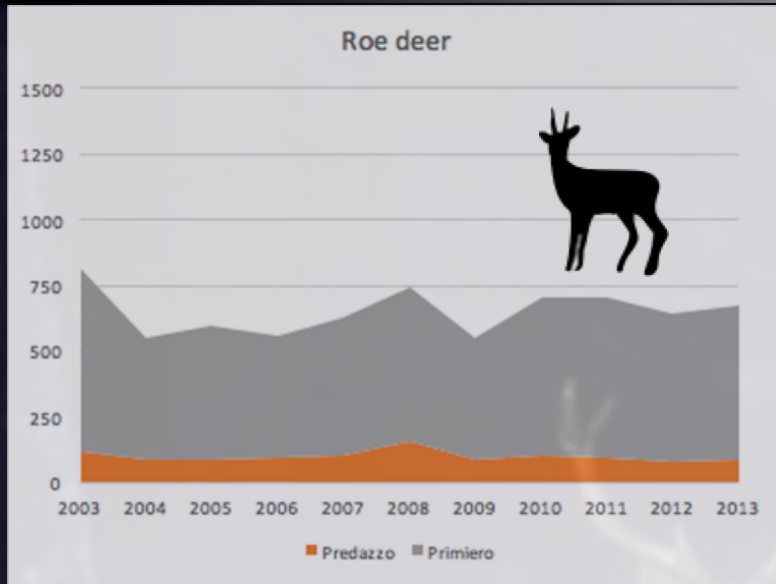
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1) Introduction



Published by Associazione Zoologica Italiana
Hystrix, the Italian Journal of Mammalogy
 Volume 25 (1) 25-36, 2014
 Available online at:
<http://www.italian-journal-of-mammalogy.it/article/view/9460/pdf>
 doi:10.4040/hystrix.251-9460

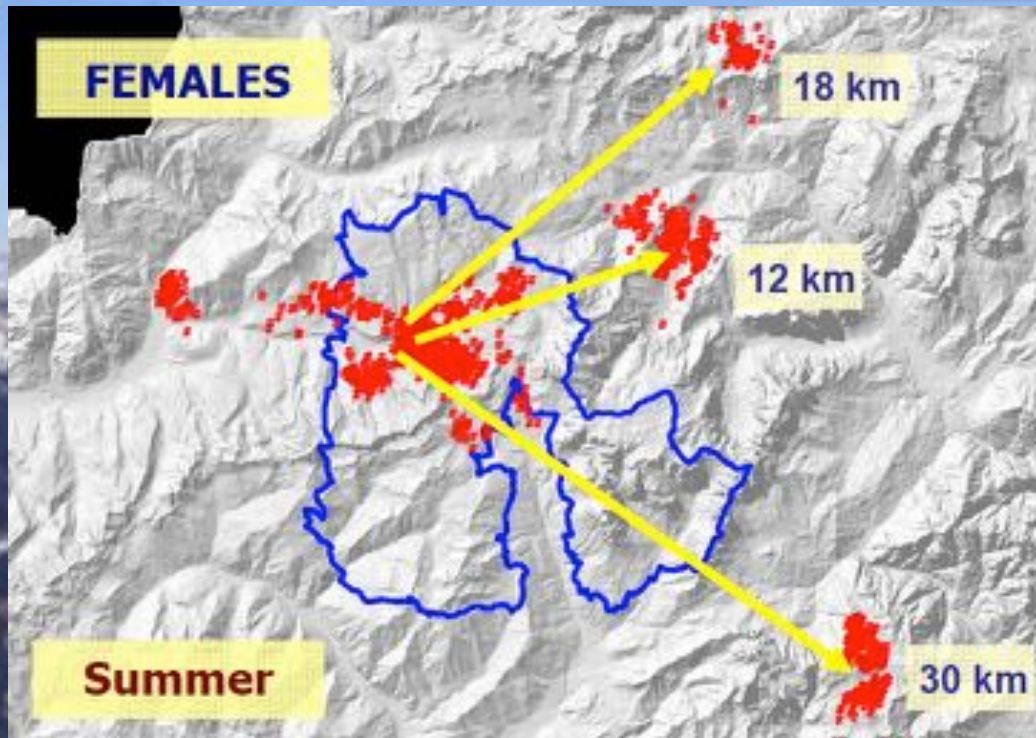
Research Article

Spatial and temporal explorative analysis of sarcoptic mange in Alpine chamois (*Rupicapra r. rupicapra*)

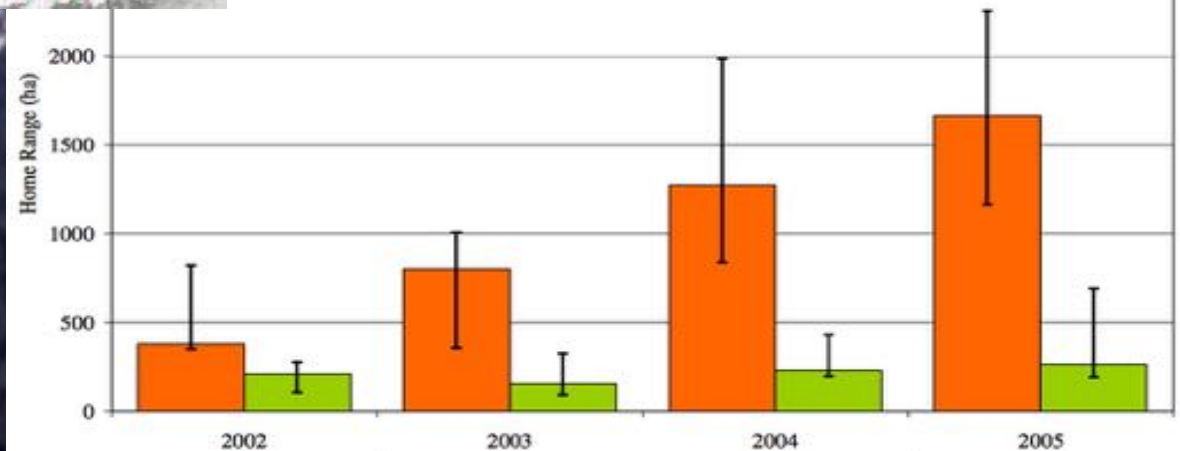
Sara TURCHETTO^{a*}, Federica OBBEK^a, Roberto PERMUNIAN^b, Stefano VENDRAMI^a, Monica LORENZETTO^c, Nicola FERRÉ^d, Leira STANCAMPANO^e, Luca ROSSI^f, Carlo Vittorio CITTERIO^g



1) Introduction



 Migrants  Residents

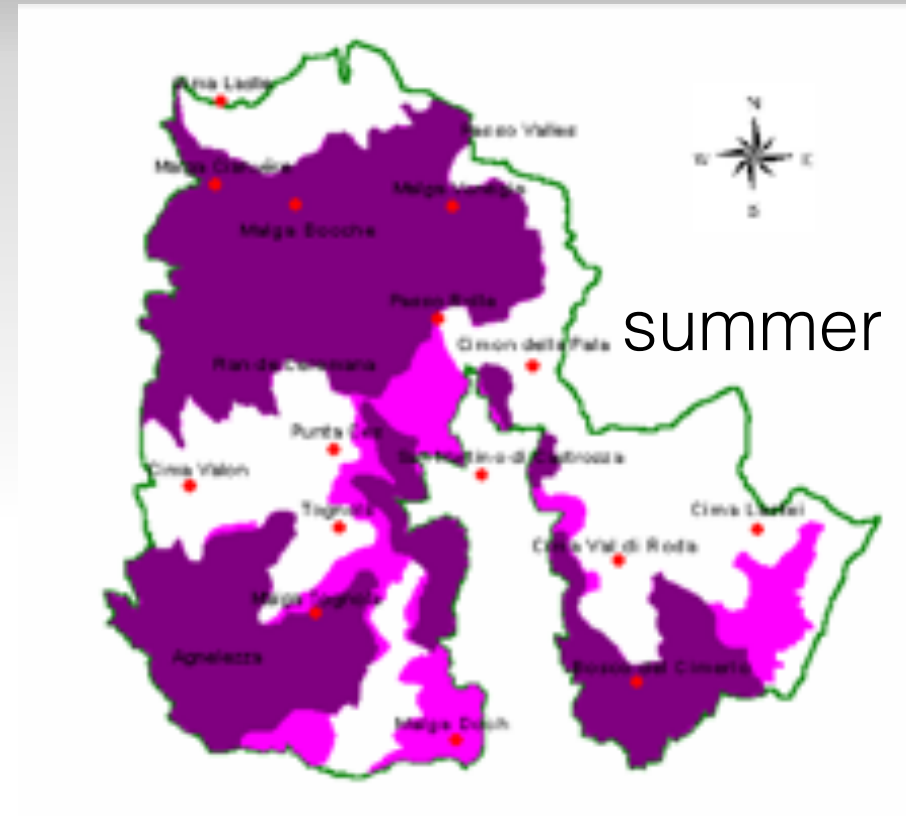
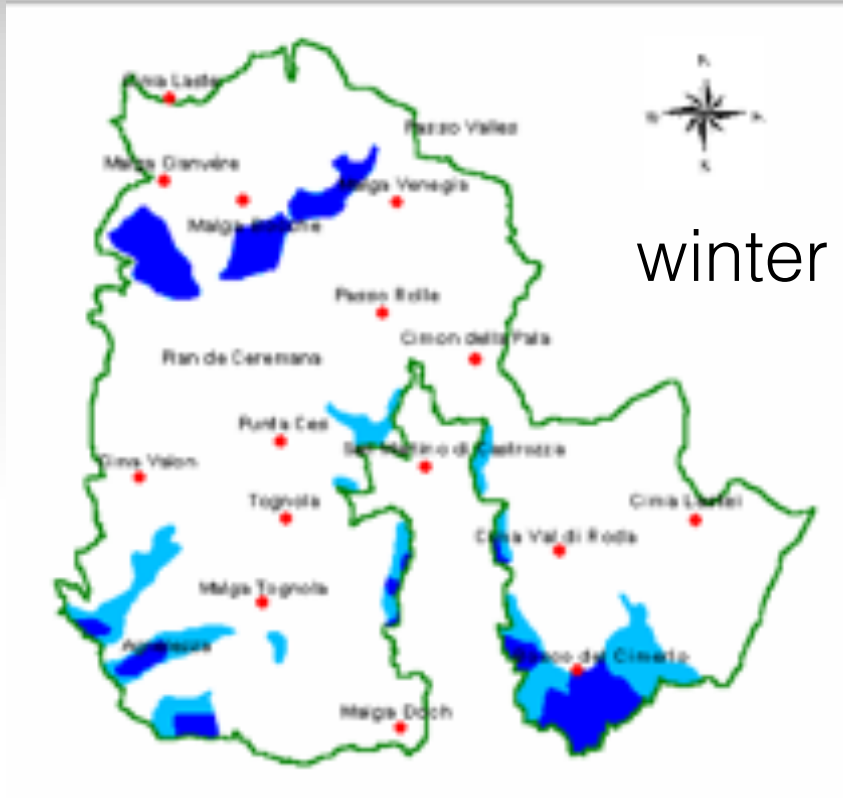


Ann. Zool. Fennici 47: 57–66 ISSN 0003-455X (print), ISSN 1797-2450 (online)
Helsinki 10 March 2010 © Finnish Zoological and Botanical Publishing Board 2010

Alternative strategies of space use of female red deer in a mountainous habitat

Anna Bocci¹, Andrea Monaco^{1,2}, Paola Brambilla¹, Ilaria Angelini¹ & Sandro Lovari^{1,*}

1) Introduction



■ high density
■ low density

■ high density
■ low density



1) Introduction



Before & After Wolves

Restoring wolves to Yellowstone after a 75-year absence as a top predator—especially of elk—set off a cascade of changes that is restoring the park's habitat as well.

YELLOWSTONE WITHOUT WOLVES 1926-1995

ELK overran the stream side willows, cottonwoods, and shrubs that prevent erosion. Beds lost nesting space. Habitat for fish and other aquatic species declined as waters became broader and shallower, and without shade from streamside vegetation, warmer.

ASPEN trees in Yellowstone's northern valleys, where elk winter, were seldom able to reach full height. Elk ate nearly all the new sprouts.

COYOTE numbers climbed. Though they often kill elk calves, they prey mainly on small mammals like ground squirrels and voles, reducing the food available for foxes, badgers, and raptors.

ART BY PHILIPPA G. BATHORN, NO. 10079; MICHIA H. HILL, NO. 10107; SOURCE: ROBERT J. BECKWITH AND WILLIAM J. RIPLEY, "WOLF REINTRODUCTION: CHANGING DYNAMICS IN NORTH YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK"



YELLOWSTONE WITH WOLVES 1995-PRESENT

ELK population has been halved. Seven winters early in the reintroduction and drought contributed to the decline. A healthy fear of wolves also keeps elk from lingering at streamside, where it can be harder to escape attack.

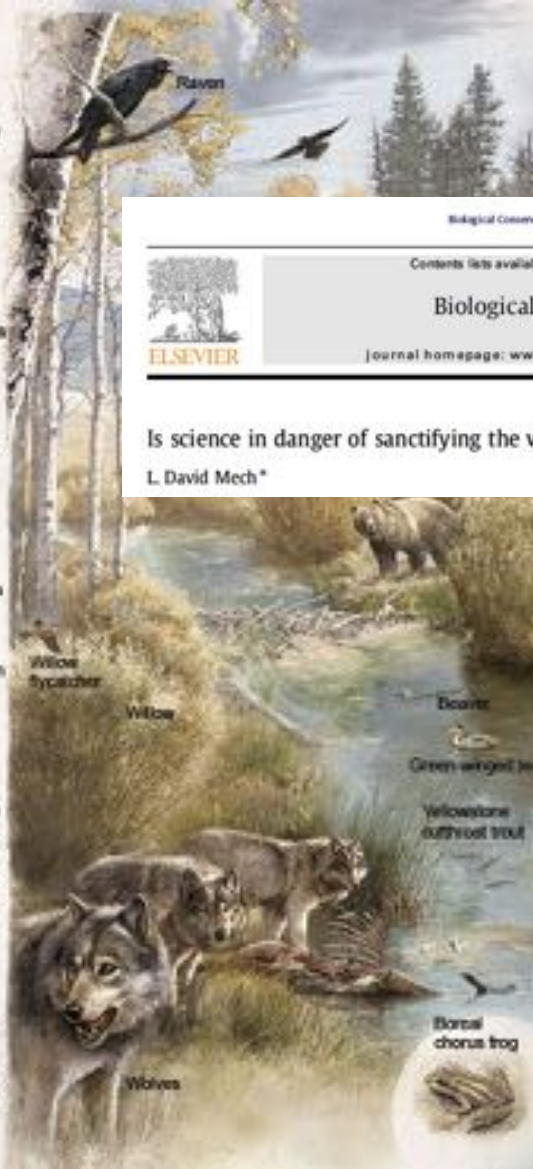
ASPENS The number of new sprouts eaten by elk has dropped dramatically. New groves in some areas now reach 10 to 15 feet tall.

COYOTES Wolf predation has reduced their numbers. Fewer coyote attacks may be a factor in the resurgence of the park's pronghorn.

WILLOWS, cottonwoods, and other riparian vegetation have begun to stabilize stream banks, helping restore natural water flow. Overhanging branches again shade the water and welcome birds.

BEAVER colonies in north Yellowstone have risen from one to 12, now that some stream banks are lush with vegetation, especially willows (a key beaver food). Beaver dams create ponds and marshes, supporting fish, amphibians, birds, small mammals, and a rich insect population to feed them.

CARSON Wolves don't cover their kill, so they've boosted the food supply for scavengers, notably bald and golden eagles, coyotes, ravens, magpies, and bears.



Biological Conservation 150 (2012) 143–148

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

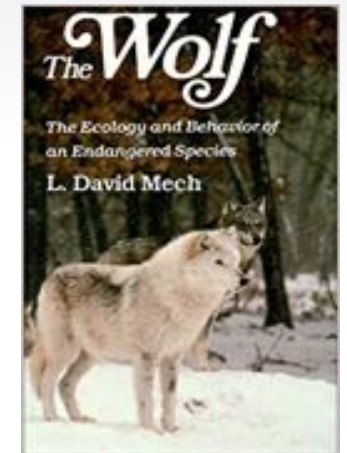
Biological Conservation

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biokon

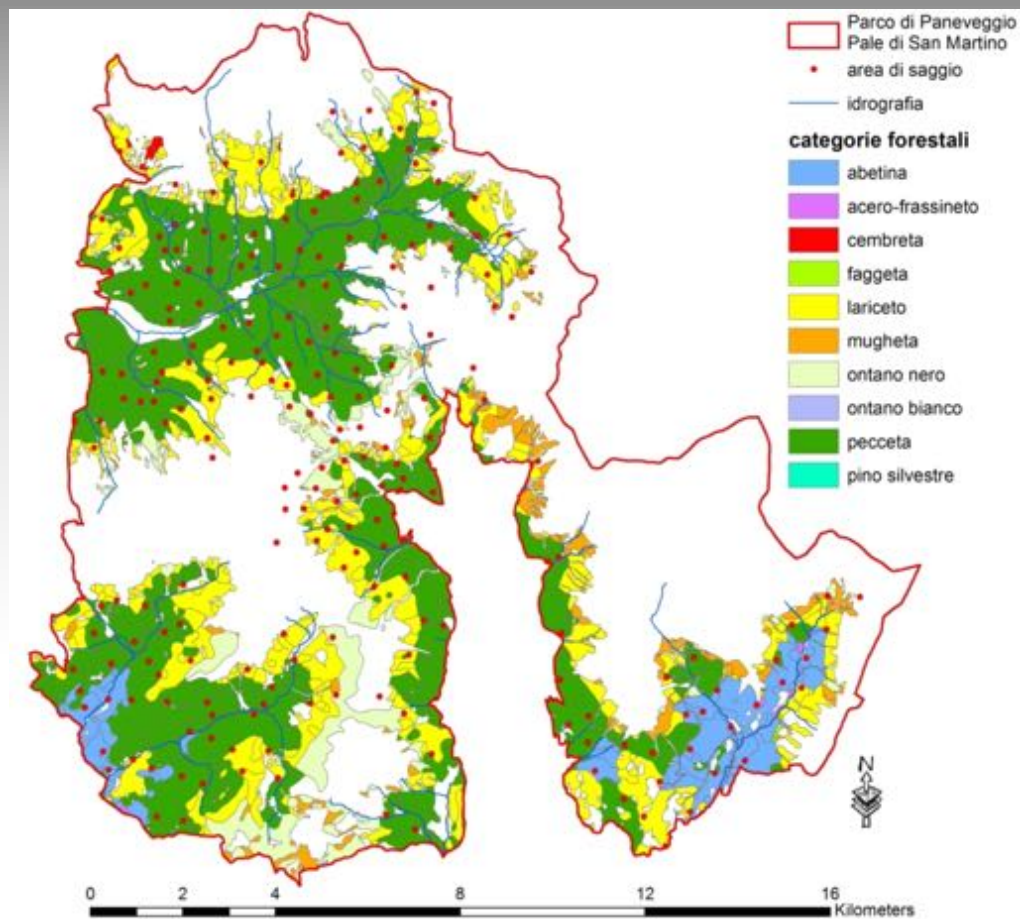


Is science in danger of sanctifying the wolf?

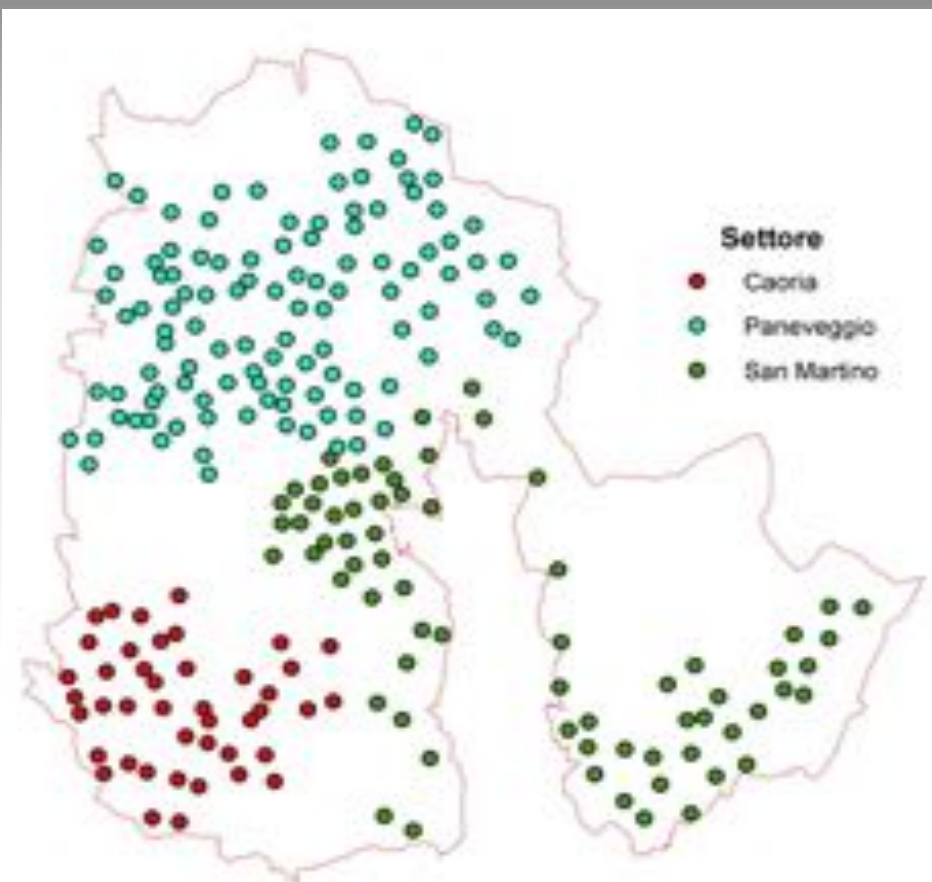
L. David Mech*



2) Results: Forest regeneration inventory



Norway spruce 60% Larch 19%
Pinus cembra 8% Fir/Beech 4%



193 sampling points (223)
-99 Paneveggio (North)
-55 San Martino (Sud-East)
-39 Caoria (Sud-West)



2) Results: Forest regeneration inventory



Size classes:

class A (10-30 cm height)

class B (30-150 cm h)

class C (0-4 cm Dbh)

class D (4-17.5 cm Dbh)

Three types of damage:

Browsing (simple or repeated, last 4 years)

Bark stripping

Fraying

Sampling:

1995, 2003, 2008, 2014

Elevation range: 1100-2200 m a.s.l.

Fences?



2) Results

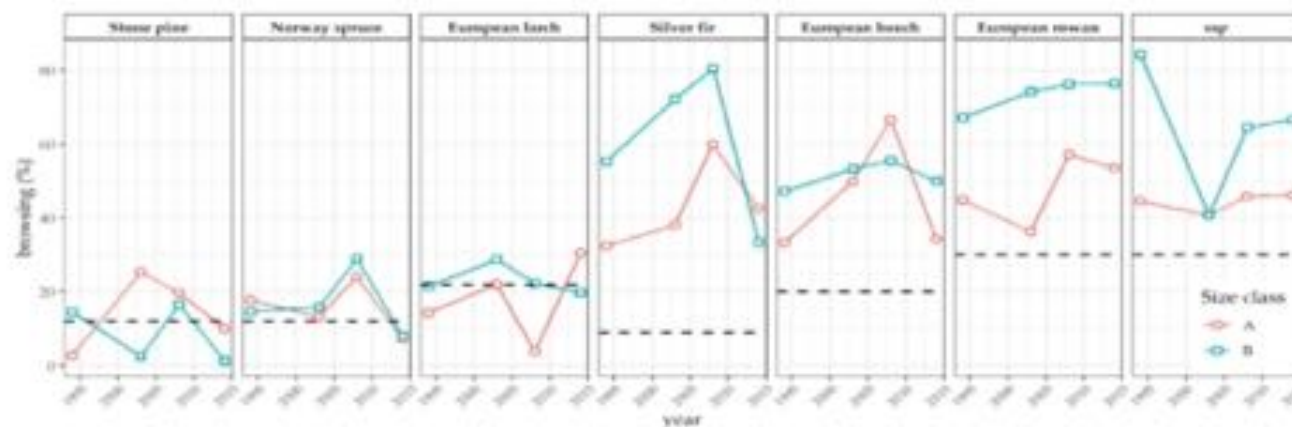


Figure 1. Mean values of percentage of browsed trees in size classes A and B (red line and blue line respectively). The dotted lines represent the browsing thresholds suggested by Eiberle and Nigg, 1987 [16].

Table 1. Mean values of percentage of damaged trees per damage type within the plots and mean values of percentage of browsed trees for size classes (A–D). Standard deviation is reported in parentheses as a measure of statistical dispersion.

Variable	Classification	1994	2003	2008	2014
% Damaged Trees	browsing	11 (20)	16 (27)	24 (31)	16 (26)
	fraying	4 (10)	2 (9)	3 (10)	4 (12)
	bark stripping	0	1 (4)	1 (5)	3 (11)
% Browsed Trees	A	22 (28)	27 (28)	42 (33)	36 (29)
	B	22 (23)	28 (33)	36 (34)	21 (28)
	C	3 (9)	6 (17)	13 (27)	4 (14)
	D	0 (0)	1 (4)	2 (3)	2 (11)



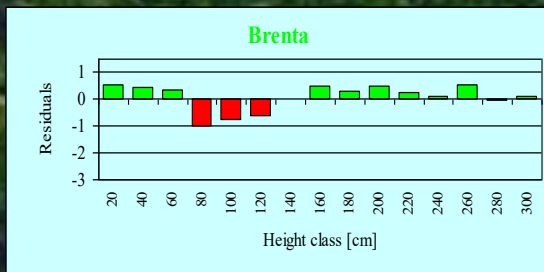
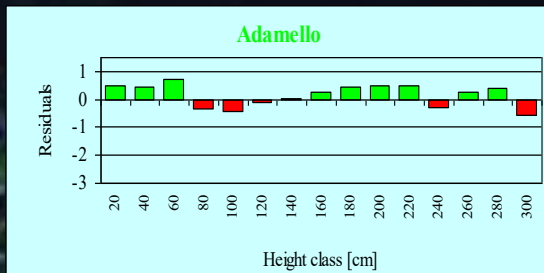
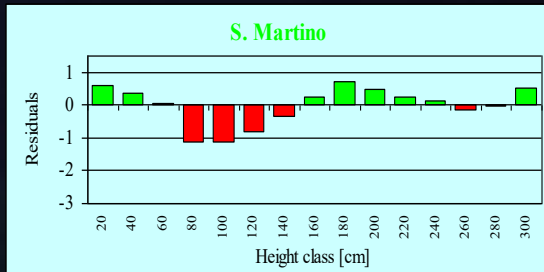
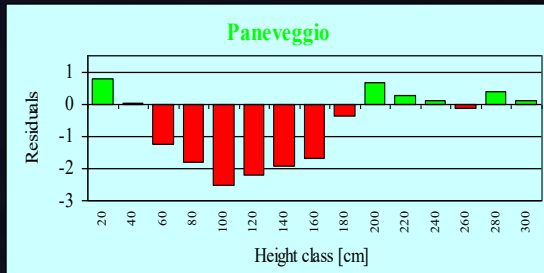
2) Results



% damaged BC	1994	2003	2008	2014
Norway spruce	12%	13%	34%	21%
larch	18%	19%	20%	16%
cembraan pine	17%	19%	21%	11%
silver fir	33%	70%	82%	28%
beech	9%	10%	5%	9%
mountain pine	3%	2%	3%	13%
rowan	56%	71%	73%	76%
mountain ash	63%	45%	73%	29%
aspen	92%	50%	82%	100%
willows	12%	6%	16%	22%



2) Results, rowan



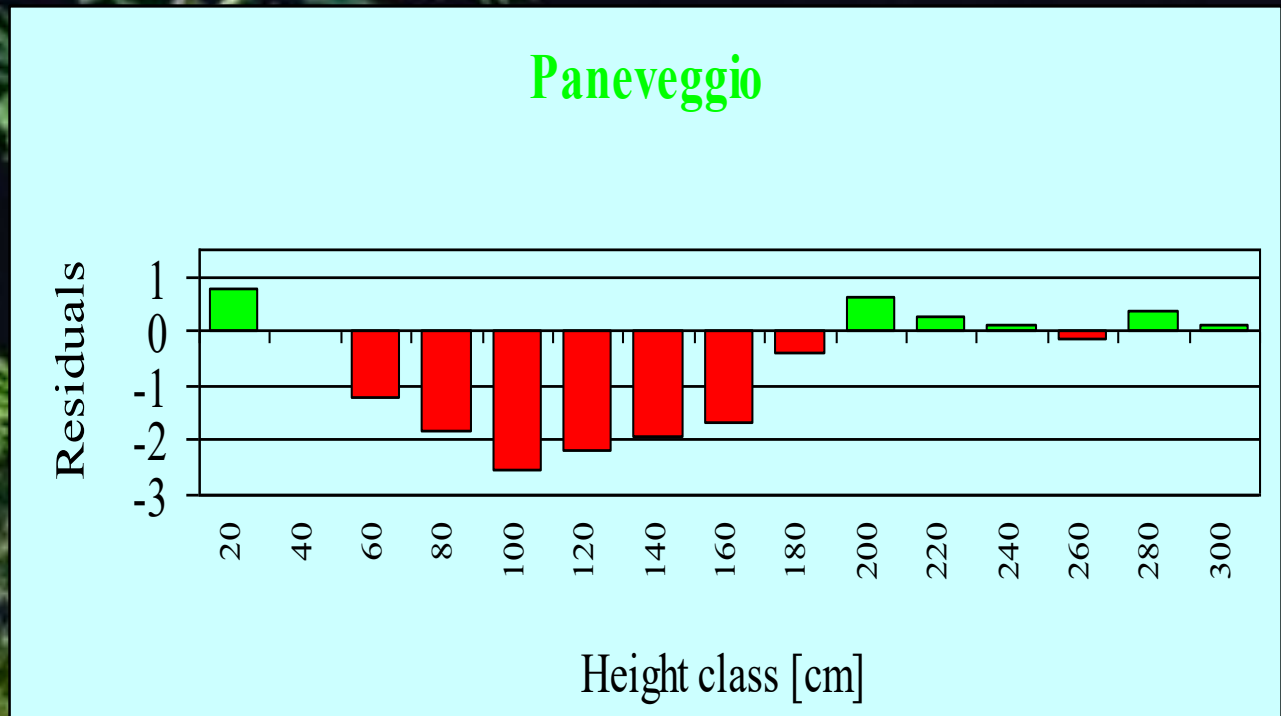
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 ELSEVIER
 Forest Ecology and Management
 Forest Ecology and Management 181 (2003) 139–150
www.elsevier.com/locate/foreco

Ungulate impact on rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia* L.) and Norway spruce (*Picea abies* (L.) Karst.) height structure in mountain forests in the eastern Italian Alps

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 Received 1 November 2001; received in revised form 10 June 2002; accepted 20 August 2002

Sorbus aucuparia



2) Results



% damaged BC	1994	2003	2008	2014
Norway spruce	12%	13%	34%	21%
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mountain pine	3%	2%	3%	13%
rowan	56%	71%	73%	76%
mountain ash	63%	45%	73%	29%
aspen	92%	50%	82%	100%
willows	12%	6%	16%	22%

**Silver fir has
disappeared
from 19%
of the
sampling sites
(1994-2014)**

When the most palatable species are almost completely depleted they are restricted to safe sites (*sensu* Harper, 1961) where they can escape the browsing resulting in a strong underestimation of damage



2) Results

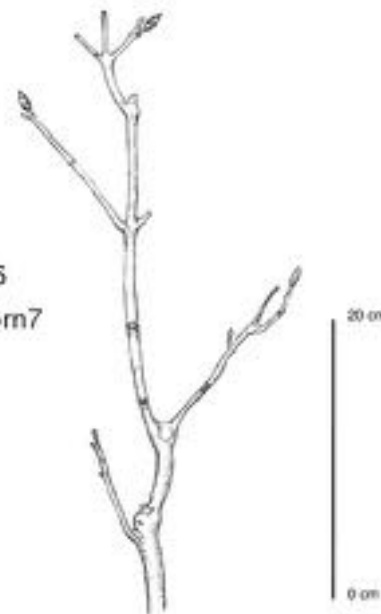


Unterägeri, Hürital 2, Tanne 25

Frühling 96

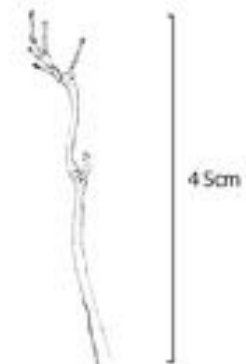


Frühling 96
Elm2, Ahorn7



Elm 2
Esche 46

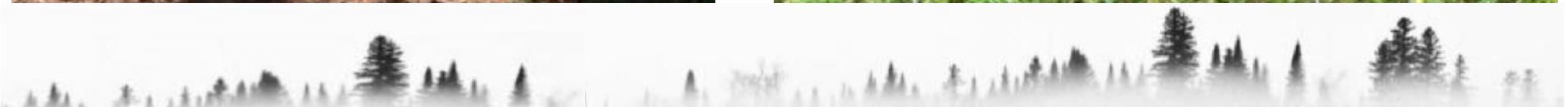
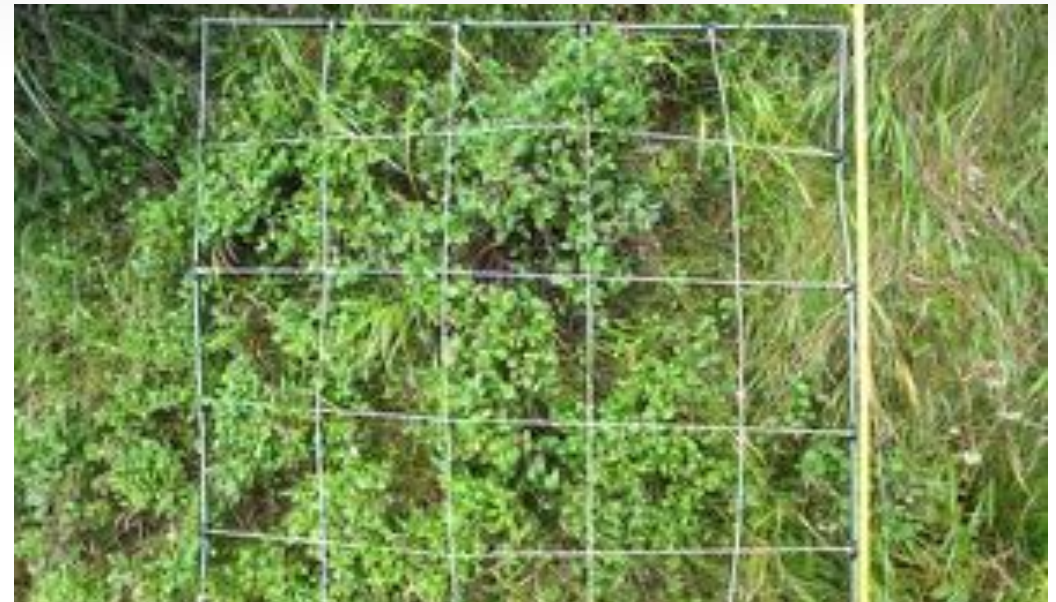
Frühling 1996



When the most palatable species are almost completely depleted they are restricted to safe sites (*sensu* Harper, 1961) where they can escape the browsing resulting in a strong underestimation of damage



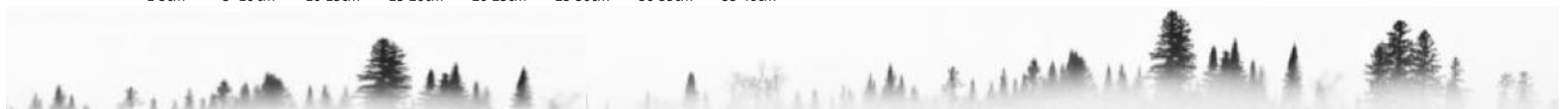
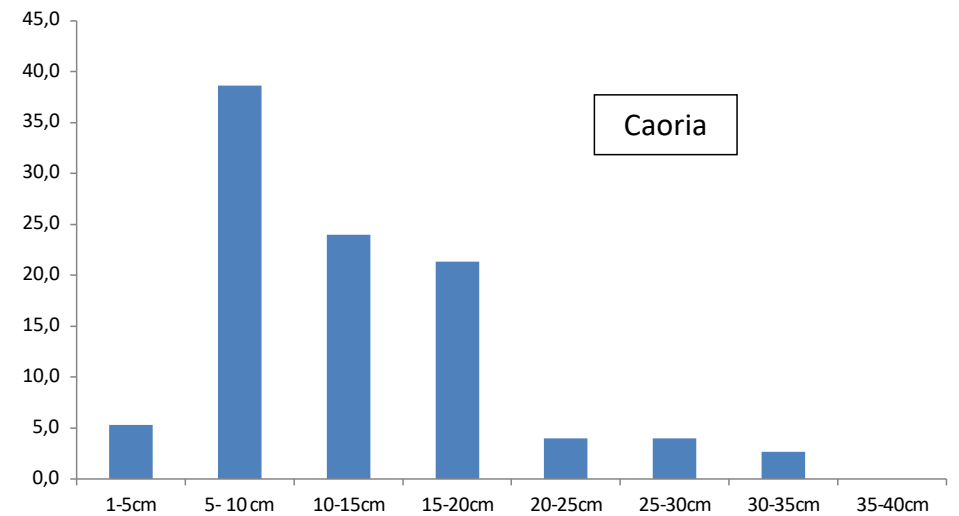
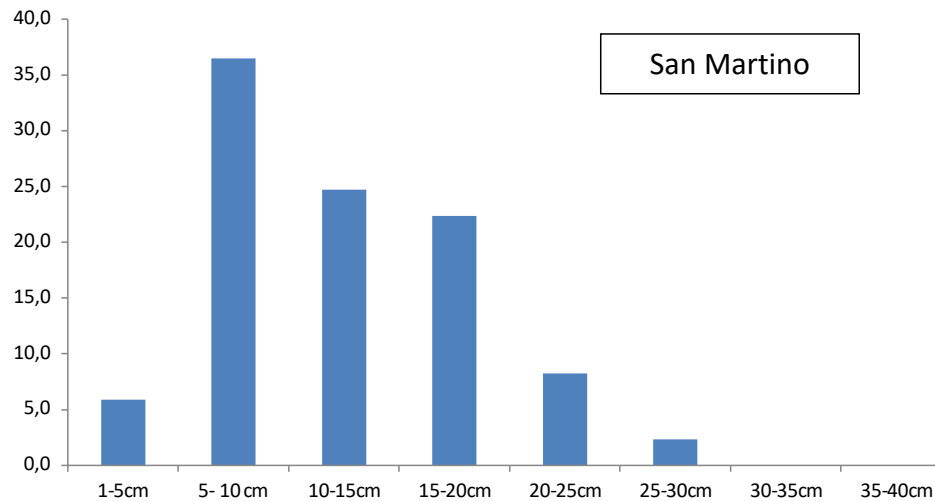
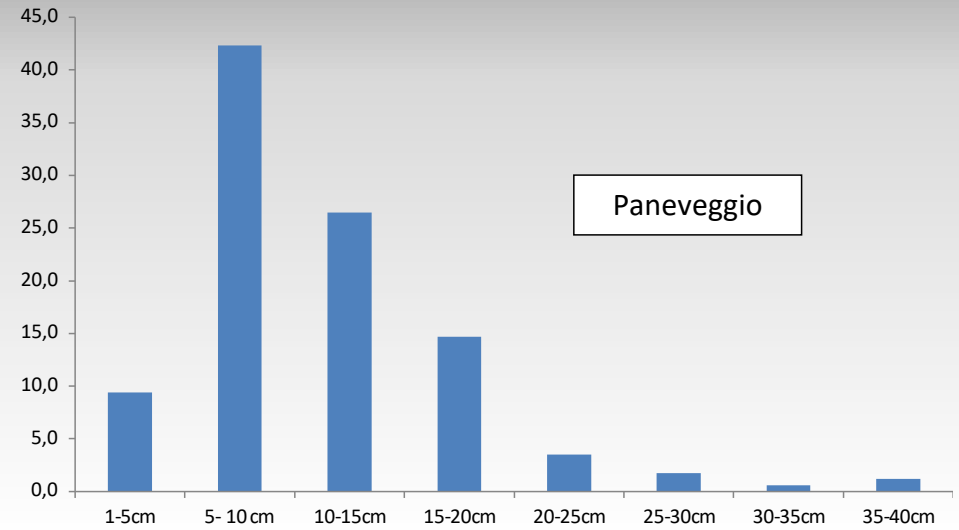
2) Results, blueberry and capercaille



2) Results, blueberry and capercaille



Vaccinium myrtillus height



2) Results, blueberry and capercaillie



Capercaillie Summer Habitat Selection in the Natural Park Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino (Eastern Italian Alps)

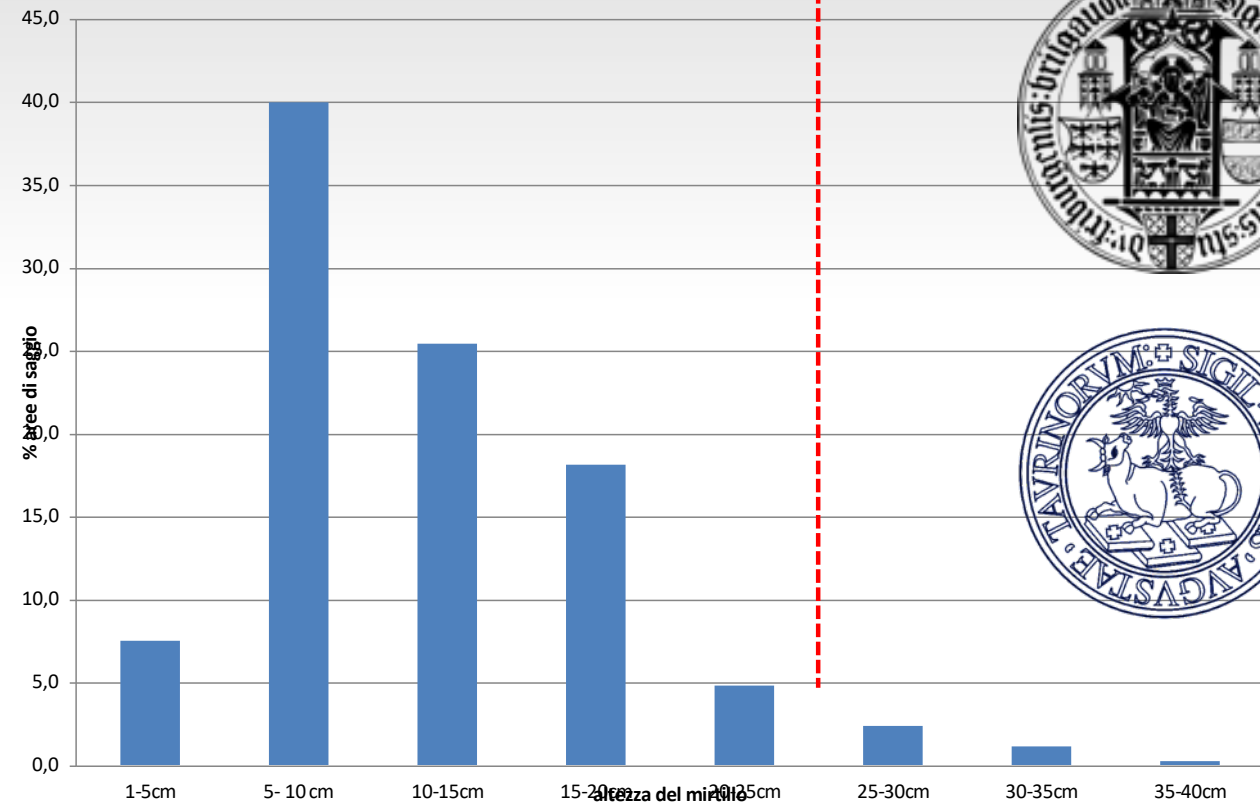
Description of the project:

This work aims to identify capercaillie habitat selection at two different spatial levels: 1) landscape scale (first order selection) which is an area large enough to include one or more leks, usually of at least some ten km²; 2) individual home range (second order selection) occupied by an individual during a particular period of time, which may vary from several hectares to a few km². The research aims to identify and describe habitat and vegetation types that are of particular importance for capercaillie during summer. The ultimate goal of this chapter is to identify birds' habitat requirements with the aim to promote management advices for foresters and land-managers. In order to determine summer habitat selection by capercaillie in the Natural Park Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino we will compare habitat features of visited points (radio-locations, used habitat) and random points (available habitat).



Minimum blueberry height for capercaillie habitat

Insects!!!



3) Discussion



Moderate impact



Norway spruce, larch

Heavy impact

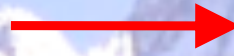


Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)



Silver fir (*Abies alba*)

Browsing impact and selectivity



Heavy impact on the species structure and on the forest dynamics



Main consequences



Short term: silviculture and forest management, wildlife habitats



Long term: biodiversity, forest dynamics, negative feed back on the ungulate populations



Relatively low economic impact (currently) but very high naturalistic consequences



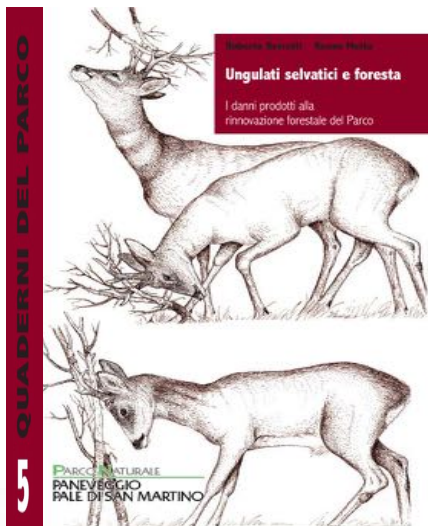
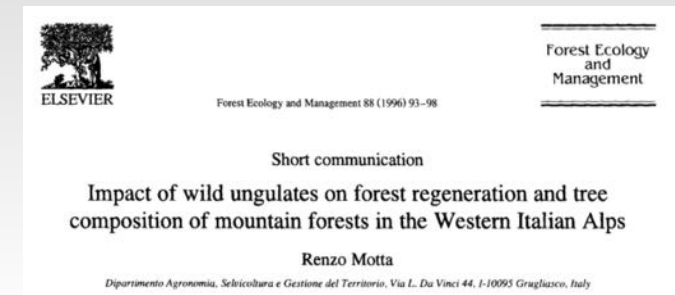
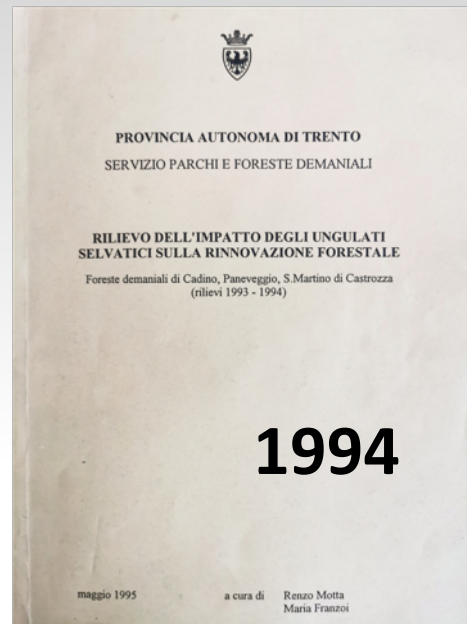
3) Discussion and further development



**What is the main goal?
Do we want to regenerate
trees or do we want to preserve
the “forest”?**



4) Final remarks



- 12 reports
- 8 ISI papers
- 4 books/chapters
- 5 Intern. Congresses (1995 Wageningen, 2015 WSL) and so on...



4) Final remarks



Category II: National Park

Large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.



Primary objective

To protect **natural biodiversity** along with its underlying ecological structure and **supporting environmental processes**, and to promote education and recreation.

Other objectives

- To manage the area in order **to perpetuate, in as natural a state as possible, representative examples** of physiographic regions, biotic communities, genetic resources and unimpaired natural processes;
- To **maintain viable and ecologically functional populations and assemblages of native species at densities sufficient to conserve ecosystem integrity and resilience in the long term;**
- ...
- To take into account the needs of indigenous people and local communities, including subsistence resource use, in so far as these will not adversely affect the primary management objective;



4) Final remarks



National Park Primary objective



To protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and to promote education



4) Final remarks



- **Protect biodiversity?**
- **Protect rare/peculiar species?**
- **Cultural, educational messages?**
- **Example for sustainable management?**





**Thank you for
your attention!**