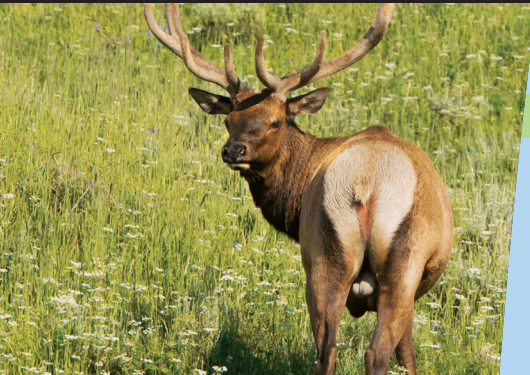


THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER



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In our August 2019 issue, we incorrectly spelled the editor's name for our classroom media reviews. The correct spelling is Jeffrey D. Sack. We apologize for this error.

About Our Cover

Elk (*Cervus canadensis*; also called wapiti, the Shawnee word for white-rumped deer), one of the largest members of the deer family, were once widely distributed throughout North America. Although extirpated from much of their eastern and southern range as a result of overhunting and habitat loss, healthy populations of elk can be found in the western United States and Canada.

Yellowstone National Park has abundant data on its complex ecosystem and makes a fascinating study on trophic cascades. The evidence of fluctuations in behavior and population size based on the dynamics between elk, wolf, aspen, willow, and other populations continues to fuel debate regarding the ecological implications of human actions and interventions.

Historical evidence suggests that the reduction of predators in Yellowstone during the early 20th century contributed to an increase in elk populations. Although the park took steps to manage elk numbers, the increased browsing pressure on woody species suppressed populations such as aspen and willow. However, there are indicators that the introduction of gray wolves into the park in 1995 has since contributed to a significant decline in elk populations and a subsequent increase in aspen and willow recruitment.

This photograph of a bull elk was taken in Yellowstone National Park by Bob Remedi, a full-time faculty member in the Biology Division at College of Lake County, where he teaches Environmental Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Natural History of Southwestern Virginia, and professional development classes for faculty. For this image, he used a Canon 7D Mark II set at ISO 1000 and F14, with a Canon EF 100–400 zoom and a Canon 1.4x teleconverter.