



Wolves AND THE

ECOSYSTEM

Wolves are the keystone species because their absence can cause a rippling destructive effect on the ecological system. Let's find out how!



Wolves help maintain the stability of the food chain by keeping in check the population of predators, such as coyotes, and other animals, such as elk.



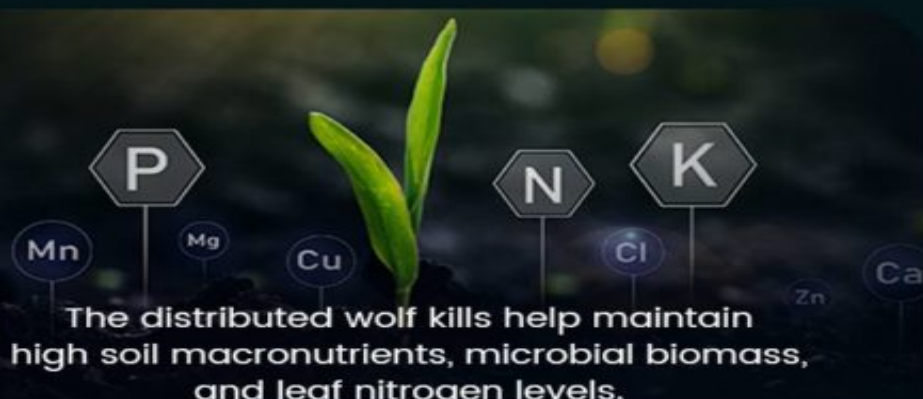
The elimination of wolves from Yellowstone National Park once resulted in an alarming increase in the moose population, leading to overgrazing of the park's habitat.



After reintroducing wolves in Yellowstone, the coyote population reduced to normal, increasing the survival rate of pronghorns, the most preyed on by coyotes.



The carcasses left behind by wolves are food to other scavengers such as bears, ravens, and magpies.



References:

- 1 Wolves and our ecosystem; Living with Wolves
- 2 Biodiversity; California Wolf Center
- 3 Wolves modulate soil nutrient heterogeneity and foliar nitrogen by configuring the distribution of ungulate carcasses; Bump JK, Peterson RO, Vucetich JA. Wolves modulate soil nutrient heterogeneity and foliar nitrogen by configuring the distribution of ungulate carcasses. Ecology. 2009