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EFFECT OF MAMMALIAN PREDATOR ON THE POPULATIONS OF UNGULATES IN MIDDLE URALS

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Wild ungulates are the main food source for large carnivores in Russia and particularly in Urals. Here we present the results of the analysis of the effect of carnivores on ungulates populations according to the official statistics of ungulate mortality not related to legal hunting ("natural" mortality). Predation of wolf accounts for 16 and 19% of wild boar and moose mortality respectively, for the pair "lynx" - "Siberian roe deer" this index equals 19%. Another important predator of roe deer is feral dogs. Their impact on ungulate populations has increased in recent years. Prey preferences differ between predators. The proportion of young among animals killed by feral dogs is higher than that for other carnivores.

Key words: carnivores, ungulates, predation, prey preferences