

Vocabulary

Anthropomorphism – attributing human characteristics to nonhumans.

Biodiversity – a measure of the variety, complexity and relative abundance of plants and animal species present and interacting in an ecosystem, and the natural processes that support them; generally, a biodiverse ecosystem is thought to be a more natural and healthier ecosystem.

Carrion – carcass of a dead animal.

Carrying capacity – the maximum number of animals a given area can sustainably support over time.

Depredation – the act of preying upon or plundering something of human value, usually in relation to wildlife damaging agricultural products; wolf depredation involves wolves killing or injuring livestock, such as cows, sheep, and turkeys.

Ecosystem – system formed by the relationships between organisms and with non-living features of their environment.

Extripation – the extermination or removal of a species from an entire area within its range but not from the entire planet.

Habitat – a place that provides essential elements that the individuals of a species need to survive, such as nutrients, water sunlight, shelter and living space.

Keystone species – species whose effect on their environment is disproportionately large relative to their abundance.

Mesocarnivore – a carnivore whose diet consists of at least 50-70% meat and the rest from plants or fungi. Coyote, fox, and skunk are examples.

Predation – animals capturing and eating other animals.

Ungulate – a hoofed mammal.
