

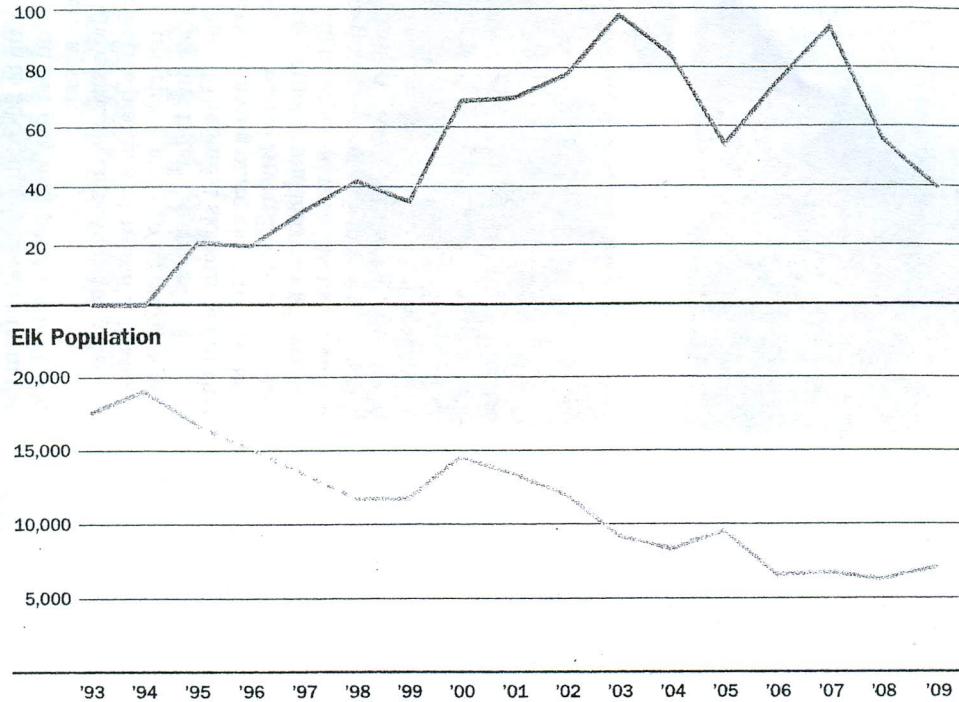
COURTESY PHOTOS

This series of photos shows willows near the confluence of Soda Butte Creek and the Lamar River in Yellowstone National Park. The top photo, taken in 1997, shows the effects of browsing by ungulates, especially elk. The next photo shows the same location in 2001, five years after wolves were reintroduced to the park. The bottom photo, taken in 2010, shows willow height and canopy cover have increased.

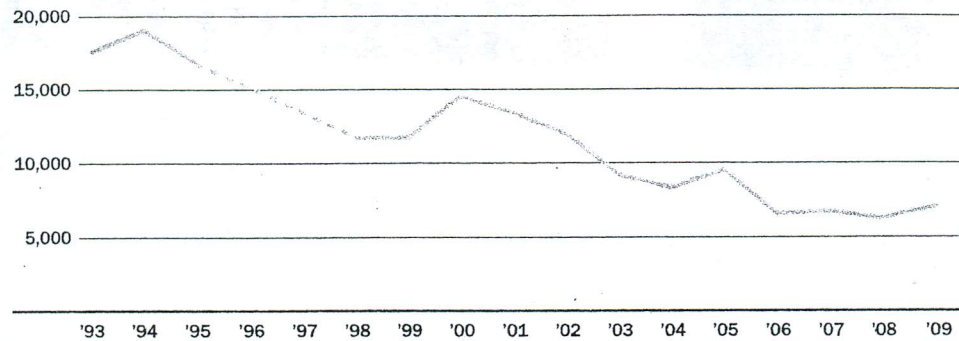
WOLF AND ELK POPULATIONS IN YELLOWSTONE

The reintroduction of wolves helped reduce Yellowstone National Park's northern range elk herd.

Wolf Population



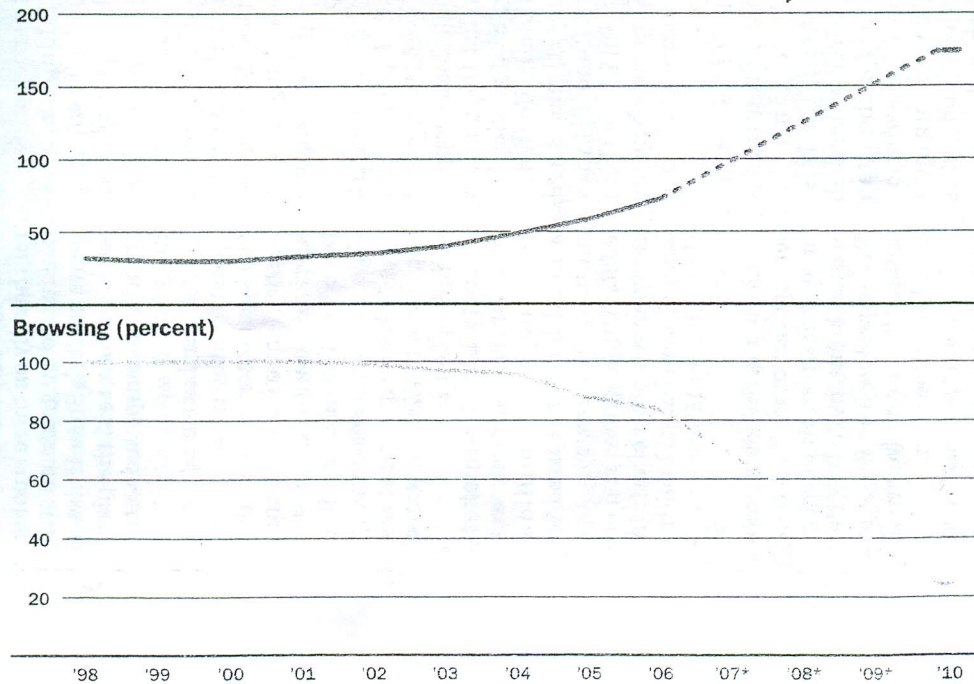
Elk Population



ASPEN TREE HEIGHT AND PERCENTAGE OF LEADERS BROWSED

After wolves returned to Yellowstone National Park, aspen tree height increased, while the percentage of aspen leaders browsed decreased in uplands without logs.

Aspen Height (cm)



Browsing (percent)

