

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

From forest dweller to suburb tenant: Wolf territories and food habits in human-dominated landscapes of central Europe

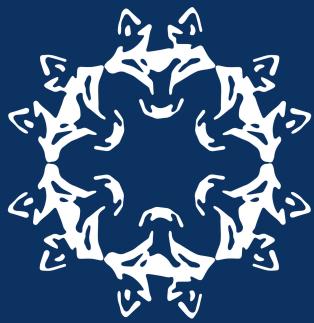
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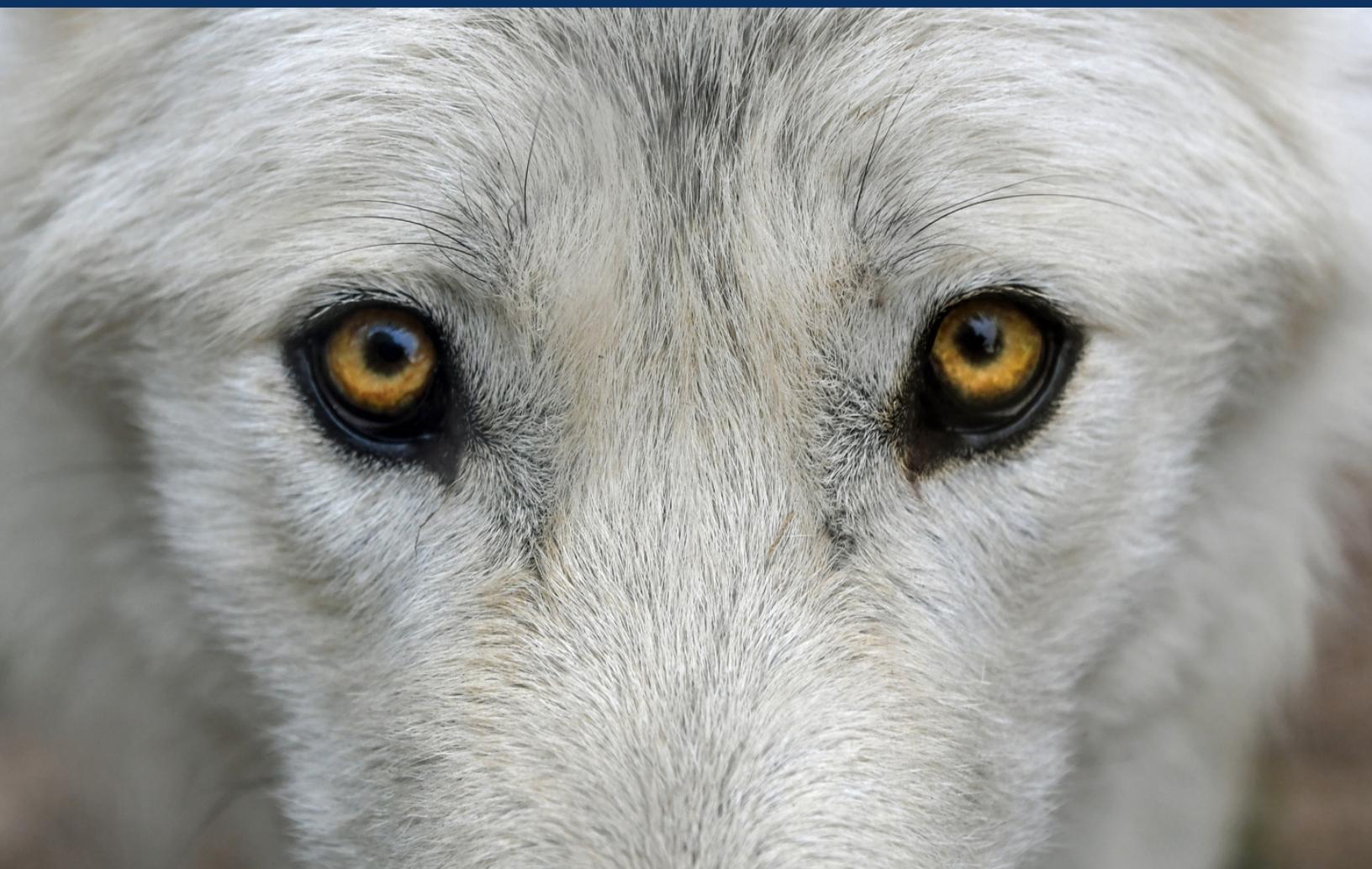
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Humans drastically reduced and changed natural habitats, therefore nowadays many wild species have to adapt to human-dominated landscapes. An understanding of how wild animals function in a mosaic of natural and modified by humans areas as well as how they adapt to human-caused disturbance and how they take advantage of the opportunities created by human activity is crucial to the proper allocation of resources for their conservation. This problem is especially crucial for protection of large carnivores such as wolves (*Canis lupus*) due to potential conflicts with humans. We applied GPS/GSM telemetry on 19 wolves inhabiting forests with different degree of fragmentation and proximity to human settlements within both Baltic and Central European wolf populations in lowland Poland. We also studied composition of wolf diet across over 20 locations based on analysis of scat content. Our study revealed that wolves are not exclusive forest dwellers and may live in landscapes significantly changed by humans, e.g. on outskirts of large towns, but still rely largely on wild ungulates to sustain their food requirements. We recorded no substantial differences in the home-range size of wolves inhabiting exclusively forests and those living in areas with a high share of farmlands. We hypothesize that it is largely caused by the increase of wild ungulates number and their persistence in agricultural lands along with a long-lasting cover provided by corn crops.



WOLVES ACROSS BORDERS

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