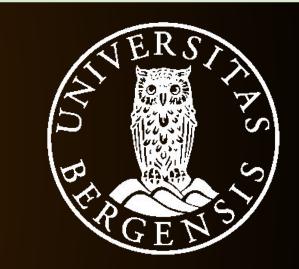
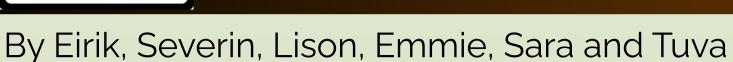


# The howl of nature

The dilemmas of wolf reintroduction in Norway





Always been the enemy throughout history
BUT

Essential for ecosystems and food chain

Let's start a discussion about the reintroduction of wolves in Norway.

# Restoration

# Fragmentation Land-use and Biodiversity loss

Habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss

- > Food security challenge
- ➤ Restored landscapes→ Never as untouched nature
- Classic approaches:
  - → Improving disturbed
     landscapes to resemble natural
     habitats
  - → Could help overall ecosystem function

# **Ecosystem rehabilitation Ecosystems today**:

- Unsuitable, too fragmented to support the return of wolves
- Predator hunting increase the prey populations
- Overall habitat degradation
- Studies to ensure correct conditions for continue wolves reintroduction

Positive impact of reintroduction:

→ Yellowstone park

NINA: Return of native species on a rehabilitated military site (Hjerkinn)

### **Current state**

Public opinion in Norway concerning the wolf is mostly positive

The Timeline

- No reintroduction programme in Norway
- Population estimated at 100 individuals crossing the Swedish border
- Hunting strictly regulated

## **History**

A new hunting law passed in 1845 initiated extensive government-led campaigns to eradicate predators in Norway

- Goal: free livestock from their greatest enemy
- Effect: decline and near extinction of many of Norway's larger predators, including the wolf

## Politics and society

# Local, societal and economic resistance

- Farmers fear the prowling wolf amongst the sheep
- Threat to cultural practices and individual economy
- Engaging relevant stakeholders is crucial

#### **International dilemma**

Wolves cross borders

- Their reintroduction becomes an international problem
- Programs fail if not all parties agree

## **Critically endangered**

Main cause is humans

- Hunting
- Illegal shootings
- ➤ If reintroduction occurs, strong legal protection is required to safeguard their return

## **Genetic issues**

Founder effect

Inbreeding depression

Small population

Spine deformities

LLLL

LLL

Solutions

New blood

Monogamy

Inspiration

experiment

from Isle

Royale

wolves



References