



Ruidoso! A great place to live and to visit!!

Ruidoso

Means “noisy” in Spanish. What is noisy here?



The Rio, or water is noisy,
and hence the town
was named

So what is the significance?

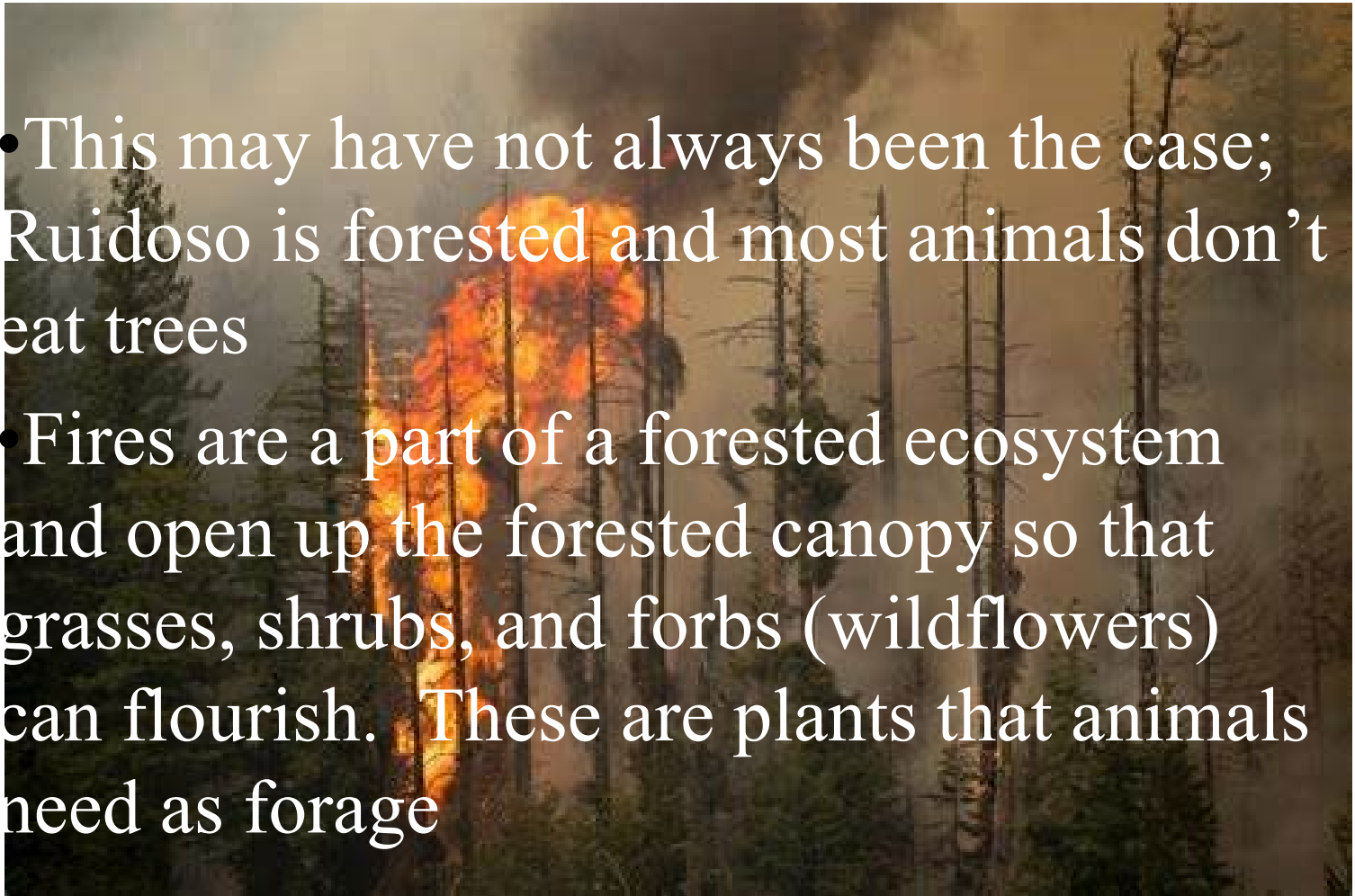
- There are 3 things all animals, including humans need:
- FOOD, SHELTER (security), and WATER
- Ruidoso has WATER and therefore it was attractive to human settlers and it was also great wildlife habitat

Our common resident or visiting wildlife species include herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores



In addition to water, animals also find food and shelter/security in and around Ruidoso

- This may have not always been the case; Ruidoso is forested and most animals don't eat trees
- Fires are a part of a forested ecosystem and open up the forested canopy so that grasses, shrubs, and forbs (wildflowers) can flourish. These are plants that animals need as forage



Herbivore forage



In addition to fire, humans living here
have created even more forage for
animals



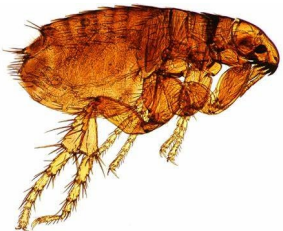
What about security?

- Our trees provide hiding cover and shelter
- In addition, the absence of hunting in the village removes the natural fear animals have of “predators”

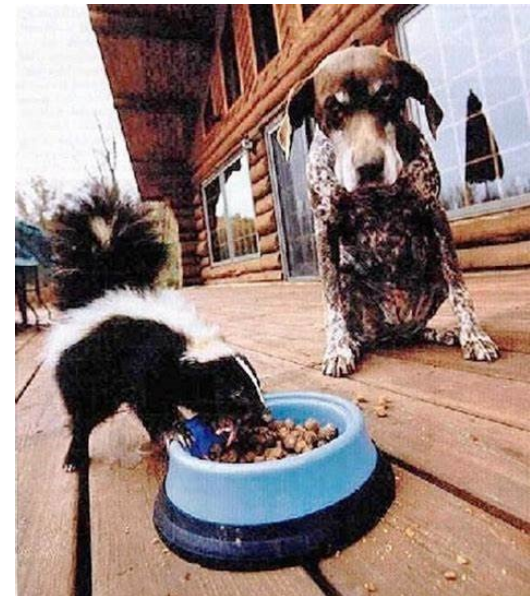


So, Ruidoso is a great place for humans and wildlife!
So what's the problem?

- Animals end up eating foods that are not natural and end up with disease and/or parasites that make them sick or mal-nourished



And humans could suffer as well



So how can we co-exist?

- First and foremost – DO NOT FEED WILD ANIMALS human foods that includes
 - CORN
 - Garbage
 - Trash or compost
 - Pet foods



Feeding deer and elk corn can kill them.

RUMINANT

(suborder Ruminantia), any mammal of the suborder Ruminantia (order Artiodactyla), which includes the pronghorns, giraffes, okapis, deer, chevrotains, cattle, antelopes, sheep, and goats. Most ruminants have a four-chambered stomach and two-toed feet. The upper incisors are reduced or sometimes absent.

Corn Toxicity

Corn toxicity is a general term related to two diseases which can affect deer and elk. Both diseases occur acutely and result in the rapid death of animals in good physical condition. These diseases are acidosis (grain overload) and enterotoxemia (overeating disease).

How does this happen?

A change from a natural diet of high fiber woody browse to low fiber high carbohydrate foods initiates the disease. The severity of the illness depends on the type of grain (ground or whole), previous exposure of the animal to the grain, the amount of grain consumed, the animal's nutritional state and physical condition, and the microflora present. Ingestion of toxic amounts of corn are followed within 2 to 6 hours by a change in the microbial population in the rumen. The number of gram-positive bacteria (*Streptococcus* sp.) increase markedly (replacing the normally abundant gram-negative bacteria), thereby producing large quantities of lactic acid. This results in the rumen pH falling to or below 5, destroying protozoa, cellulolytic organisms, and lactate utilizing organisms, and reducing rumen mobility. Chemical rumenitis and absorption result in lactic acidosis. The lactic acid and lactate build-up cause excessive quantities of fluid to move into the rumen, **causing dehydration.**

Besides toxicity...

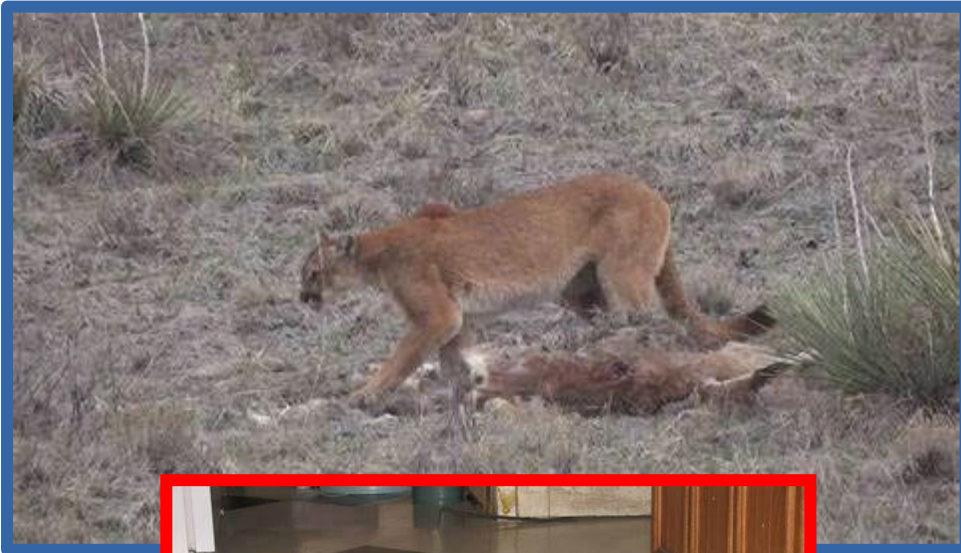
- Feeding deer, moose and elk causes the animals to congregate together, which dramatically increases the odds that an infected animal may spread Chronic Wasting Disease, Bovine Tuberculosis or Brucellosis. The wild animals catch these diseases by nose-to-nose contact, eating feed contaminated by another animal's disease-carrying saliva, or inhaling bacteria. Animals flock to feed, when they would normally be miles apart. They are at a higher risk of getting sick from other animals.

Other animals also get in trouble when humans are careless!

- A fed bear is a dead bear



And you may get uninvited, even deadly guests



What about the horses?

- “**wild**” is a misnomer; they are likely horses that were “let go” and became **feral** (no home; no fence; no feed)



But tourists and others LOVE
the horses!

- They are beautiful and add to our abundance of animals to behold
- **BUT**, They destroy landscapes like golf courses and soccer fields
- And...they **reproduce**. How many horses is enough...what happens when they run out of feed or become hazardous?



CARRYING CAPACITY

So is there a compromise?

- Birth control and adoption programs are used in other states successfully
- Confinement and artificial (hay) feeding may also be needed
- Education about possible dangerous situations when people treat them as tame animals (bites, kicks, etc.)

What wildlife can we feed?



Bird seed, suet, and hummingbird nectar attract these wild birds

Fencing is needed to protect bird feeders from unwanted guests!



So, take home messages?

- Enjoy our wildlife from a distance
- Don't attempt to feed wild or feral animals
- Speak up and educate others
- Fence or keep your yard and home free of wildlife attractants such as pet food, garbage, and compost
- Drive carefully in our beautiful village

My proposal is:

(1) to fabricate a message magnet for all short-term rentals designed to be put on a refrigerator; and

(2) to design and publish a children's book with content and illustrations regarding harmonious co-existence with our unique wildlife community



Example refrigerator magnet for short-term rentals in Ruidoso

Cost is about 600\$ for 250 10x10 magnets



Example of children's book

