

- 8 Elk are one of the largest species of deer. The photograph shows three elk grazing in Yellowstone National Park.

They prefer to feed on young tree shoots, such as aspen and cottonwoods, rather than grass.



(Source: ©Westend61 GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo)

- (a) Wolves were introduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995.

Wolves are predators of elk.

Before the introduction of wolves, elk grazed undisturbed, eating all the young tree shoots in the forest and riverside habitats.

The table shows how the percentage of young shoots eaten by the elk changed after the introduction of wolves.

Year	Percentage of young tree shoots eaten by elk (%)	
	Forest habitat	Riverside habitat
1996	100	100
1998	100	100
2000	100	92
2002	90	81
2004	86	45
2006	63	11
2010	19	2