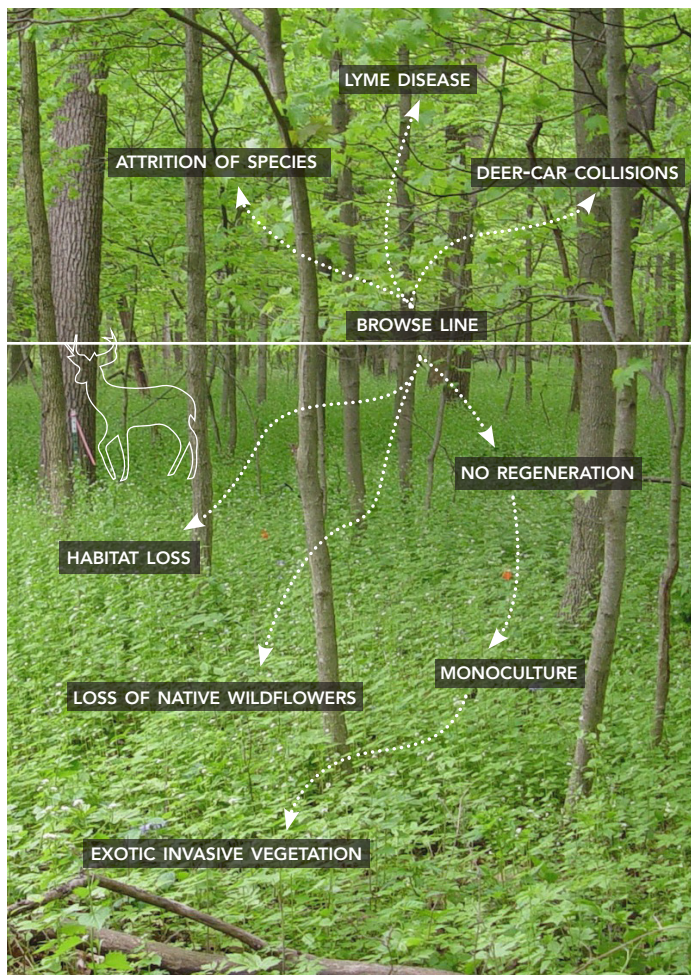


WHY DOES ROSE VALLEY PERMIT DEER HUNTING IN OUR WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES?

ROSE VALLEY WITHOUT PREDATION



ROSE VALLEY WITH PREDATION

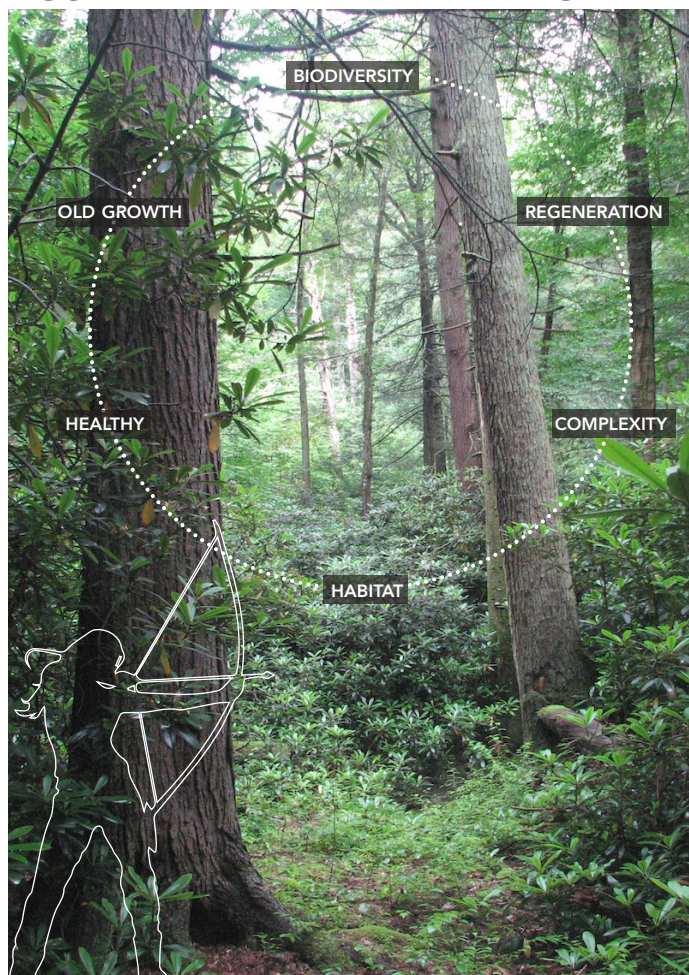


Photo credits: Roger Latham, 2015

TO PRESERVE *ALL* WILDLIFE.

Land fragmentation and predatory species loss have resulted in unnaturally unstable ecosystems. Conservation of our dwindling wild lands requires a balanced food web. Without predators like mountain lions, wolves and bears, human intervention is the only option.

The Rose Valley Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is comprised of animal lovers, naturalists, conservationists, environmentalists and scientists. The EAC recommends and supports the deer hunt in Rose Valley's publicly owned wild land because without predation, our local ecosystem will collapse, ecologically significant native flora and fauna will perish, ecosystem services will degrade (putting more burden on taxpayers) and public health will decline.

By the time the hunt commenced in 2010, our deer population had grown so large that tree seedlings and saplings (their favorite winter food), were eradicated, the forest shrub layer was badly damaged (dispossessing other wildlife that depend on it), and exotic invasive plants linked to oversized deer populations were smothering our native wildflowers. The EAC monitors our local forest health and while we are still seeing significant overbrowsing, for the first time in at least 25 years the sanctuaries in Rose Valley are showing signs of regeneration — this means more food and habitat for all of the wildlife (amphibians, butterflies, birds, bunnies, etc.) residing in Rose Valley, and a healthier environment for our community to benefit from and enjoy. We are grateful to our volunteer registered hunters for the role they play in balancing our local ecosystem and for doing it nobly and respectfully.

For an inspiring video on this topic, watch George Monbiot's Ted Talk: *How Wolves Change Rivers*. If you would like to learn more about the EAC and meet the members, we welcome dialog. Join us at 7:30 on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Old Mill.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." - Aldo Leopold, *The Land Ethic*