



Daily activity of large carnivore in northeastern Turkey

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Abstract: It is supposed that large carnivore activities are shaped with especially prey and human activities. But the habitat use and prey activities may be changed from vegetation to weather conditions. The aim of the study is determine the daily activity of large carnivore, relationship and conflict with large carnivore and human in Şavşat / Artvin, North-eastern Turkey. The large carnivore was Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in the region. In addition, Brown bears are giving conflict to local people and making it harder to manage. Camera trap is one the method to capture the abundance of especially elusive species that are not directly observable during daytimes and are very active at night times. These species averaged captured density with camera trap was 25.8 Brown bear, 5.7 Gray wolf and 1.9 Eurasian lynx individuals in 100 camera trap days. The daily activity of Brown bear was ranged from two hour before sunset and two hour after sunrise. The Gray wolf and Eurasian lynx activity was shaped nearly one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise. It was estimated that the activity of Brown bear was mainly figured out according to human activity, but Gray wolf and Eurasian lynx was focused on the prey activity. Also large carnivore activity changed with season and local weather condition in the region. There should be managed the human activity to large carnivore activities to decrease the conflict between the human and large carnivore, especially Brown bear.

Keywords: Large carnivore, Camera trap, Human activity, Prey activity, Human-brown bear conflict