

Abstract

Currently, the landscape is being fragmented for example as a result of the construction of transport infrastructure, settlements, and the development of agriculture. This process consists of the gradual disintegration of the continuous landscape and the reduction of the fragments created. Individual fragments become more isolated from each other and lose their integrity. Landscape fragmentation has a strong impact on animal and plant populations, both on their distribution and on their viability. In this thesis, I review the available literature and the issue of small populations. In this thesis, I consider how the fragmentation of a continuous landscape affects populations of large carnivores, in particular the populations of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). Large carnivore populations are specific, they have high spatial requirements, occur at low population densities and are dependent on long-distance dispersal. Small populations carry several risks, such as genetic drift, founder effect or inbreeding, which make them prone to extinction.