

THE ANALYSIS OF CAUSES THAT THREATEN THE HUEMUL

PROBLEM

The huemul is a native species of Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia that is actually in danger of extinction. For this reason, it is needed to know what causes their infringement. In the same way, the role of the human being is considered a factor in what is happening today with this animal.

General objective: Study the different causes that endanger huemul, according to different sources of information.

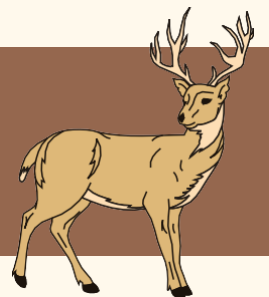
Objective 1: Analyze if, and in what ways, the seasons of the year affect the disappearance of the huemul.

Objective 2: Distinguish the territories in which the huemul lives and how much influence they have on its threat.

Objective 3: Show the difference between human and environmental causes.

METHODOLOGY: An investigation was done through a CONAF browser with keywords such as huemul and extinction. Thesis regarding the huemul and national park reports were also found.

WHICH ARE THE MAIN DANGERS TO THE HUEMUL?

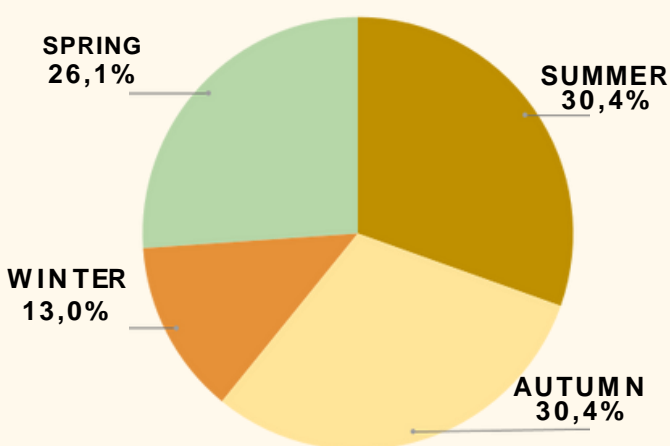


HOW THE SEASONS OF THE YEAR AFFECT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE HUEMUL?

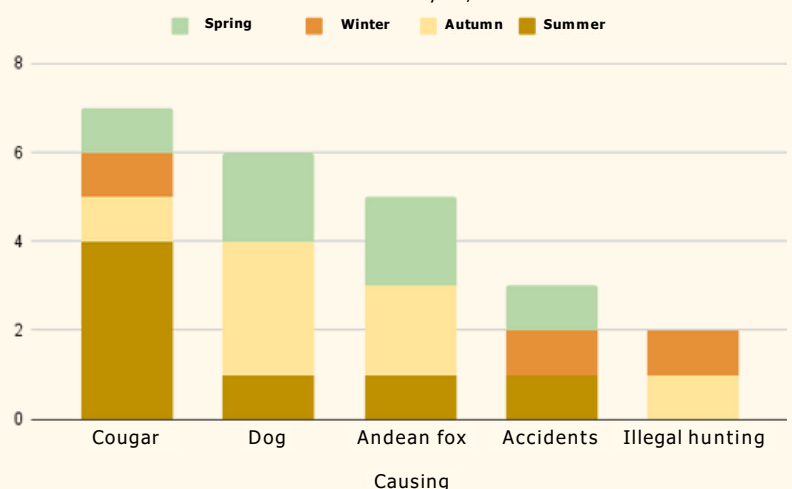
RESULTS

According to the 1° graph, we can notice that in autumn (30.4%) and summer (30.4%) are the periods where more animals die. It can be directly associated with the causes of the 2° graph. One of the causative variables of their death is by predator, their habits, and seasons of stalking.

Graph 1: Percentage difference in one year deaths by season



Graph 2: Percentages of causes of death according to the seasons of the year,



Based on this, it is possible to analyze and verify that, indeed, there is an influence of the seasons of the year, so they are considered among the factors that threaten the huemul population.



WHAT IS THE MOST POTENTIAL CAUSE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE HUEMUL?



Table 1: Density of huemules in different localities in Chile and Argentina.

Locality	Area Covered (km ²)	Population density (huemules * km ²)
RN lake cochrane	19,9	1,79-0,33
Chabunco Valley, PN Patagonia	75	0,35 a 1,3 (2006 a 2015)
Jorge Montt Lake Sector, Lot 5, La Tapera Park	27	0,48
Tempano Fiord and Bernardo O'Higgins NP	21,7	4,52
Argentina	100	0,01
PN Torres del Paine	23	2,26

Own elaboration based on technical report, La Tapera park, Aysén, Chile.

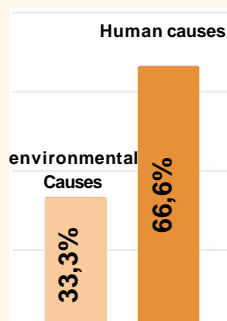
The density of huemules in a territory can be quite limited, due to the fact that these species in particular aren't able to subsist together. This can be evidenced in the localities of Fiord Tempano and National Park Bernardo O'Higgins, which the studied surface was 21 Km² and the density of huemules was 4,52 per Km².

ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES

The dangers that the huemul faces in its natural habitat, discounting human intervention, are their predators which are the cougar and the Andean fox.

HUMAN CAUSES

The human causes that endanger the huemul are: forest fires, illegal hunting, road accidents, diseases, and the occupation of protected areas by humans.



Thanks to the graph, it can be observed that human causes are the most influential in the disappearance of the huemul (66.6%). This is due to destruction, pollution, and habitat fragmentation. The excess of hunting put the huemul on notice that they needed to change their migration traditions, confining them to forested areas of high mountains, considerably lowering the number of specimens.

CONCLUSION

The huemul is an animal that is in danger of extinction due to inconsistency from humans; this can be evidenced in the percentages of illegal hunting (Graph 2). A preventive measure is also needed in the face of the imminent extinction of the huemul with respect to its natural predators.

References: Graphs 1 and 2, and table 1: Raimilla, V. (2020). Southern Huemul (Hippocamelus Bisulcus): State of knowledge of Patagonia, technical report, La Tapera Park, Aysén, Chile.

Table "environmental and human cause": CONAF. Corporación Nacional Forestal, web site: <https://www.conaf.cl/>, Santiago, Chile