

BeWild thesis topic propositions



These are just propositions, please feel free to propose an own topic

Ecological impacts of rewilding

- Leaving **carcasses** in nature: which **scavenging species** occur and how does this impact the nutrient cycle?
- **Natural forest regeneration** versus importing **assisted migration**: what to choose for a sustainable future?
- **Reintroduction/reinforcement of keystone species**: study the impact and feasibility for species such as the Eurasian lynx, European bison, vulture species, ...
- Forest maturity, closing the circle of life in forests: what is the impact of (not) doing so?
- Map the benefits of **natural grazing** with (semi) wild herbivores
- The **return of wolves** in Belgium: are they acting as scavenging species? What is the interaction with ravens? What is the impact on herbivory population?
- What is the **impact of beavers** on aquatic life, on wetland restoration, on ecological connectivity?
- What is the impact of **removing small, medium and large barriers** in our rivers?
- Effects of rewilding on **pollinator diversity**
- Effects of rewilding on **ecosystem services** in Belgium
- Analysis of wetland or floodplain restoration and influence on **climate change**
- Study of amphibians on restored landscape (connectivity and abundance)
- The **landscape of fear** under water: impact of an apex predator like the European otter on aquatic life.

Legal aspects of rewilding

- Legal aspects of leaving carcasses in nature in Wallonia / Flanders
- Legal aspects of bison reintroduction in Wallonia / Flanders
- Legal aspects of rewilding in Wallonia / Flanders
- Hunter rights in rewilding projects
- Integration of rewilding in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Analysis of potential legal conflicts between rewilding and agriculture in Wallonia / Flanders

Geographical scope of rewilding

- Rewild our rivers: which barriers to remove as a priority?
- What is the potential of rewilding in the National Parcs in Belgium?
- Where to increase ecological connectivity to secure wildlife population in the long run?
- How to rewild our cities?
- Which barriers and opportunities for rewilding our gardens?

Economic impacts of rewilding

- Economic potential for ecotourism with rewilding in Belgium
- Impacts of rewilding on agriculture and silviculture
- Cost-benefit comparison between traditional ecosystem management and rewilding strategies
- Development of ecotourism with rewilding: analysis of profitable projects in Europe and Belgium

Rewilding and the human mind

- What are the mental barriers to rewilding in Belgium?
- Rewild our minds: what does that mean and how to do it?
- Which opportunities for rewilding to reconnect with nature?
- How to create a supportive community for rewilding in Belgium?