

Article: The Fish and the Forest

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Major Ideas:

- Alaska might fall into financial and social collapse if they don't control the bear population.
- Bears actually fertilize the forest, by discarding partially eaten salmon carcasses.
- streams in Alaska have received nitrogen and phosphorus from salmon tissue.
- Bears only eat about 25% of one fish they catch leaving nutrients for the streams and soil.

Summary:

People thought that bears' population was increasing too much and it will make a financial collapse by spending too much money to keep the bears away from the people. And a social collapse because people won't want to live where bears are. What they did not realize was that the bears help fertilize the forest. They catch salmon and eat what they want and leave the leftovers there in the ground. Those leftovers fertilize the streams by adding nitrogen and phosphorus to it.

My Own Thoughts:

I think that animals are very important to the world. Even though they are scary they still help save the planet even more than us. Wild animals should be able to do what they do because it makes a huge difference to the ocean.

So What? If we kill bears and other animals there won't be anything else to fertilize the forest.	Says Who? Scientist studying the behavior of the animals.
What if? If keep and protect the population of the bears, then there will be more fertilization in the forest	What this reminds me of? This reminds me of an article I read they said that animal waste like poop fertilizes the soil in the forest.