

THE IMPACT OF POWER LINES ON WILDLIFE – A LITERATURE REVIEW AND EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELD

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Abstract Power lines can have a significant impact on the environment both during construction and operation, particularly within right-of-way (RoW) zones or corridors beneath power lines, where the vegetation is maintained regularly. As part of this study, we reviewed recent research on the impacts of power lines on wildlife and game species, and examined two field examples from Slovenia. The research indicates that power lines can have both negative and positive impacts on the environment, depending on the animal species and environmental conditions. Common negative impacts include, for example, habitat degradation and fragmentation, as well as the barrier effect of safety corridors, which affect animal movement and ecosystem connectivity most significantly. Nevertheless, several studies indicate that RoWs can also serve as valuable habitats for many animal species. Our field observations confirmed these findings, as numerous signs of animal presence and activity were recorded beneath the power lines.

Keywords

power lines,
Right-of-Way,
wildlife,
habitat,
environmental impacts

1 Introduction

The global demand for electricity and electricity consumption is on the rise. From 1980 to 2023, electricity consumption has more than tripled, coinciding with the milestone of 8 billion people on the planet. The spread of industrialization and greater and easier access to electricity across much of the globe have also contributed to the increased demand for electricity (Statista Research Department, 2025). Electricity consumption is expected to continue to rise in the coming years, particularly due to the growing production of electric vehicles (Galvin, 2021), drastic cold fronts and heatwaves, which will lead to increased use of central heating and cooling systems (Van Ruijven et al., 2019; Safdie, 2024), as well as continued population growth and technological development (Van Ruijven et al., 2019).

The demand for the construction of transmission lines, which carry electricity from power plants to consumers, is therefore proportional to this demand (Biasotto and Kindel, 2018). To date, a considerable number of studies have been conducted on their significant impact on the environment and biodiversity. Both negative and positive impacts arising during the construction and operation phases of such structures have been described (Bagli et al., 2011; Biasotto and Kindel, 2018; der Boghossian, 2024), while some studies even mention neutral impacts (Biasotto and Kindel, 2018).

In this study, we reviewed recently published studies on the impact that power lines have—from initial construction through to active operation—on various species of wildlife and the natural environment. In addition to reviewing the research, we also examined and analyzed two practical examples in Slovenia – the case in the Laze hunting ground (Zasavje Hunting Management Area (Zasavsko lovsko upravljavsko območje)) and the case in the Dolce-Komen hunting ground (Primorska Hunting Management Area (Primorsko lovsko upravljavsko območje)).

1.1 General about electricity and transmission lines

At present, it is not yet possible to store electricity in large quantities, which is why continuous production is necessary. On land, electricity is transmitted via underground or overhead transmission lines and distribution lines (Biasotto and Kindel, 2018; European Commission, 2018). The former are designed to transmit

electricity from power plants to main substations, while the latter transmit it from the substations to consumers (Biasotto and Kindel, 2018; Department for Energy and Mining, 2024).

Overhead power lines, also known as transmission lines, are electrical lines that run above ground. Their most recognizable features are the tall, lattice-style towers made of steel that carry high voltages (ALTEGRA, 2024). Both power lines and underground cables are required by law to have a corridor of cleared, almost bare ground without (tall) vegetation, known as a Right-of-Way (RoW) or transmission corridor. The RoW allows maintenance crews to operate safely and continuously, and facilitates access to the electrical infrastructure during repairs and general maintenance. Shrubs and trees within the RoW can pose the greatest obstacle to access and maintenance, which is why utility companies clear and maintain all vegetation regularly (Ituen and Sohn, 2010; Right of Way, n.d.).

Like all other development activities within the European Union, the energy transmission infrastructure must also comply with the EU environmental policy, including the Habitats Directive and the EU Birds Directive. Natura 2000 sites are not established to impose a total ban on access, or to prevent all development within them. It just means that development projects must be carried out in a way that protects the rare and endangered species and habitats for the conservation of which the site was designated. This can be achieved through careful planning, open and extensive consultation, and, if necessary, the implementation of appropriate risk mitigation measures to prevent or reduce, from the outset, the individual and cumulative negative impacts that could affect the (original) conservation objectives of a site (European Commission, 2018). The establishment of power lines within the territory of the Republic of Slovenia must also comply with the national legal frameworks, such as the Spatial Planning Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Energy Act, and the Construction Act. In addition to laws, subordinate regulations and other legal acts must also be followed (Eles, n.d.²).

1.2 Electricity and transmission infrastructure in Slovenia

The Slovenian high-voltage transmission grid consists of infrastructure at three voltage levels – 110 kV, 220 kV and 400 kV – and transmits electrical energy from generators (hydroelectric, nuclear, and thermal power stations) to distribution

substations (RTP), from where it is fed into distribution networks and on to the end consumers. These end users are connected either at the medium-voltage level, which is around 20 kV, or at the low-voltage level, i.e. 0.4 kV (Eles, n.d.¹; iEnergija, n.d.). Part of the high-voltage electricity is also supplied directly to large industrial consumers operating at the high-voltage level (Eles, n.d.¹).

Our transmission network also facilitates the transit of electricity between the power systems of our neighboring countries. We are connected to Austria by two 400 kV transmission lines and one 220 kV transmission line, and to Croatia by four 400 kV transmission lines, two 220 kV transmission lines and three 110 kV transmission lines; with Italy, one 400 kV transmission line and one 220 kV transmission line; and with Hungary, just one 400 kV transmission line (Eles, n.d.¹).

2 Results of a review of studies on the impacts of power lines on wildlife

The construction of power lines and their subsequent operation have an impact on the ecosystem and the animal species living within it. After reviewing recent studies, we have categorized these impacts into potentially negative and potentially positive effects. Some of them are described briefly below.

2.1 Potential negative impacts

2.1.1 Fragmentation, degradation and (functional) loss of habitat

The construction of power lines and associated infrastructure for electricity transmission requires land clearing and the removal of surface vegetation. During this process the existing habitat may become fragmented into several smaller habitats, altered, damaged, or even degraded or destroyed. The extent of degradation and loss depends on the design, location, and size of the project, as well as on the sensitivity of the habitat itself (European Commission, 2018).

Studies conducted in Norway and Canada have found that power lines can disrupt the use of nearby habitats by ungulates, but that the nature of the impact depends on the species, the terrain, and other environmental factors. Several studies have shown that wild and semi-domesticated reindeers (*Rangifer tarandus*) avoid areas near power lines—their density or presence is reduced significantly within a 1–4 km radius of a power infrastructure, particularly during sensitive periods such as calving

(Vistnes and Nellemann, 2001; Panzacchi et al., 2013). However, the authors emphasized that the results may also partially reflect other environmental influences occurring during the study period, such as snow conditions, lower predation rates at higher elevations, farther from the power lines (Reimers and Colman, 2009), or changes in the landscape (e.g., the study by Nellemann et al. (2003) took place during dam construction). However, some studies have also reported exceptions. In the work by Vistnes et al. (2008), it was found that, at high elevations, there were more moose near power lines during the summer. Other ungulates, such as moose (*Alces alces*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), avoided power lines only slightly or not at all, which supports the theory that responses to power lines depend on the species and context (Bartzke et al. 2014a; Bartzke et al. 2014b).

2.1.2 Right-of-Ways as an ecological trap

RoWs can act as ecological traps (Battin, 2004). This phenomenon occurs when animals, in response to rapid environmental changes, choose habitats that appear favorable but, compared to other available options, actually reduce their ability to survive (Hale and Swearer, 2016). Thus, Right-of-Ways are attractive due to the abundance of different food sources, but potentially harmful to individual animal species, as they pose a greater risk of disturbance and predation (Frid and Dill, 2002). Power lines and the maintenance roads leading to them serve as walkways and locations where natural predators wait and watch for their prey (e.g., golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) (Steenhof et al., 1993; Nybakk et al., 2002; Norberg et al., 2006; Johnsen et al., 2007; Hamel and Côté, 2009; Prather and Messmer, 2010; Nadjafzadeh et al., 2013). Power lines also increase accessibility for hunters (Perry et al., 1997; Bartzke et al., 2014a). Thus, buffer zones may benefit certain wild ungulates locally by providing them with more food, but they also increase the predation and fragmentation pressure on selected species, which affects the population dynamics negatively (Bartzke et al., 2014a). Power lines and Right-of-Way corridors can thus create so-called ecological “winners and losers”, by altering the dynamics between predators and prey and reducing the effectiveness of prey refuges (Lovich and Ennen 2013; DeMars and Boutin 2017; Cunningham et al., 2015).

2.1.3 Barrier and corridor effect

Power lines and the RoWs beneath them can act as barriers to animal movement or migration. The effects vary among species. Wild reindeer may avoid crossing under power lines, as indicated by the uneven grazing patterns on lichens near power lines; however, these patterns could also be attributed to the presence of other factors, such as roads, other nearby infrastructure, and human activities (Vistnes et al., 2004; Reimers et al., 2007). If the needs for migration were high (due to differences in food accessibility and availability, risks of predation, etc.), researchers observed that some northern deer individuals did cross these artificial barriers formed by power lines (Bartzke et al., 2014a). Based on the research conducted, moose, Canadian elk or wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*), and white-tailed deer generally had no difficulty crossing power line corridors of various widths and voltages; however, the number of crossings decreased in locations where animals felt overly exposed due to insufficient vegetation cover, or where the corridors were (too) wide (Bartzke et al., 2014a). In general, the animals' willingness to cross power line routes depends on factors such as corridor width, vegetation cover, and ecological needs for migration (Bartzke et al., 2014a).

2.14 Collisions with infrastructure and the risk of electric shock

These are a range of negative impacts that, according to research, affect birds in particular most noticeably. In Norway, approximately 26,000 black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*), 20,000 Western capercaillies (*Tetrao urogallus*), and 50,000 Willow Ptarmigans (*Lagopus lagopus*) were lost—these figures exceed the losses caused by hunting (Bevanger, 1995; Bevanger and Brøseth, 2004). The negative impacts are also believed to be linked to a significant decline in the populations of European birds of prey, such as buzzards or Bonelli's eagle (*Aquila fasciata*), the Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*), and the Spanish imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*), which is considered a native species of the Iberian Peninsula (Sergio et al., 2004; Mariano González et al., 2007; Schaub et al., 2010; Hernández-Matías et al., 2015; Bennett et al., 2025). Power lines also pose a threat to migratory birds along their migration routes (Uddin et al., 2021).

2.1.5 Electromagnetic radiation

All electric currents, including those flowing through electrical wires, generate electromagnetic fields (EMFs) (Ferne and Reynolds, 2005). Some animal and plant species possess sensory receptors and mechanisms that enable them to detect and respond to electric or magnetic fields—a phenomenon known as magnetoreception or electroreception (Johnsen and Lohmann, 2008; England and Robert, 2021; Levitt et al., 2022;; “Magnetoreception,” n.d.; “Possible Effects of Electromagnetic Fields on Plants and Animals,” n.d.)

Electric and magnetic fields decrease exponentially with the distance from the power line axis. Figures 2 and 3, obtained and summarized from the Inis.si portal, show how the intensity of these fields changes as we move away from the axis of the power line for the most common types of power lines in Slovenia. The highest values are near 400 kV power lines, while they are noticeably lower near 220 and 110 kV power lines. The results shown in the figures below apply to locations where the conductors (power lines) sag the most and are therefore closest to the ground. The electric and magnetic field values are highest at these locations—the results thus show the situation under the most unfavorable conditions.

Cattle and roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) tend to align their bodies along the north-south geomagnetic axis while resting and feeding. The mechanisms behind this phenomenon are not yet known, but it is known that the electromagnetic fields of power lines can disrupt this magnetic alignment in animals (Burda et al., 2009; Shukla, 2025). Researchers have not yet reached a consensus on this issue (Bartzke et al., 2014a).

Some experts have concluded that fluctuations in the electric fields of high-voltage power lines had no effect on the behavior of domestic animals or their production (Ganskopp et al., 1991; Burchard et al., 1996; Wenzel et al., 2020), while other researchers have documented that proximity to power lines and their electromagnetic radiation can cause reduced milk production and milk fat content in cows, respiratory problems, abnormally low fertility rates in pigs, and noticeable mortality in piglets, stunted growth in heifers, occasional bleedings, and miscarriages (Bhuvane et al., 2023). In one study, semi-domesticated reindeers housed in pens near power lines showed increased restlessness, and, at higher transmission loads,

even avoidance of the power lines; however, the results were said to be inconclusive (Flydal et al., 2009).

2.2 Potential positive impacts

2.2.1 New (feeding) habitats

RoWs, which are often maintained in the early-succession stage of a habitat type, support various species from the communities of adjacent habitats (Geibert, 1980; Wagner et al., 2019; Hrouda and Brlík, 2021). Regenerating vegetation in these zones and along their edges can create valuable foraging habitats for wild ungulates by providing them with abundant and nutritious food (Bramble and Byrnes, 1979; Ricard and Doucet, 1999; Milligan and Koricheva, 2013; Bartzke et al., 2014a). Vegetation density and diversity are typically greater within 3–10 meters of the edges of RoWs than deeper within the forest (Luken et al., 1991; Luken et al., 1992; Rieucan et al., 2007; Powell and Lindquist, 2011). According to the results of some studies, it is often possible to find tracks or footprints of white-tailed deer in the peripheral areas of buffer zones, where they go to feed on shrubs and young trees, while their droppings are observed more frequently in nearby forests, as there is more cover (Bartzke et al., 2014a).

Regularly mowed and trimmed vegetation in buffer zones can provide higher-quality grazing, as those plant species prioritize (regrowth) rather than defense against herbivore grazing (through the production of secondary metabolites) (Rea and Gillingham, 2001). However, it should be noted that the increased availability of light in buffer zones, resulting from reduced vegetation density, can stimulate both defense and growth in newly emerging vegetation (Nybakken et al., 2012). Herbaceous vegetation in buffer zones has a higher mineral and protein content and lower fiber content compared to woody plants. In general, both the availability and nutritional quality of the food are what make these zones so attractive to ungulates (Bartzke et al., 2014a).

The edge effect that buffer zones have on vegetation can create new habitats for wild rabbits, hares, and other herbivorous small mammals, which, in turn, attracts their predators, such as red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), golden jackals (*Canis aureus*), and brown bears (*Ursus arctos*), thereby enhancing the species diversity of the new habitat (Berger, 2010)

With appropriate vegetation management, RoWs can also improve the ecological quality of suburban environments, as they support diverse and often more varied plant communities (Garfinkel et al., 2022).

2.2.2 Corridor for connecting habitats

RoWs can sometimes facilitate the movement of ungulates by providing them with pathways to move between habitats or by offering forest edges rich in food (Bartzke et al., 2015). Studies thus report that some ungulate species move along RoWs frequently, albeit with regard to transmission lines (Jackson and Hecklau, 1995; Bartzke et al., 2015). Despite these observations, evidence of consistent RoWs` use by ungulates remains quite scarce, and movement is thus more dependent on the local terrain and habitat conditions (Bruggeman et al., 2006; Bartzke et al., 2014).

2.2.3 A place for nesting and resting

Although power lines are believed to have a significant impact on bird mortality (electrocution, collisions) and their migration routes, certain species actually use these structures to their advantage. Examples include the pied crow (*Corvus albus*) in Africa, common ravens (*Corvus corax*), and white storks (*Ciconia ciconia*), which use power lines for nesting and as resting sites (Moreira et al., 2017). Bird species considered generalist predators also exploit power lines as vantage points from which to scout for prey. This can lead to increased predation pressure, representing a negative impact of power lines on animals that are often preyed upon by birds of prey (as described previously) (DeMars and Boutin, 2017; Cunningham et al., 2015; Bennett et al., 2025).

In Table 1 we gathered all the presented potential impacts that power lines can have on wildlife, which animal species are reported to be affected by them, and studies from which we got that information.

Table 1: Potential negative and positive impacts that power lines can have on the wildlife, animal species on which those impacts were reported on, and studies from where we got that info.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS		
Type of negative impact	Documented in the following animal species	Reference
Fragmentation, degradation and (functional) loss of habitat	– Reportedly high impact on: wild and semi-domesticated reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) – Reportedly low impact on: moose (<i>Alces alces</i>), white-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)	Vistnes and Nellemann, 2001; Panzacchi et al., 2013; Bartzke et al. 2014a; Bartzke et al. 2014b
Right-of-Ways as an ecological trap	Prey species and game species like hares (<i>Lepus</i> sp.), roe deer (<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>), red deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>), wild boar (<i>Sus scrofa</i>), grouse,...	Steenhof et al., 1993; Perry et al., 1997; Nybakk et al., 2002; Norberg et al., 2006; Johnsen et al., 2007; Hamel and Côté, 2009; Prather and Messmer, 2010; Nadjafzadeh et al., 2013; Bartzke et al., 2014a
Barrier and corridor effect	Wild reindeer	Vistnes et al., 2004; Reimers et al., 2007
Collisions with infrastructure; electrocution	Black grouse (<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>), Western capercaillies (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), Willow Ptarmigans (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>), Bonelli's eagle (<i>Aquila fasciata</i>), Eurasian eagle-owl (<i>Bubo bubo</i>), Spanish imperial eagle (<i>Aquila adalberti</i>), various migratory bird species...	Bevanger, 1995; Bevanger and Brøseth, 2004; Sergio et al., 2004; Mariano González et al., 2007; Schaub et al., 2010; Hernández-Matías et al., 2015; Uddin et al., 2021; Bennett et al., 2025
Electromagnetic radiation	Domestic animal species (e.g., domestic pigs, sheep, cattle...), semi-domesticated reindeer, roe deer	Flydal et al., 2009; Bhuvane et al., 2023
POSITIVE IMPACTS		
Type of positive impact	Documented in the following animal species	Reference
New (feeding) habitats	Wild ungulates, mesocarnivores (e.g. red fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>), golden jackal (<i>Canis aureus</i>)) and top predators (e.g. brown bears (<i>Ursus arctos</i>))	Bramble and Byrnes, 1979; Ricard and Doucet, 1999; Berger, 2010; Milligan and Koricheva, 2013; Bartzke et al., 2014a
Corridor for connecting habitats	Wild ungulates	Jackson and Hecklau, 1995; Bartzke et al., 2015
A place for nesting and resting	Pied crow (<i>Corvus albus</i>), common ravens (<i>Corvus corax</i>), white storks (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>), various birds of prey (e.g. common buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>))	Cunningham et al., 2015; DeMars and Boutin, 2017; Moreira et al., 2017; Bennett et al., 2025

3 Case studies or field examples

We also observed the impact of power lines and their associated RoWs in practice, specifically in the Laze hunting ground (Zasavsko LUO), through which part of the 400 kV Beričevo-Krško power line runs, and in the Dolce-Komen (Primorsko LUO), through which the 400 kV Divača-Redipuglia power line runs. In accordance with the Energy Act (EZ-1), for such voltages (400 kV), the width of the safety zone is 40 m on each side of the axis of the power line or from the outer fence of the substation or transformer station.

Clearing of vegetation along the power line in the Laze hunting grounds began between 2006 and 2009 (Figure 1). Construction of the line began in 2011 and was completed in 2013 (»Slavnostno Odprtje DV 2x400 kV Beričevo-Krško«, 2014). Construction of the Divača-Redipuglja power line began in 1979 and was completed in 1980 (IBE, d.d., 2009). Vegetation clearing likely took place several years earlier.

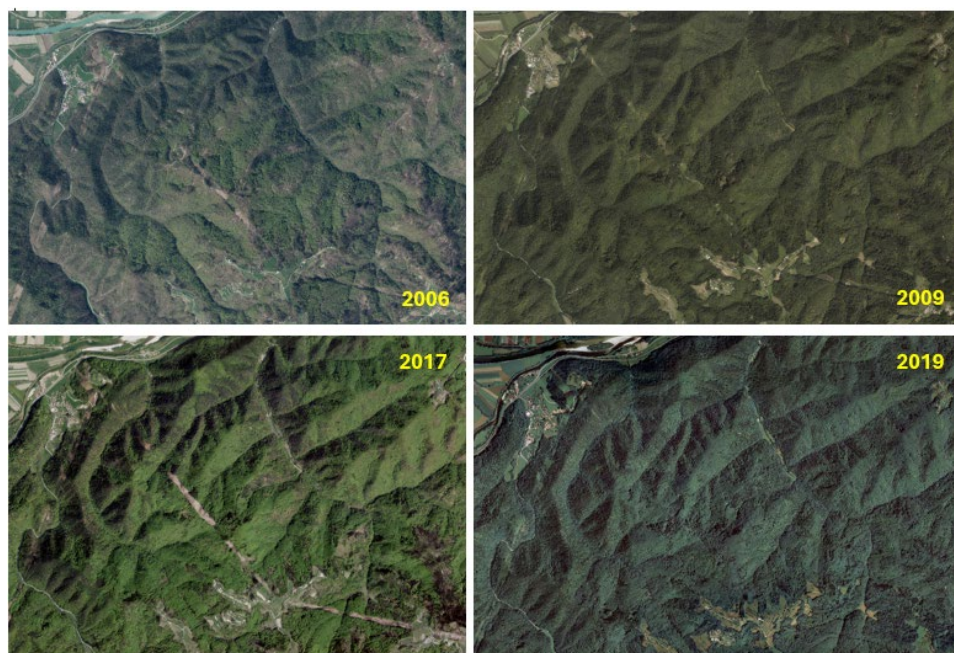


Figure 1: Progress of vegetation clearing along the Beričevo-Krško power line route in the Laze hunting ground.

Source: Pregledovalnik ZGS, zajem zaslona, 2025

The sites where the two power lines were constructed were originally forested areas. Part of both forests had to be cleared to make way for the power lines. The resulting clearing is now being overgrown by pioneer tree and shrub species, such as silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and european aspen (*Populus tremula*), saplings of tree species from peripheral habitats (in the Karst region, these include pine, oak, acacia), blackberry, eagle fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and various grass species; however, invasive or non-native species are also thriving here, such as American pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), and Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)...



Figure 2 and 3: Animals captured by camera traps in the hunting area Dolce – Komen.

Source: Slovenian Forestry Institute

In both hunting grounds, we have at least one location near power lines where we have set up trap cameras as part of various projects to monitor the presence of wildlife. Using these cameras, as well as signs of wild animal presence (droppings, tracks, and grazed vegetation), we were able to confirm that animals use the areas beneath the power lines for crossing, foraging, feeding, and caring for their young. We recorded ungulates such as wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) (Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5), and the presence of other animal species was also confirmed—european badger (*Meles meles*), fox, jackal, red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)... In the case of the power line in the Laze hunting ground, we also contacted the managers (hunters) of that hunting ground to obtain additional information. According to their observations, the presence of wildlife in the area where the power lines were installed declined noticeably during and immediately after construction. This was particularly noticeable in the case of the previously present red deer, which had withdrawn from the area for several years. However, as

vegetation began to regrow and food availability increased, that species also began to return to the area.



Figure 4 and 5: Animals captured by camera traps in the hunting area Laze.

Source: Slovenian Forestry Institute

4 Conclusion

Power lines are one of the inevitable human interventions in the environment driven by our needs. They come with numerous negative impacts, yet there are also some positive ones.

They primarily affect wildlife through collisions and electrocution—these alone kill millions of birds and bats every year. Habitat fragmentation and changes resulting from the construction and subsequent maintenance of power lines also impact wildlife negatively. Power lines act as barriers that prevent animal movement, and, in the safety zones beneath them, conditions are created that encourage the proliferation of invasive plant and animal species, while native species are more threatened in these areas. Electromagnetic radiation from power lines and the barrier effect of safety zones also have a significant impact on animals.

However, even though we are aware of all the potential negative impacts these elements have on wildlife, it is also important to focus on the positive effects that result from them. With proper management of buffer zones and edge habitats near power lines, it is possible to provide an attractive habitat for wild ungulates, as well as likely for many other animal species. Due to their function as ecological corridors

that facilitate species movement in urban or human-altered landscapes, buffer zone areas can support greater species diversity of plants, birds, and pollinators compared to suburban or urban meadows or mowed areas. In regions where (flowering) meadows are in decline, they provide foraging habitats for pollinators, thereby ensuring the survival of all the subsequent elements in the food chain.

In reviewing reports and studies on the impact of electrical infrastructure on animals, particularly wildlife, we observed that most studies focus on birds. Studies on the impact of power lines on mammals are few in number. A systematic review of studies on this topic would likely be even more difficult to conduct if it focused on smaller and less mobile taxa, such as amphibians, reptiles, molluscs, and insects, even though these are also sensitive to the impacts that power lines have on their natural habitats. We have observed a lack of research on the impacts of power lines on wildlife, particularly ungulates, in Slovenia. According to our data, such analyses have not yet been conducted in Slovenia, although it would be sensible to carry them out in the future

A review of research and practical examples shows that, with proper management of safety zones and edge habitats near power lines, we can ensure an attractive habitat for wildlife. Electricity has become an integral part of our daily lives, so, unfortunately, we cannot do without the infrastructure that enables its production and use. It is important that we strive to mitigate the impacts of such interventions as much as possible, and enable wild animals to live as undisturbed as possible in the altered landscape.

End notes

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Povzetek v slovenskem jeziku

Vpliv daljnovodov na prostoživeče živali – pregled literature in izkušnje s terena. Daljnovodi lahko znatno vplivajo na okolje tako v fazi izgradnje kot tudi v fazi obratovanja, zlasti na območju varovalnih pasov ali transmisijjskih koridorjev (ang. Right-of-Way; RoW), ki potekajo pod daljnovodi. V okviru te študije smo pregledali novejšo raziskavo o vplivih daljnovodov na prostoživeče živali in divjad ter preučili dva praktična primera s terena v Sloveniji. Raziskave kažejo, da imajo daljnovodi lahko tako negativne kot pozitivne vplive na okolje, odvisno od vrste živali in okoljskih razmer. Med pogostimi negativnimi vplivi so denimo degradacija in razdrobljenost habitatov ter barierni učinek, ki ga povzročajo čistine pod daljnovodi, kateri od vseh negativnih dejavnikov najbolj vplivajo na premike živali ter povezanost ekosistemov. Kljub temu številne študije kažejo, da lahko ti transmisijjski koridorji služijo tudi kot dragoceni habitati za številne živalske vrste. Naša terenska opazovanja so te ugotovitve potrdile, saj smo pod daljnovodi zabeležili številne znake prisotnosti in aktivnosti živali.

