Thesis Propositions

1. Fear shapes behavior and thereby our environment (Chapters 1 - 6).

2. Like other animals, humans are intrinsically part of ecological interactions (Chapter 1 - 6).

3. Zoonotic cycles can largely affect human societies but are often influenced by humans themselves (Chapter 3).

4. The interactions between human activities and animal behavior affect nutrient cycling and thereby climate (Chapter 4).

5. Wolves can play a contributory role to ecosystem functioning by affecting deer behavior, also in human-dominated ecosystems (Chapter 5).

6. The value we contribute to animals should not merely depend on their assumed ecological role.

7. Current recreation and hunting practices can drive large herbivores into forests, mismatching with nature management goals to maintain open landscapes and allow forest regeneration (Chapter 2).

8. Alternative ungulate management strategies can aim at profiting from wildlife's avoidance of humans and help steer their impact on the environment (Chapter 1 - 6).

9. Environmental management and policy should implement the notion that nature is dynamic, driven by natural processes such as (fear for) predation and grazing.

10. While important, science's emphasis on human-induced threats to nature should not overshadow the perception that we live in beautiful ecosystems.

11. When we admit that (human) life on earth can be ruled by reason, all possibility of life is destroyed. *L. Tolstoy*

12. In science, hard work is no substitute for clear thinking.