

# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM 8 YEARS OF REWILDING AT THE MOLS LABORATORY?



BIODIVERSITETSSYMPOSIET, AARHUS, 25/9 2024

MORTEN DD HANSEN

## Lesson #1

There can be absolutely no turning back  
to traditional management











## Lesson #2

The ancient cultural landscape will  
NEVER return















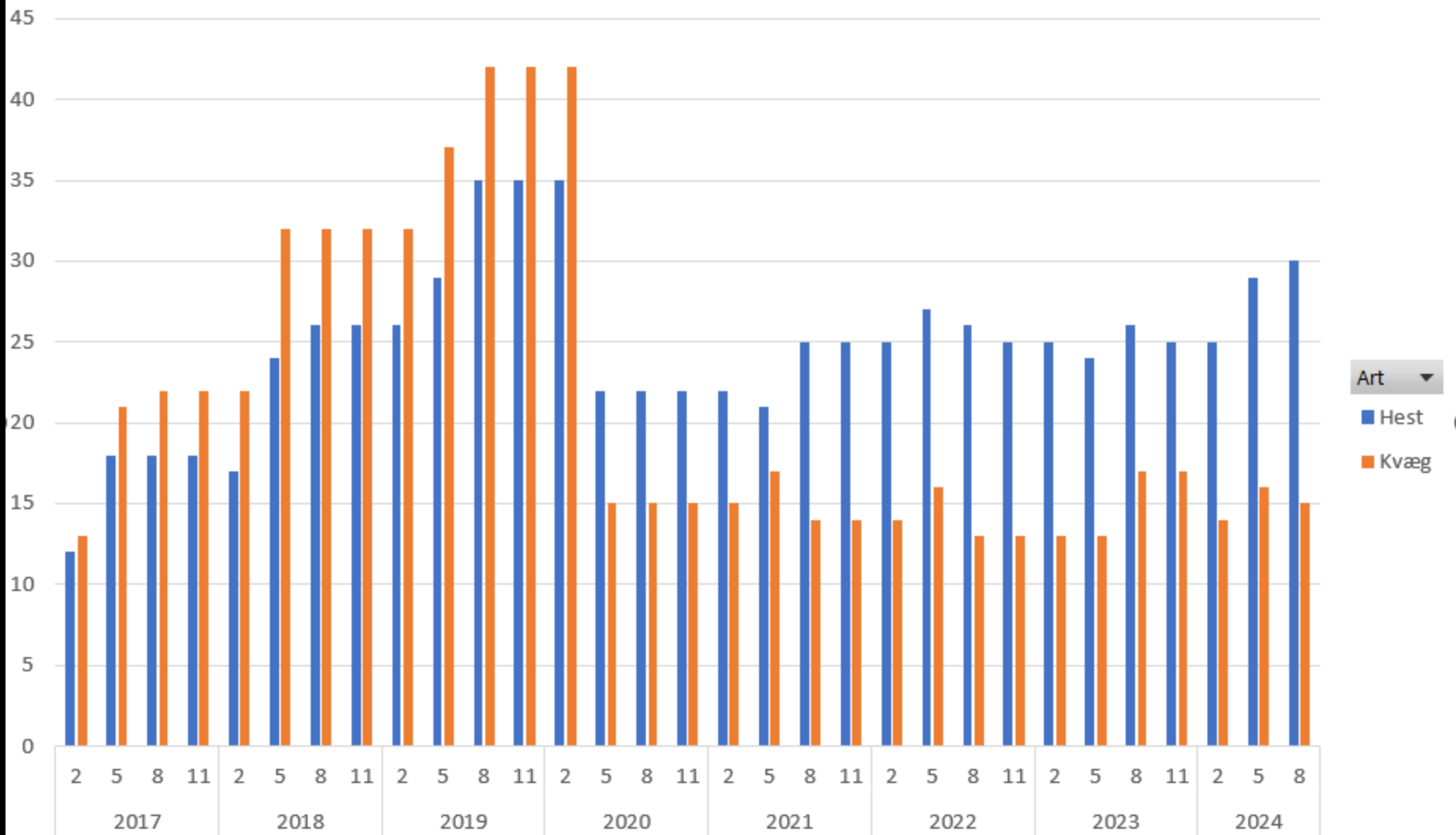


## Lesson #3

On a decadal scale, the landscape can easily support a self-sustaining population of horses and cattle. However, on the long term, the horses will probably win.



Sum af Antal



Art ▼

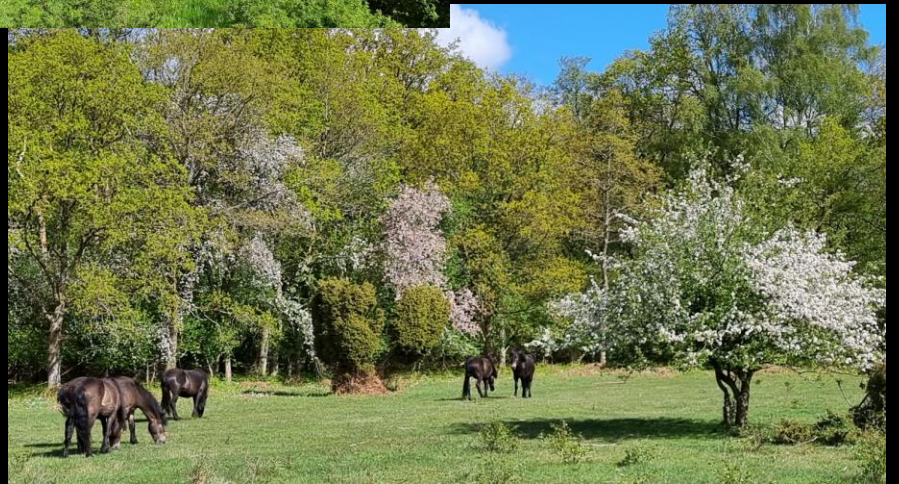
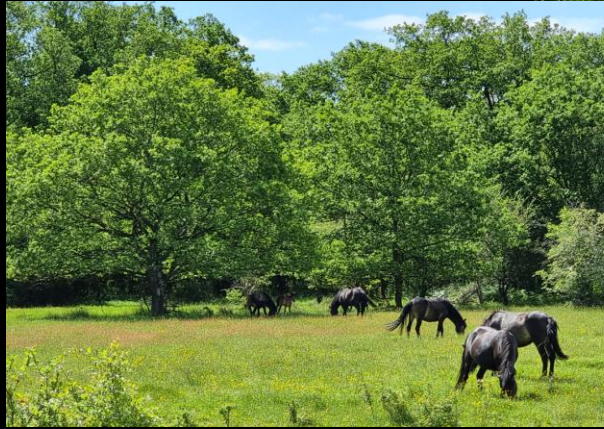
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## Lesson 4

Rewilding increases structural heterogeneity due to disturbances, thorny shrubs, differential grazing





## Lesson 5

Rewilding promotes herbs instead of grasses. Many more floral resources for wild bees.





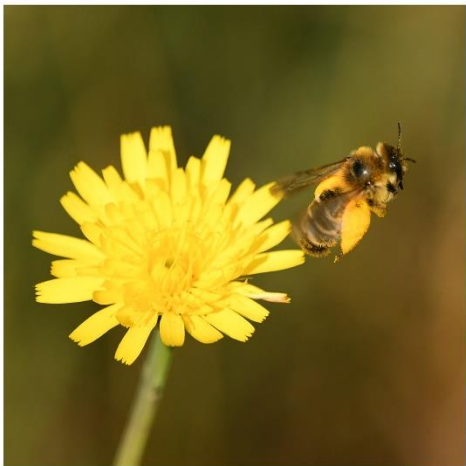












## Lesson 6

Rewilding increases the abundance of rare,  
smaller plant species



## Lesson 7

Rewilding may lead to competition for resources in spring. This may lead to losses of insects associated with these resources





## Lesson 8

Rewilding is a fast and an extremely effective restoration method, eg.

conversion of a conifer plantation to varied and species-rich shrubland.











## Lesson 9

The landscapes created by the herbivores may mitigate the ecological effects of extreme weather as well as invasive species!















## Lesson 10

In a varied temperate landscape without megaherbivores rewilding will eventually lead to more forest, not less! The speed depends on initial conditions.





































