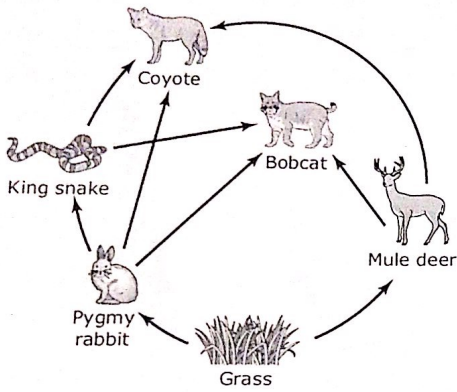


Extended-Response  
Standard 3: Life Science

Question 4

A food web from the western United States is shown below.



Many years ago, the mule deer population in the western United States was very small. To help the mule deer increase its numbers, humans removed the predators of mule deer from an area where mule deer lived. The mule deer population in the area increased quickly and became much larger than in the past.

Describe how the large increase in mule deer MOST LIKELY affected the populations of grasses in the area and EXPLAIN why.

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Describe how the large increase in mule deer MOST LIKELY affected the population of pygmy rabbit in the area and EXPLAIN why.

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Describe how the large increase in mule deer MOST LIKELY affected the population of king snakes in the area and EXPLAIN why.

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Describe how the large increase in mule deer and the lack of predators MOST LIKELY affected the mule deer population in the area after several more years and EXPLAIN why.

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