

# Interagency Wolf Committee Meeting

March 25, 2015



*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# Wolf Plan Goals

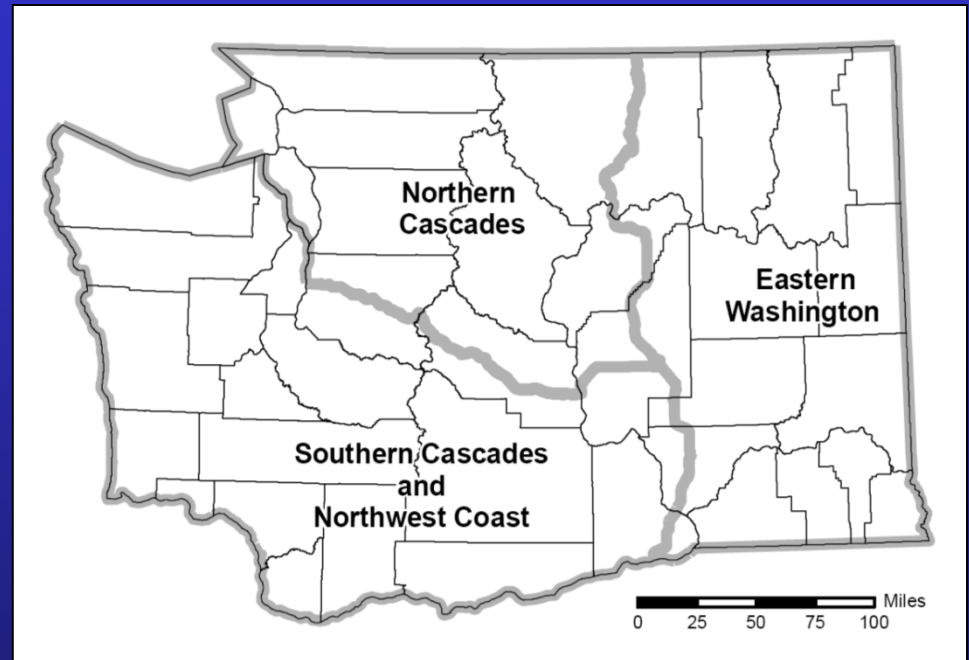
- Restore self-sustaining wolf populations
- Manage wolf-livestock conflicts
- Maintain healthy prey base
- Develop public understanding and promote coexistence

Diamond Pack, 2014



# Recovery Objectives

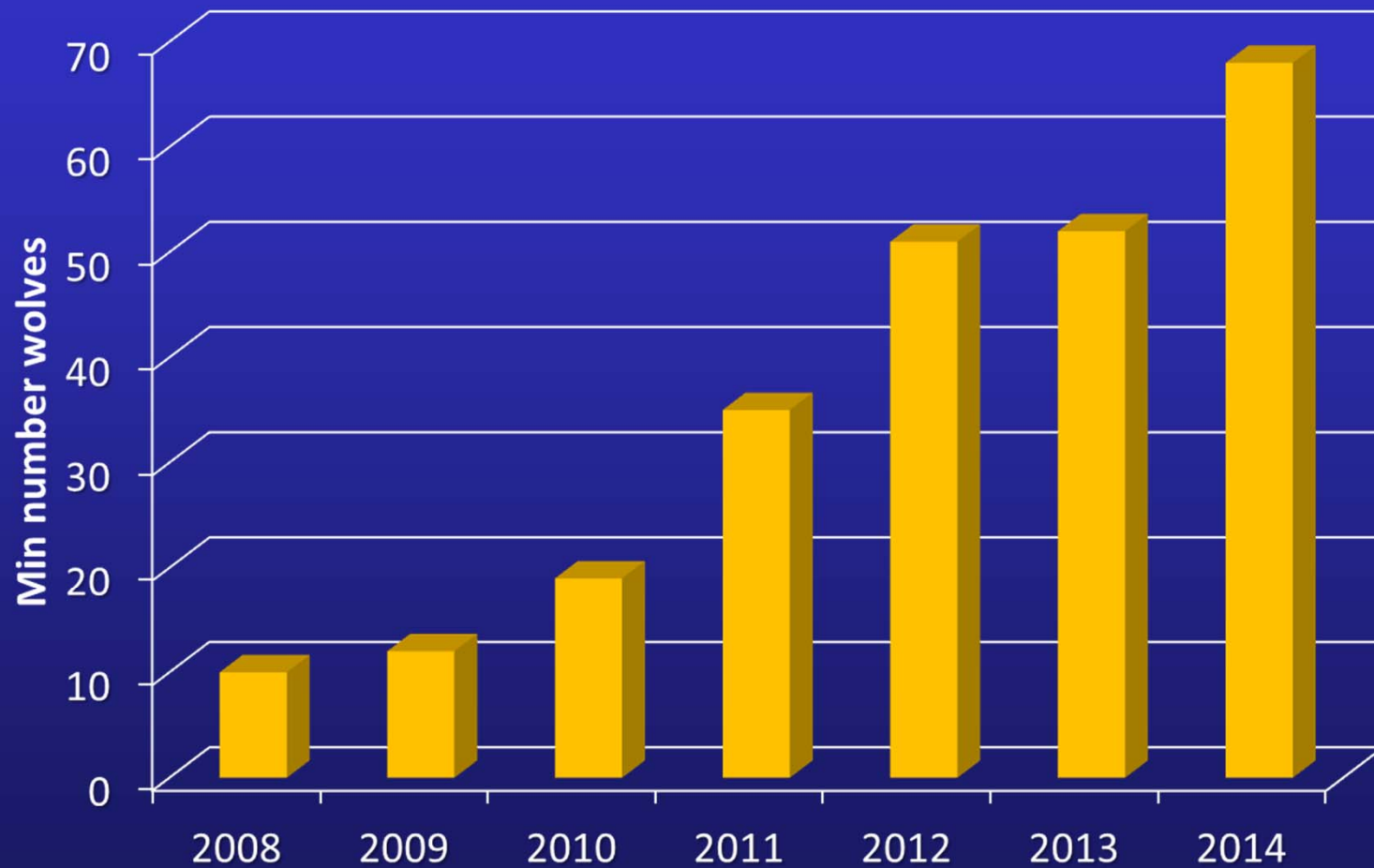
- Delist at 15 successful breeding pair for 3 consecutive years
- Or 18 successful breeding pair for 1 year
- Distributed among 3 recovery regions



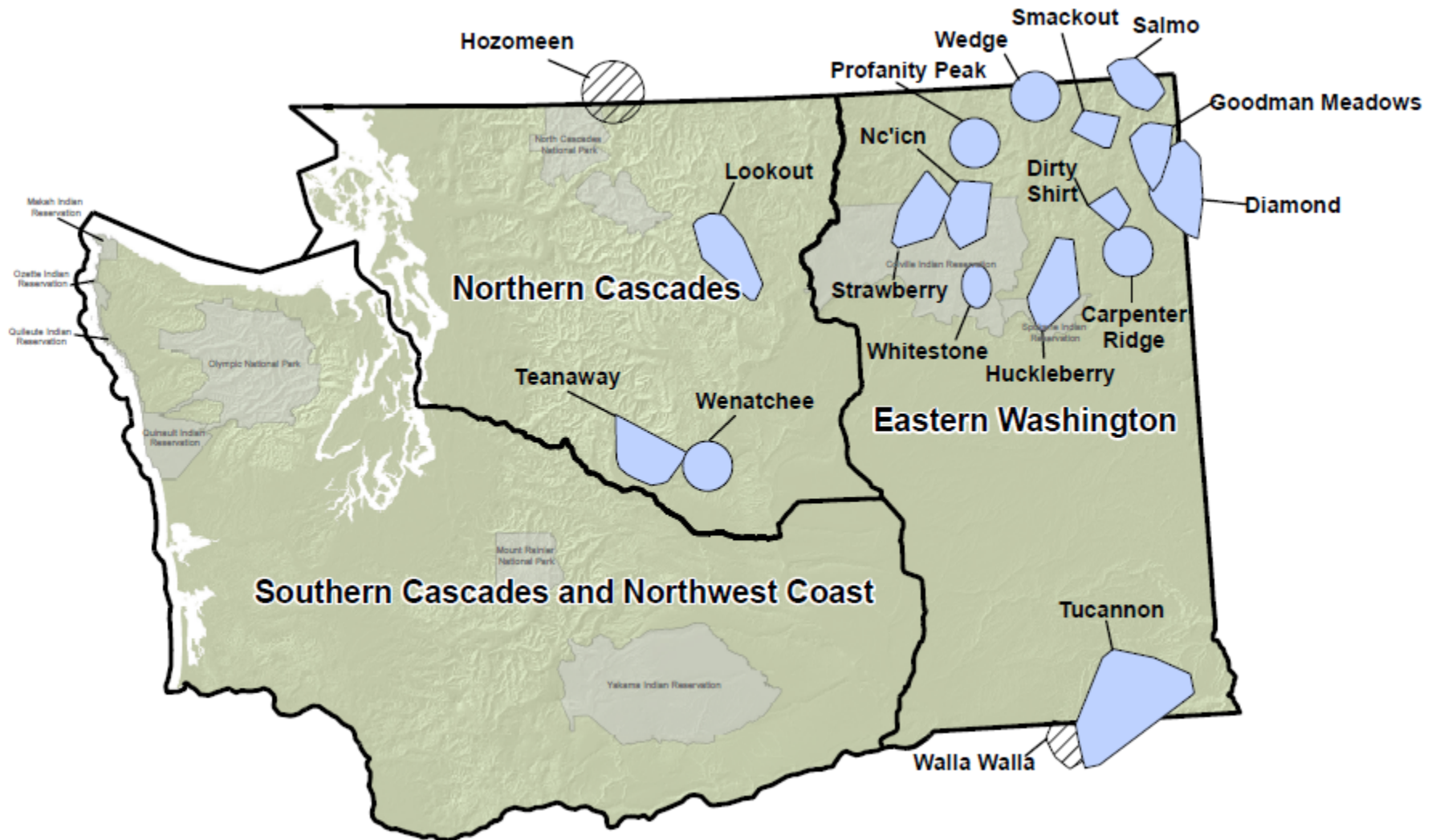
# Population Status



# Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



# Wolf Packs as of December 2014



| Recovery Region       | Confirmed Pack     | Successful Breeding Pairs | Min Count | Mortality | Known Dispersal | Depredations |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Eastern Washington    | Carpenter Ridge    | Yes                       | 4         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Diamond            | No                        | 2         | 0         | 1               | 0            |
|                       | Dirty Shirt        | No                        | 3         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Goodman Meadows    | Yes                       | 6         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Huckleberry (STOI) | Yes                       | 6         | 2         | 0               | 33           |
|                       | Nc'icn (CCT)       | No                        | 4         | 0         | 2               | 0            |
|                       | Profanity Peak     | Yes                       | 6         | 1         | 0               | 4            |
|                       | Ruby Creek         | No                        | -         | 1         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Salmo              | No                        | 3         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Smackout           | No                        | 5         | 1         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Strawberry (CCT)   | No                        | 3         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Tucannon           | No                        | 2         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Wedge              | No                        | 2         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Whitestone (CCT)   | No                        | 2         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Misc/Loners        |                           | 8         | 2         | 0               | 2            |
| Northern Cascades     | Lookout            | No                        | 4         | 1         | 1               | 1            |
|                       | Teaway             | Yes                       | 5         | 1         | 1               | 0            |
|                       | Wenatchee          | No                        | 2         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Misc/Loners        |                           | 1         | 1         | 0               | 0            |
| S Cascades & NW Coast | None               | None                      | 0         | 0         | 0               | 0            |
|                       | Statewide          | <b>5</b>                  | <b>68</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>5</b>        | <b>40</b>    |

# Washington Wolf Population Summary

| Year | Min count | Known No. |     | Growth | Known Wolf Mortality |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----|--------|----------------------|
|      |           | Packs     | SBP | Rate   |                      |
| 2008 | 10        | 1         | 1   | --     | 0                    |
| 2009 | 12        | 2         | 2   | 20%    | 0                    |
| 2010 | 19        | 3         | 1   | 58%    | 2                    |
| 2011 | 35        | 7         | 5   | 84%    | 0                    |
| 2012 | 51        | 9         | 5   | 46%    | 9                    |
| 2013 | 52        | 13        | 5   | 2%     | 5                    |
| 2014 | 68        | 16        | 5   | 31%    | 10                   |
| Ave  |           |           |     | 38%    |                      |



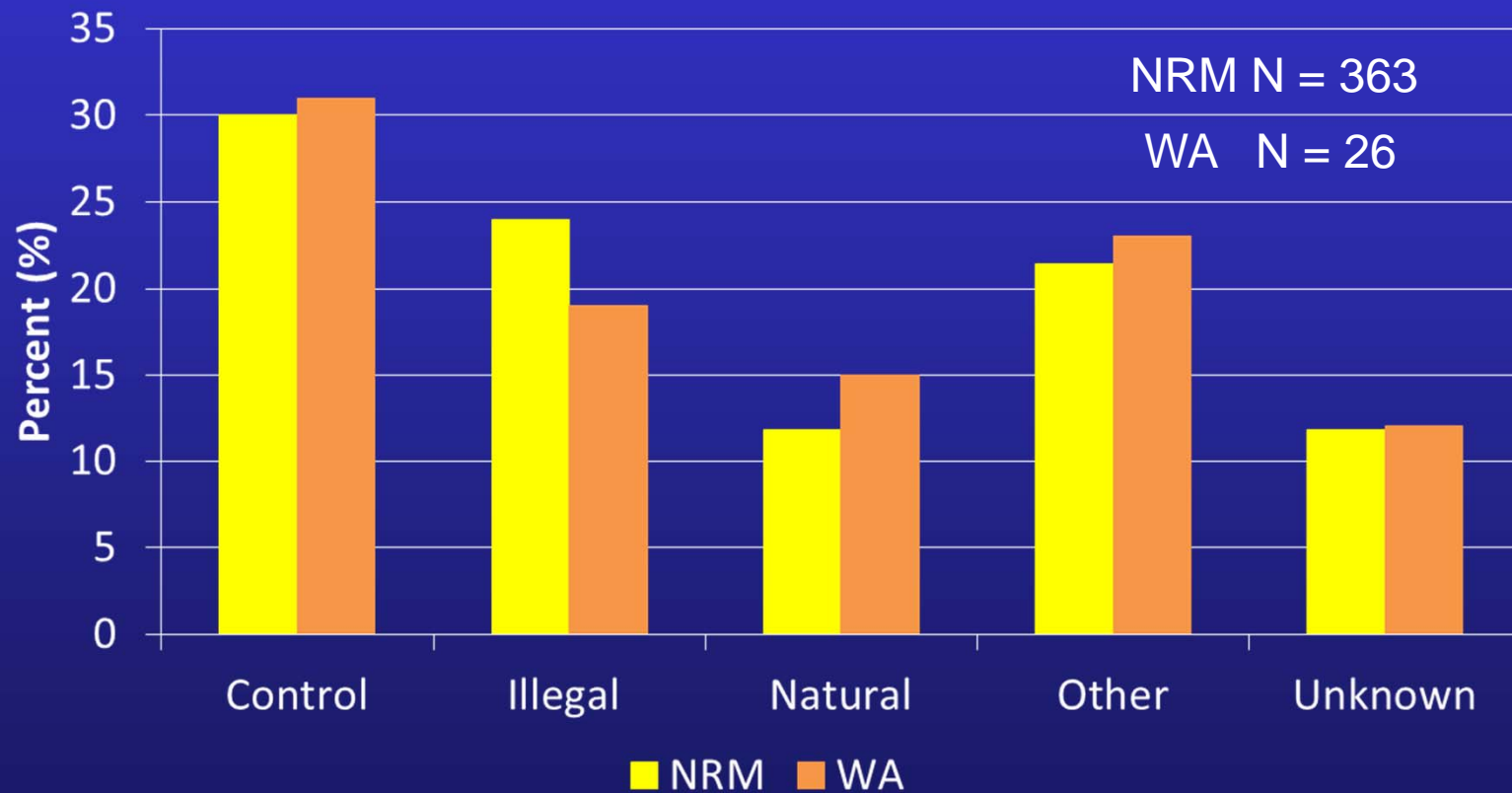
# Known Wolf Mortality

Washington

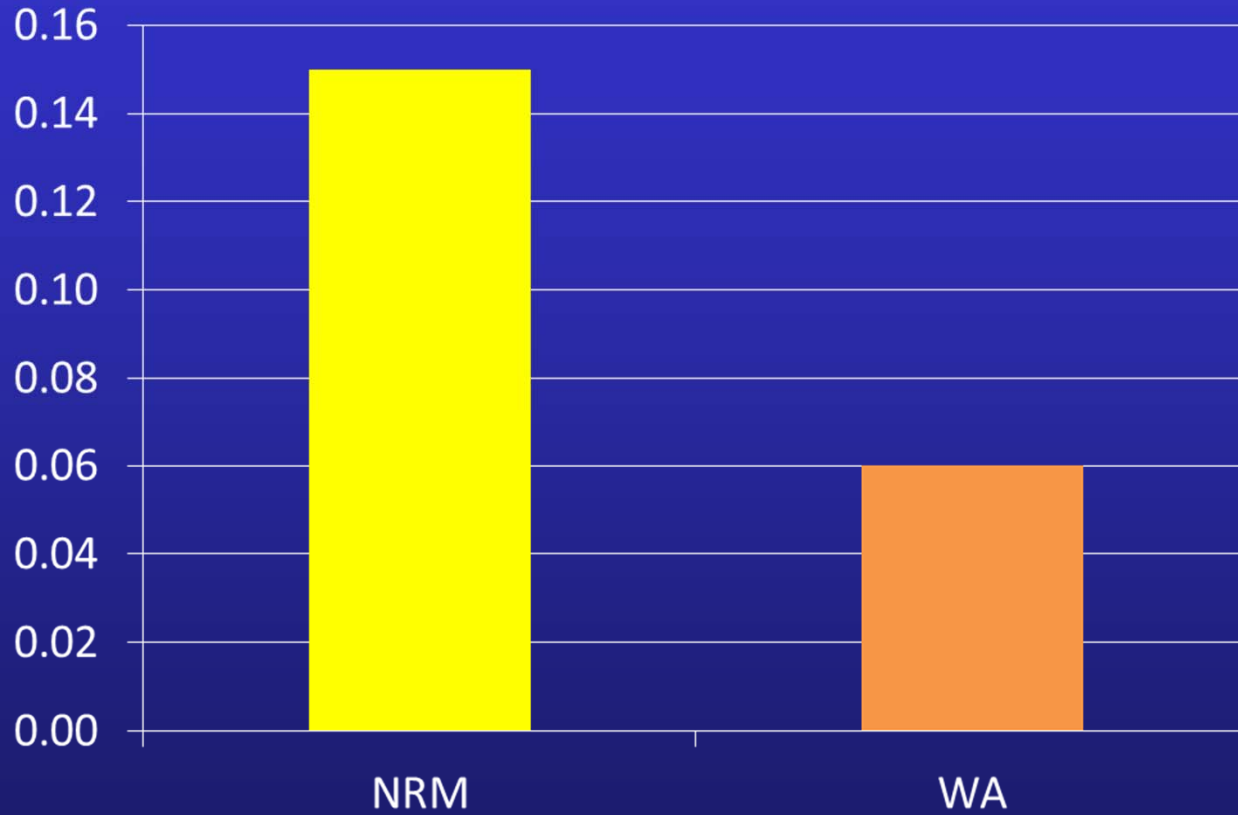
| Year  | Natural | Control | Illegal | Other human | Harvest | Unkn | Total |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|------|-------|
| 2008  |         |         |         |             |         |      | 0     |
| 2009  |         |         |         |             |         |      | 0     |
| 2010  |         |         | 2       |             |         |      | 2     |
| 2011  |         |         |         |             |         |      | 0     |
| 2012  |         | 7       |         | 1           |         | 1    | 9     |
| 2013  | 1       |         |         | 3           | 1       |      | 5     |
| 2014  | 3       | 1       | 3       | 1           |         | 2    | 10    |
| TOTAL | 4       | 8       | 5       | 5           | 1       | 3    | 26    |

# Wolf Mortality Factors

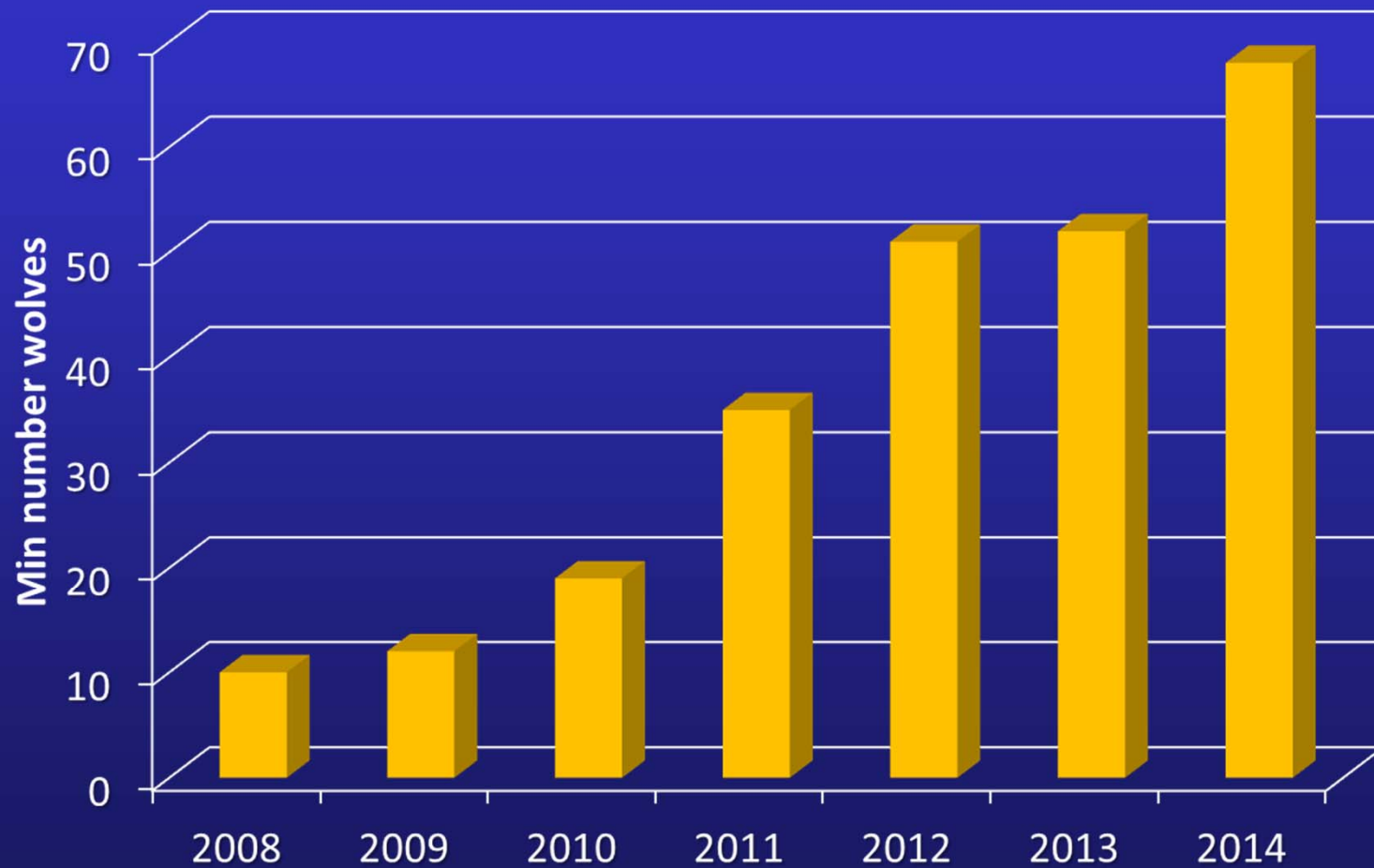
NRM compared to WA



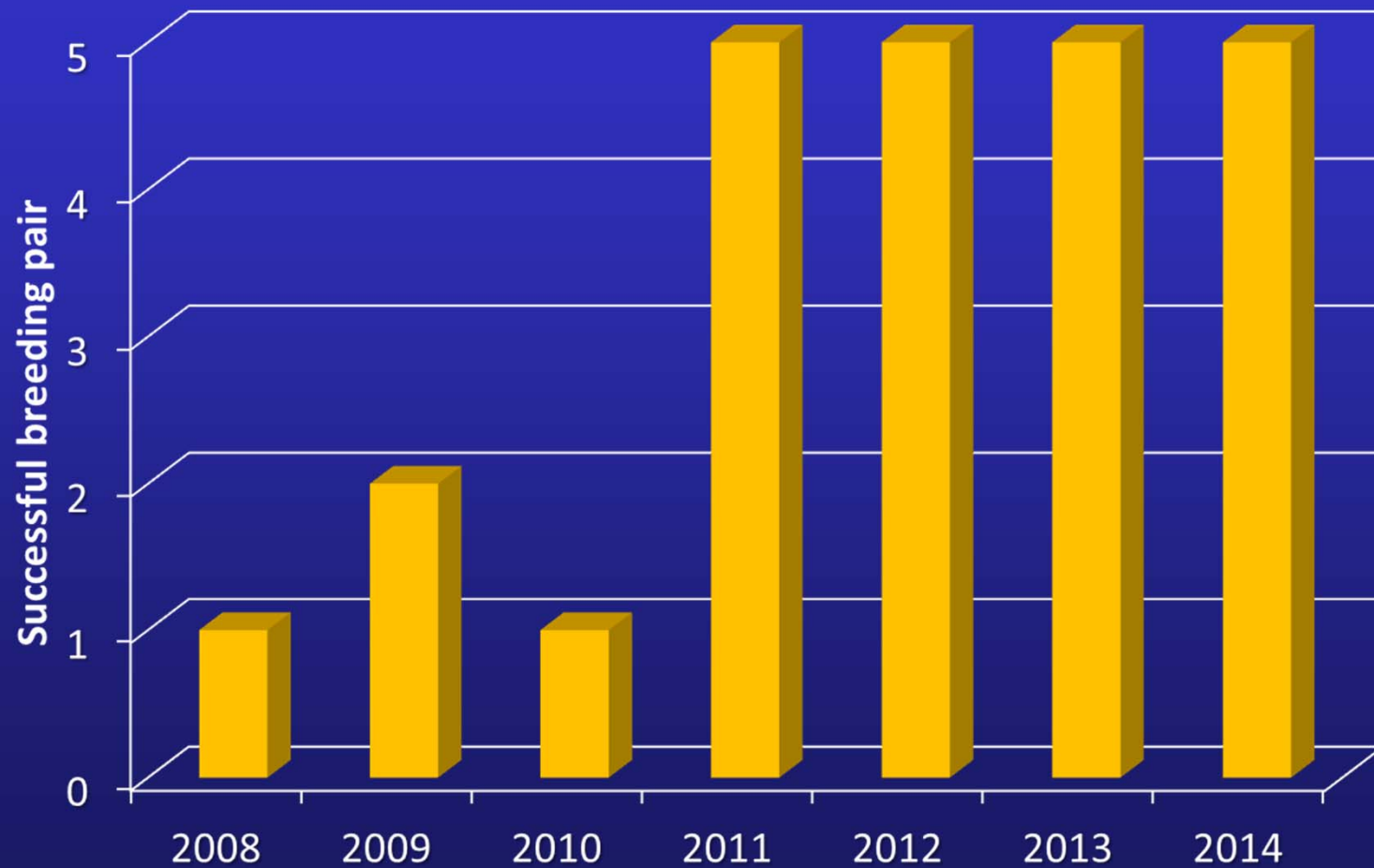
# Proportion of Minimum Population Removed



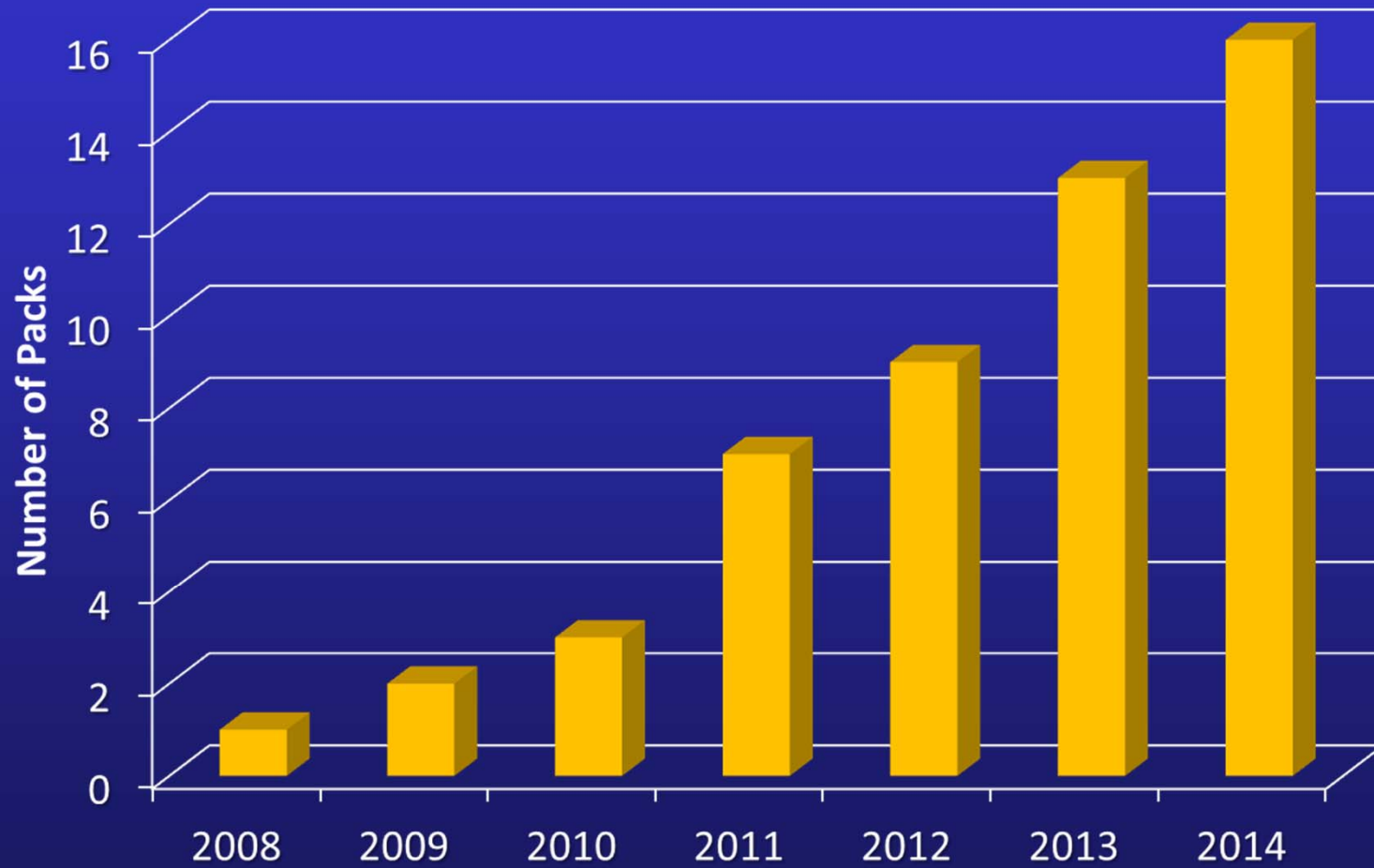
# Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



# Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



# Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



# Capture and Monitoring





## WDFW Wolf Observation Reporting Form

### Observer Contact Information

\* Indicates required fields

Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.

\* First Name:  \* Last Name:

Affiliation:

Mailing Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

\* Phone:  xxx-xxx-xxxx

\* E-mail Address:

Are you the Observer or the Reporter?

Observer  Reporter

Were Other Observers Present?  No  Yes

If yes, please provide names and contact information for each observer. Text is limited to 250 characters.

### Observation Details

\* Indicates required fields

### How to recognize a gray wolf

#### GRAY WOLF

Color: light gray to black  
Dimensions: 2.5 feet tall, 5-6 feet long  
Broad snout  
Round ears

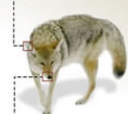


80-120 pounds  
Paw size: 4" x 5"



#### COYOTE

Color: light gray/brown  
Dimensions: 1.5 feet tall, 4 feet long  
Tall pointed ears



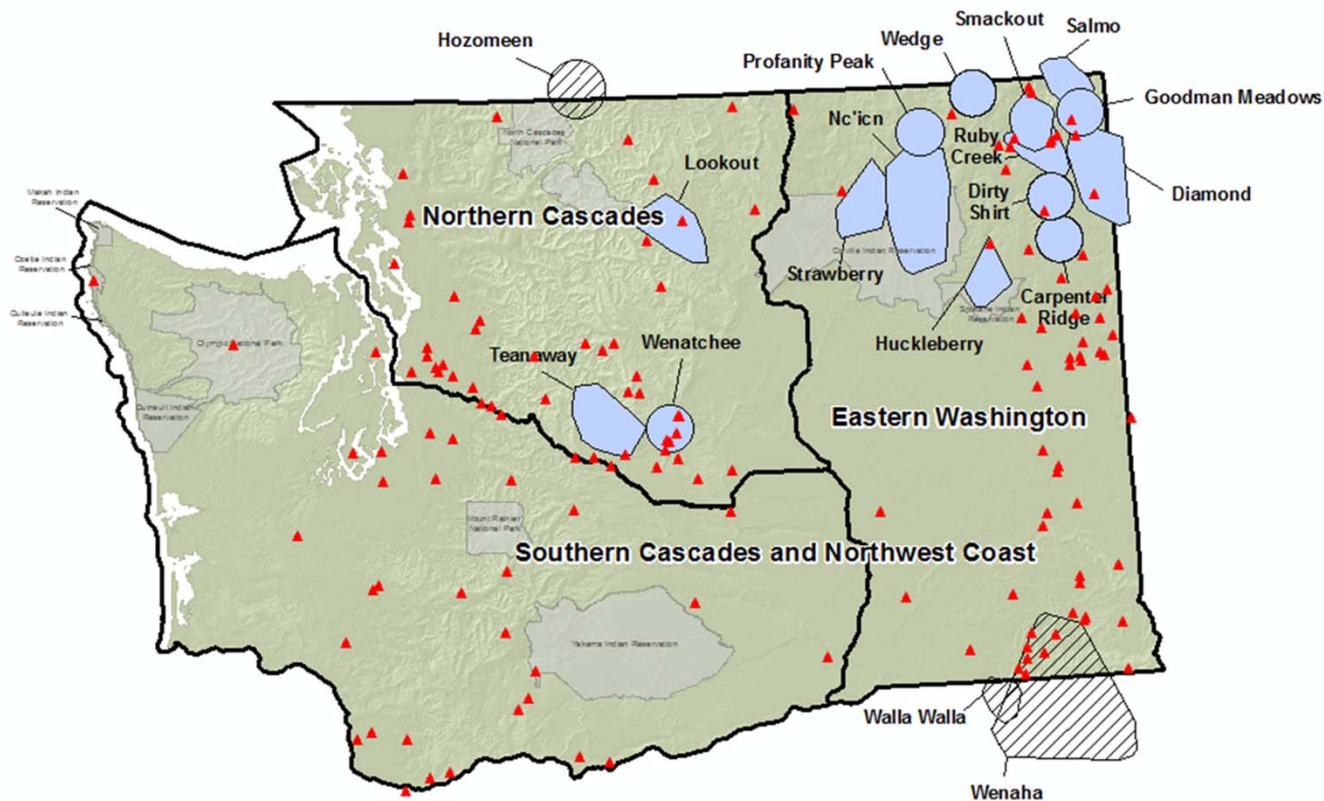
Narrow snout  
20-50 pounds  
Paw size: 2" x 2.5"



Wolves are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act.  
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Dial 911 to report an emergency

# Reporting wolf sighting





# Follow-up Verification





Setting wolf leg-hold trap, WDFW.

WDFW Archive photo



# Field Activities

## Monitoring activities

- Trail cameras
- Ground surveys
- Trapping
- Helicopter captures
- Mortality investigations

## Conflict activities

- Hazing
- Range riders
- Trapping for removal
- Helicopter for removal

## Not investigating

- Den & rendezvous sites

# Coordination

## Monitoring activities

- Investigating wolf sightings
- Trapping
- Helicopter captures
- Summary report data
- Wolf mortalities
- Outreach
  
- Known den sites
- Collar data

## Conflict activities

- Depredation response
- Preventative tools
- Lethal control
- Outreach

# Wolf Monitoring & Management Discussion

# Data Sharing Coordination

# Forest Practice Applications

WAC 222-16-080 Critical habitats of (state) threatened and endangered species

(1) Critical habitats of (state) threatened or endangered species and specific forest practices designated as Class IV-Special are as follows:

(a) Gray wolf (Canis lupus) - Harvesting, road construction, or site preparation within 1 mile of a known active den site, documented by the department of fish and wildlife, between the dates of March 15 and July 30 or 0.25 mile from the den site at other times of the year.



# Data Sharing

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=d0783b7a3f894c25>. The page title is "ArcGIS - WDFW Wolf Tele...". The browser's address bar also shows "Convert" and "Select" options. The ArcGIS interface includes a "Sign In" link in the top right, a "Details" button, and a "Basemap" button. The main content area displays a satellite map of Washington state. On the left, a sidebar titled "WDFW Wolf Telemetry - All Packs" provides information about the map, including the creator "Web Map by andrew.duff@dfw.wa.gov" and the last modified date "March 9, 2015". A "Sign In" dialog box is overlaid on the map, requesting credentials to access the data. The dialog box contains the following text: "Please sign in to access the item on https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov (Wolf/WolfTelemetry)". It includes input fields for "Username:" and "Password:" (with a warning icon next to the password field) and "OK" and "CANCEL" buttons. The bottom of the page features the Esri logo and the text "POWERED BY Earthstar Geographics".

ArcGIS

Sign In

Details Basemap

Print Measure

WDFW Wolf Telemetry - All Packs

This map displays the wolf telemetry data for Washington packs.

Web Map by andrew.duff@dfw.wa.gov

Last Modified: March 9, 2015

(0 ratings, 0 comments, 484 views)

More Details...

Sign In

Please sign in to access the item on <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov> (Wolf/WolfTelemetry)

Username:

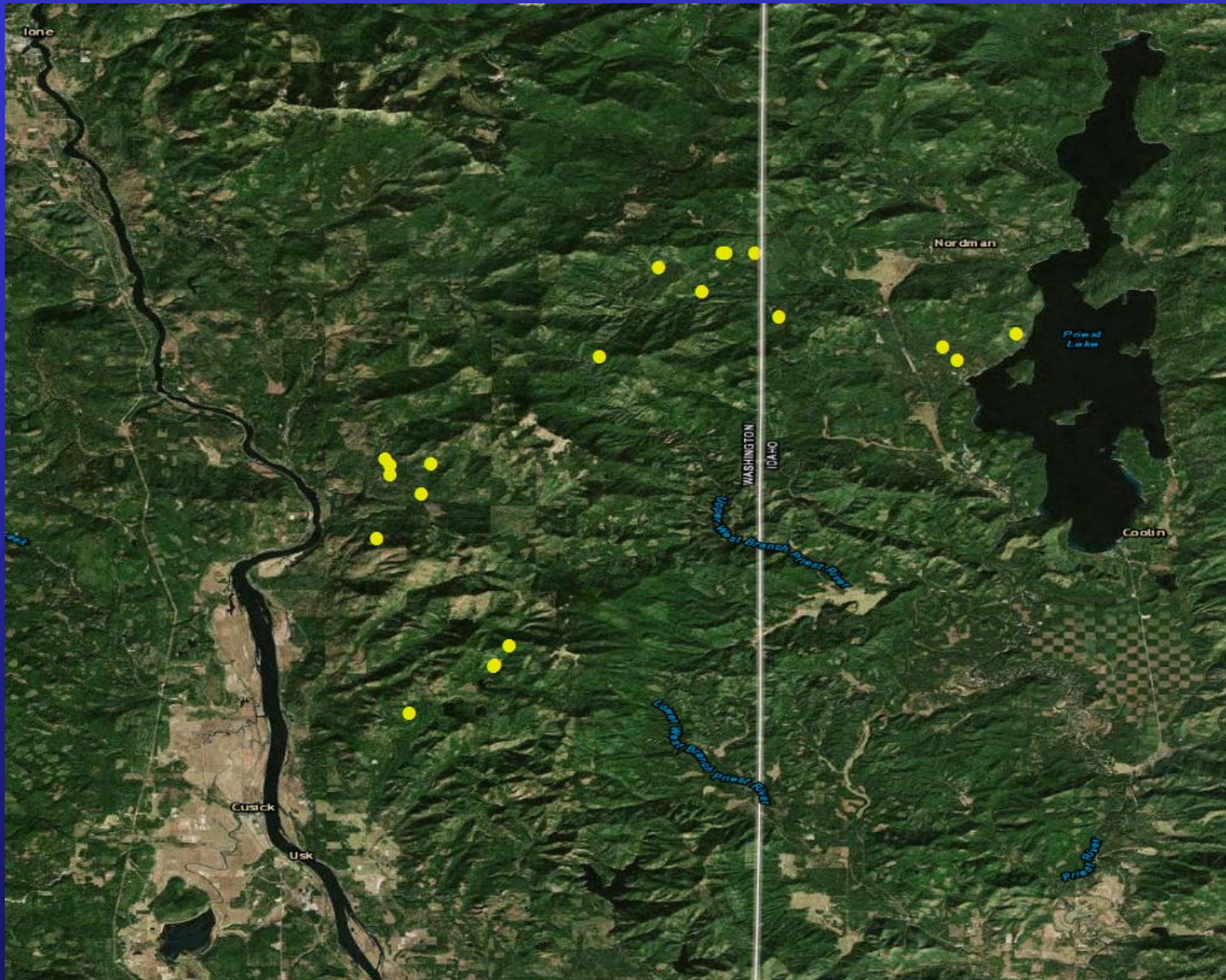
Password:  ⚠

OK CANCEL

Esri.com Help Terms of Use Privacy Contact Esri Report Abuse

POWERED BY Earthstar Geographics esri

# Data Sharing



# Wolf – Livestock Conflict Management

Update  
March 25, 2015

Interagency Wolf Committee



Stephanie Simek | Wildlife Conflict Section

# Wolf Plan Goals

- Restore self-sustaining wolf populations
- **Manage wolf-livestock conflicts**
- Maintain healthy prey base
- Develop public understanding and promote coexistence

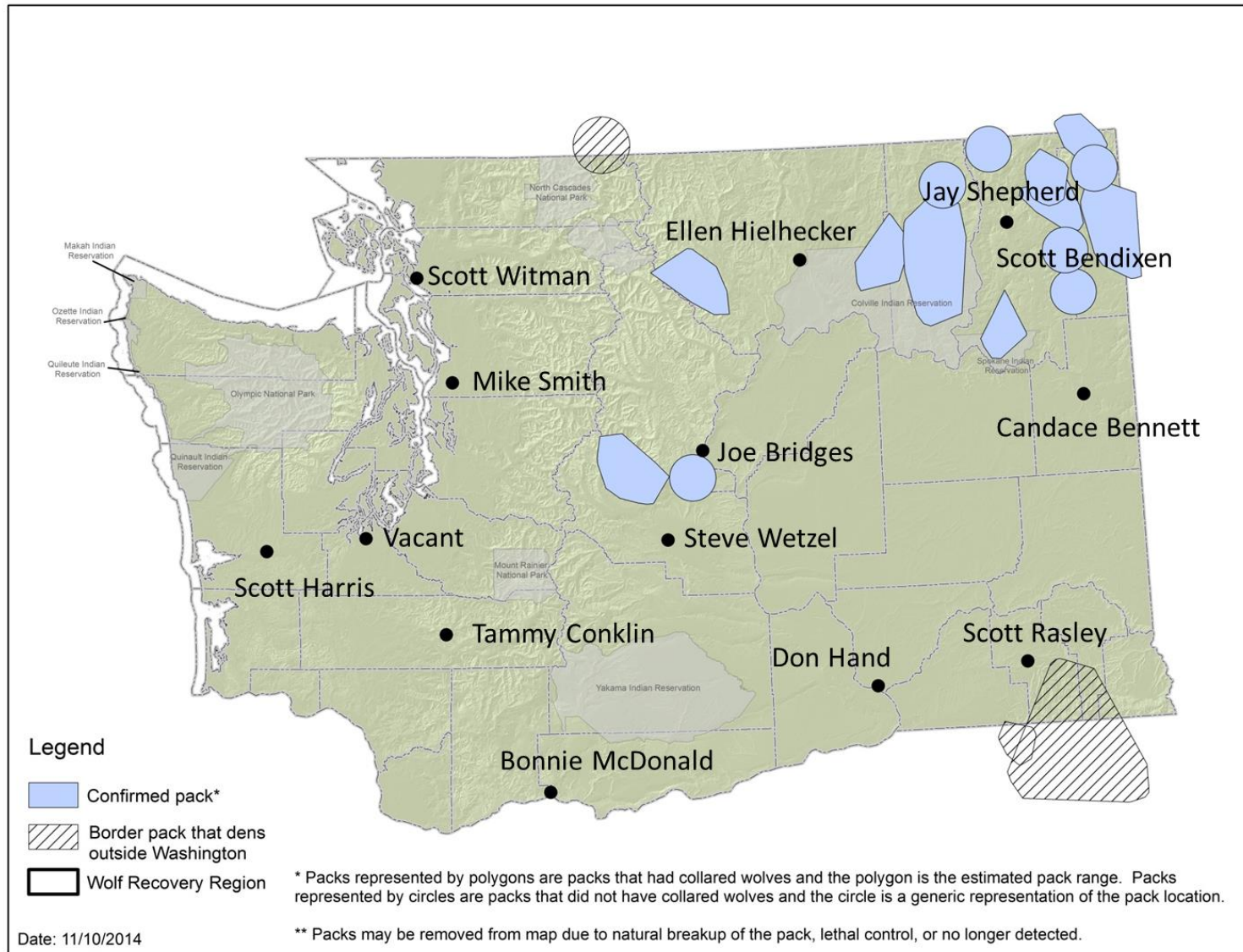


# Strategies to Reduce and Address Livestock Conflicts

- Assistance and partnerships
- Proactive prevention measures and compensation
- Outreach
- Research
- Lethal action



# Wildlife Conflict Staff



# Assistance and partnerships

- Working with Producers

- Meetings
- One-on-one visits
- Information

- Partnerships

- Wildlife Services
  - Response
- Others
  - Federal, state, tribal, county, non-profit



# Proactive Prevention

- Proactive Tools:
  - Fencing, fladry, range riders, collar data sharing, sanitation, noise boxes and other forms of hazing (i.e. lights)






# Proactive Prevention

- Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements
  - Proactive prevention method
    - Sanitation and range riding
    - Outlines cost-sharing and compensation
    - 37 agreements in 2014





**DAMAGE PREVENTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT - LIVESTOCK**

TITLE:  (insert Unique Title)      WDFW NUMBER:  (insert CAPS contract #)

LANDHOLDER:  (owner/lessee name)      CONTRACT PERIOD:  (valid dates of contract)

TYPE:  Payable/No Cost (Choose one)      PROJECT GROUP:  Wildlife Conflict

**A. PARTIES TO THIS CONTRACT**  
This Cooperative Contract is made and entered into between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, hereinafter referred to as "WDFW", and  (Landholder Name), hereinafter referred to as "Landholder".

LANDHOLDER AND WDFW, BY ACCEPTING AND SIGNING THIS CONTRACT, MUTUALLY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

**B. PURPOSE OF CONTRACT**  
Landholder and WDFW recognize the need to work cooperatively to prevent, correct, or minimize damage caused by wildlife. The intent and purpose of this contract is to assist in managing wildlife population issues and/or help the Landholder address damage caused by wildlife as authorized under RCW 77.12.240, RCW 77.36.100, and RCW 77.36.110, and within rules established by the Fish and Wildlife Commission (WAC 232.36). Activities described in this agreement, such as non-lethal actions to harass, repel, and divert or, lethal actions to kill and remove problem animals, are important factors in minimizing the adverse effects of wildlife on livestock operations.

Property Specific Provisions  
See Attachment B

**C. LEGAL DESCRIPTION:**  
The provisions of this contract apply to the following property:  
 (Legal (T.R.S.))

**D. TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT**  
This Contract may be modified or terminated by mutual written consent by authorized representatives of either party. Any party may seek termination by providing advance notice, in writing, to the other party. Such termination shall be effective thirty (30) days after authorized representatives of the parties have agreed in writing to such termination.

If Landholder chooses to cancel the contract, then the Landholder shall not qualify for damage compensation as provided in RCW 77.36 for the remainder of the contract period.

Upon cancellation of the contract, all materials and/or posted signs provided by WDFW will be removed.

**E. PUBLIC RECORDS**  
Landholder acknowledges that WDFW is subject to Chapter 42.56 RCW, the Washington Public Disclosure Act ("Act"), and that this Contract and other materials pertaining to this Contract are public records as defined by the Act.

**Section B - Provisions**

provisions, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife property described Section C of the

| <u>used and provide action details</u>   |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dead livestock removed from pastures (when practical) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guard Dogs<br>Radio Activated Guard Units             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Fencing<br>Other: <input type="text"/>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected calving/lambing areas                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>                           |

# Proactive Prevention

## Checklist of non-lethal tools

- Remove livestock carcasses
- Remove sick/injured livestock
- Secure boneyards where applicable
- Calf/lamb away from wolves
- Haze wolves if encountered



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Staff Guidelines: LIVESTOCK-WOLF MITIGATION MEASURES**

This checklist contains examples of proactive measures that are recommended for use by livestock operators to help avoid or reduce conflicts between livestock and wolves when practical and applicable. Identified within the checklist are measures that can be implemented to meet the requirements to enact non-lethal measures provided by state law (chapter 77) and WDFW regulations (WAC 232-36). The measures identified as essential are the minimum baseline measures that should be implemented if feasible prior to consideration for compensation or lethal management options. Identification of such measures through this checklist does not guarantee either compensation claims or that requests for lethal control measures will be granted. Effective implementation at the time of the conflict must be verified by WDFW.

| SANITATION                 |   | Compensation or Control Actions   |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Remove or manage livestock carcasses from lambing or calving areas and from cooperator's lands when they are discovered (includes burying, burning, or composting consistent with state law and county or city ordinances). | Essential action                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Install predator-proof fencing around a bone yard.  | Essential action where applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | In areas where available, contact WDFW when livestock carcasses are discovered so that they can be removed or protected from wolves.  | Essential action where applicable |
| Rationale:                 |   |                                   |
| SICK AND INJURED LIVESTOCK |   | Compensation or Control Actions   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Remove or treat non-ambulatory (sick or injured) livestock from unsafe pastures in areas where wolves are present (when feasible).  | Essential action                  |
| Rationale:                 |   |                                   |

# Proactive Prevention

- Contracted Range Riders
  - NE and central WA
- Carcass composting sites
  - Creating and improving compost sites
  - Fully operational at Sherman Creek WMA
  - Other locations in NE, North central, and central WA



# Outreach

- Meetings and Trainings
  - Public, Conservation Districts, Non-government interest groups, Wolf Advisory Group, Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Online and Printed resources
  - WDFW web page, weekly staff reports, webinar, sighting reports, wolf conservation and management plan, WDFW News releases and brochures, hunting regulations pamphlet, magnet
- Wolf Advisory Group members and other collaborators
- Contracts outreach and research partners

# Information and reporting

- 1-877-933-9847
- 911
- Online reporting
- Pamphlets
- Outreach printed materials

**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE**  
**CONSERVATION**

Home About WDFW Conservation Fishing Hunting Wildlife Viewing

Gray Wolf Management  
 Frequently Asked Questions  
 Washington Wolf Packs  
 Report a Wolf Sighting  
 Report Depredation Incidents  
 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan  
 Wolf Information  
 Gray Wolf News  
 Photo and Video Gallery  
 Other Links

**Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife**  
 Main Office  
 Natural Resources Building  
 1111 Washington St. SE  
 Olympia, WA 98501  
 360-902-2200  
 Get Directions

Mailing Address  
 600 Capitol Way N.  
 Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phil Anderson  
 Director

**Gray Wolf Conservation and Management**

**How to report suspected livestock depredation incidents**

**What should I do if I suspect a wolf kill?**

Upon discovering injured or dead livestock that you believe has been attacked by a wolf, immediately report the situation using WDFW's toll-free Reporting Hotline at 1-877-933-9847. WDFW or federal investigating authorities will respond as soon as possible.

The actions that you take after locating an injured or dead livestock can have a tremendous impact on the results of the investigation that will follow. Your cooperation is needed to secure it from disturbance. Treat the area as though it were a crime scene. This includes the following steps:

- Avoid walking in or around the area.
- Do not touch anything.
- Keep all people and animals from the area.
- Place a tarp over the carcass.
- Take photos of the scene if a camera is available.



## A Washington Guide to Addressing Wolf-Livestock Conflicts

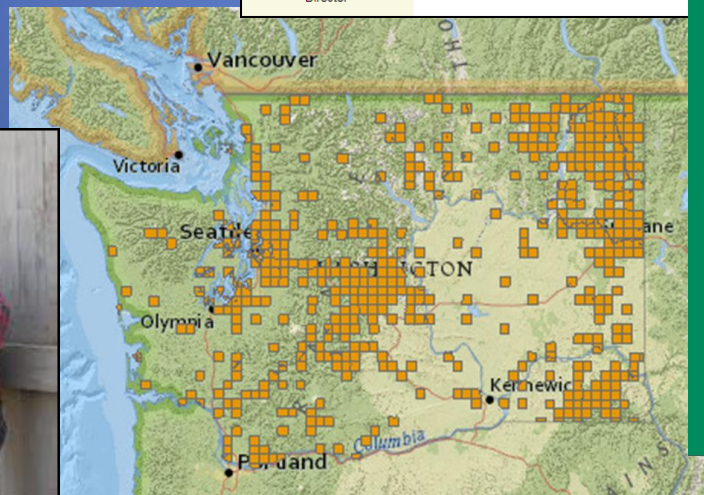
Ranching and farming are a vital part of the state's economy, and the lands that foster this industry also provide critical habitat for a wide variety of

## Washington's 2014 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations

Effective April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015



Special Permit Application Deadline:  
 May 22, 2014



Courtesy of Conservation Northwest

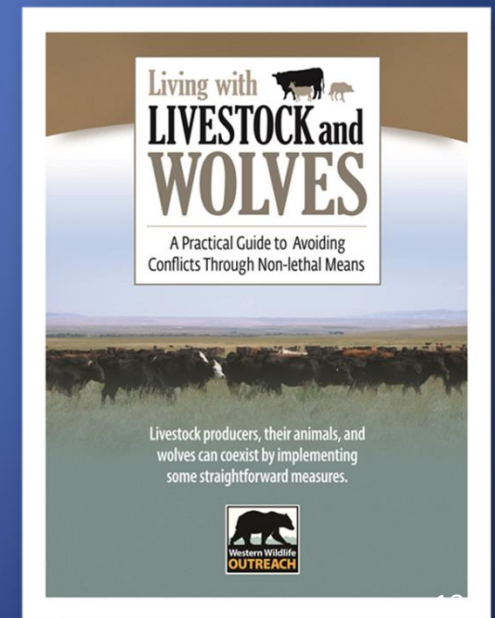
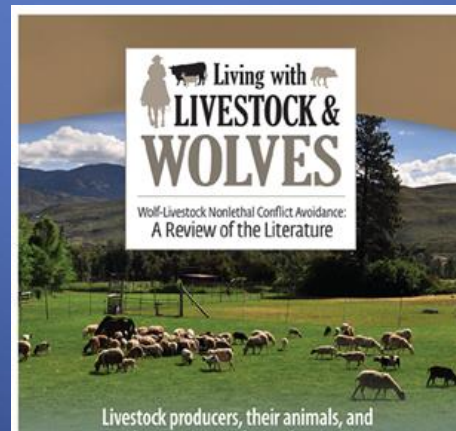
# Wolf Advisory Group

- 18 Member group appointed by Director
- Mission: Allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise WDFW in implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

|  |                        |  |                                |   |                            |
|--|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Sierra Club                              | Defenders of Wildlife  | Kettle Range Conservation Group          | Cattle Producers of Washington | Stevens County Commissioner               | Washington Farm Bureau     |
| Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation | Hiker and Photographer | Washington State Cattlemen's Association | Wolf Haven International       | Science teacher and part-time range rider | Independent cattle rancher |
| Washington State Sheep Producers         | Mule Deer Foundation   | Humane Society of the United States      | Hunters Heritage Council       | Hunter                                    | Conservation Northwest     |

# Western Wildlife Outreach

- Develop a wolf-livestock conflict avoidance outreach program.
  - Science-based information on conflict avoidance measures
  - Wolf-livestock conflict avoidance practices
  - Multi-media approach: video, slide presentation, and a manual comprised of fact sheets
  - Collaborative effort with WSU Extension



# Scientific Research

- Washington State University Large Carnivore Conservation Lab
  - Assess wolf-livestock interactions
  - Assessing preventative tools
- University of Washington
  - Human-dimensions
  - Developing a wolf economy for Washington
- WDFW Studies
  - White-tailed deer
  - Moose



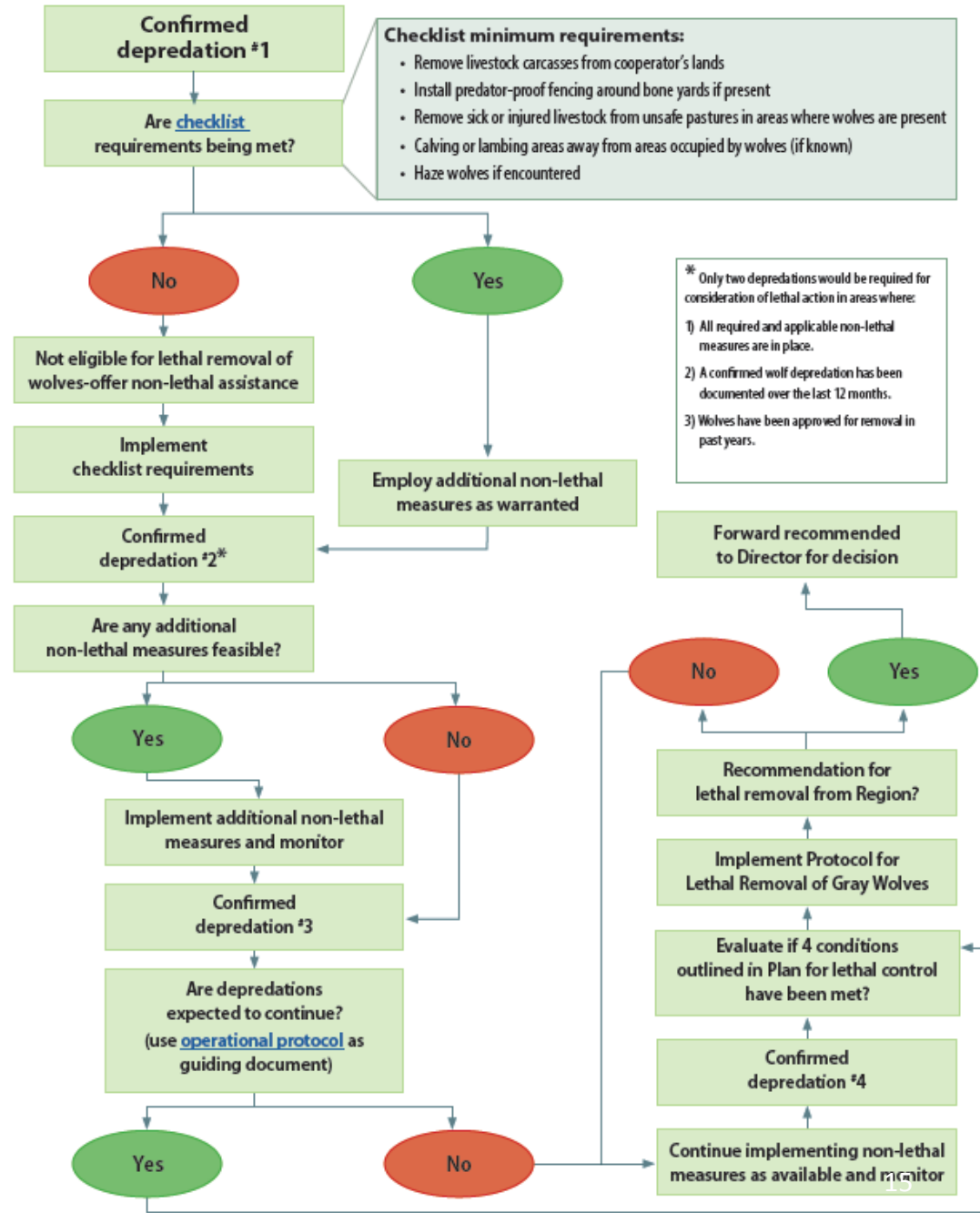


# Flowchart for consideration of lethal control

## Foundation

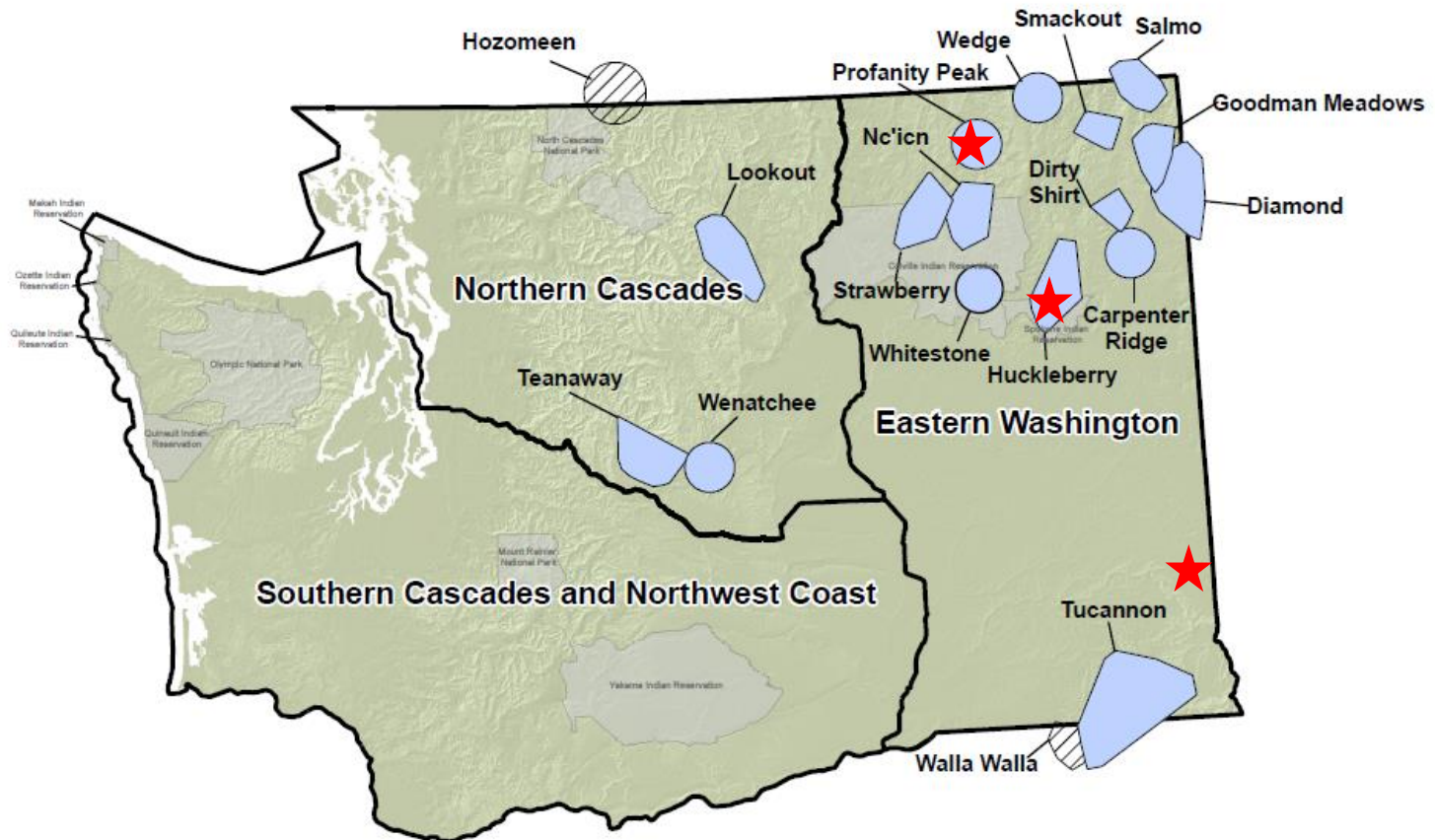
- ✓ RCWs & WACs
- ✓ Wolf Plan
- ✓ Wolf Advisory Group
- ✓ Preventative Measures Checklist
- ✓ Lethal Removal Protocol

## Wolf Conflict Management Flowchart






# **Wolf-livestock Depredations**

# Packs Depredating on Livestock in 2014



## Legend

-  Confirmed pack\*
-  Border pack that dens outside Washington
-  Wolf Recovery Region

\* Packs represented by polygons are packs that had collared wolves and the polygon is the estimated pack range. Packs represented by circles are packs that did not have collared wolves and the circle is a generic representation of the pack location.

\*\* Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.

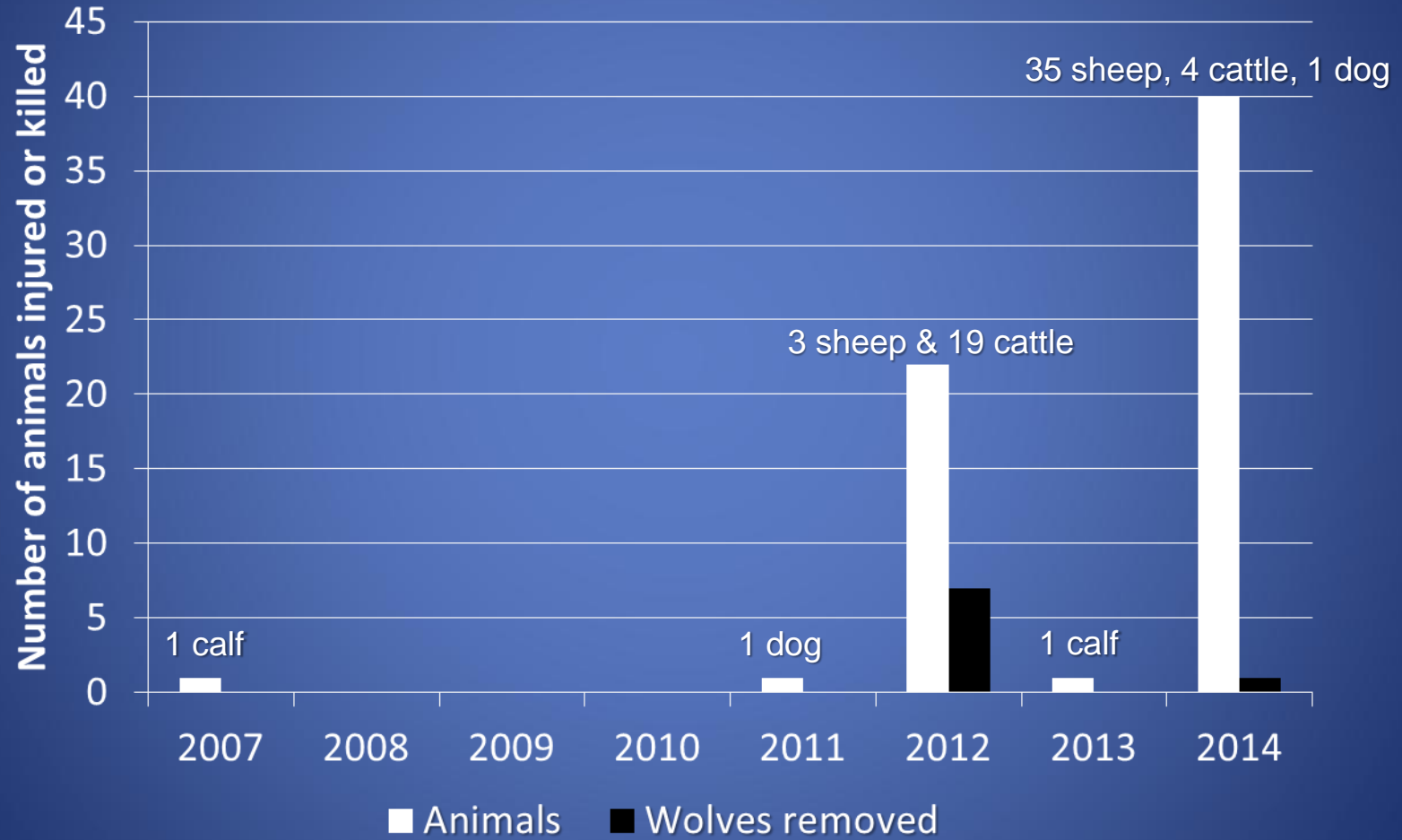
# Wolf-livestock Depredations

- 32\* depredation investigations
  - 7 were caused by wolf (sheep, cattle, dogs)
  - 7 were other wild carnivores (cougar and coyote)
  - 1 was unknown predator
  - 12 were unknown/undetermined cause (e.g. natural death)
  - 5 other causes:
    - Ravens/eagles (n=1)
    - Structural (n=4)

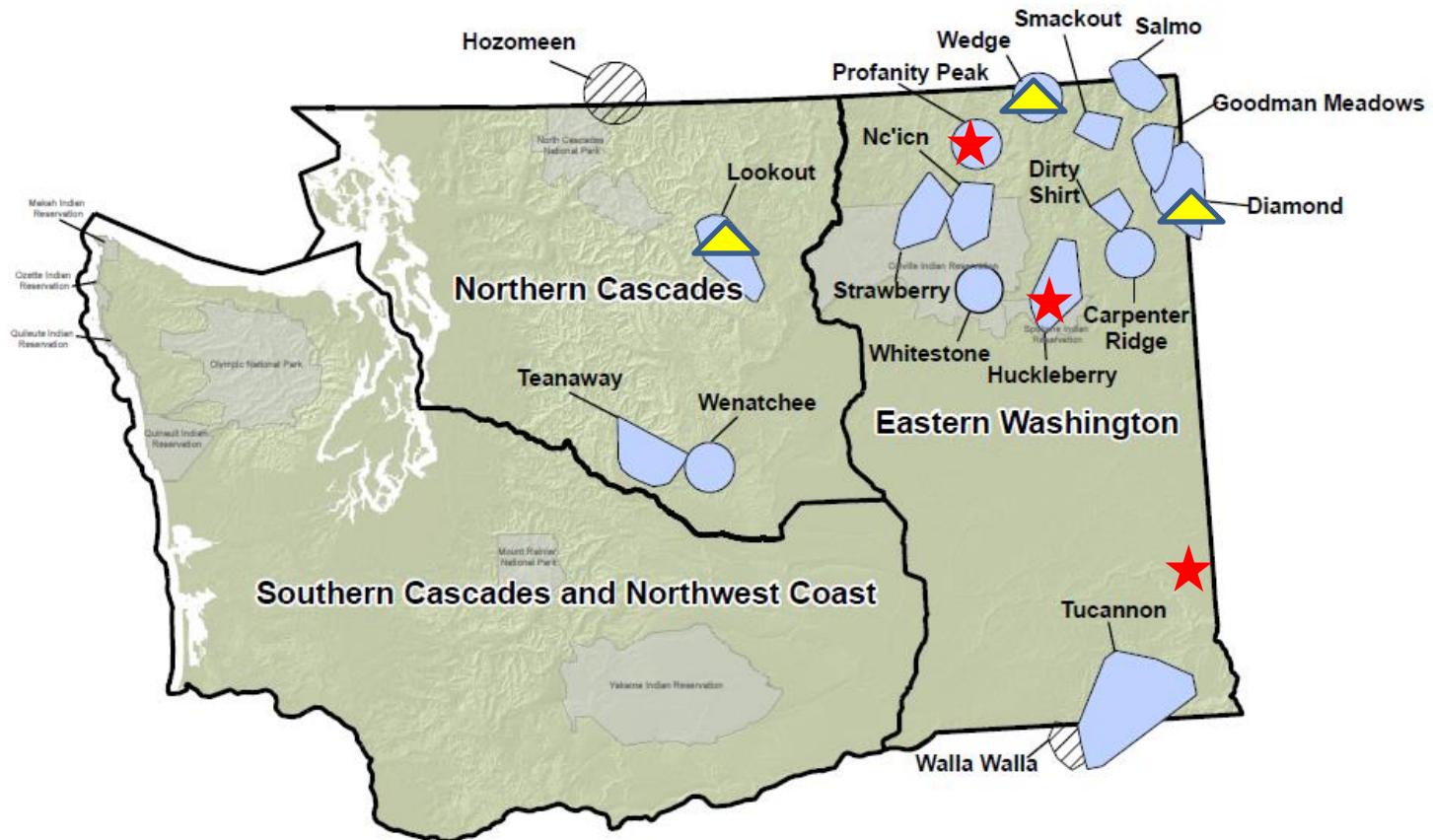
\*Individual reporting parties; some reporting parties may have multiple events.






# Wolf Depredations in Washington



# Packs Depredating on Livestock in 2014



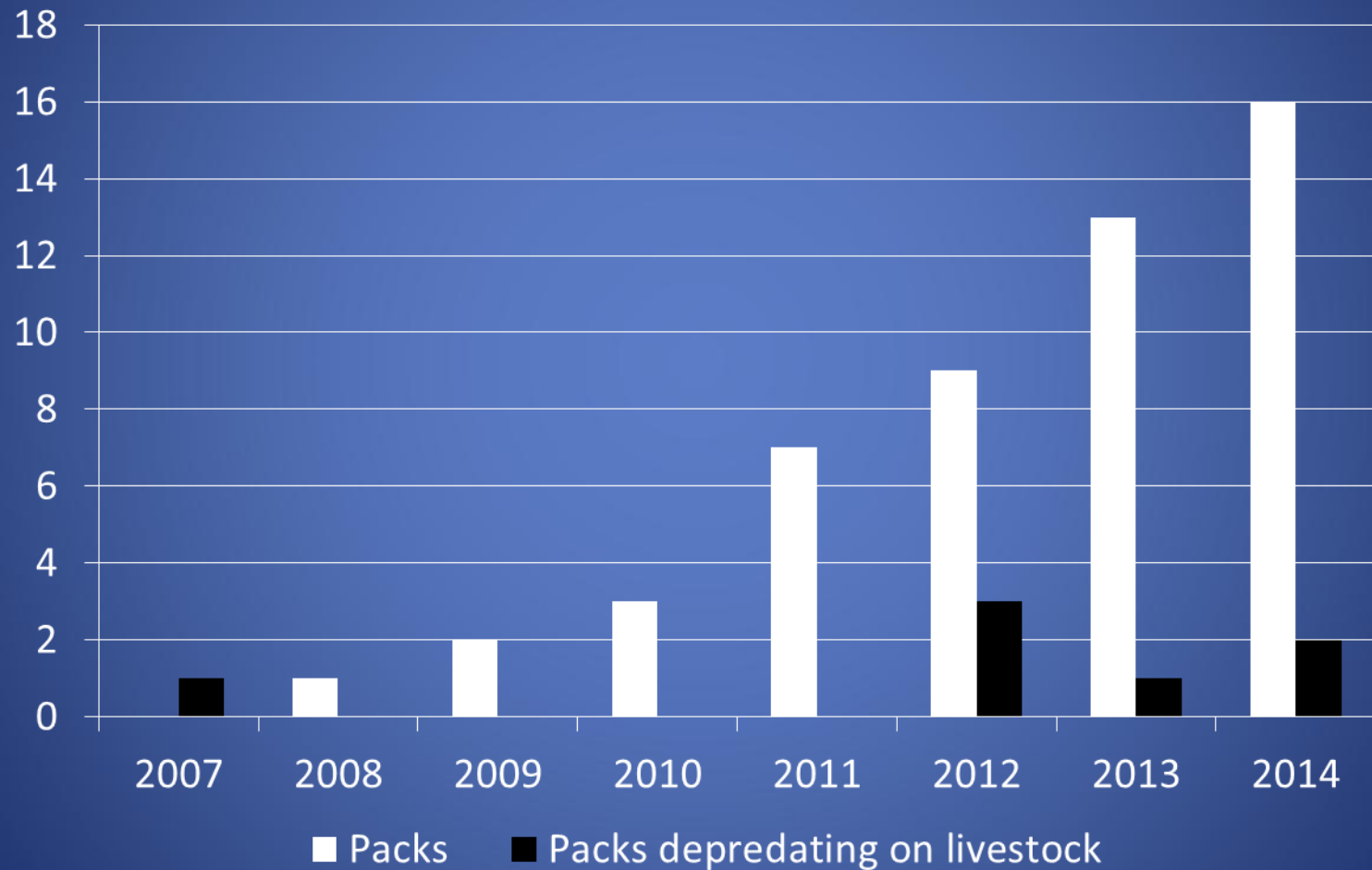
## Legend

-  Confirmed pack\*
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\*\* Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.

# Packs Depredating on Livestock



# Washington Wolf Population Summary

| Year | Min count | Known No. Packs | SBP | Growth Rate | Known Wolf Mortality | Depredating packs (%) |
|------|-----------|-----------------|-----|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2008 | 10        | 1               | 1   | --          | 0                    | 0%                    |
| 2009 | 12        | 2               | 2   | 20%         | 0                    | 0%                    |
| 2010 | 19        | 3               | 1   | 58%         | 2                    | 0%                    |
| 2011 | 35        | 7               | 5   | 84%         | 0                    | 0%                    |
| 2012 | 51        | 9               | 5   | 46%         | 9                    | 33%                   |
| 2013 | 52        | 13              | 5   | 2%          | 5                    | 8%                    |
| 2014 | 68        | 16              | 5   | 31%         | 10                   | 13%                   |
| Ave  |           |                 |     | 38%         |                      | 12%                   |


Northern Rocky Mountain DPS estimated 20% of packs have conflicts with livestock



# New Practices

- Develop local deterrence plans
  - Comprised of producers within the vicinity of a known wolf pack
  - Science-based information of conflict avoidance measures
  - Collectively determine wolf-livestock conflict avoidance practices





Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Wolf Conflict Deterrence Plan**

**Pack(s):** (DRAFT) Diamond Peak and Goodman Meadows

**Author(s):** Jay Shepherd, Wildlife Conflict Specialist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife District 1 (Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens counties)

**Creation Date:** 2/18/2015

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**Background**

**Area Description:** Although the home range is relatively unknown for the Goodman meadows pack in comparison to the long-monitored Diamond pack, the area inhabited by both packs is generally the relatively gentle foothills of the Selkirk Mountain range as it descends to the Pend Oreille River Valley or the Priest River Drainage along the border and within Idaho. Land ownership is small private ownerships along the Pend Oreille River Valley, extensively Colville National Forest in the northeastern and checkerboard Colville National Forest/industrial timber ownership in the southeastern area within the Diamond and Goodman Meadows wolf pack home ranges. Elevation ranges from 2000 to 7000 feet. Prey species include both white-tailed and mule deer, a relatively large elk population for Northeastern Washington, and a relatively robust moose population. Beaver and snow shoe have also occur.

**Past Wolf Activity:** Diamond pack members were first photographed by WDFW in the LeClerc Creek drainage in 2007. A male, possibly the alpha male, was trapped and radio-collared in 2009. Successful breeding is known to have occurred in the area in various years from 2009-2013. The upper known pack size has varied from 11-13 animals.

ented and radio-collared in ts and 3 pups were Pend Oreille County resident. 13 pups born in 2013 management 2013 Annual 014. Due to mortality, legal of wolves and working radio-ed animal in each pack. I thought to be further south bdenite Peak south to Middle ta is limited at this point, The er Hill and the southern end of

ring allotment in the vicinity erc allotment occurs within 413 acres. The allotment ie end of the grazing season 'Bunchgrass Meadows pasture tely 15 July. Cattle also 'sk, Washington and north of

n slight on small private i creek drainages outside of ty of these ownerships. On otment), wolf depredations on assistent over several years of V and the USFS allotment to WDFW.

ntact and working with areas since 2010. WDFW has yrotechnics have been used by pack area and in the Goodman hese years. WDFW personnel t and personnel who are the coordination effort with

. Meadows Pack areas have as attended USFS spring n contact with Washington le interactions within both ing allotment permit holder in producers from Sullivan Lake




Figure 1. Washington wolf pack map produced March 6, 2015.

# 2015 Strategies

- Continue one-on-one with livestock producers.
- Expand efforts to engage and work with local governments.
- Develop Local Conflict Deterrence Plans
- Expand outreach and research projects.
- Implement conflict collaboration.



Questions?

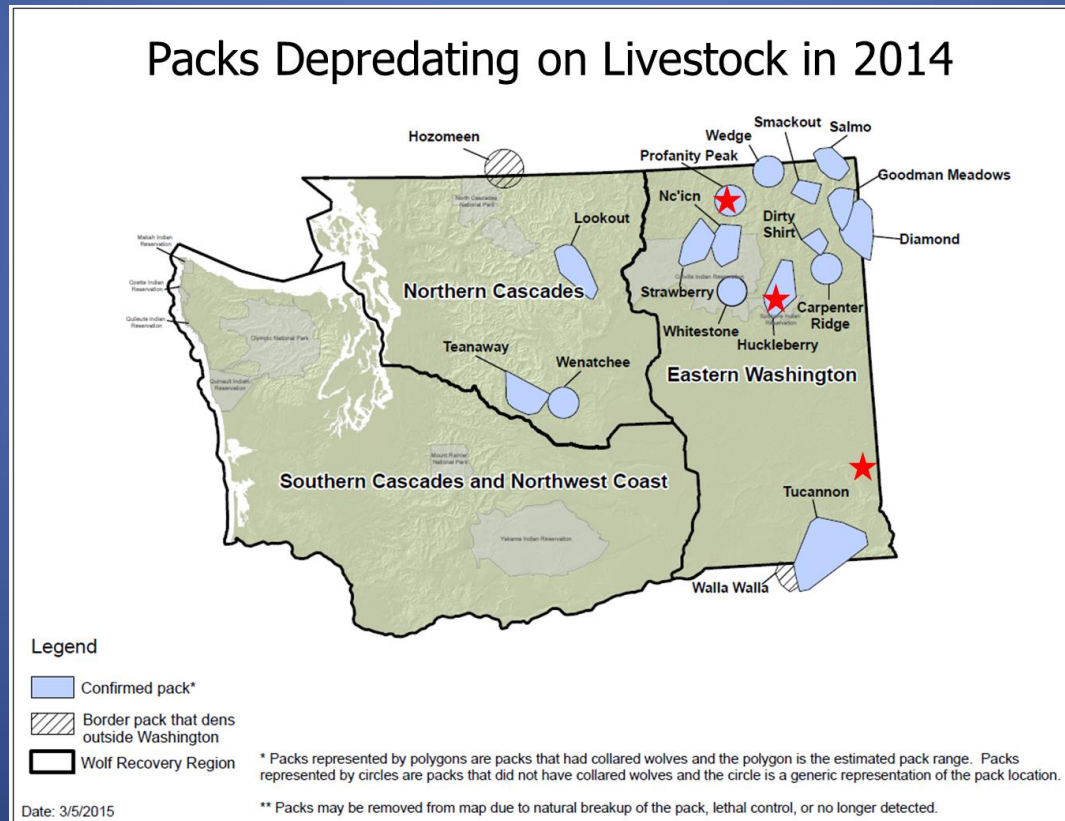


Klickitat County – May, 2014

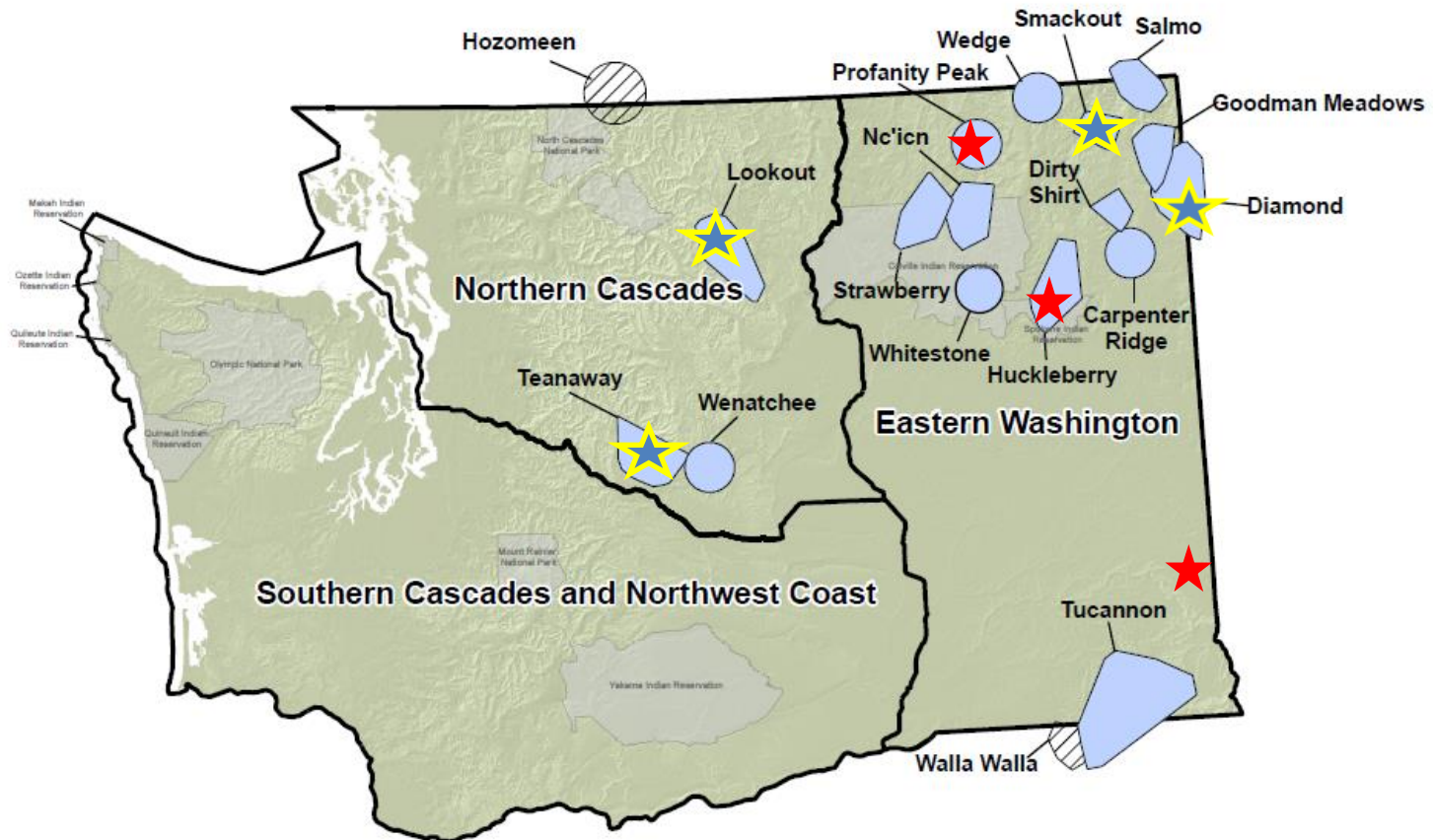
# Coordination on Grazing

# Grazing

- Anticipate conflict areas
  - Areas with documented history



# Packs Depredating on Livestock in 2014



## Legend

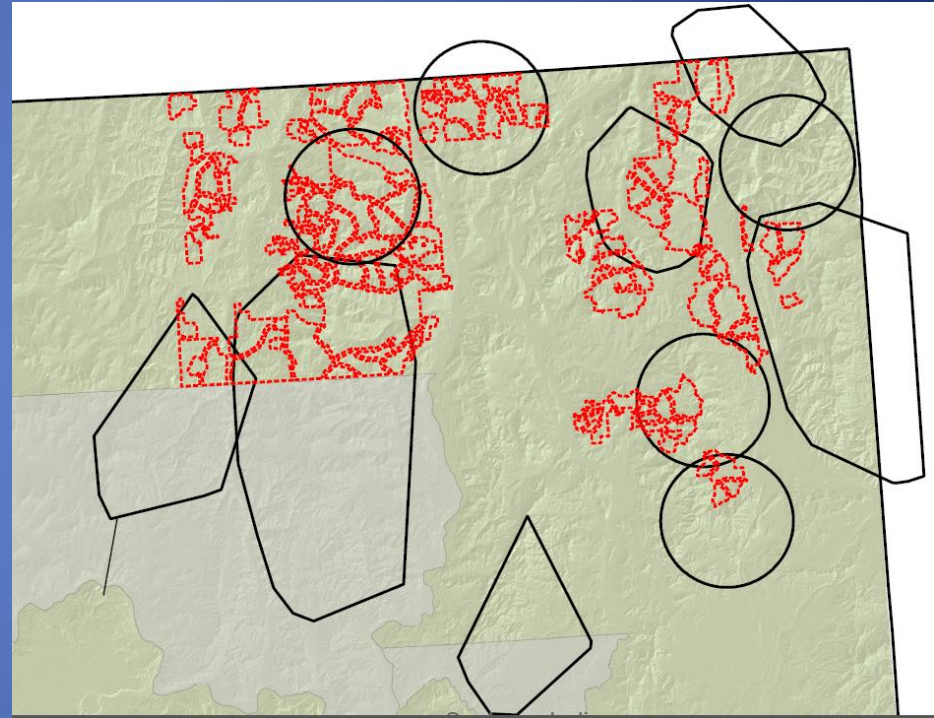
- Confirmed pack\*
- Border pack that dens outside Washington
- Wolf Recovery Region

\* Packs represented by polygons are packs that had collared wolves and the polygon is the estimated pack range. Packs represented by circles are packs that did not have collared wolves and the circle is a generic representation of the pack location.

\*\* Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.

# Grazing

- Identify allotments and producers potentially impacted
  - Work with land managers to understand
    - Allotments
    - Duration of leases
    - Current permit conditions
  - Contact producers and engage them



Example of grazing allotments in NE WA

# Grazing

- Develop non-lethal best management practices (BMPs)
  - Extend collaboration with public and private land managers
  - Incorporate BMPs into grazing plans and permits
  - Other opportunities?





# Prevention

## Example BMPs used for Cattle:

- Avoid grazing livestock near known wolf den site or rendezvous site
- Use preventative measures where feasible
- Respond to interactions...don't let the problem escalate
- Use multiple pastures, adjust allotments, timing and/or boundaries of allotment if feasible
- Understand that wolf movements can change over time



# Prevention

## Example BMPs Sheep Grazing/Open Range

- Use at least 1 herder (ideally two when possible) with herding dogs
  - 3 guard dogs for every 1,000 head (number of herders and dogs may vary depending on landscape conditions).
  - Critical times for human presence are during dawn and dusk periods.
  - Utilize human presence at night when wolf activity is suspected in the grazing area.
- Daily gathering of sheep for night penning (when penning is logistically feasible).
  - Night penning preferably on landing areas or closed roads, at higher elevation areas, and not near likely travel corridors for wolves.
- Avoid grazing close to rendezvous sites, denning sites, and core wolf use areas (if known).

# Prevention

## Example BMPs Sheep Grazing/Open Range

(continued):

- Removal of injured or sick sheep from free range grazing of the allotment.
- Sanitation within the grazing area.
  - Removal of all sheep carcasses is the first priority.
  - If carcass removal is not possible, then implement any one or a combination of the following: treatment of carcasses with lime, the use of fladry, cover with tarp or plastic to deter scavenging and promote decomposition.
- Use of at least one additional scare or avoidance device.
  - Preferred options include: Fox Lights or RAG boxes around night bedding or penning area, bio fence, and use of noise makers to haze wolves if encountered.

# Discussion

- Discuss current activities on lands managed by others
- Discuss approach to developing and implementing BMPs
- Other thoughts, ideas?



# **Coordination Strategy with USFWS/WDFW/WS**

# Depredation Coordination

- Coordination strategy
  - USFWS-WDFW-WS for areas under federal listing
  - Areas under state listing
- Lethal control and relocation
- Landownership
  - Response action location
  - Release sites for relocation (if necessary)



# Discussion

- Discuss current activities on lands managed members of Committee
- Discuss approach to developing and implementing coordination strategies
- Other thoughts, ideas?

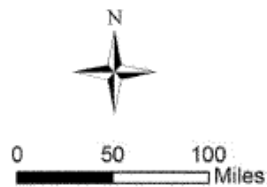
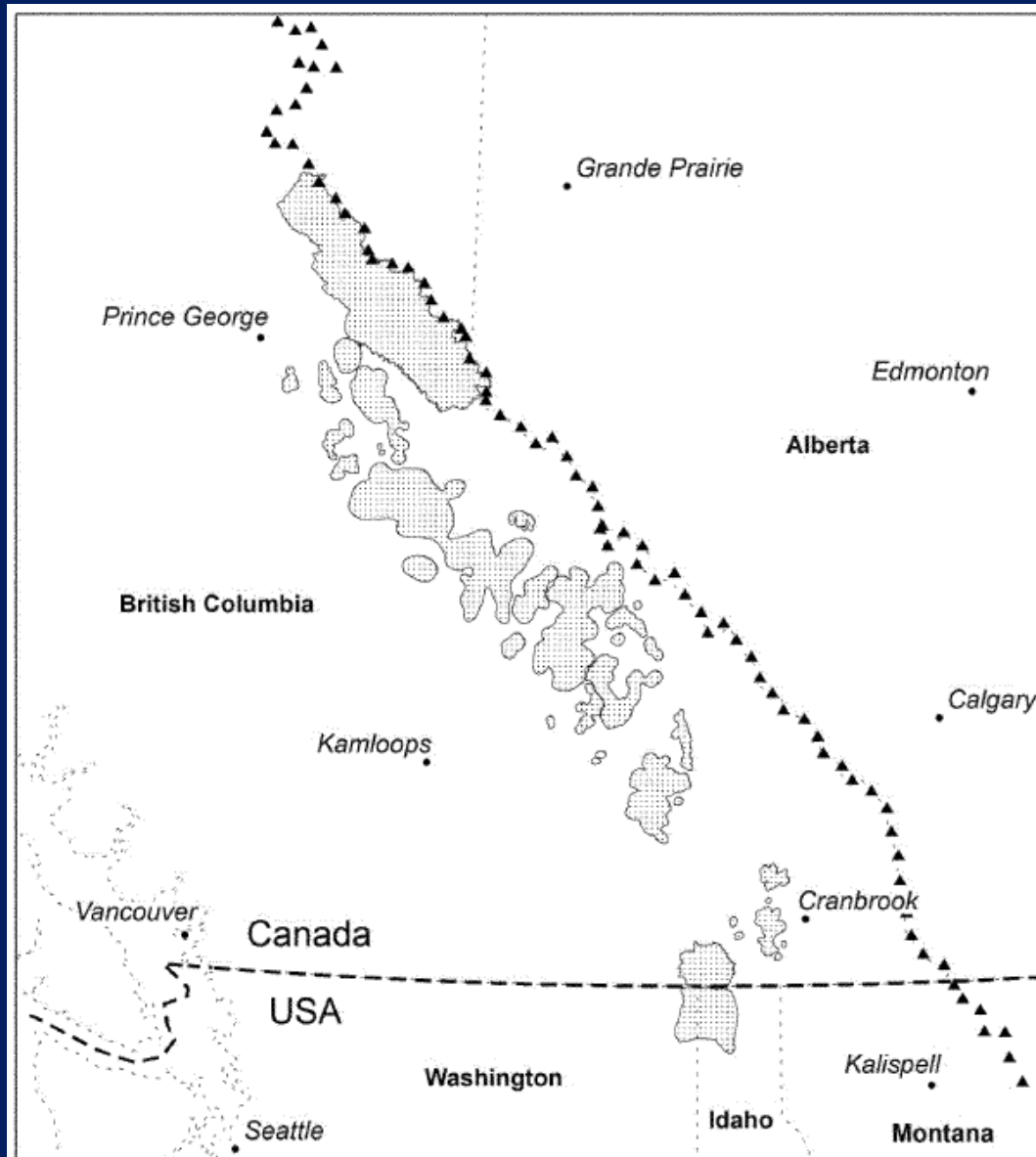


# **Next Steps and Additional Discussion**





# Mountain Caribou

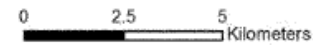
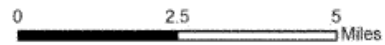
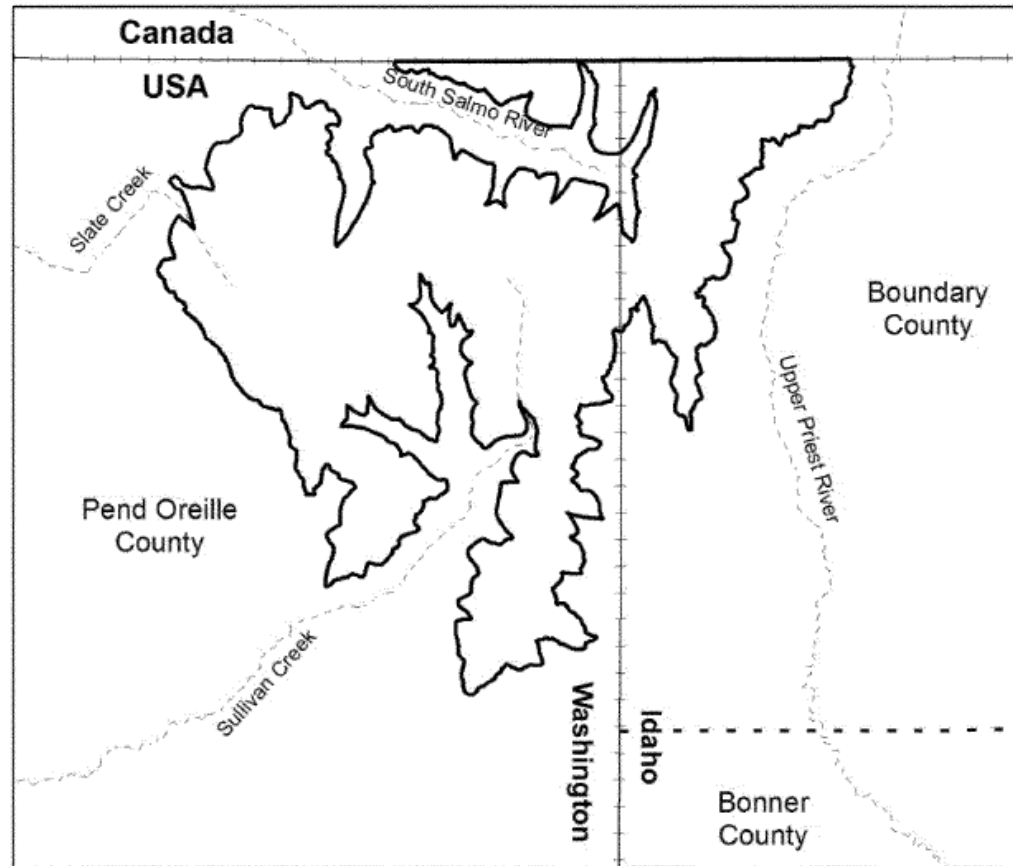




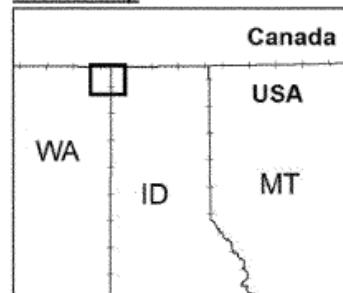
**Legend**

-  Southern Mountain Caribou Local Populations (COSEWIC)
-  Cities
-  International Border
-  State/Province Border
-  Continental Divide

**Critical Habitat for *Rangifer tarandus caribou*  
Southern Mountain Caribou Distinct Population Segment**

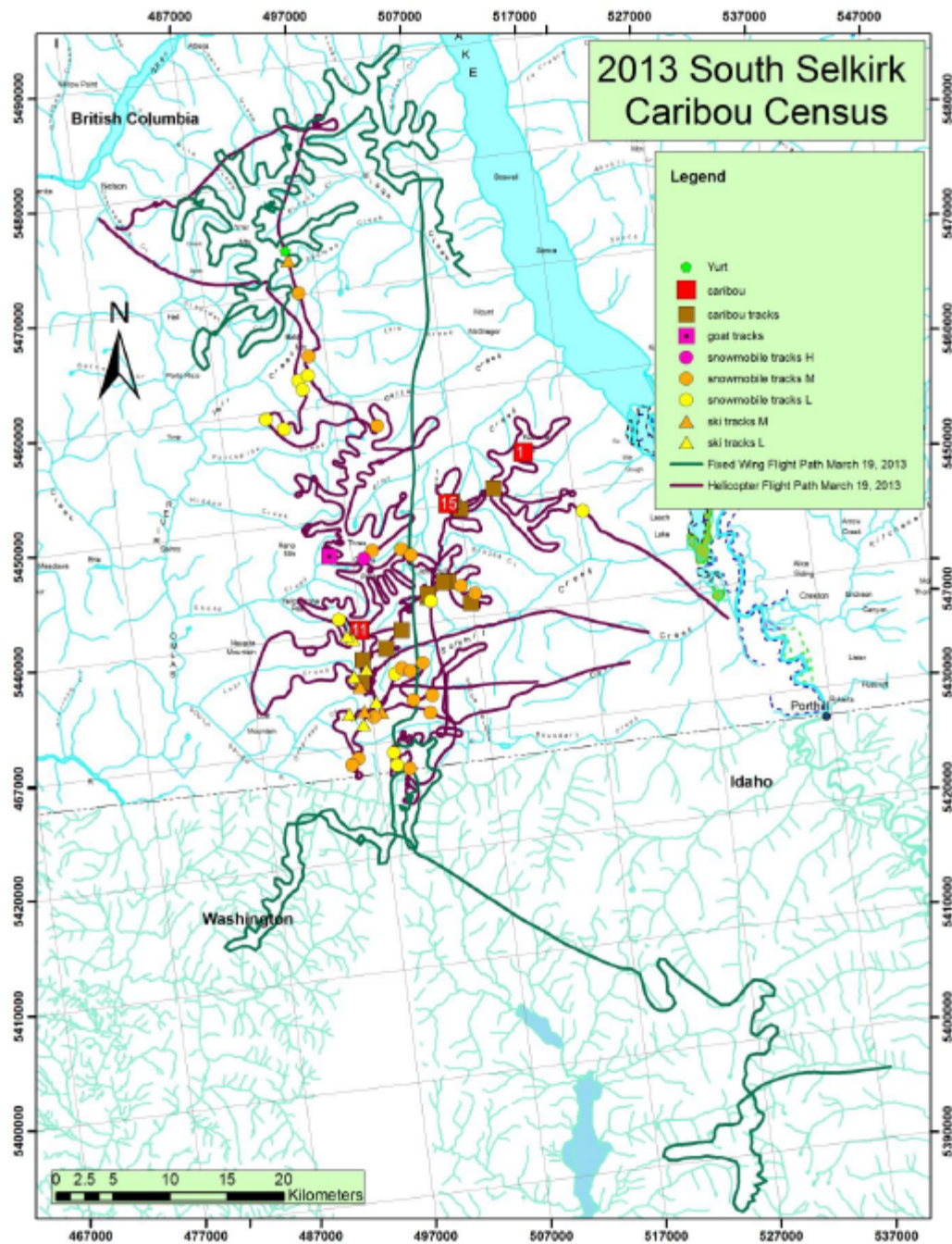


**Locator Map**



**Legend**

- Southern Mountain Caribou DPS Critical Habitat
- National/State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Major Rivers



**Figure 1.** Flight lines and caribou locations from the 2013 census. Group sizes are noted for each location. Ski and snowmobile tracks were recorded for the helicopter flight only.

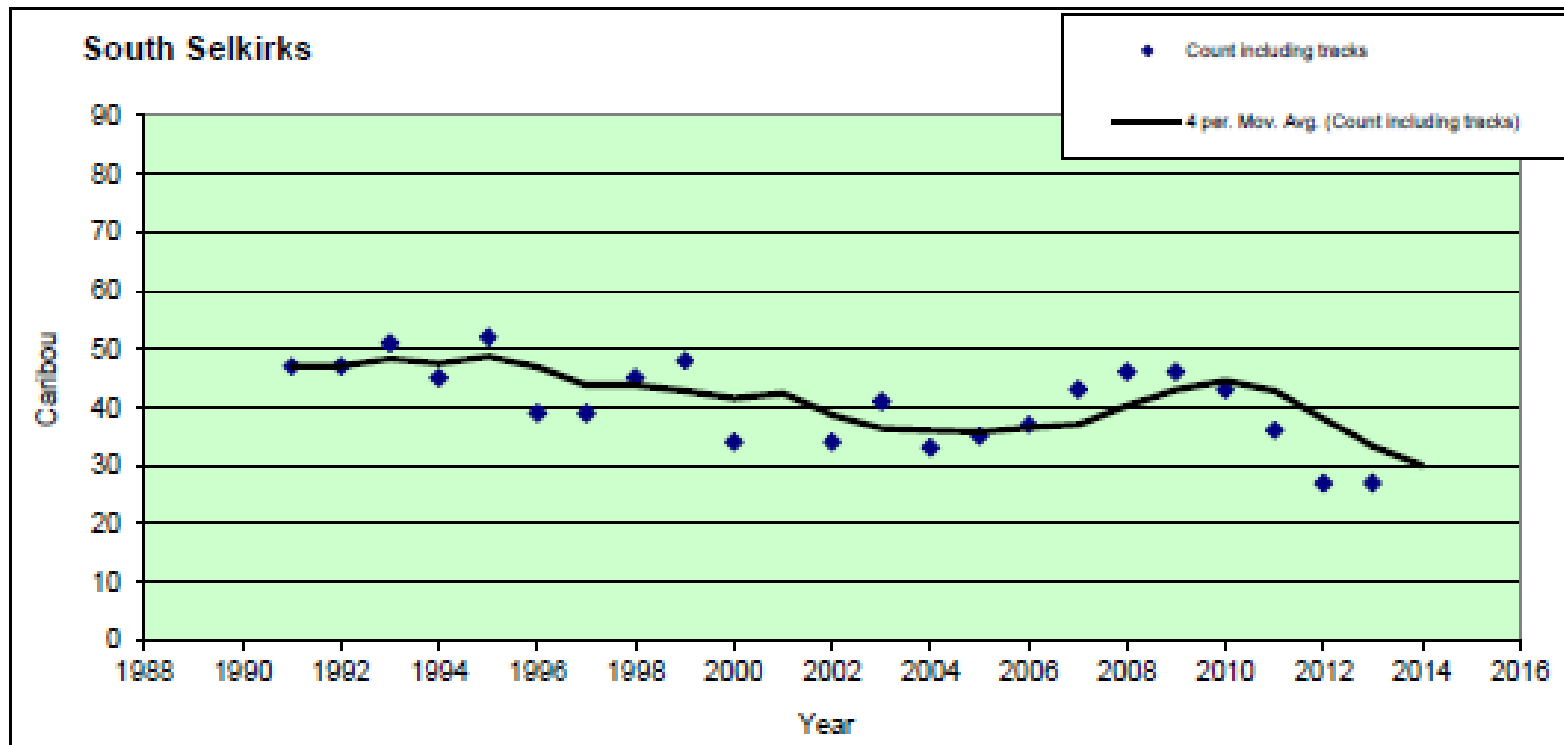
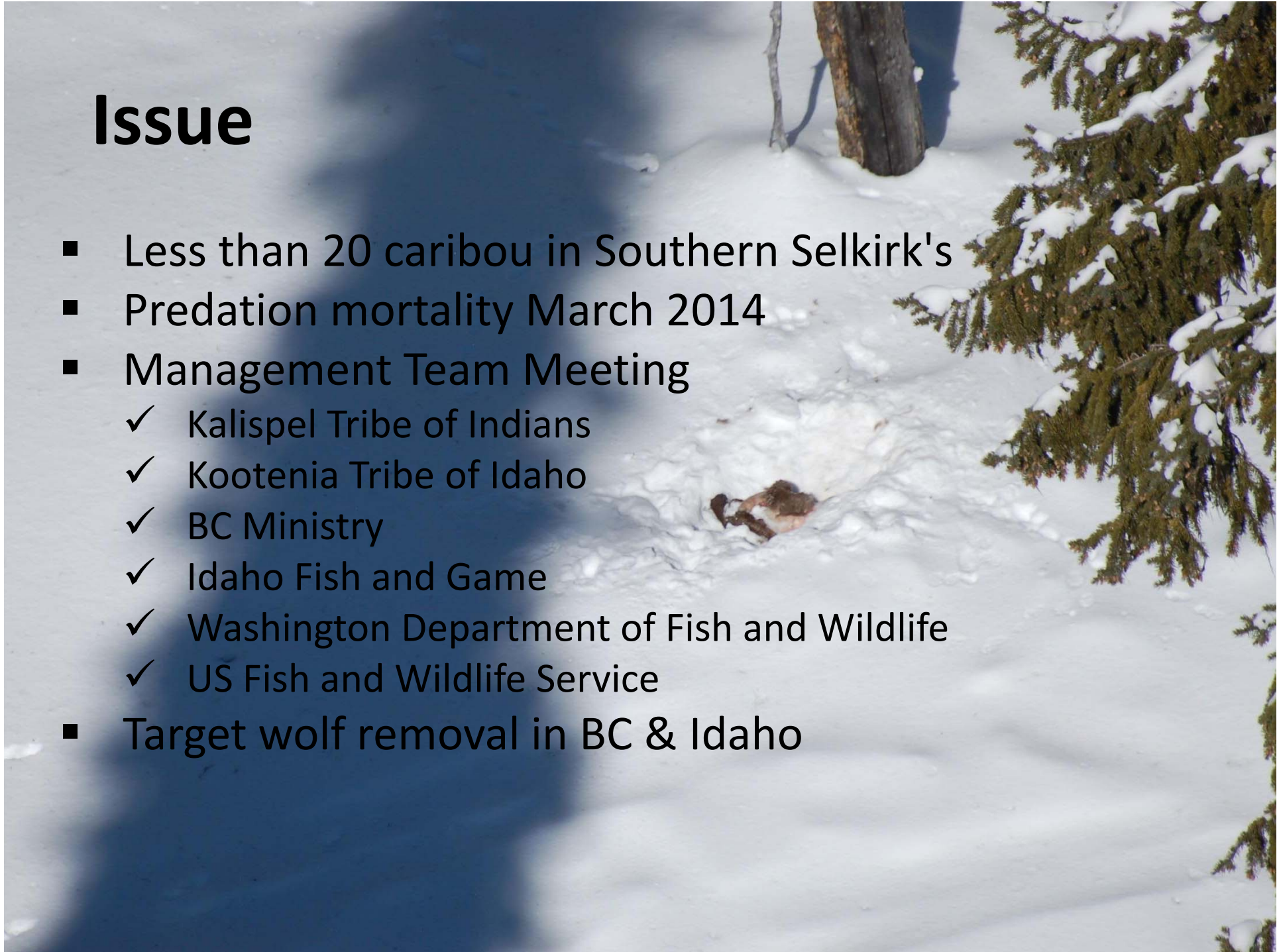


Figure 2. Population trend since 1991 for the South Selkirk caribou population. The trend line illustrates the mean of the previous 4 points.

# Issue

- Less than 20 caribou in Southern Selkirk's
- Predation mortality March 2014
- Management Team Meeting
  - ✓ Kalispel Tribe of Indians
  - ✓ Kootenia Tribe of Idaho
  - ✓ BC Ministry
  - ✓ Idaho Fish and Game
  - ✓ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - ✓ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Target wolf removal in BC & Idaho



## WDFW Direction

- Predator-Prey Management Guidelines (GMP)
- Caribou rarely in WA during last 2 years
- No removal of wolves in WA at this time
  - ✓ Members of Washington Packs maybe taken outside WA

