

Wolf Management in Washington



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FISH and WILDLIFE

History of Wolves in Washington



- Once common in WA
- 14,810 wolf pelts traded at 4 WA posts 1827-1859
- Control in late 1800s
- Scarce by early 1900s
- Exterminated by 1930s
- Occasional dispersing animals between 1930s and 1990s

2005-2007



- Sightings, tracks, photographs
- North Cascades, NE WA and SE WA



First confirmed pack – Lookout -2008



Photo Conservation NW



Photo Conservation NW

Wolves are returning to Washington

Recovery of populations in adjacent states & provinces producing dispersers into WA



USFS Oregon



Wolf Ecology



National Park Service (T Meier)

Social Structure

- Live in packs
- Hunt, feed, travel, and rest together
- Typical pack size is 5-10; up to 37
- Breeding pair, pups, offspring from previous years, immigrants from other packs



Habitat Use



- Highly adaptable; use variety of habitats
- Territorial; 50-1,000 sq mi
- Varies with prey availability
- Great dispersal capability
- may travel up to 600 mi

Coursing Predator

- Chase, rather than ambush
- Typically take more vulnerable, less fit prey; environmental conditions can influence vulnerability
- Least amount of energy; lower risk of injury or death



Primary Prey



Reproduction



Huckleberry Pack (T. Baker WDFW)

- Produce pups once/year
- Can reproduce ≥ 2 years old
- Litter size 5-6



Diamond Pack (Courtesy of WA DNR)

Den Sites



Rendezvous Sites



Wolf Annual Cycle

Month	Activity
Jan	Breeding
Feb	
Mar	
Apr	Birth at den
May	Rendezvous site
Jun	Weaned
Jul	
Aug	
Sep	
Oct	On hunts
Nov	
Dec	Appear full size



Legal Status and Plan

Legal Status



Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment (NRM DPS)

- Federal listed 1974
- State listed 1980
- WA was not included in federal plan for NRM DPS – federal delisted in Eastern 1/3 WA in 2011
- Western 2/3 WA status review pending

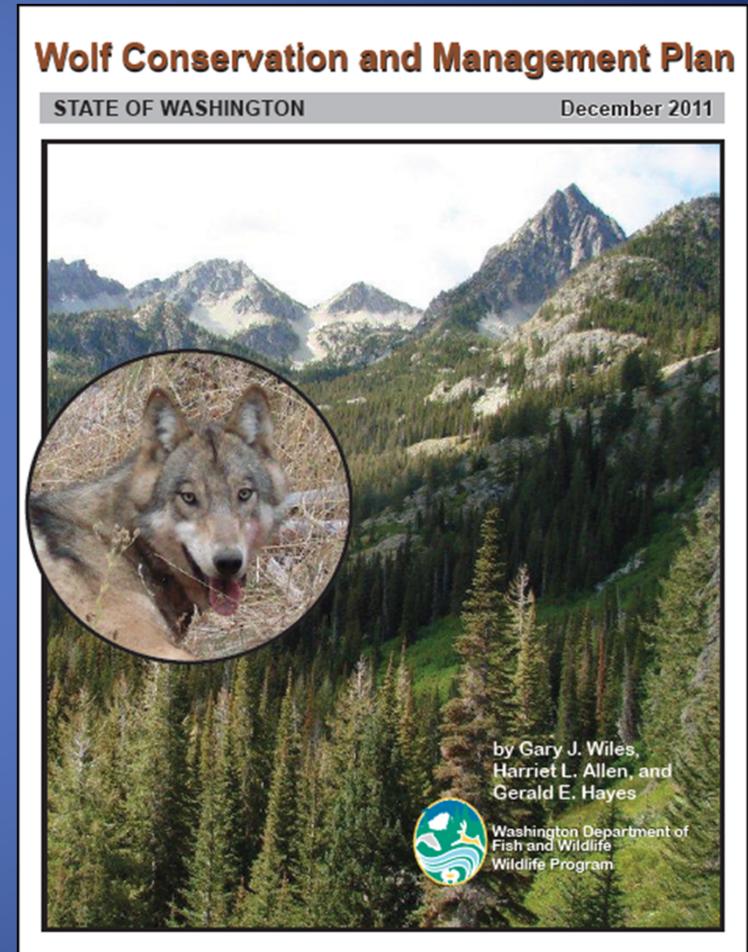
Legal Status



- Entire state is State listed as Endangered
-
- Federally delisted in Eastern 1/3 WA in 2011
 - Federally listed as Endangered in Western 2/3 WA

Plan Development Process

- Initiated in 2007
- 17 citizen member Wolf Working Group
- Environmental Impact Statement
- 23 public meetings
- 65,000 comments
- Scientific peer review
- Blind peer review
- F&W Commission adopted in December 2011



Wolf Plan Goals

- Restore self-sustaining wolf populations
- Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflicts
- Maintain Healthy Prey Base
- Develop Public Understanding and Promote Coexistence



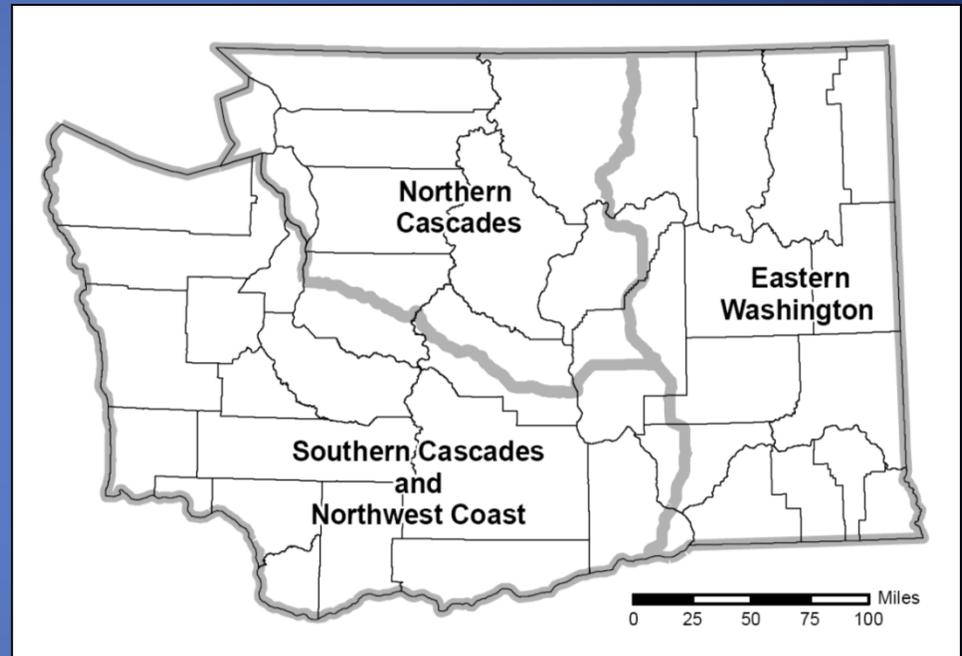
Definitions



- **Pack:** 2 or more wolves traveling together
- **Successful Breeding Pair:** male and female raising 2 or more pups until Dec 31

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



Strategies to Reduce and Address Livestock Conflicts

- Proactive measures
- Non-lethal
- Lethal control
- Compensation



Non-lethal Measures

- Guard animals
- Scare devices
- Hazing
- Fencing
- Fladry
- Bio-fence
- Sanitation
- Delayed turnout
- Relocation
- Range riders



Reporting

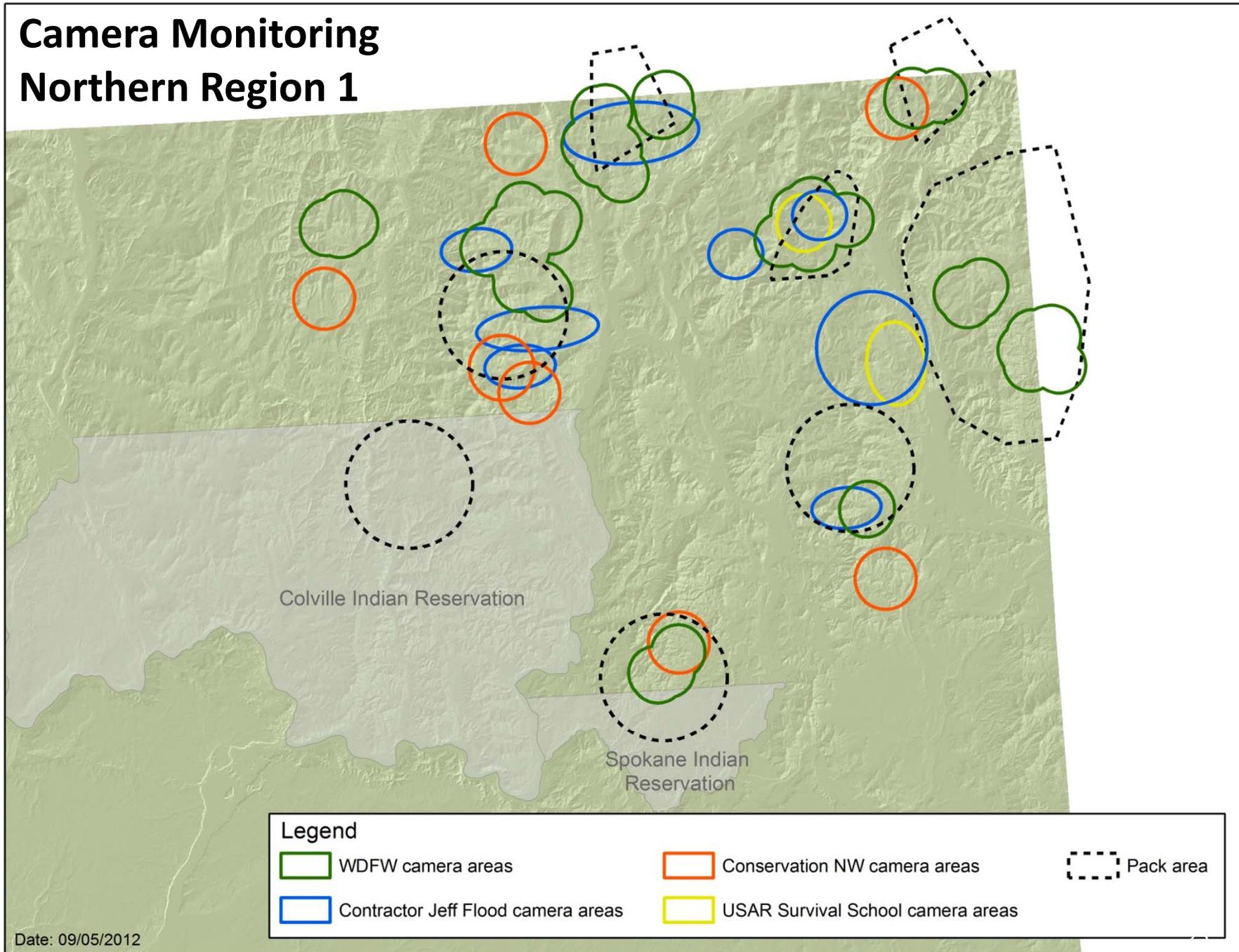
- One Front Door
1-877-933-9847
- 911
- Online
- Pamphlets
- Outreach printed materials

The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation website. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, About WDFW, Conservation, Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, Licensing & Permits, and Living with Wildlife. The 'Conservation' section is active, displaying 'Gray Wolf Conservation and Management' information. A sidebar on the left lists various links such as 'Gray Wolf Management', 'Frequently Asked Questions', and 'Report a Wolf Sighting'. The main content area features a section titled 'How to report suspected livestock depredation incidents' with a sub-section 'What should I do if I suspect a wolf kill?'. It provides instructions on reporting to a toll-free hotline at 1-877-933-9847 and lists steps to take if a wolf kill is suspected, including avoiding walking in or around the area and not touching anything. A yellow box highlights the emergency number: 'Dial 911 to report an emergency. Carnivore Depredation on Livestock 1-877-933-9847'. Another box provides more information on wolf-livestock conflicts, including a manual for field personnel. A large green and yellow graphic for 'Washington's 2012 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations' is also visible, featuring a photo of a hunter with a large deer and a 'Special Permit Application Deadline: May 18, 2012' banner.

Wolf Monitoring



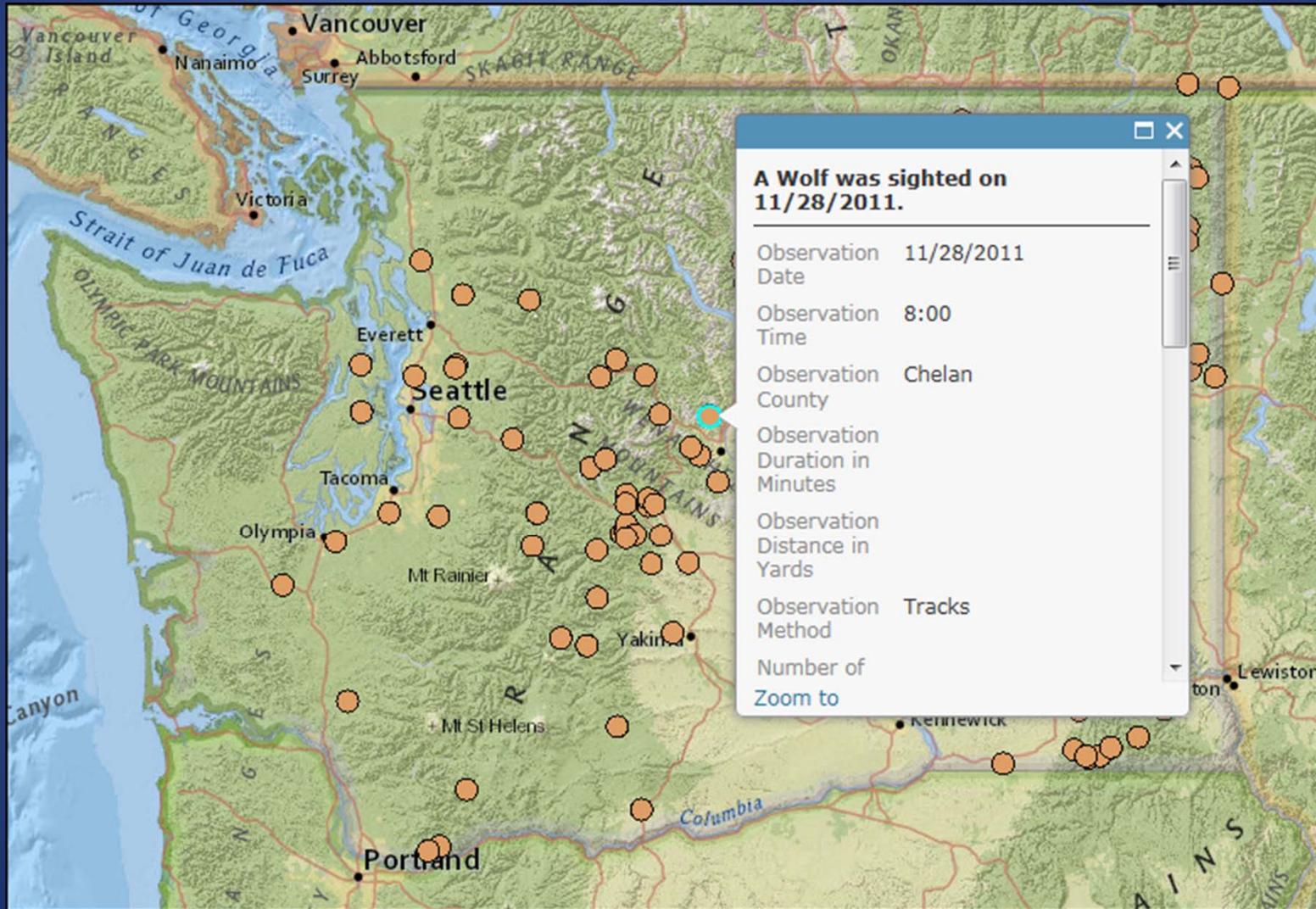
Camera Monitoring Northern Region 1



Date: 09/05/2012

Online Reporting

Coming soon...Viewable by Public



Follow-up surveys



Lookout pack pair



Wolf Captures and Collaring



- 22 wolves captured
- 15 wolves collared
- 8 wolves currently collared in 6 packs



Smackout Pack Male WA-018M



Smackout Pack Male WA-017M



Strawberry Pack Female (CCT)



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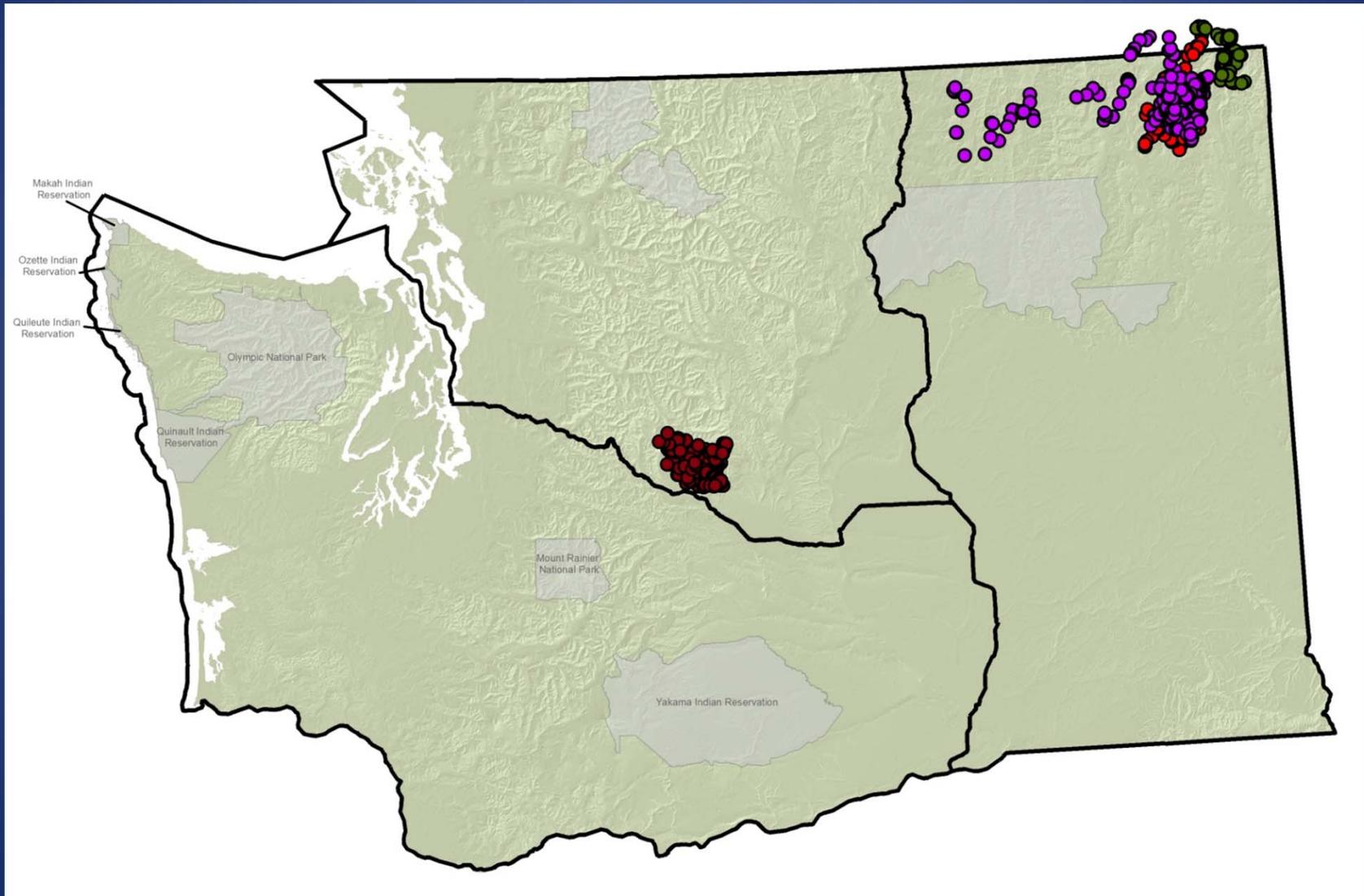
Salmo Pack Female WA-019F



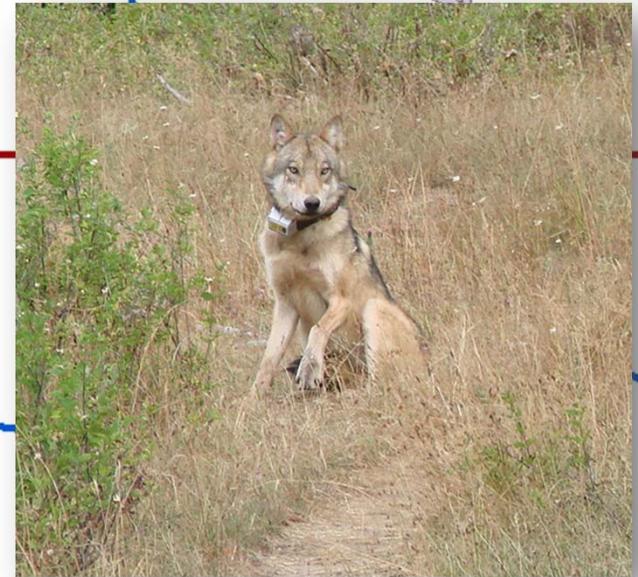
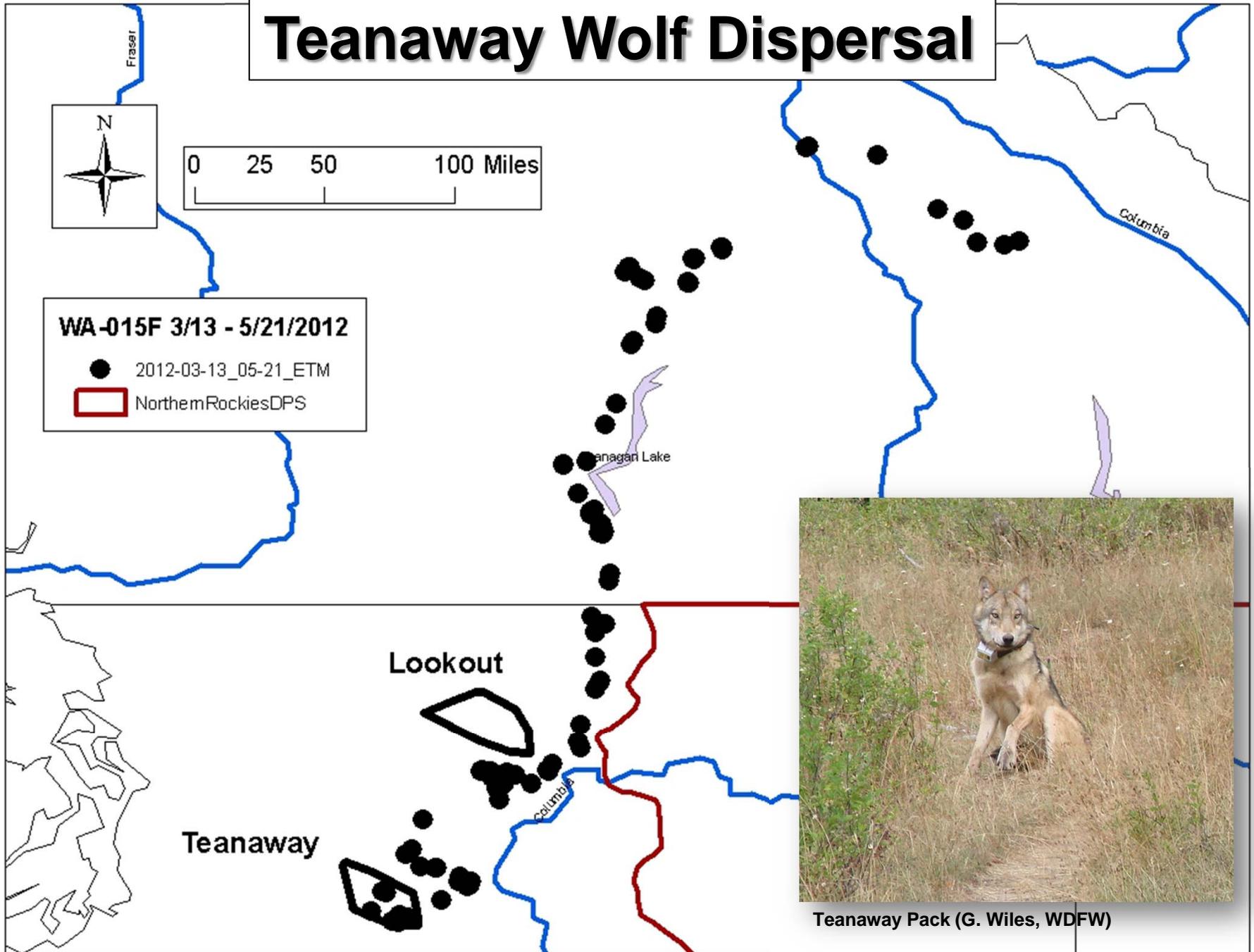
Monitoring Activity

Recovery Region	Pack	Field Activity	Captures	# Collared
Eastern Washington	Boulder	Cameras	0	0
	Diamond	Cameras-Trapped	0	1
	Huckleberry	Cameras-Trapped	0	0
	Nc'icn	Trapped (CCT)	2	2
	Ruby	Cameras	0	0
	Salmo	Trapped	1	1
	Smackout	Cameras-Trapped	2	2
	Strawberry	Trapped (CCT)	1	1
	Touchet	Cameras	0	0
	Wedge	Cameras-Trapped	2	--
Northern Cascades	Lookout	Cameras-Trapped	0	0
	Teaway	Cameras-Trapped	1	1
	Hozomeen	Cameras-Trapped	0	0
S Cascades & NW Coast	--	--	--	--
	Statewide		9	8

Wolf Location Database



Teanaway Wolf Dispersal



Teanaway Pack (G. Wiles, WDFW)

Breeding Pair Surveys

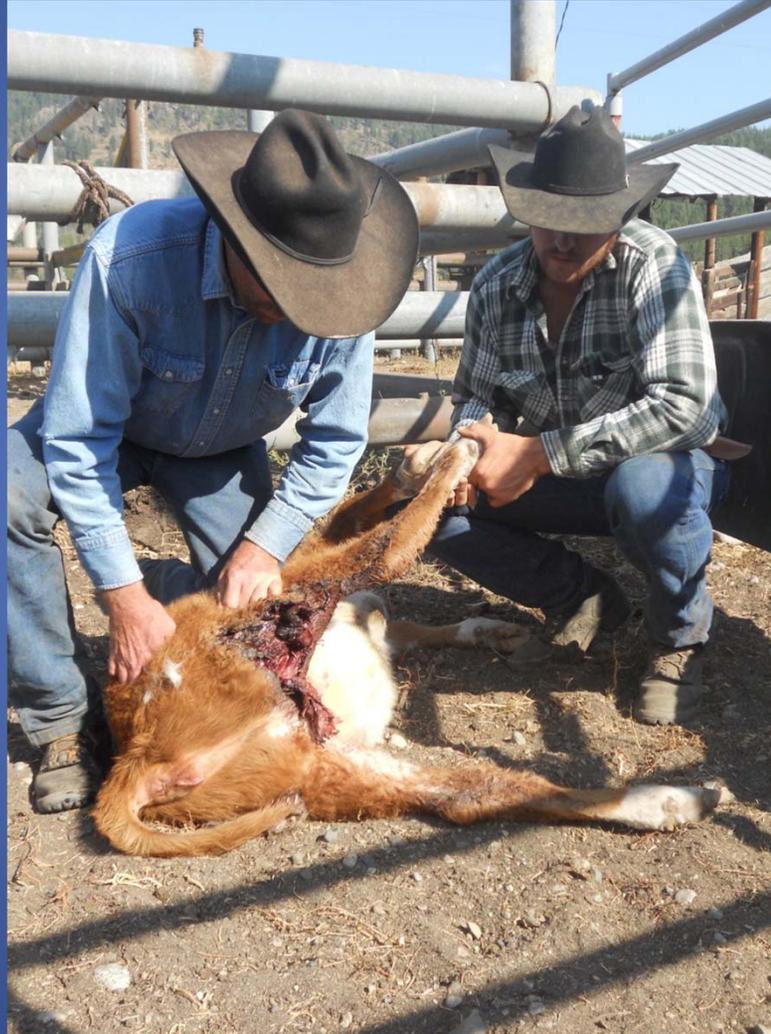


Tom Meier

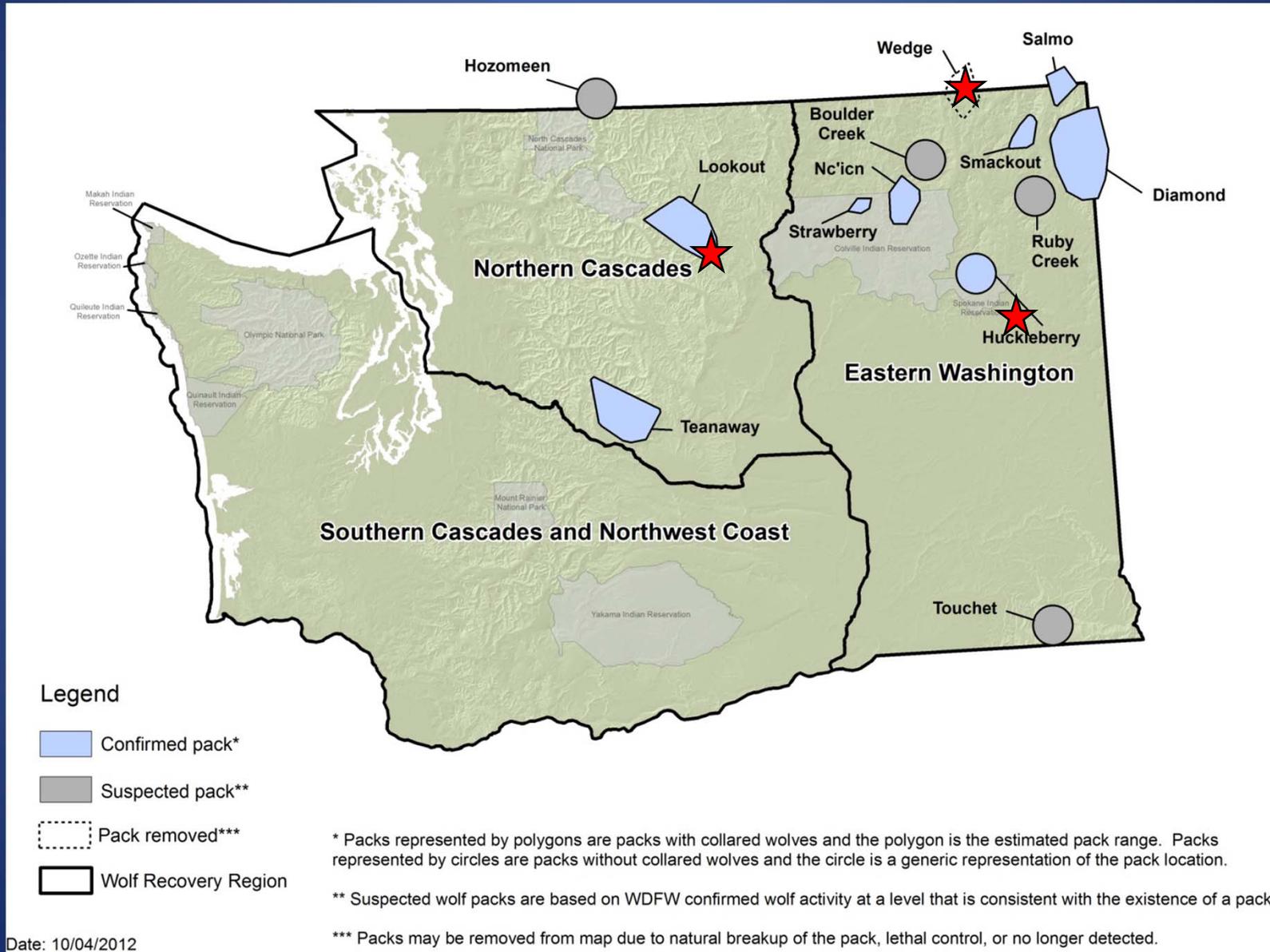


WDFW, Jay Shepherd

Wolf Depredations on Livestock



Wolf Packs with Depredations on Livestock

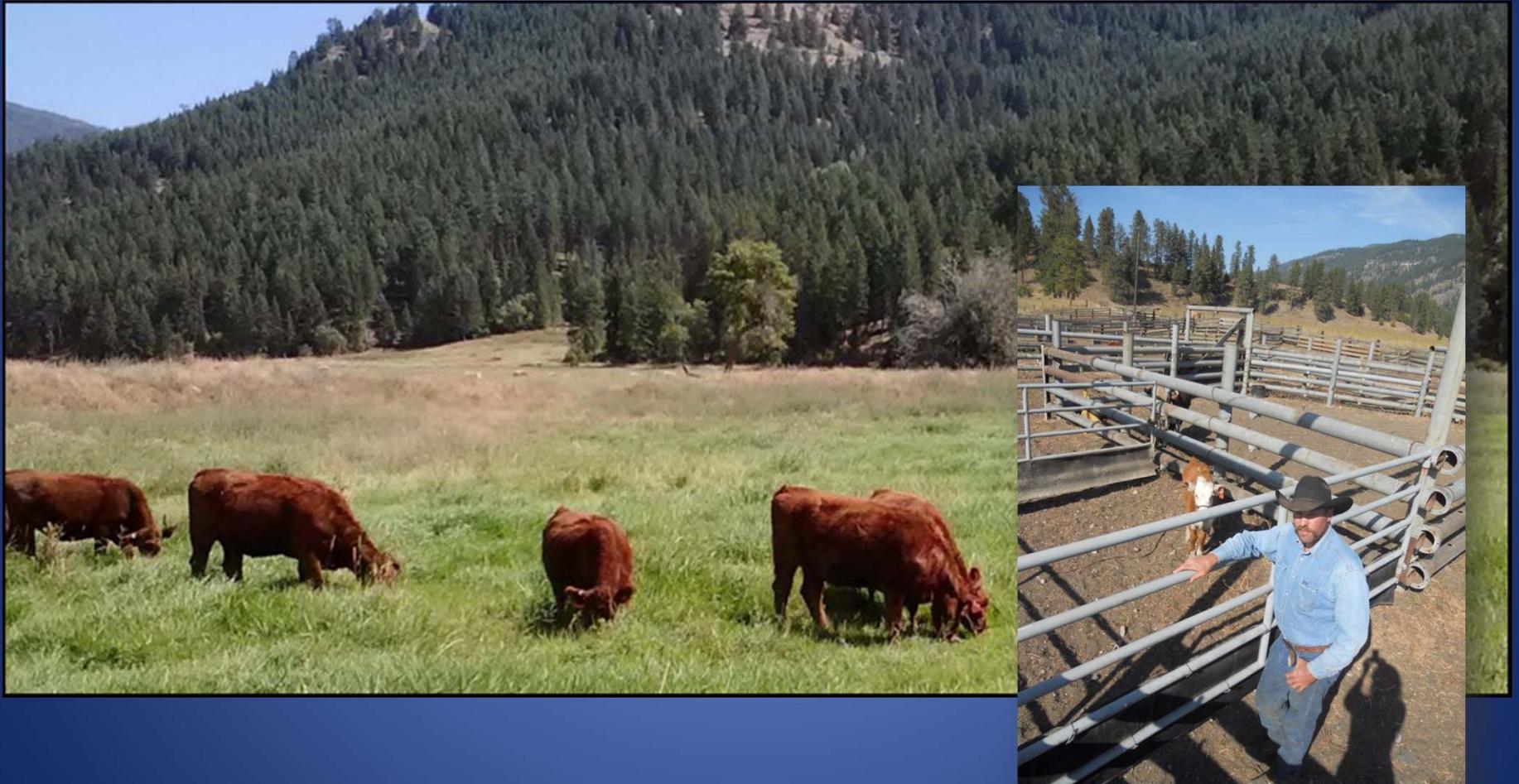


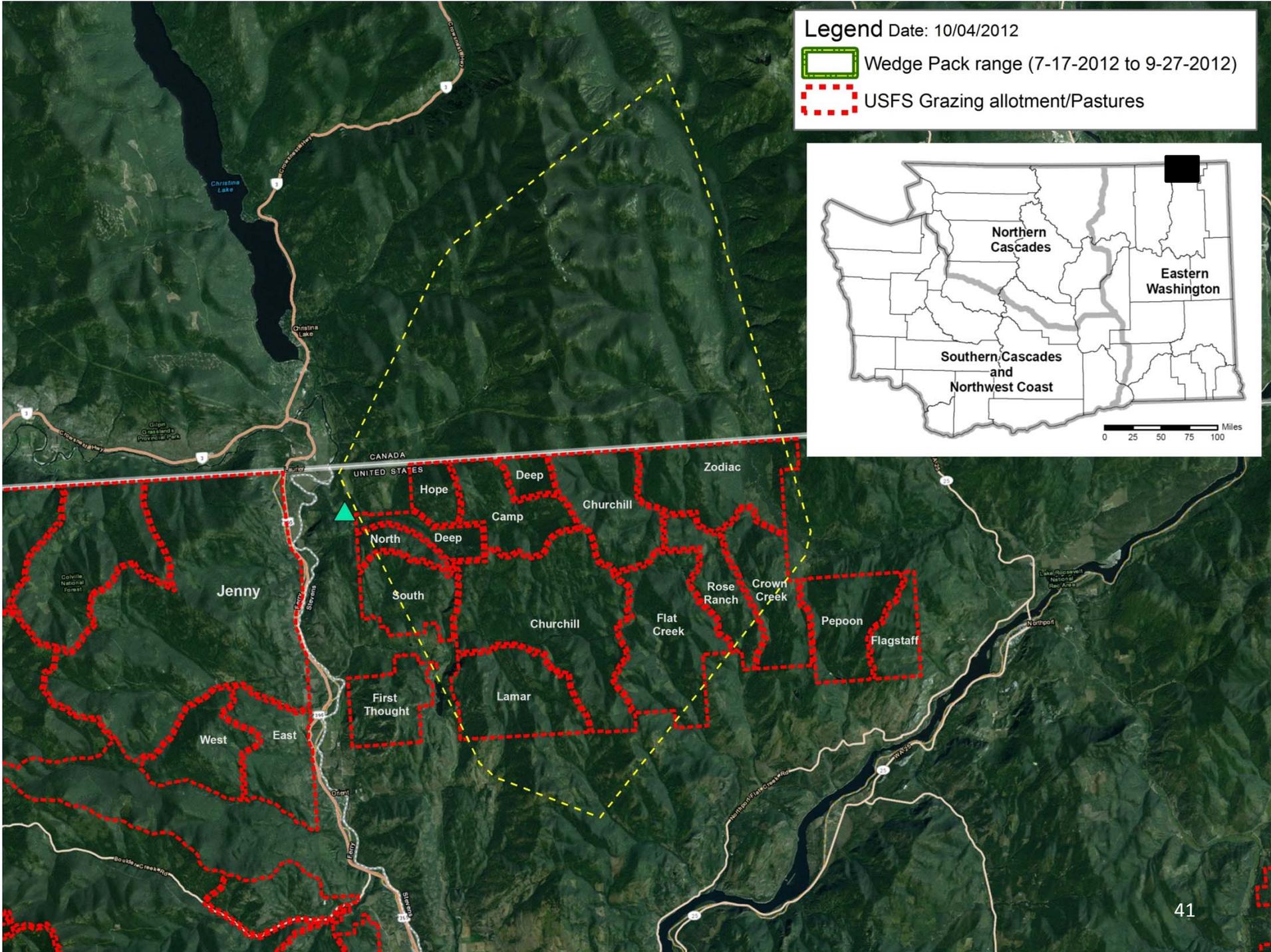
Date: 10/04/2012

Wolf Depredations in Washington

Year	Pack	Injured	Killed	Total Depredations
2007	Wedge	0	1 calf	1
2008	--	0	0	0
2009	--	0	0	0
2010	--	0	0	0
2011	Teaway	1 dog	0	1
2012	Huckleberry	2 sheep	1 sheep	3
	Lookout	2 calves	1 calf	3
	Wedge	10 calves	6 calves	16
TOTAL		15	9	24

Wedge Case Study



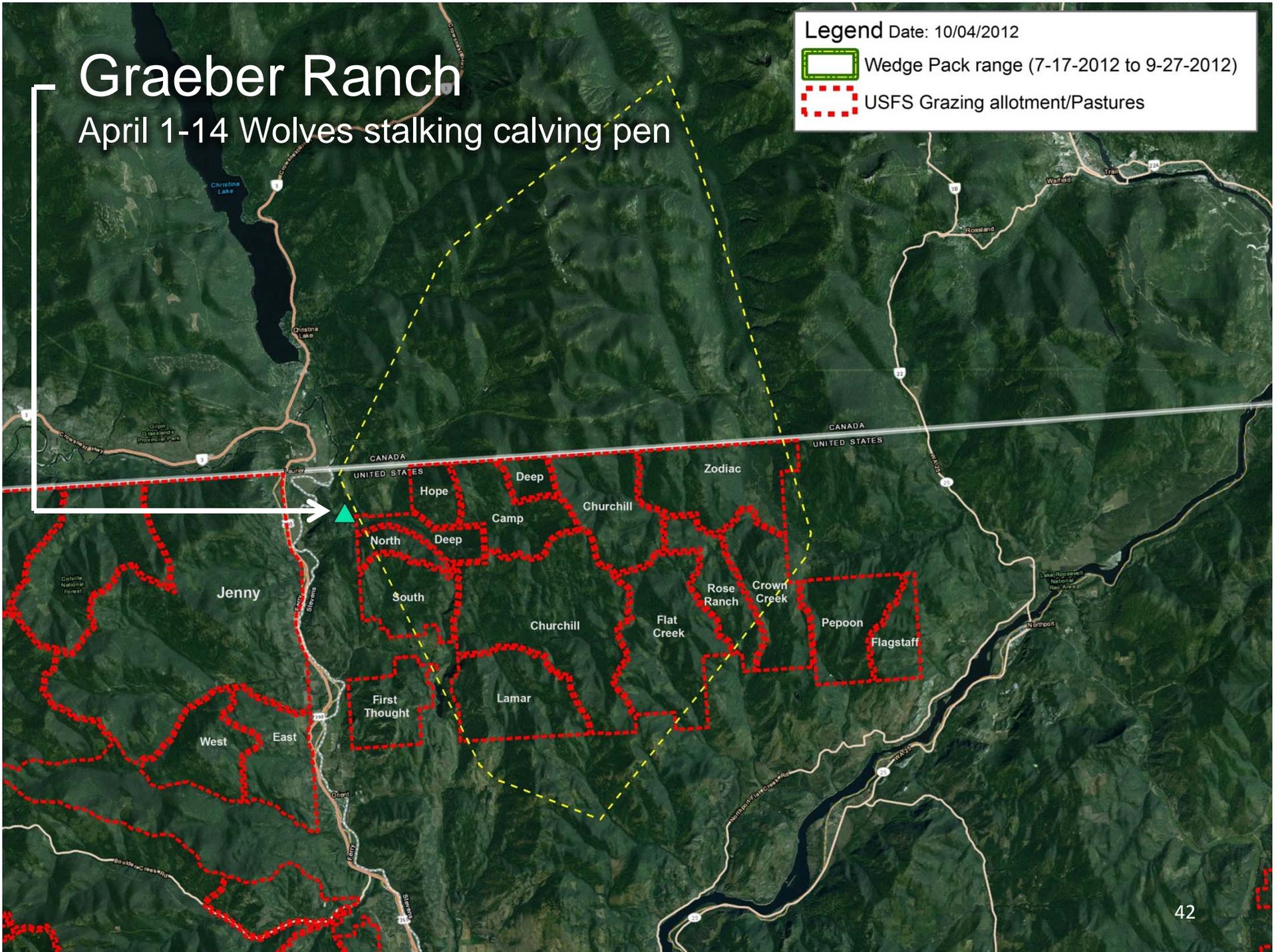


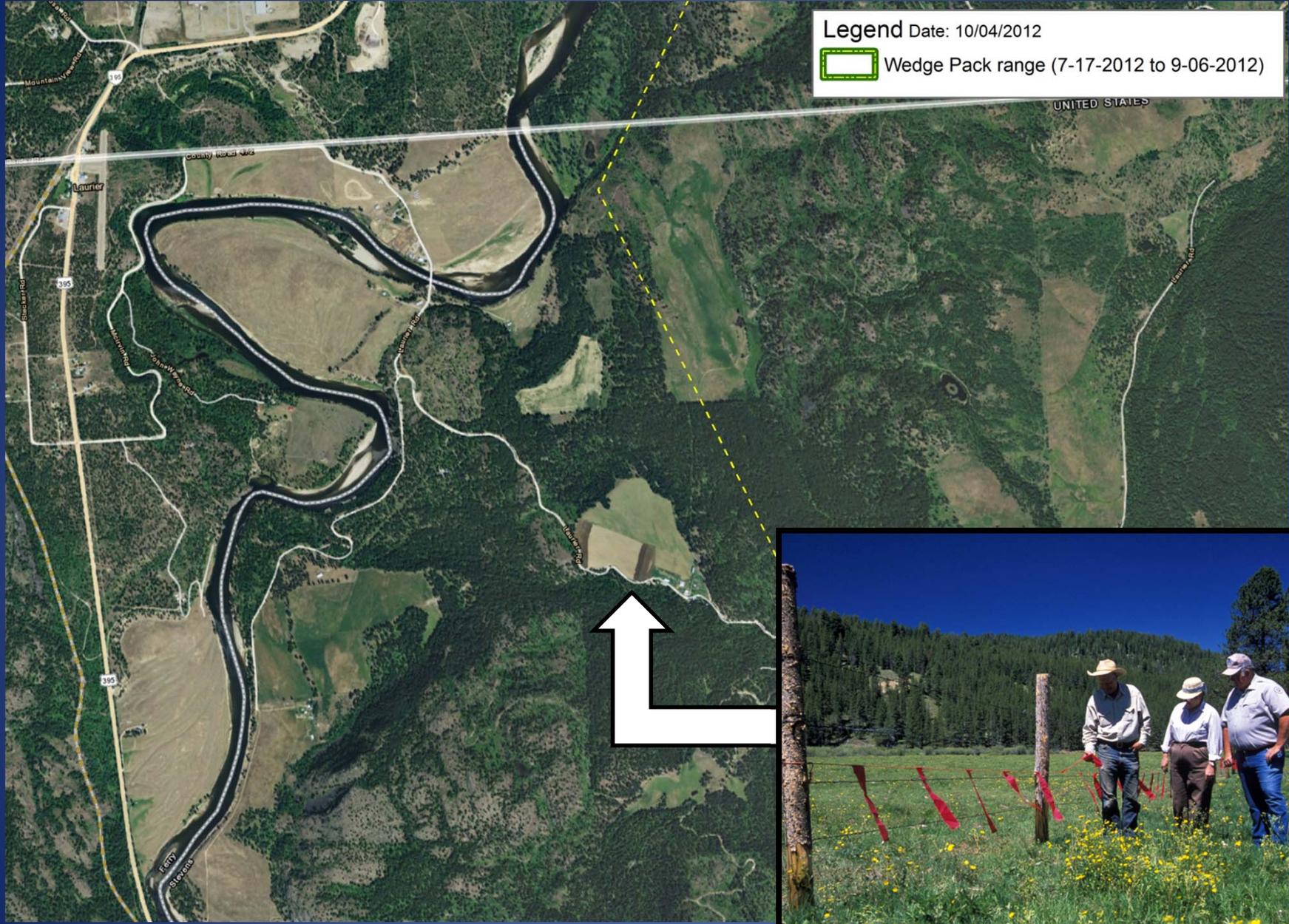
Graeber Ranch

April 1-14 Wolves stalking calving pen

Legend Date: 10/04/2012

-  Wedge Pack range (7-17-2012 to 9-27-2012)
-  USFS Grazing allotment/Pastures





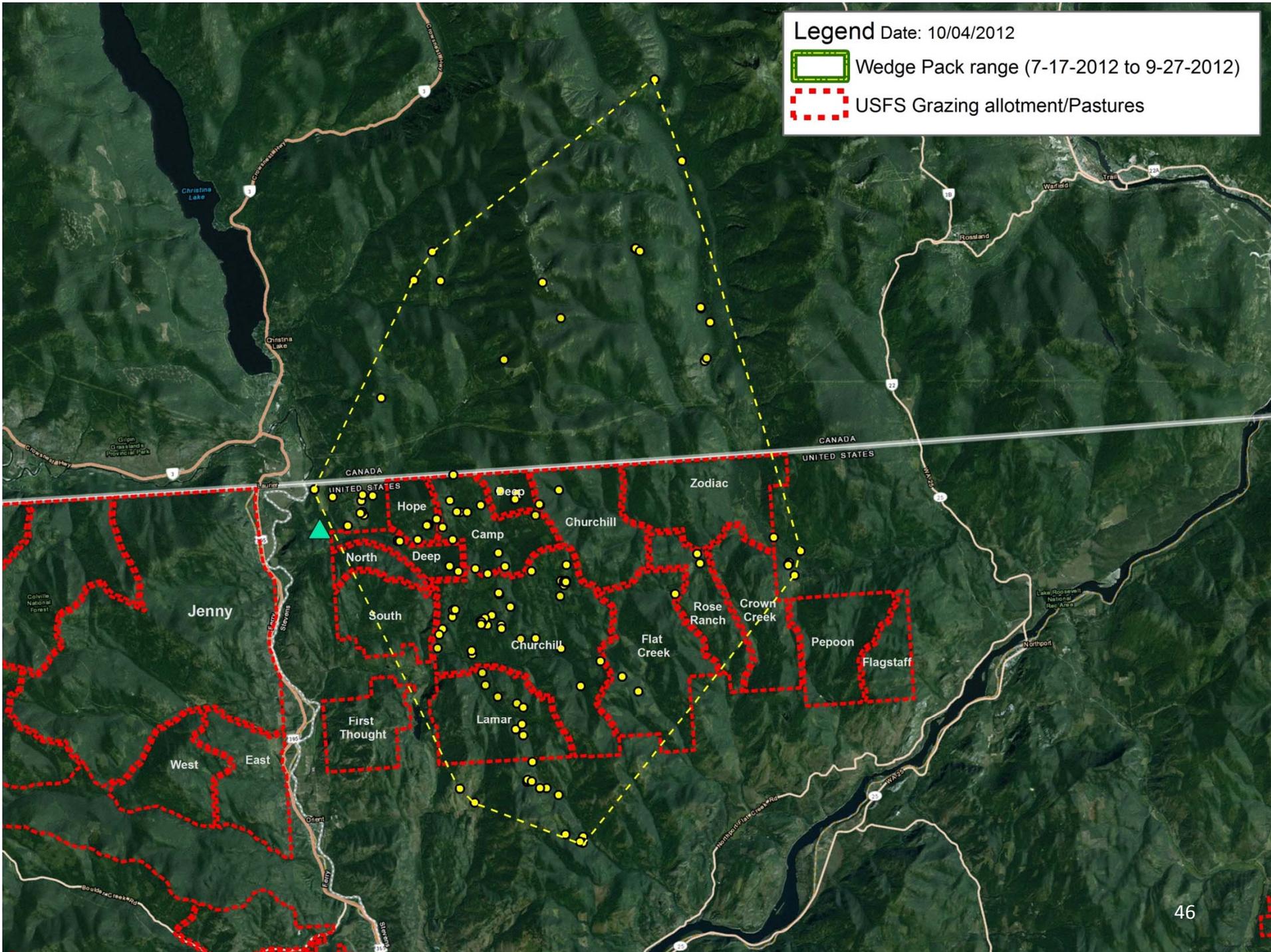


Injured calf at Diamond M Ranch, 2012

Comprehensive Investigation

- Enforcement-Biologist Team
- Sheriff Office assistance
- Site treated as crime scene
- Skin carcass
- Photographs
- Document sign (tracks, scat, etc)
- Internal review
- Determination by investigation team





Agency Actions

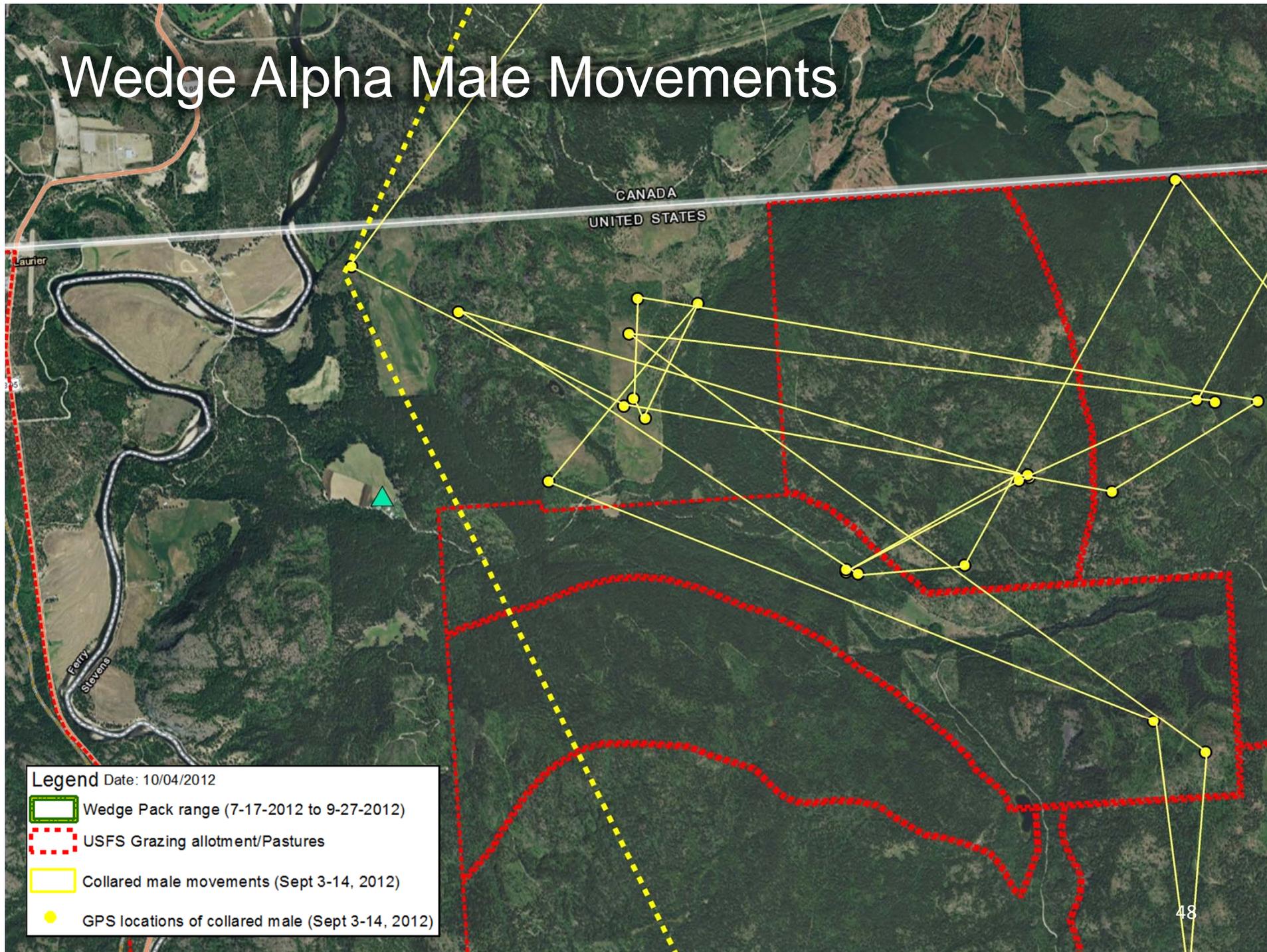
Non-lethal steps

- Fladry, increased trapping, delayed turn out of calves, removed injured calves, use of cowboys to monitor herd

Incremental lethal removal steps

- Caught-in-the-act kill permits issued
Lethal removal of 1 pack member

Wedge Alpha Male Movements



Summary of Wolf Depredations

# Wolf Investigations	Date	# of Livestock attacked	Depredation type	Classification
1	07-11-2012	2	Injuries	Confirmed
2	07-12-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
3	07-14-2012	2	Injuries	Probable
→ 4	08-02-2012	1	Injuries	Probable
5	08-14-2012	1	Injuries	Confirmed
6	08-16-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
7	09-05-2012	2	Kill	Confirmed
8	09-10-2012	1	Injuries	Probable
9	09-12-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
10	09-14-2012	1	Injuries	Confirmed
11	09-16-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
12	09-21-2012	2	Injuries	Confirmed
TOTAL		16	6 killed/10 injured	

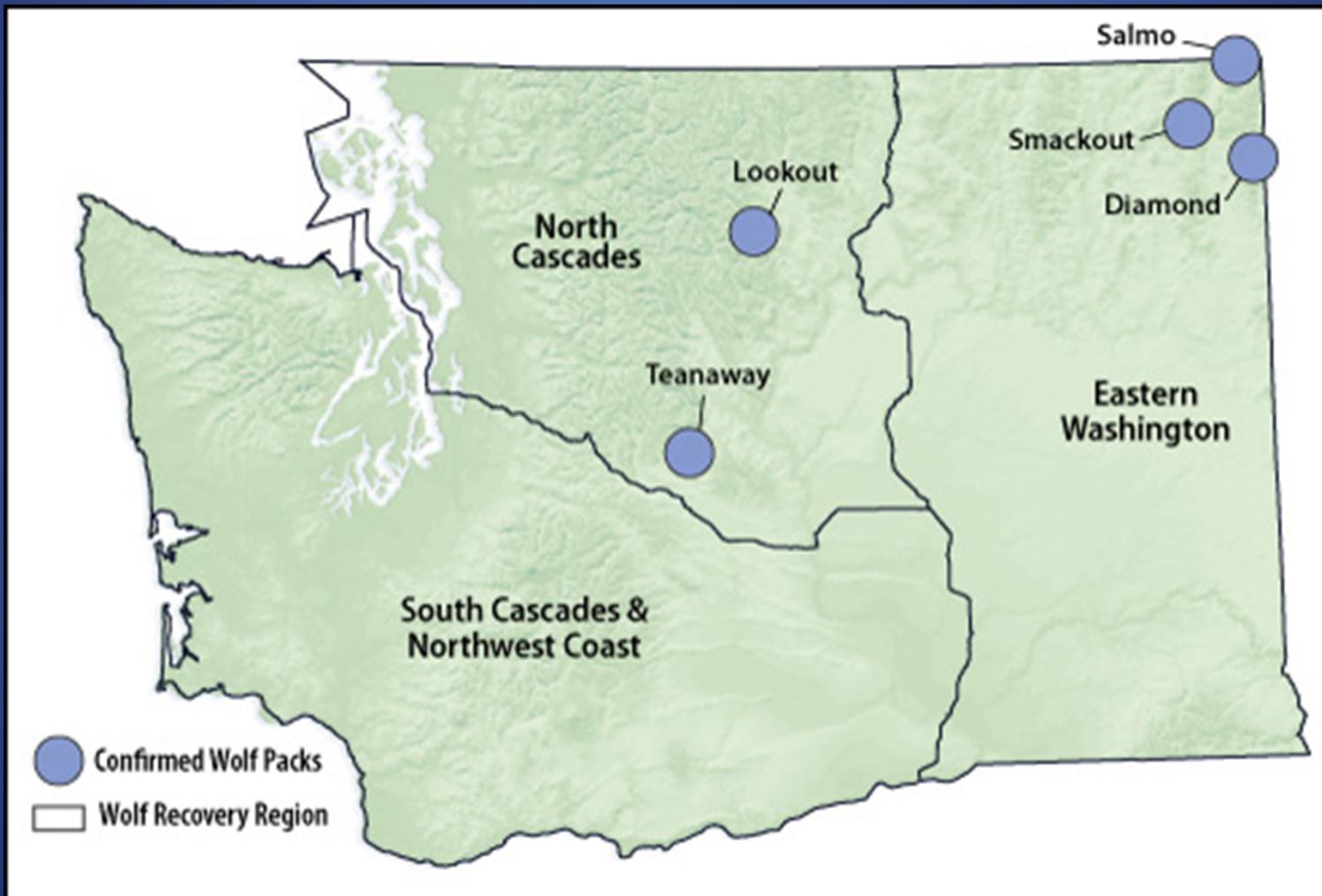
Agency Actions

Lethal removal of pack

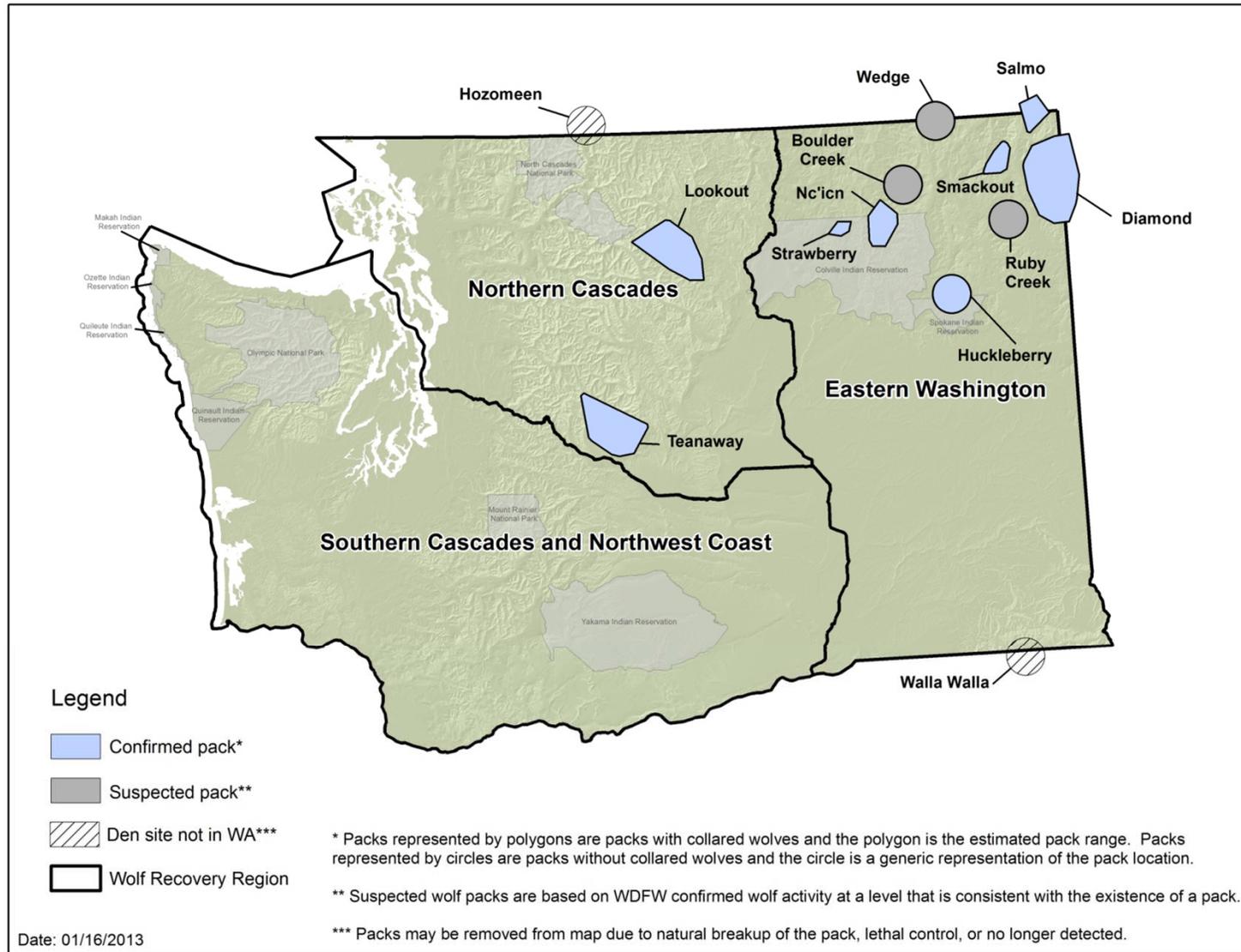
- Sept 25-27
- Removed 6 wolves, including alpha pair
- Pack structure and most, if not all, of its members removed

Current Wolf Status

Washington Wolf Packs – Dec 2011



Washington Wolf Packs – Dec 2012



Preliminary Pack Statistics

Recovery Region	Pack	Pack status	Min count	SBP
Eastern Washington	Boulder	Suspected	-	-
	Diamond	Confirmed	10	Yes
	Huckleberry	Confirmed	8	Yes
	Nc'icn	Confirmed	8	Yes
	Ruby	Suspected	-	-
	Salmo	Confirmed	1	-
	Smackout	Confirmed	12	Yes
	Strawberry	Confirmed	2	No
	Walla Walla*	Suspected	-	-
	Wedge	Suspected	2	-
Northern Cascades	Lookout	Confirmed	2	No
	Teaway	Confirmed	6	Yes
	Hozomeen*	Suspected	-	-
S Cascades & NW Coast	-	-	-	-
	Statewide		51	5

* Majority of pack range and den site outside WA; not included in total 2012 counts

Preliminary Pack Statistics

- Eleven packs in WA in December 2012
 - ✓ 8 confirmed & 3 suspected
- The minimum wolf count in Washington was 51 in December 2012.
- The estimated upper bounds of the population, based on average pack size from ID, MT, and WY, was 101 wolves in December 2012.
- The actual population in Washington is likely within that range.

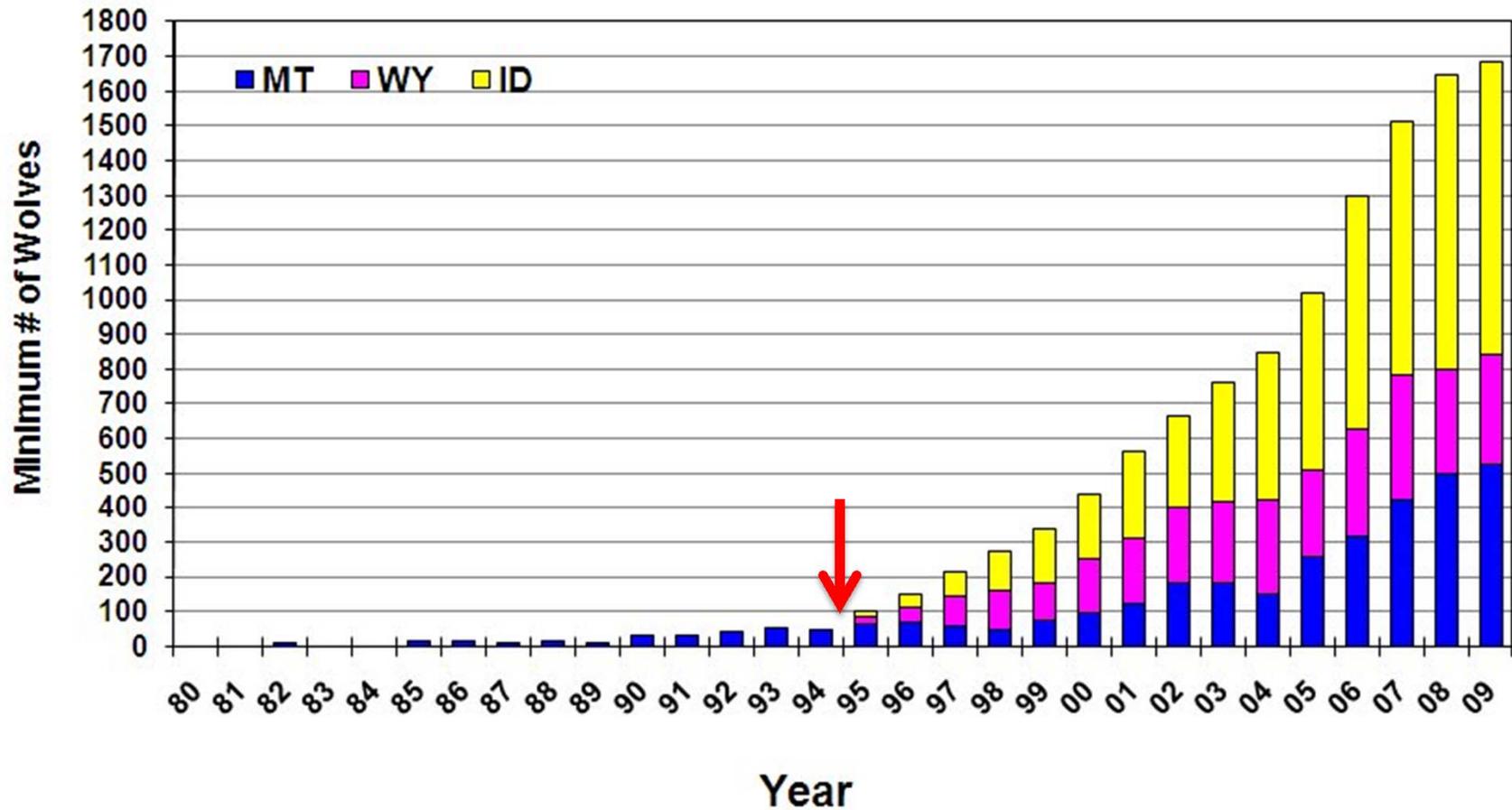
Preliminary Pack Statistics

- 40% increase in successful breeding pairs since last year (3 to 5 SBP)
- 47% increase in minimum wolf count since last year (27 to 51 wolves)
- 55% increase in number of packs since last year (5 to 11 packs)

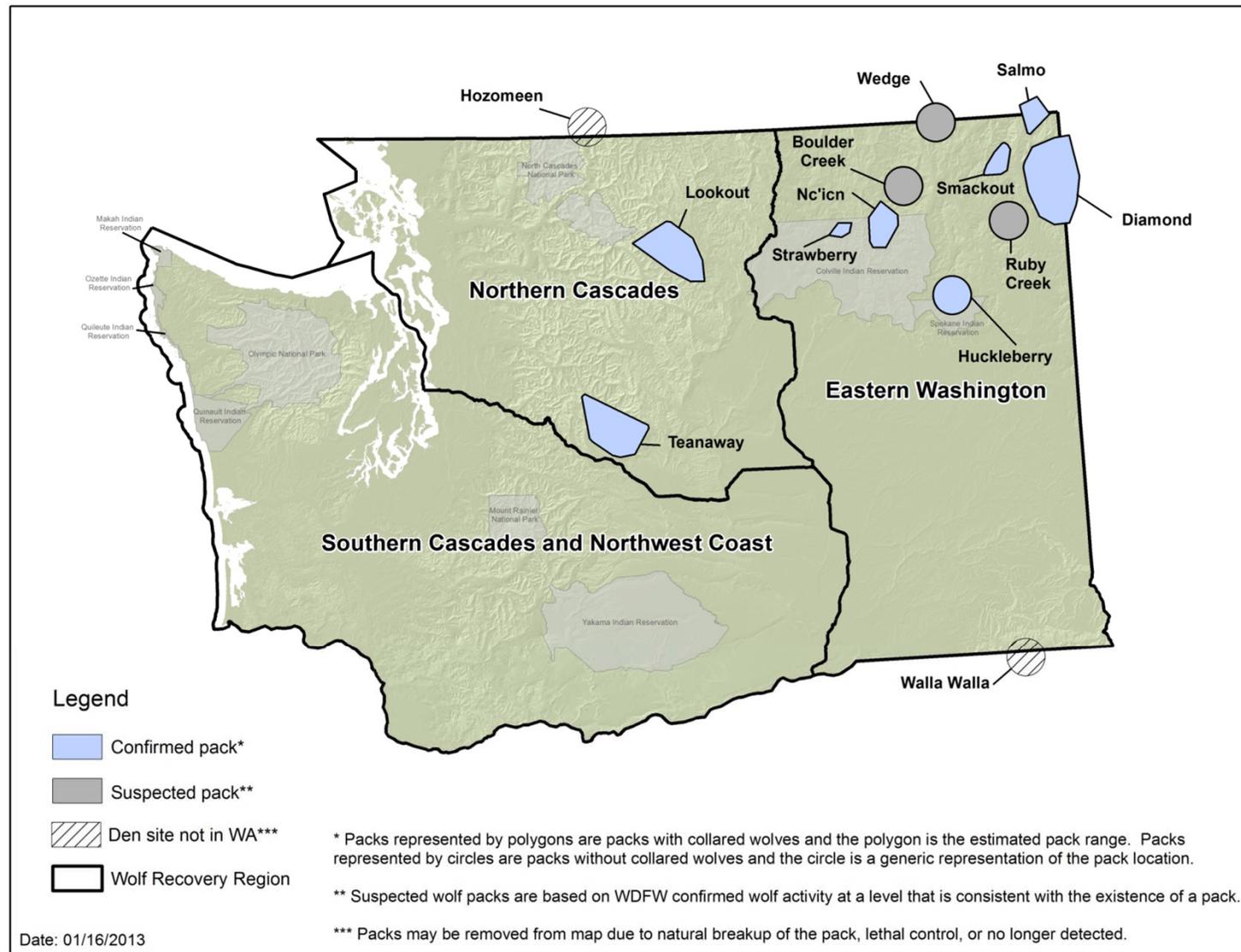


Wolf Population Growth In NRM DPS

Figure 6. Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Population Trends in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming: 1980-2009



Washington Wolf Packs – Dec 2012



Questions



Teaway Pack (Photo courtesy of Western Transportation Institute)