Wolf Conservation and Management
2014 Annual Report

Dave Ware | Wolf Policy Lead

Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Summary

- Wolf Plan Recovery Objectives
- Population Monitoring
- Conflict Management
- Outreach
- Research
- Budget
- Legislation
- 2015 Strategies

Wolf Plan Goals

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

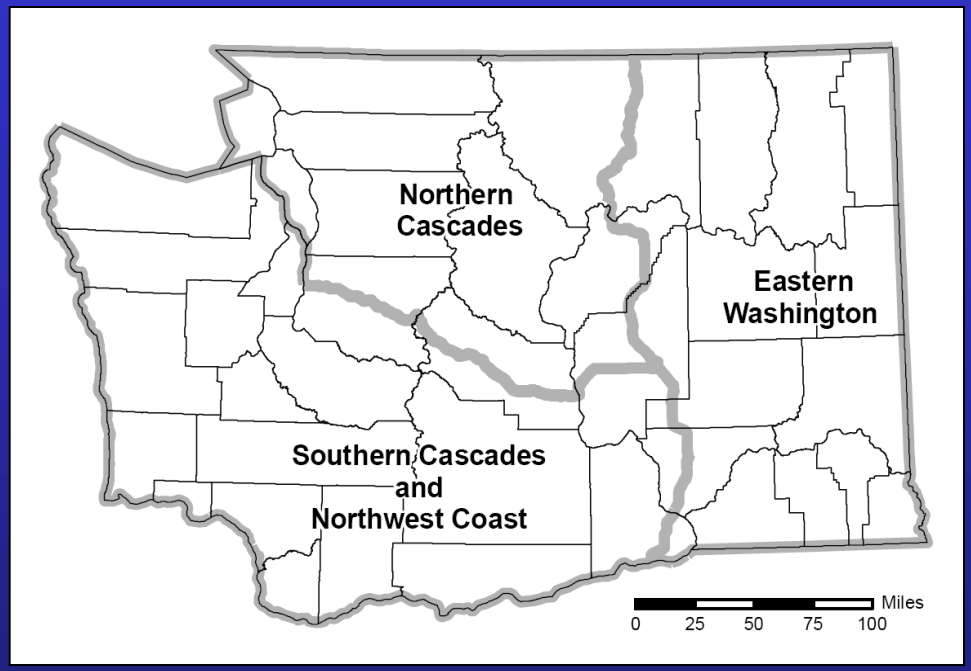
Diamond Pack, 2014

Definitions

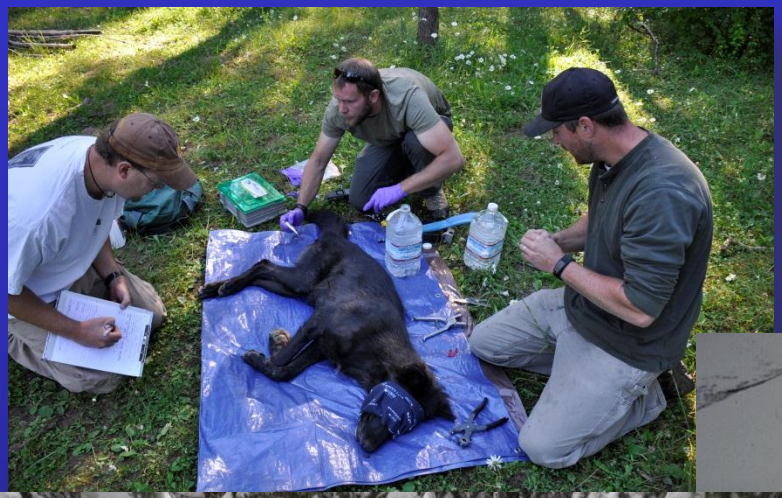
- Pack: 2 or more wolves traveling together
- Successful Breeding Pair: male and female raising 2 or more pups until Dec 31

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

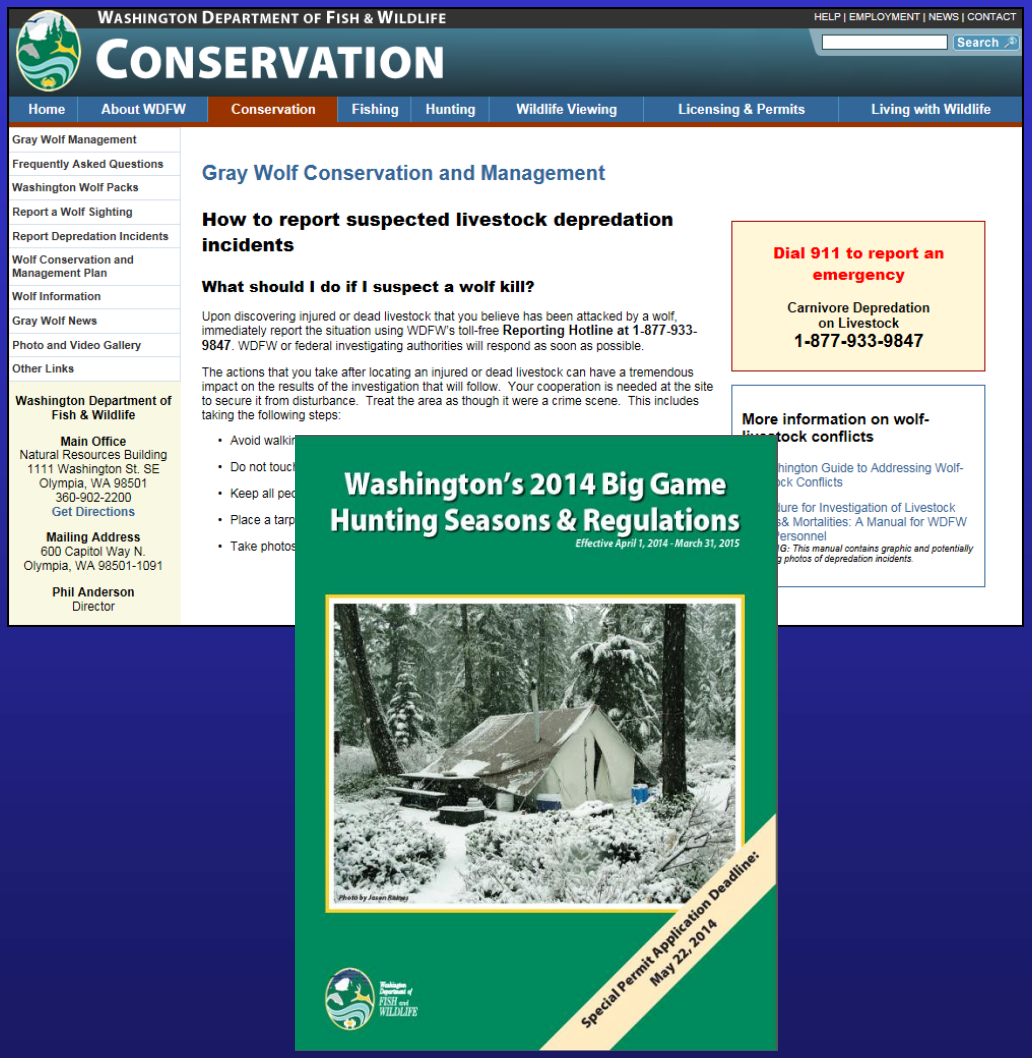


Capture and Monitoring



Reports From the Public

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



Online Reporting

(2014 reports)

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

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	COYOTE
Color: light gray to black	**Color:** light gray/brown
Dimensions: 2.5 feet tall, 5-6 feet long	**Dimensions:** 1.5 feet tall, 4 feet long
Broad snout	**Tall pointed ears**
Round ears	
80-120 pounds	20-50 pounds
Paw size: 4" x 5"	Paw size: 2" x 2.5"
	Narrow snout

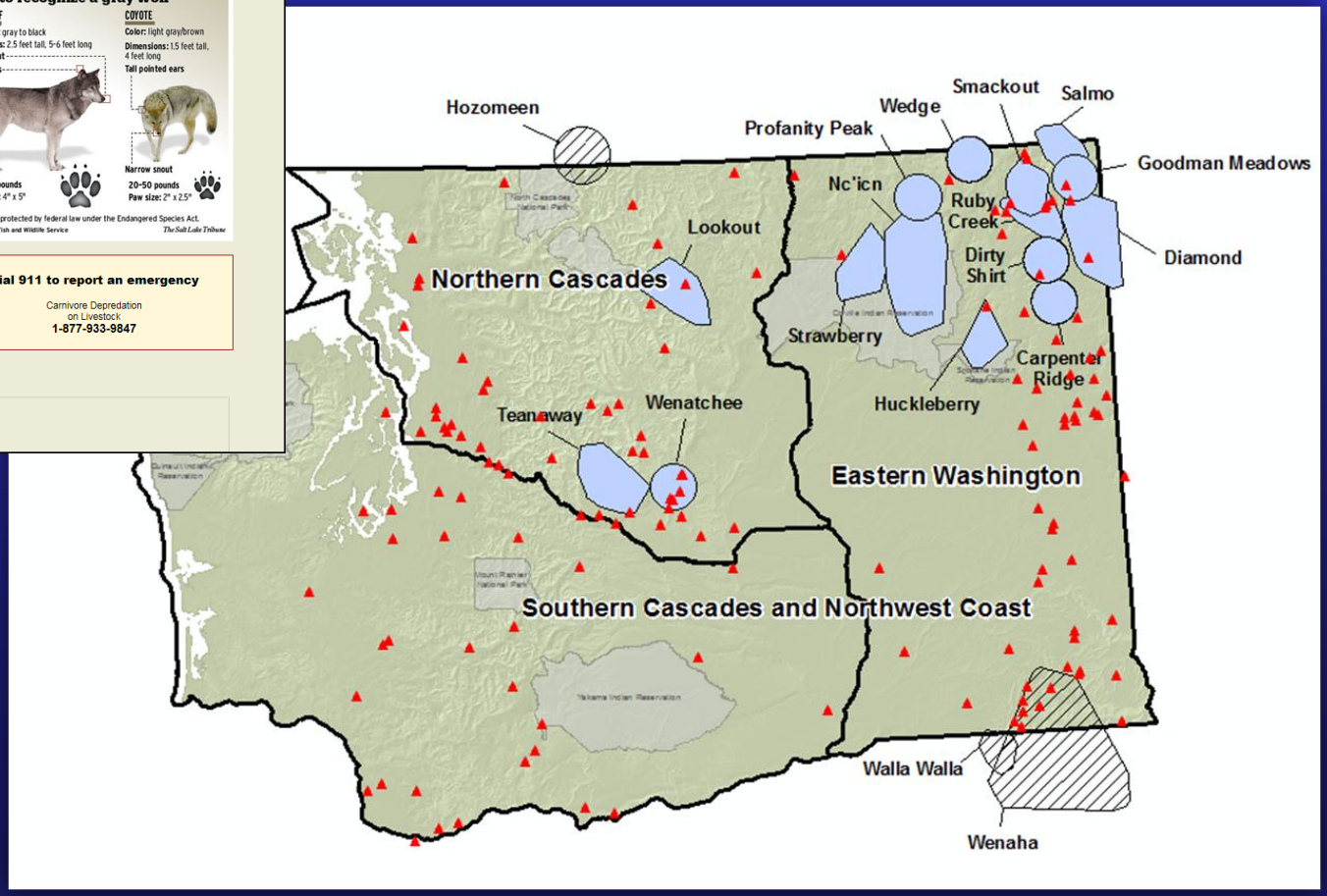
Wolves are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — The Salt Lake Tribune

Dial 911 to report an emergency

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock

1-877-933-9847



Follow-up Verification

Setting wolf leg-hold trap, WDFW.

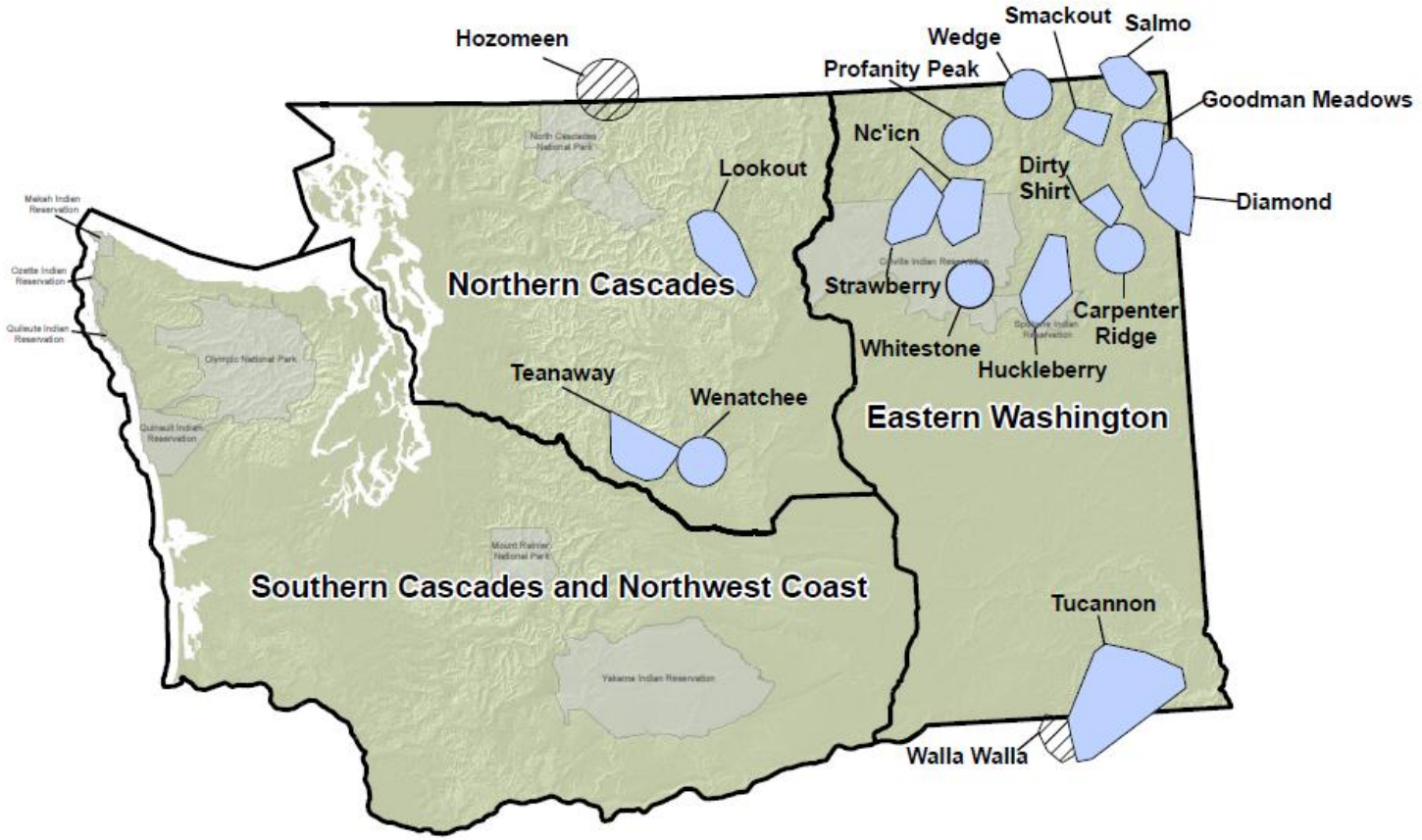
Aerial wolf capture using a net gun in the Diamond pack, Feb 2013.

WDFW Archive photo

Washington Wolf Population Summary

Year	Min count	Known No. Packs	SBP	Growth Rate	Known Wolf Mortality
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%	

Wolf Packs as of December 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.

Date: 3/5/2015

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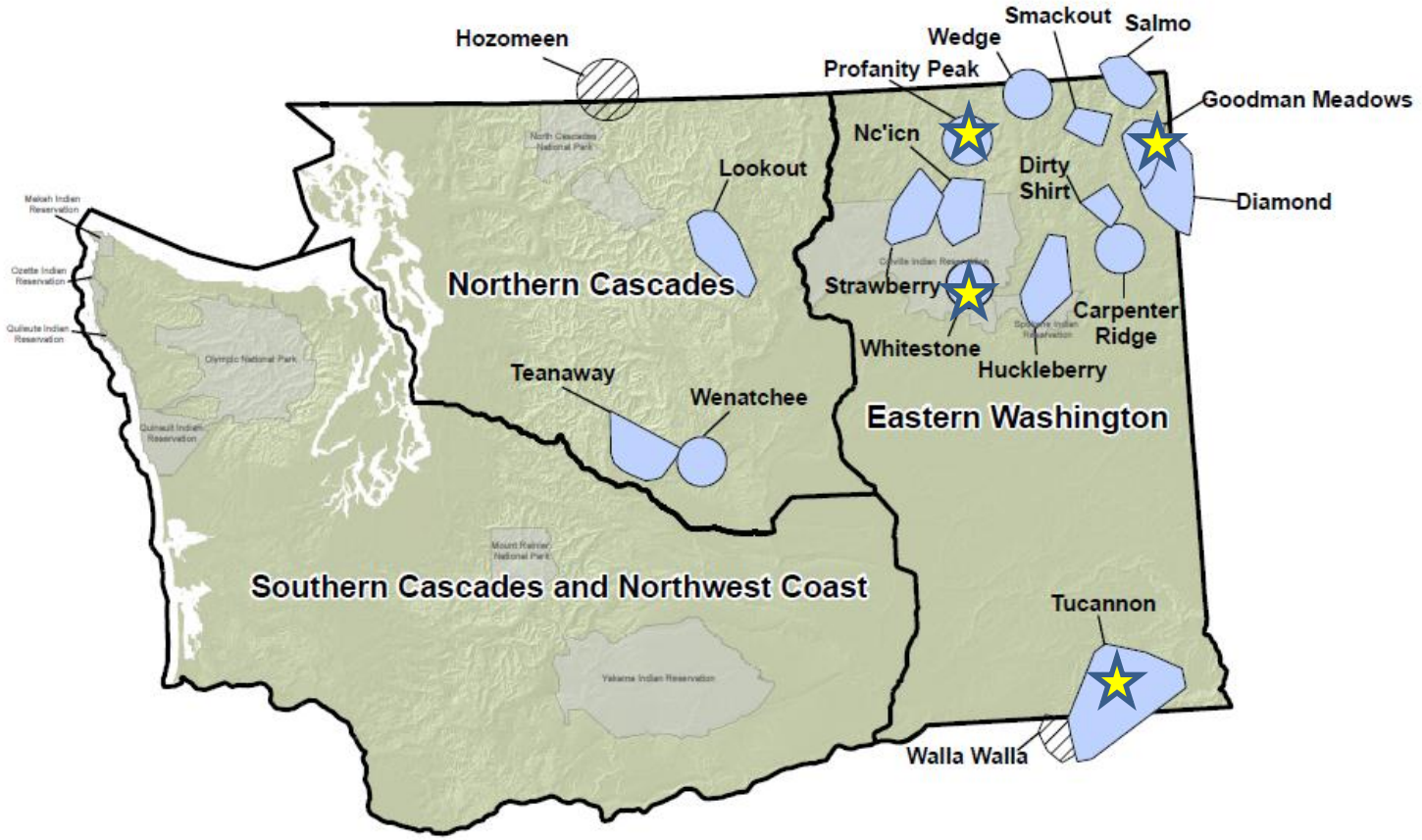

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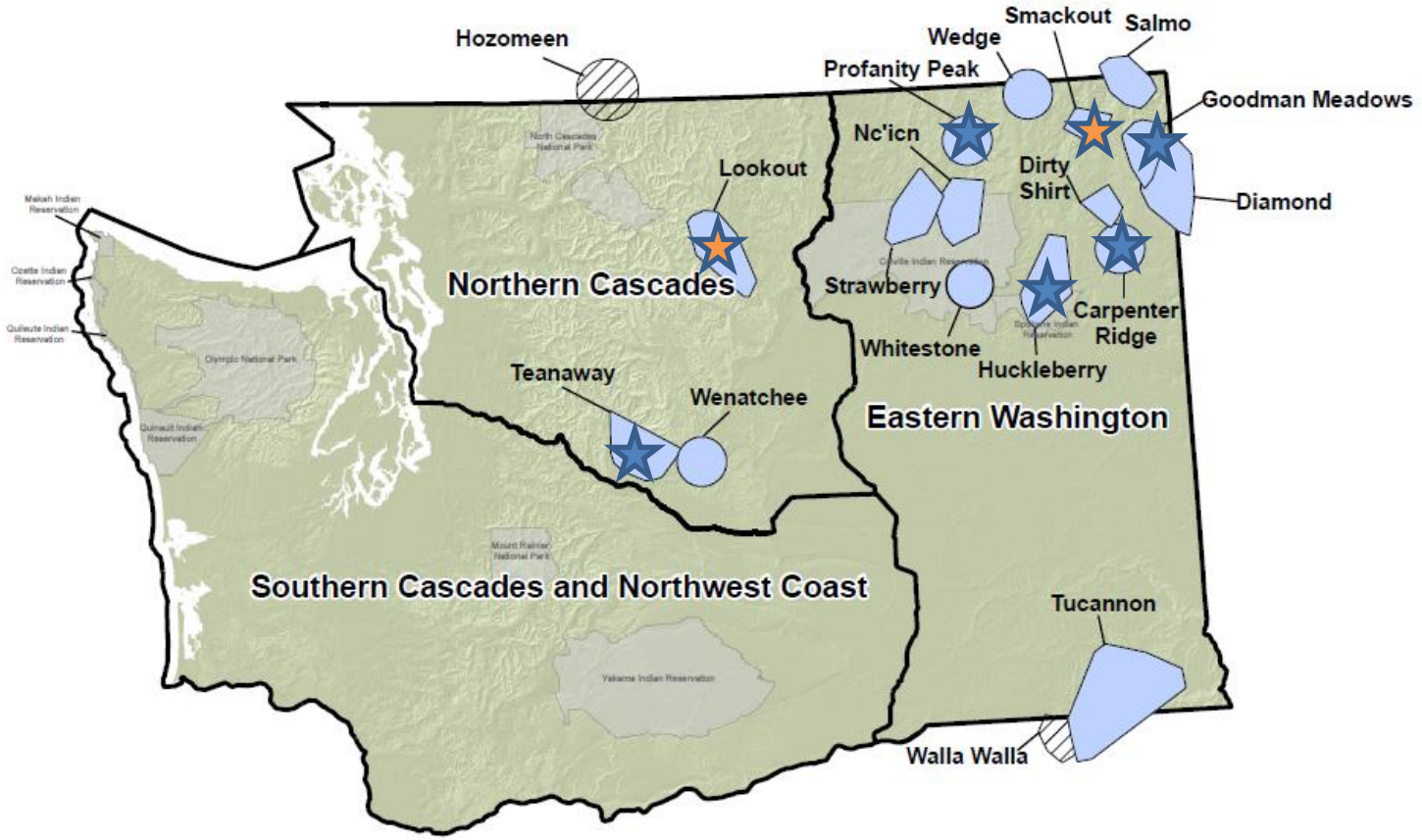

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Date: 3/5/2015

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	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
	Teanaway	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	**5**	**68**	**10**	**5**	**40**

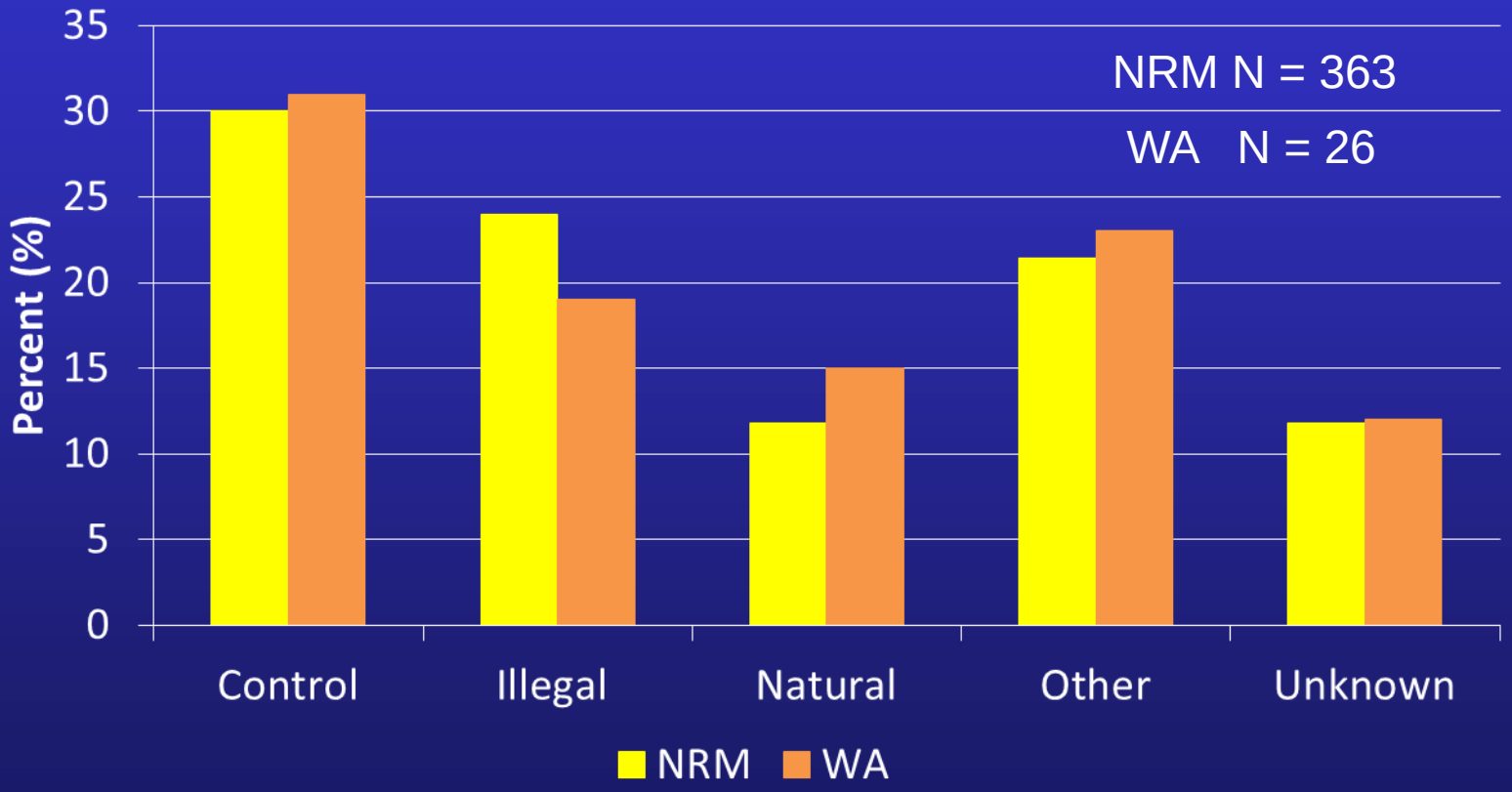
Known Wolf Mortality

Washington

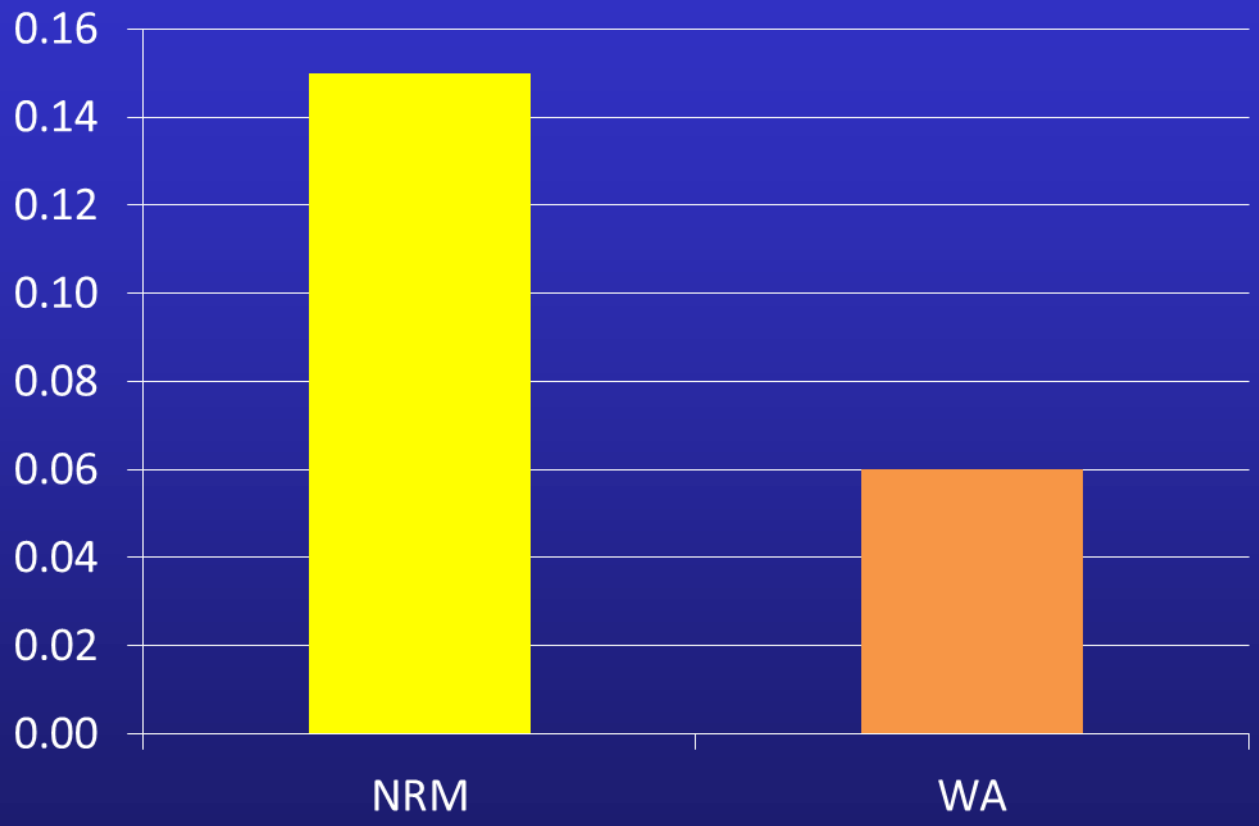
Year	Natural	Control	Illegal	Other human	Harvest	Unkn	Total
2008							0
2009							0
2010			2				2
2011							0
2012		7		1		1	9
2013	1			3	1		5
2014	3	1	3	1		2	10
TOTAL	4	8	5	5	1	3	26

Wolf Mortality Factors

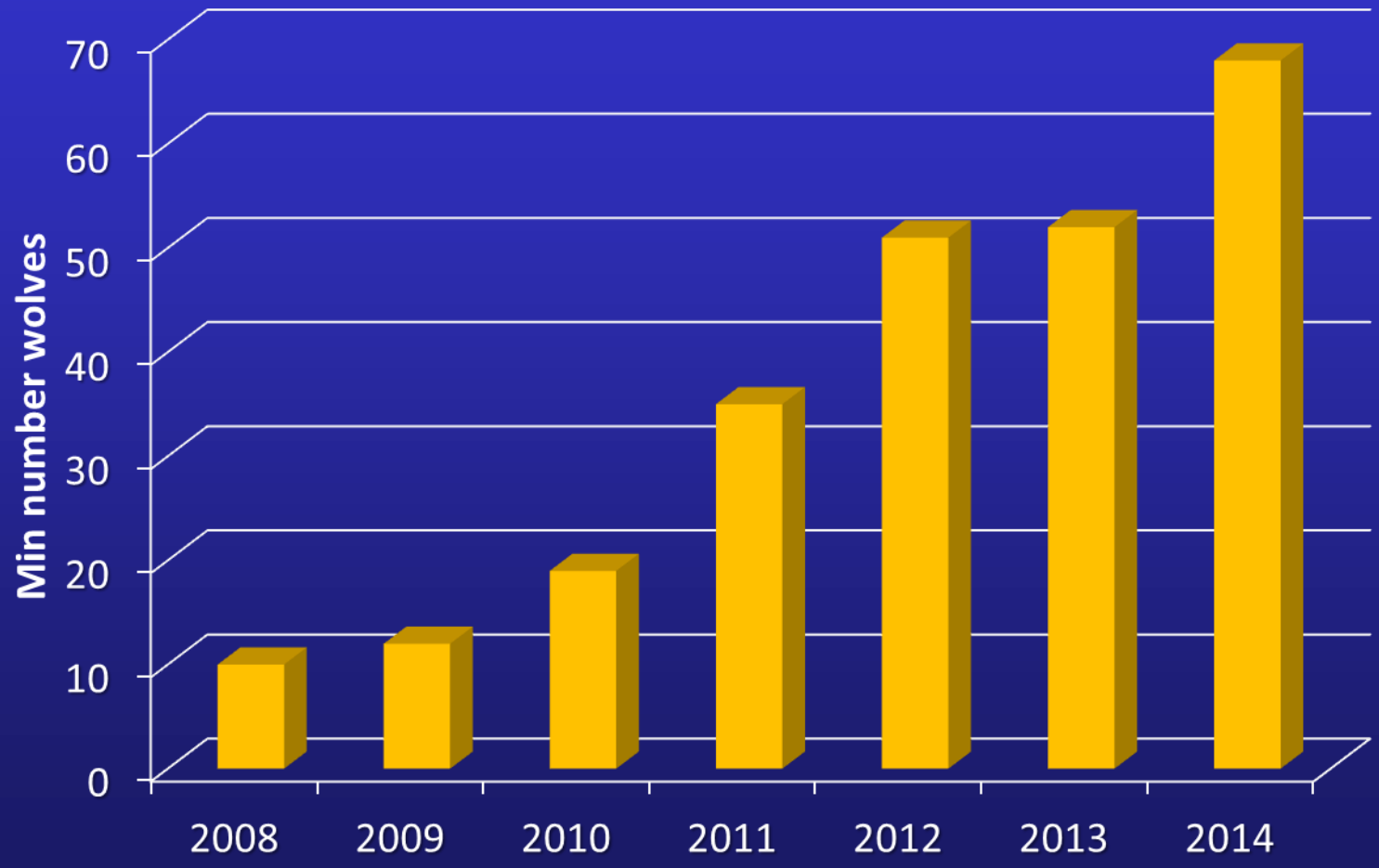
NRM compared to WA



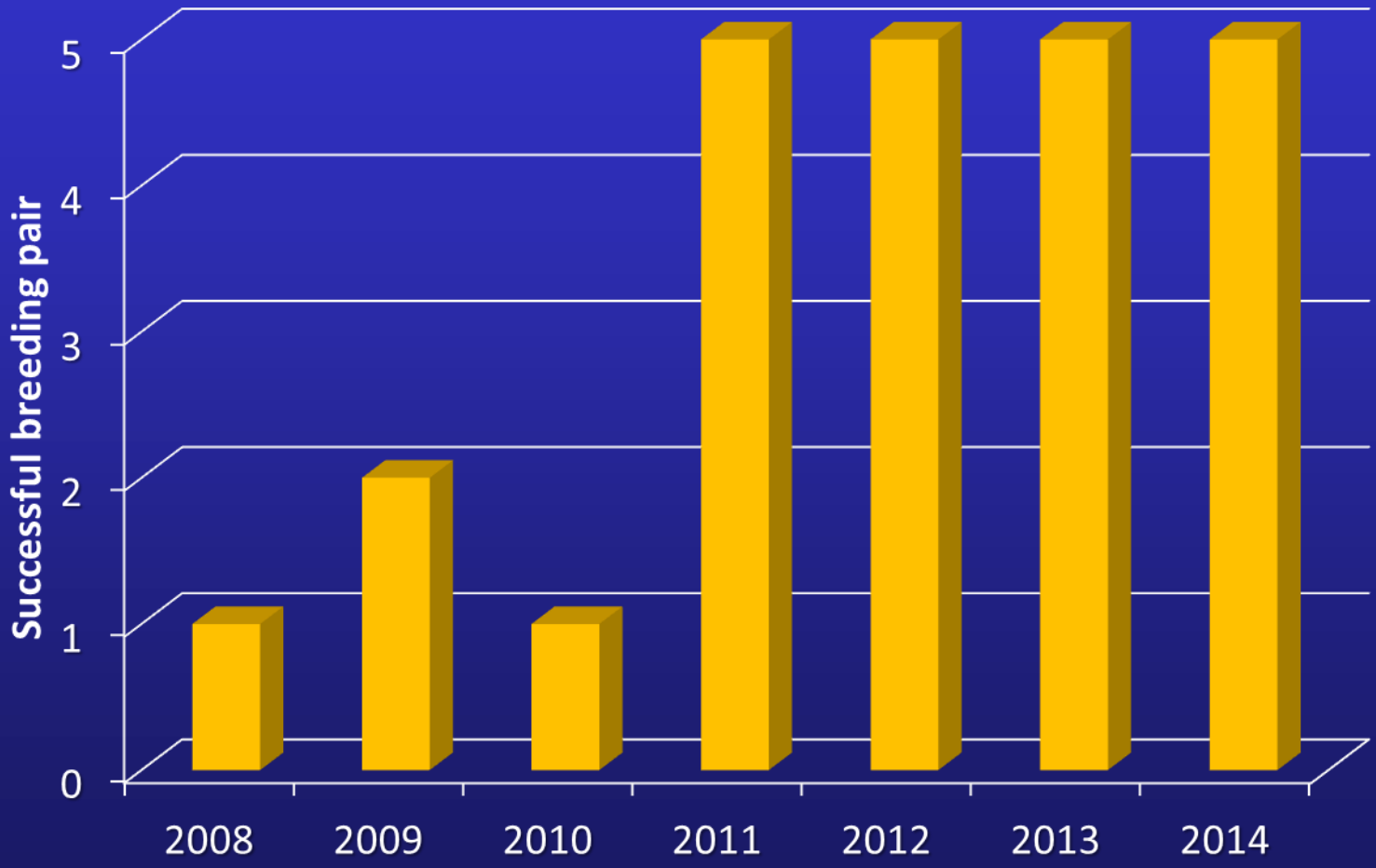
Proportion of Minimum Population Removed



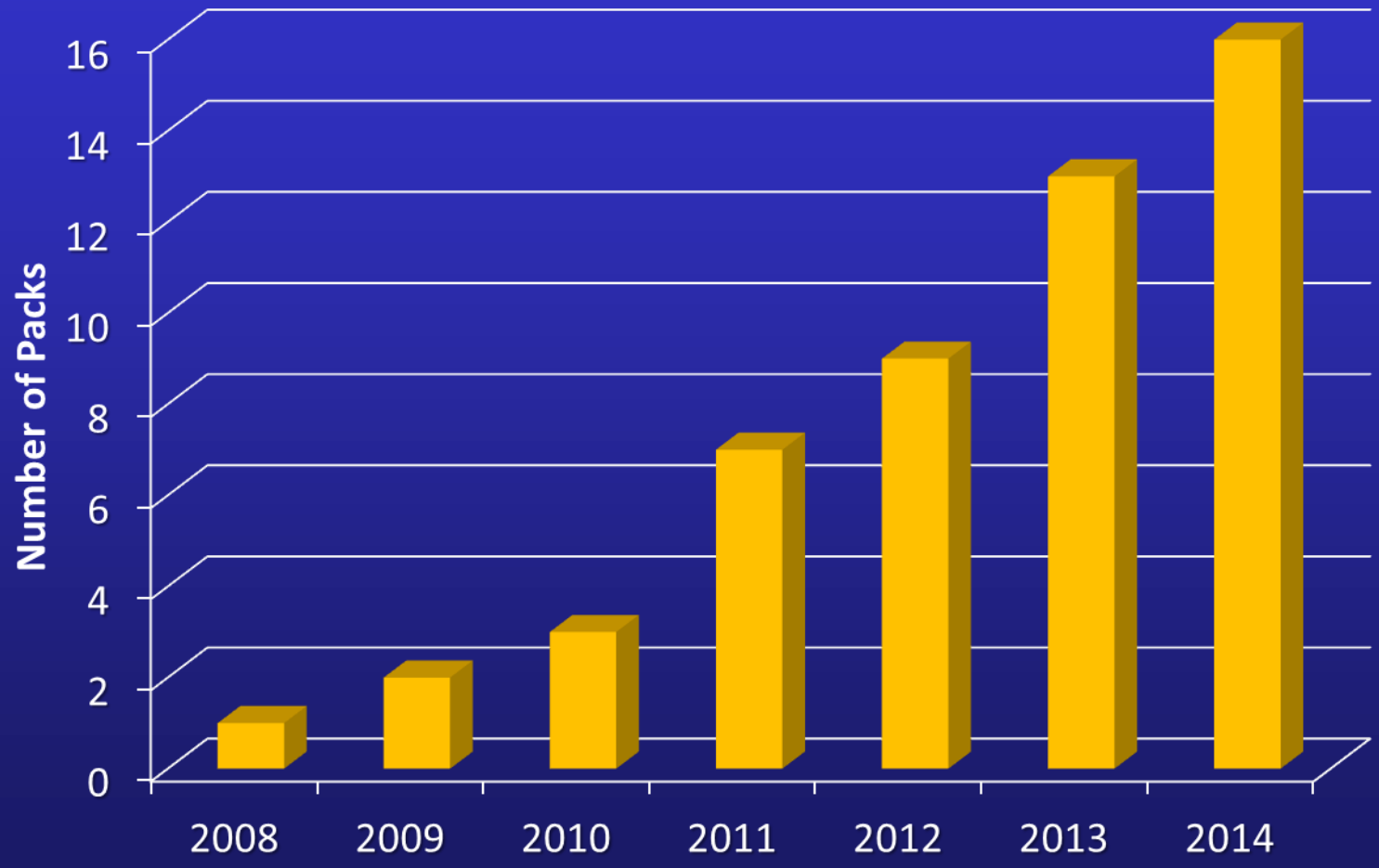
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



Summary of Wolf Recovery

- Wolves continue to steadily increase
- Wolves are also expanding their distribution

Wolf population recovery is progressing well

Conflict Management

Prevention

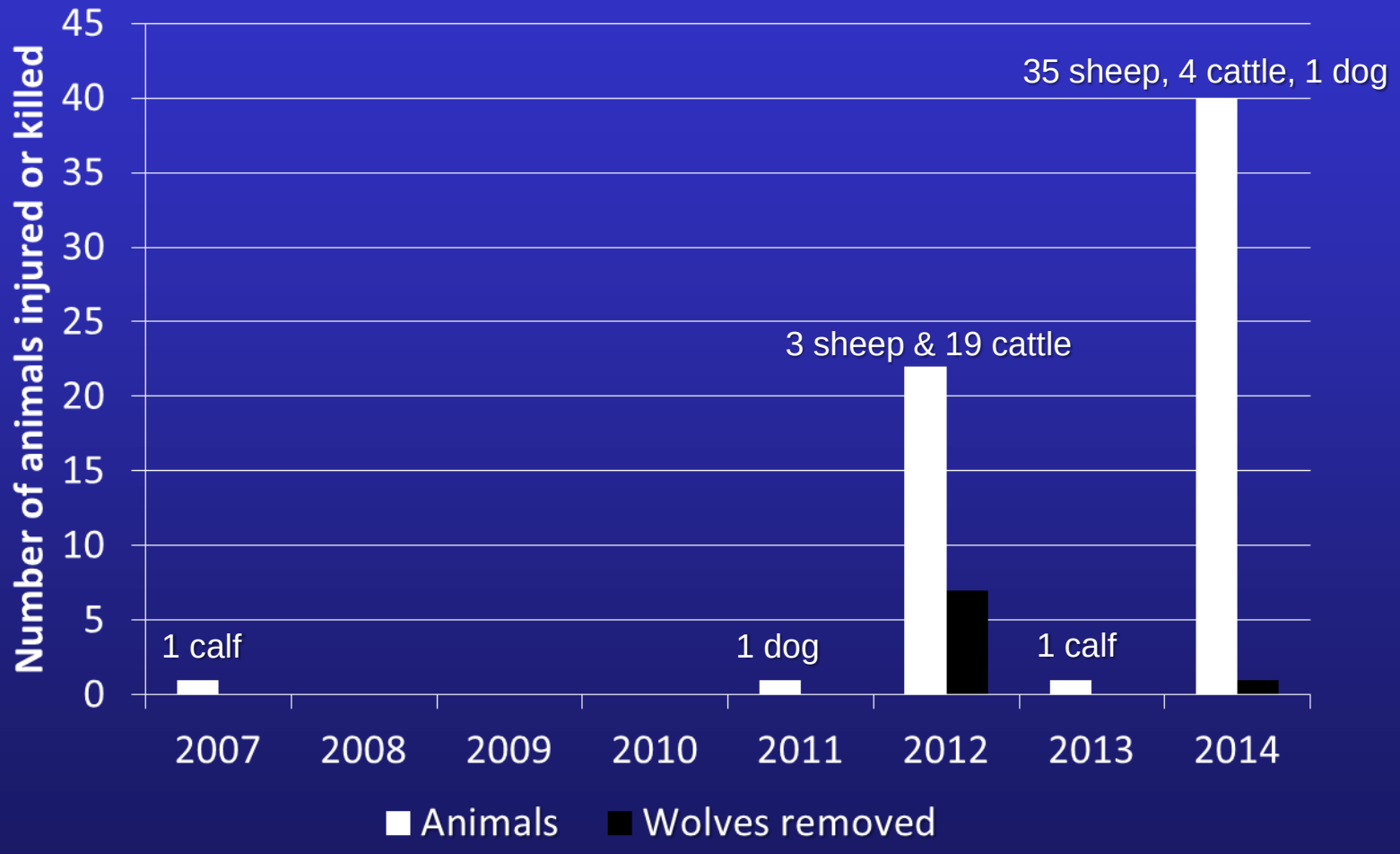
- Tools:
  - Fencing, fladry, range riders, collar data sharing, sanitation, noise boxes and other forms of hazing (i.e. lights)
- Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements
  - 37 agreements in 2014
  - Range rider and Sanitation
- Other
  - Contract Range Riders
  - Carcass composting sites
  - Research projects
  - Contracted outreach project

Wolf-livestock Depredations

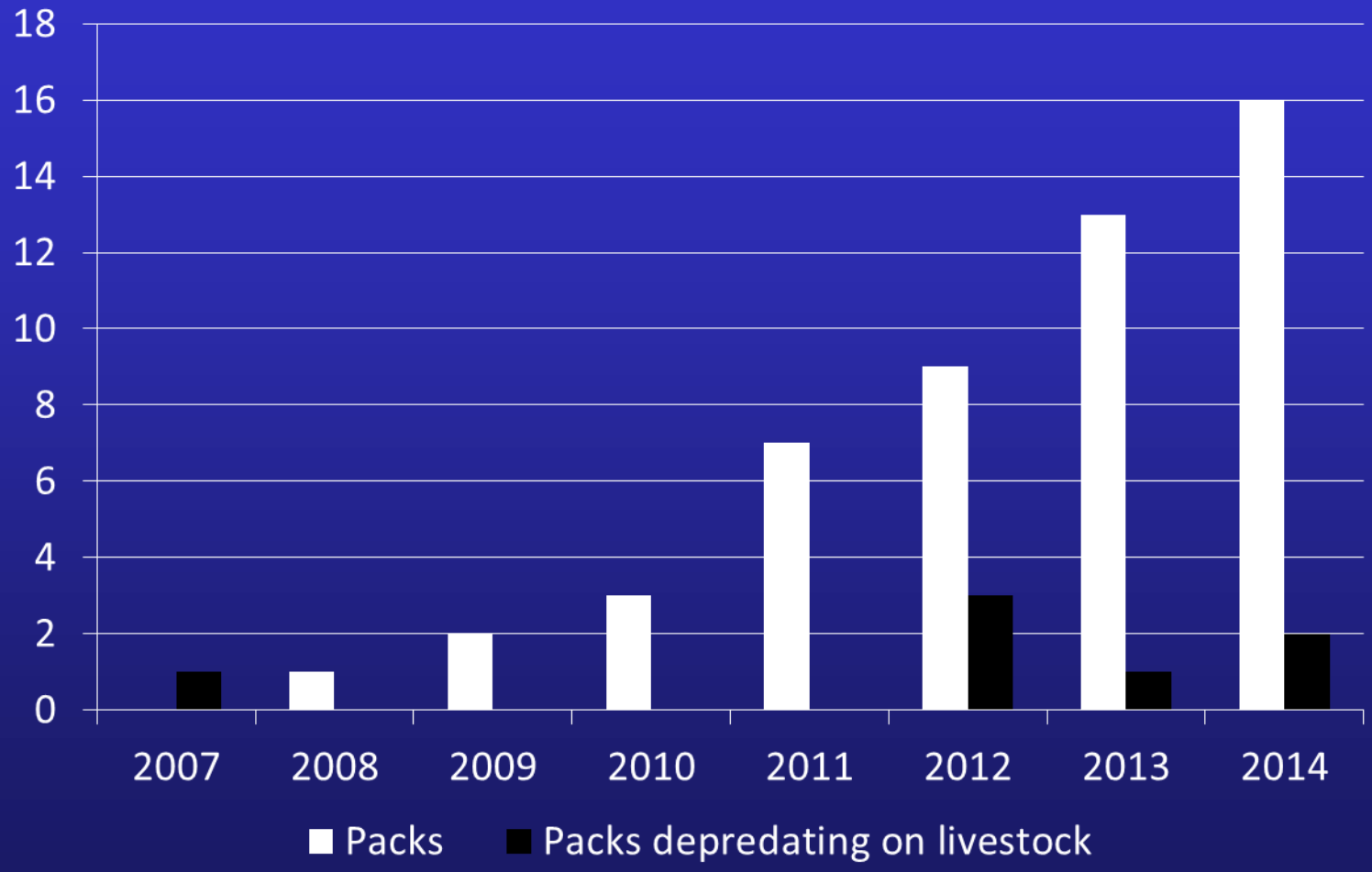
- 32* depredation investigations
  - 7 were caused by wolf (sheep, cattle, dogs)
  - 7 were other wild carnivores (cougar and coyote)
  - 1 was unknown predator
  - 12 were unknown/undetermined cause (e.g. natural death)
  - 5 other causes:
    - Ravens/eagles (n=1)
    - Structural (n=4)

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

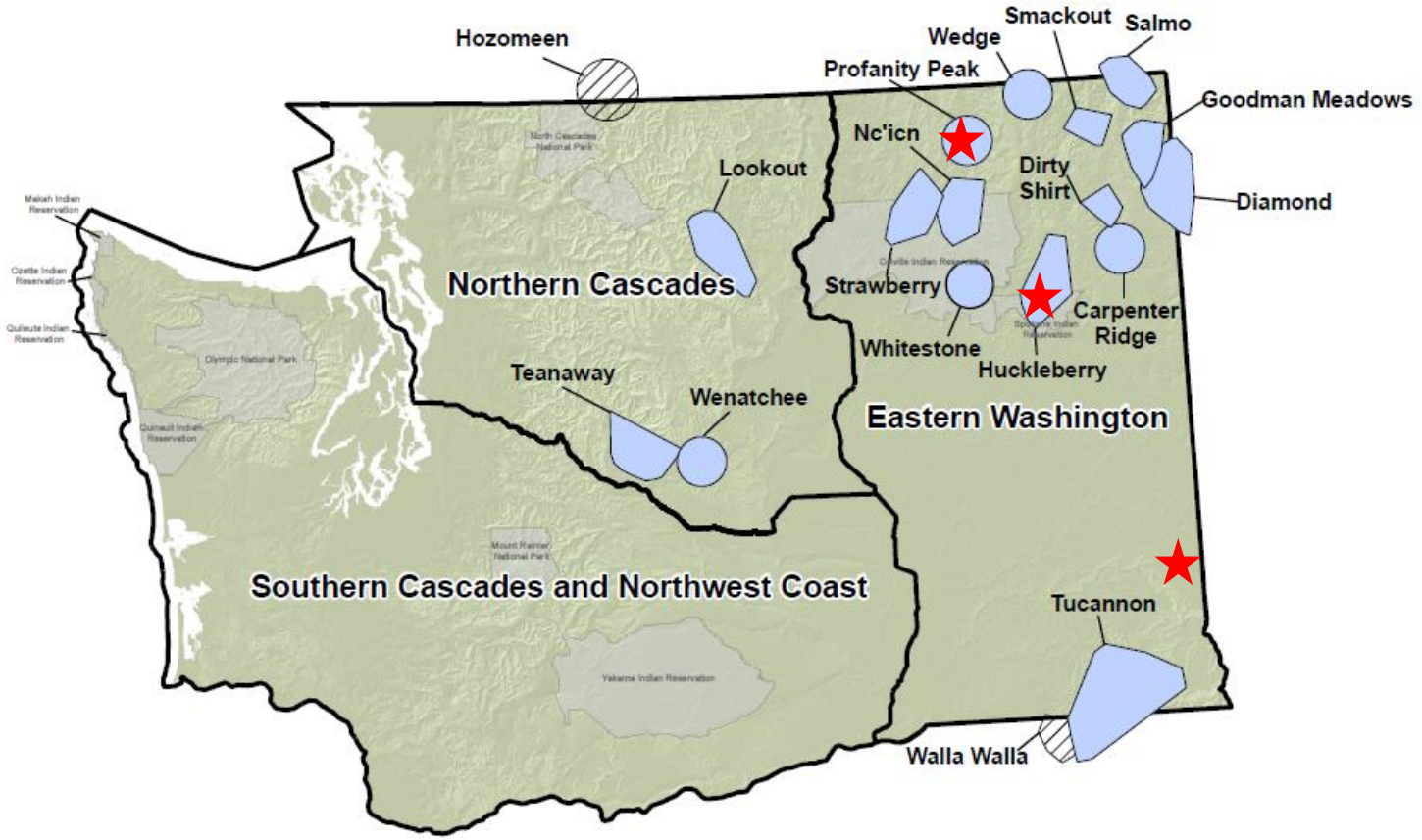
Wolf Depredations in Washington



Packs Depredating on Livestock



Packs Depredating on Livestock in 2014



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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%

Wolf Tolerance/Coexistance

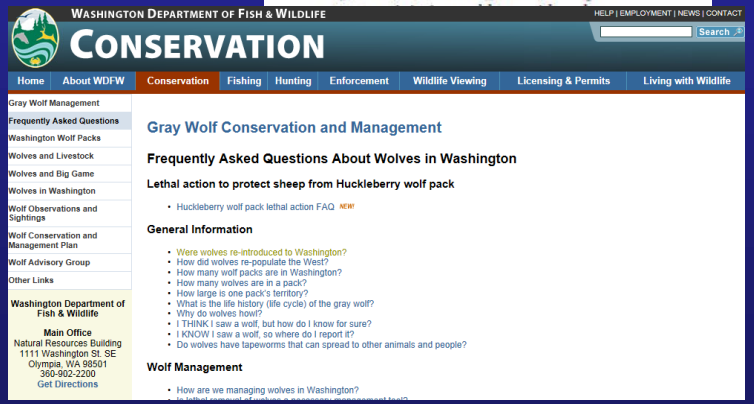
Outreach

- Meetings (n>50)
  - Public, Conservation Districts, Non-government interest groups, Wolf Advisory Group, Fish and Wildlife Commission
  - Trainings: depredation and range rider
- WDFW News releases and other printed materials
  - Brochures, hunting regulations pamphlet, magnet

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 wildlife. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for protecting and managing wildlife, and is committed to working with livestock producers to reduce conflicts with wildlife, including wolves.

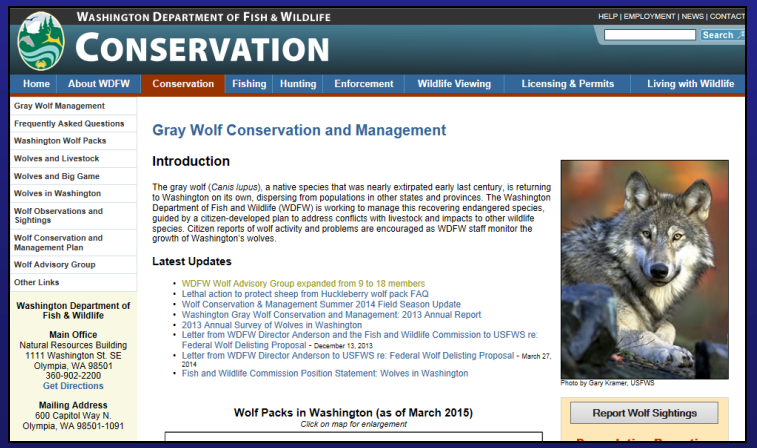
This guide includes strategies livestock producers



Outreach

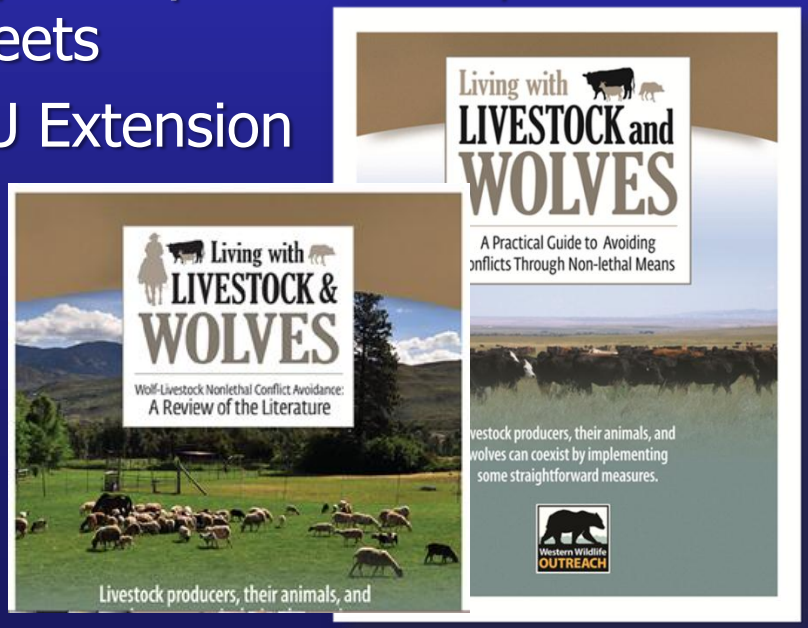
- Online resources
  - WDFW web page, weekly staff reports, webinar, sighting reports, wolf conservation and management plan
- Wolf Advisory Group members and other collaborators
- Contracted with Western Wildlife Outreach and research partners

Courtesy of Western Wildlife Outreach



Western Wildlife Outreach

- Develop a wolf-livestock conflict avoidance outreach program.
  - Science-based information of 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

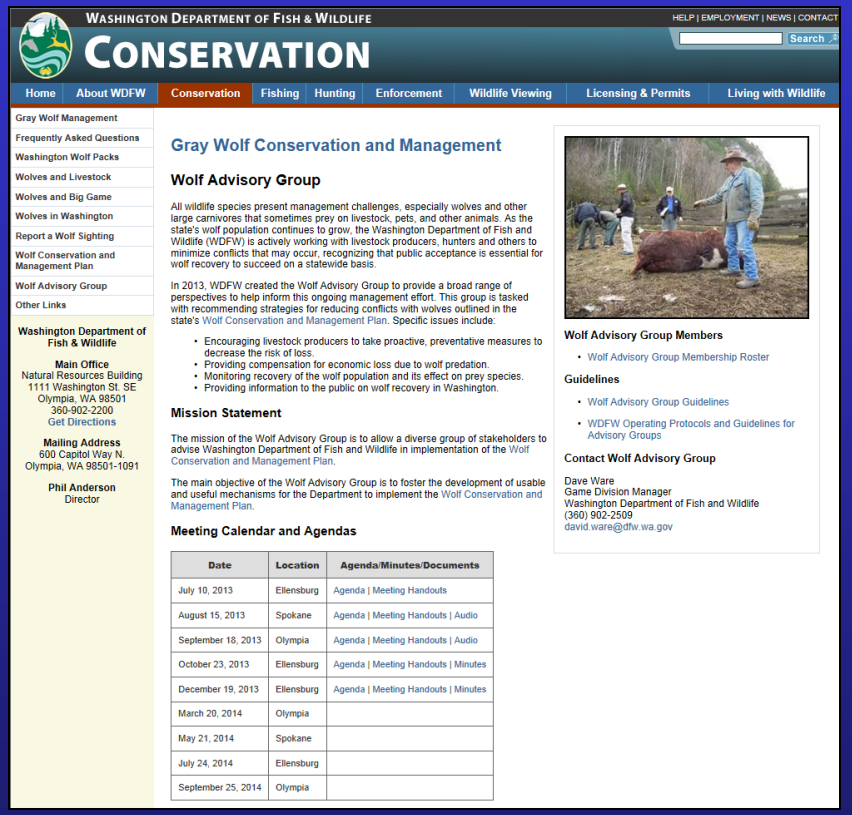


Technical Outreach

- New approaches
  - Creating / improving composting sites
  - Fully operational at Sherman Creek
  - Other locations NE, North central, and central Washington

Wolf Advisory Group

- Mission: Allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise WDFW in implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Appointed by Director
  - 18 members
- Directive:
  - Advise implementation of wolf plan policy
  - Review board for compensation



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- Frequently Asked Questions
- Washington Wolf Packs
- Wolves and Livestock
- Wolves and Big Game
- Wolves in Washington
- Report a Wolf Sighting
- Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Wolf Advisory Group
- Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

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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

Wolf Advisory Group

All wildlife species present management challenges, especially wolves and other large carnivores that sometimes prey on livestock, pets, and other animals. As the state's wolf population continues to grow, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is actively working with livestock producers, hunters and others to minimize conflicts that may occur, recognizing that public acceptance is essential for wolf recovery to succeed on a statewide basis.

In 2013, WDFW created the Wolf Advisory Group to provide a broad range of perspectives to help inform this ongoing management effort. This group is tasked with recommending strategies for reducing conflicts with wolves outlined in the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Specific issues include:

- Encouraging livestock producers to take proactive, preventative measures to decrease the risk of loss.
- Providing compensation for economic loss due to wolf predation.
- Monitoring recovery of the wolf population and its effect on prey species.
- Providing information to the public on wolf recovery in Washington.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wolf Advisory Group is to allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

The main objective of the Wolf Advisory Group is to foster the development of usable and useful mechanisms for the Department to implement the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Meeting Calendar and Agendas

Date	Location	Agenda/Minutes/Documents
July 10, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda | Meeting Handouts
August 15, 2013	Spokane	Agenda | Meeting Handouts | Audio
September 18, 2013	Olympia	Agenda | Meeting Handouts | Audio
October 23, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda | Meeting Handouts | Minutes
December 19, 2013	Ellensburg	Agenda | Meeting Handouts | Minutes
March 20, 2014	Olympia	
May 21, 2014	Spokane	
July 24, 2014	Ellensburg	
September 25, 2014	Olympia	

Wolf Advisory Group Members

- Wolf Advisory Group Membership Roster

Guidelines

- Wolf Advisory Group Guidelines
- WDFW Operating Protocols and Guidelines for Advisory Groups

Contact Wolf Advisory Group

Dave Ware
Game Division Manager
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
(360) 902-2509
david.ware@dfw.wa.gov

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

Budget Available for Wolf Recovery 2013-15 Biennium

Federal	Hunting Licenses	Personalized License Plates	Orca Background Plate	Total
$275,126	$50,000	$1,915,729	$145,153	$2,387,808

Wolf Expenditures 2013-15

Through December 2014

Activity	Federal	Wildlife Account	Personalized License Plates	Orca Plate	Total
Population Monitoring			$553,525	$129,892	$683,417
Conflict Mgmt	$920		$203,526		$204,446
Wildlife Srvcs			$100,000		$100,000
Cooperative Agreements	$81,313		$172,246		$253,559
Range Rider	$11,635		$54,185		$65,820
Research			$22,839		$22,839
Outreach			$79,996		$79,996
Lethal Action		$26,671			$26,671

Wolf Legislation 2015

- 12 Bills were introduced in 2015:
  - Regional Delisting (4)
  - Delisting in Federally delisted areas
  - Translocation
  - Killing wolves after two confirmed depredations (2)
  - Amend the wolf conservation and management plan (3)
  - Assessment of ungulate populations in areas with wolves
- 4 Bills remain today
  - Regional Delisting 5583
  - Amend the wolf plan 5960 & 2107
  - Assessment of wolf-ungulate impacts 1676

2015 Strategies

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

Investing in Human Dimensions Scientific Process

- Understanding Washingtonians opinions on wolf management
- Engaging stakeholders
- Understanding barriers to stakeholder progress

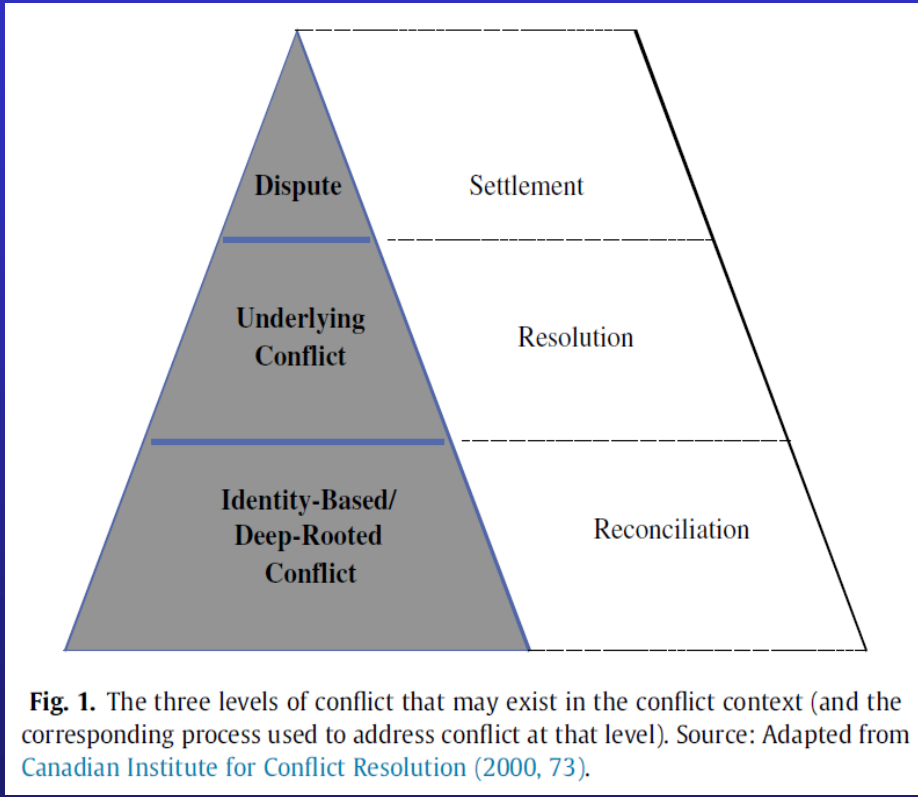

Fig. 1. The three levels of conflict that may exist in the conflict context (and the corresponding process used to address conflict at that level). Source: Adapted from Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution (2000, 73).

From Madden and McQinn 2014

Questions

Contact

Email: wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Phone: (360) 902-2515