

# Wolf Management

## Summer 2013 Update



Donny Martorello PhD | Carnivore Manager  
Stephanie Simek | Wildlife Conflict Manager



Washington Department of  
*FISH and WILDLIFE*

# Updates

- Capture and monitoring
- Livestock depredations
- Use of preventative, non-lethal tools
- Recent conflict staff rollout
- Outreach
- Budget
- Planning and policy development
- Federal Delisting

# Wolf Captures and Collaring

- 36 wolves captured to date in Washington





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



Helicopter darting operation to capture wolves in the Diamond pack, Feb 2013.



Eight members of the Diamond pack crossing a lake, Feb 2013.



Adult male (027M) captured in Diamond, Feb. 27, 2013.



Yearling female (030F) captured in Smackout pack, Feb. 28, 2013.





Adult male (028M) captured in Smackout, Feb. 27, 2013.



Yearling female (031F) captured in Tenaway, May 9, 2013.



Yearling female (036F) captured in Ruby area, July 15, 2013.

# Disperser: Teanaway to Entiat



© Craig M. Monette



**Bushnell**

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Known individuals of Wenatchee Pack as of March 2013.

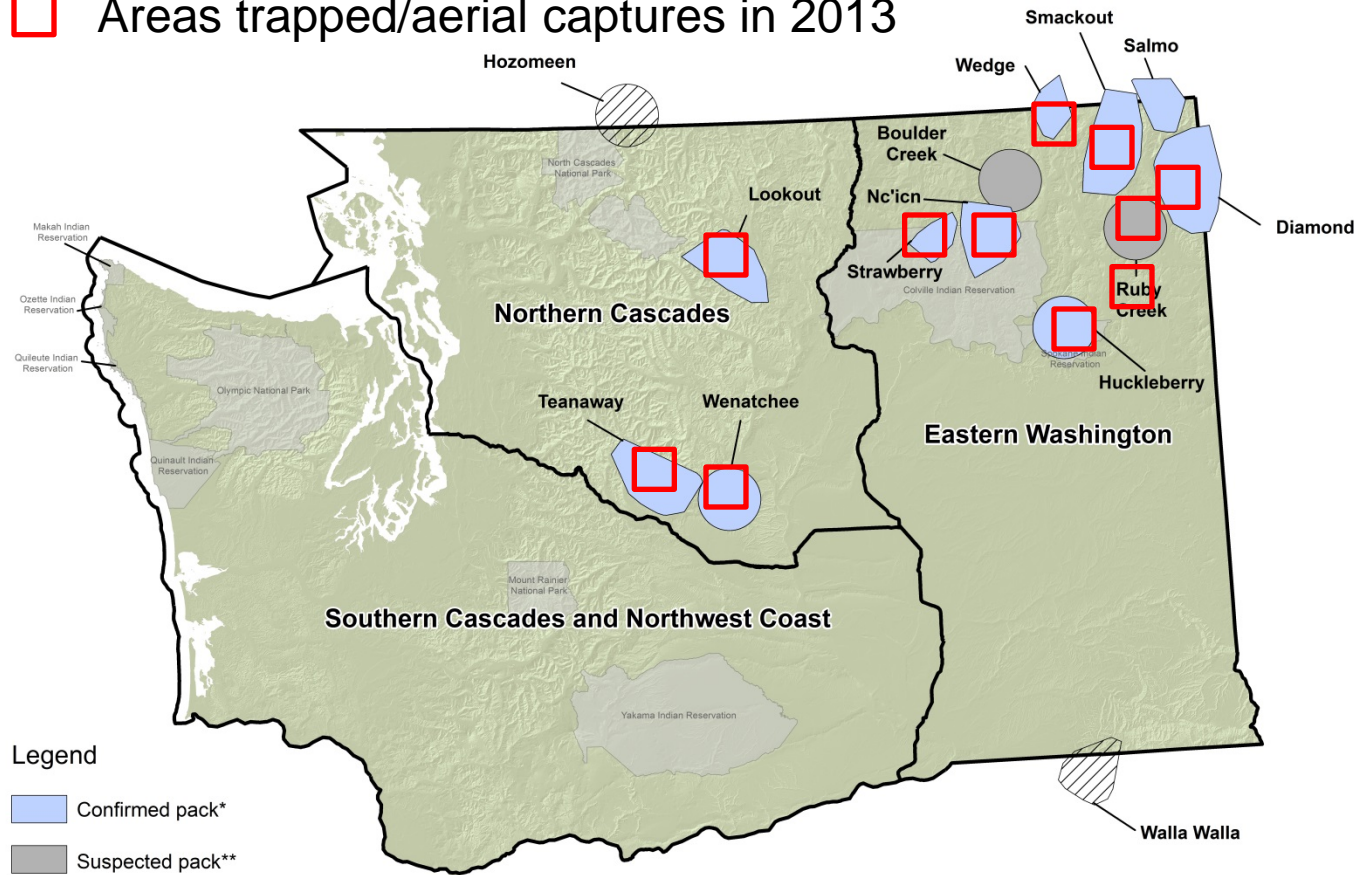


Alpha female, Lookout Pack May 15, 2013.

# Wolf Capture Areas



Areas trapped/aerial captures in 2013



## Legend

- Confirmed pack\*
- Suspected 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.

\*\* Suspected wolf packs are based on WDFW confirmed wolf activity at a level that is consistent with the existence of a pack.

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

Date: 03/26/2013

# 2013 Wolf Captures

Recovery Region	Pack	Field Activity	Captures	# Collared
Eastern Washington	Boulder	Camera monitoring	0	0
	Diamond	Helicopter	2	3
	Huckleberry	Trapped	2	2
	Nc'icn	Trapped (CCT)	0	1
	Ruby	Trapped	1	1
	Salmo	--	0	1
	Smackout	Helicopter	3	2
	Strawberry	Helicopter (CCT)	1	2
	Walla Walla (OR)	Camera monitoring	0	0
	Wedge	Trapped	0	0
Northern Cascades	Lookout	Trapped	0	0
	Wenatchee	Trapped	0	0
	Teaway	Trapped	3	2
	Hozomeen (BC)	Camera monitoring	0	0
S Cascades & NW Coast	--	--	--	--
	Statewide		12	14



# Wolf Pack Statistics

Jan 1 to Sept 30, 2013

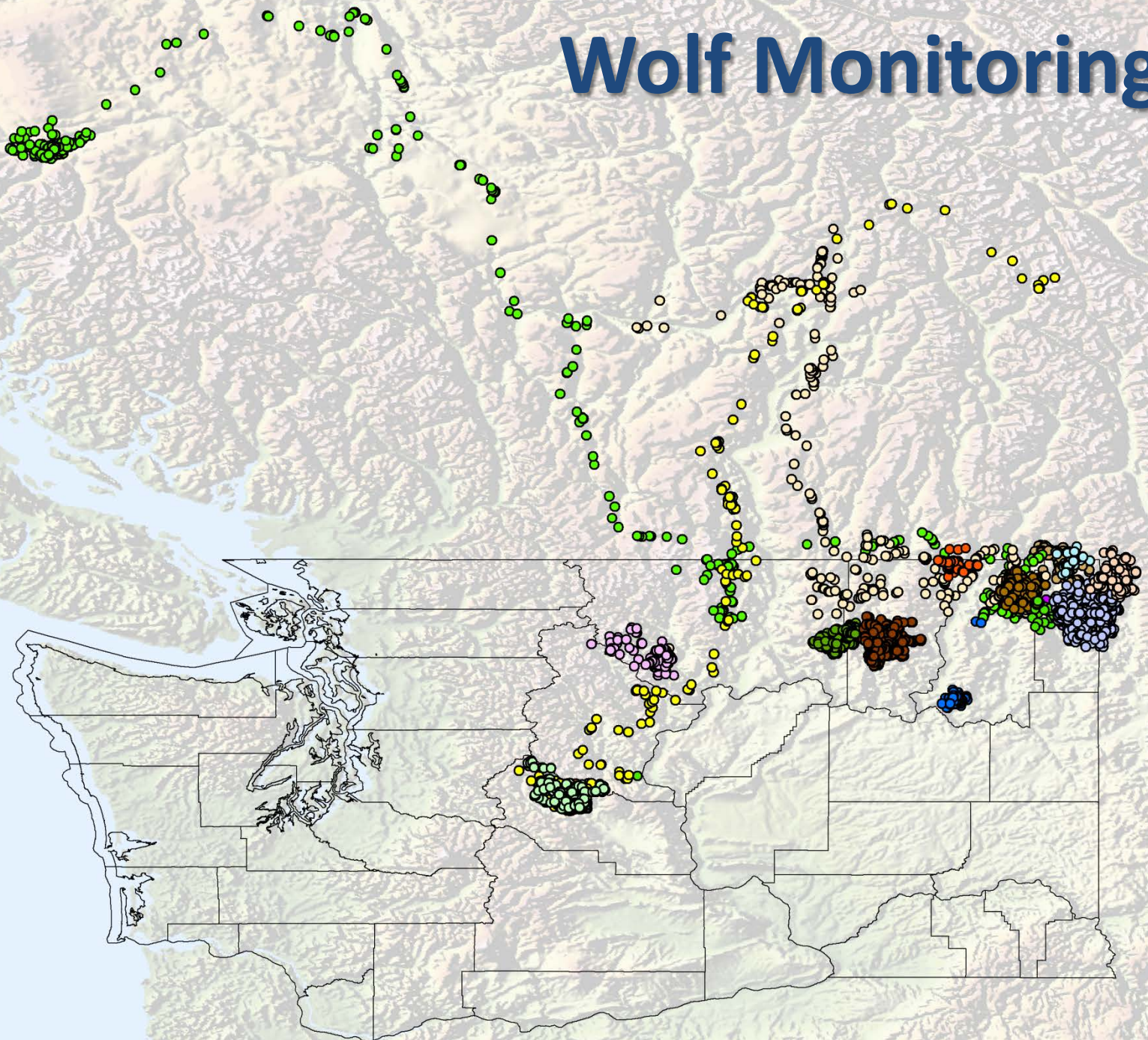
Recovery Area	Pack Name	Pack Status <sup>a</sup>	Dec. 2012		Jan-Sept 2013		
			Succ. Breed. Pair	Minimum #	Mortalities	Trapped	# collared
Eastern Washington	Boulder Creek	?	-	-	0	No	0
	Diamond	Confirmed	Yes	10	0	Yes	3
	Huckleberry	Confirmed	Yes	8	1	Yes	2
	Nc'icn	Confirmed	Yes	6	0	Yes	1
	Ruby Creek	Suspected	-	-	0	Yes	1
	Salmo	Confirmed	No	2	0	No	1
	Smackout	Confirmed	Yes	12	0	Yes	2
	Strawberry	Confirmed	No	3	0	Yes	2
	Wedge	Confirmed	No	2	0	Yes	0
Northern Cascades	Lookout	Confirmed	No	2	0	Yes	0
	Wenatchee	Confirmed	No	2	0	Yes	0
	Teaway	Confirmed	Yes	6	1	Yes	2
S Cascades & NW Coast	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<b>Totals</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>51<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>c</sup></b>		<b>14</b>

<sup>a</sup> Suspected wolf packs are based on confirmed wolf activity at a level consistent with the existence of a pack.

<sup>b</sup> The minimum wolf count is 51. The estimated population, based on average pack size from other western states and transient wolves, is 101 animals. The actual population in Washington is likely within that range.

<sup>c</sup> One additional mortality under investigation in northern Okanogan County

# Wolf Monitoring



# Smackout Pack Status



# Reports From the Public

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

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE  
**CONSERVATION**

Home About WDFW Conservation Fishing Hunting Wildlife Viewing Licensing & Permits Living with Wildlife

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

**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 it to secure it taking the following steps:

- Avoid
- Do not
- Keep
- Place
- Take

**Dial 911 to report an emergency**

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock  
**1-877-933-9847**

**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

**Washington's 2013 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations**  
Effective April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

**Information on wolf conflicts**

...tion Guide to Addressing Wolf-Conflicts

...for investigation of Livestock Mortalities: A Manual for WDFW personnel. This manual contains graphic and potentially disturbing photos of depredation incidents.

**Special Permit Application Deadline: May 22, 2013**

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

# Online Reporting

 **WDFW Wolf Observation Reporting Form**

\* Indicates required fields

**Observer Contact Information**

Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.

\* First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \* Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (360)400-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	Narrow snout
Round ears	Tall pointed ears

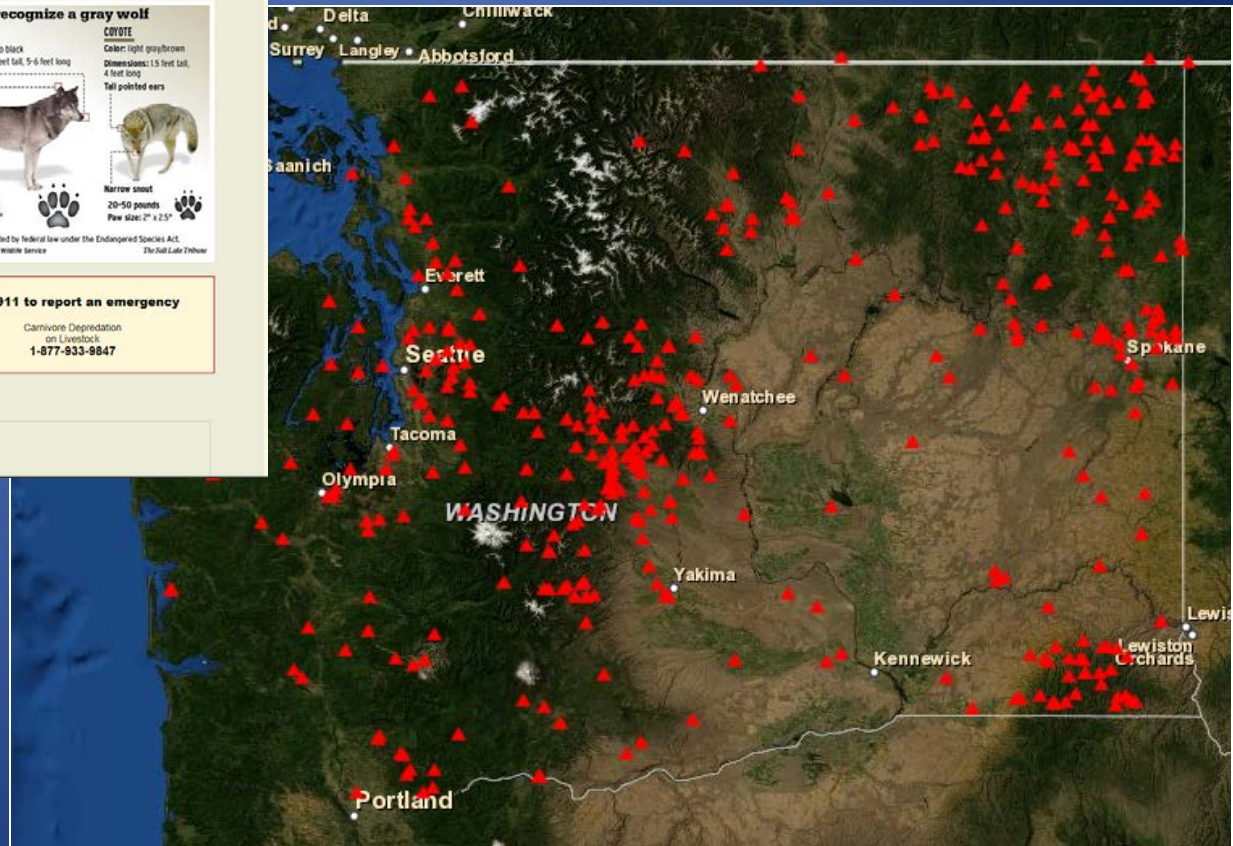
80-120 pounds  
Paw size: 4" x 5"

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 Nub Lake Tribune

**Dial 911 to report an emergency**

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock  
**1-877-933-9847**



# Upcoming December 2013 Breeding Pair Surveys

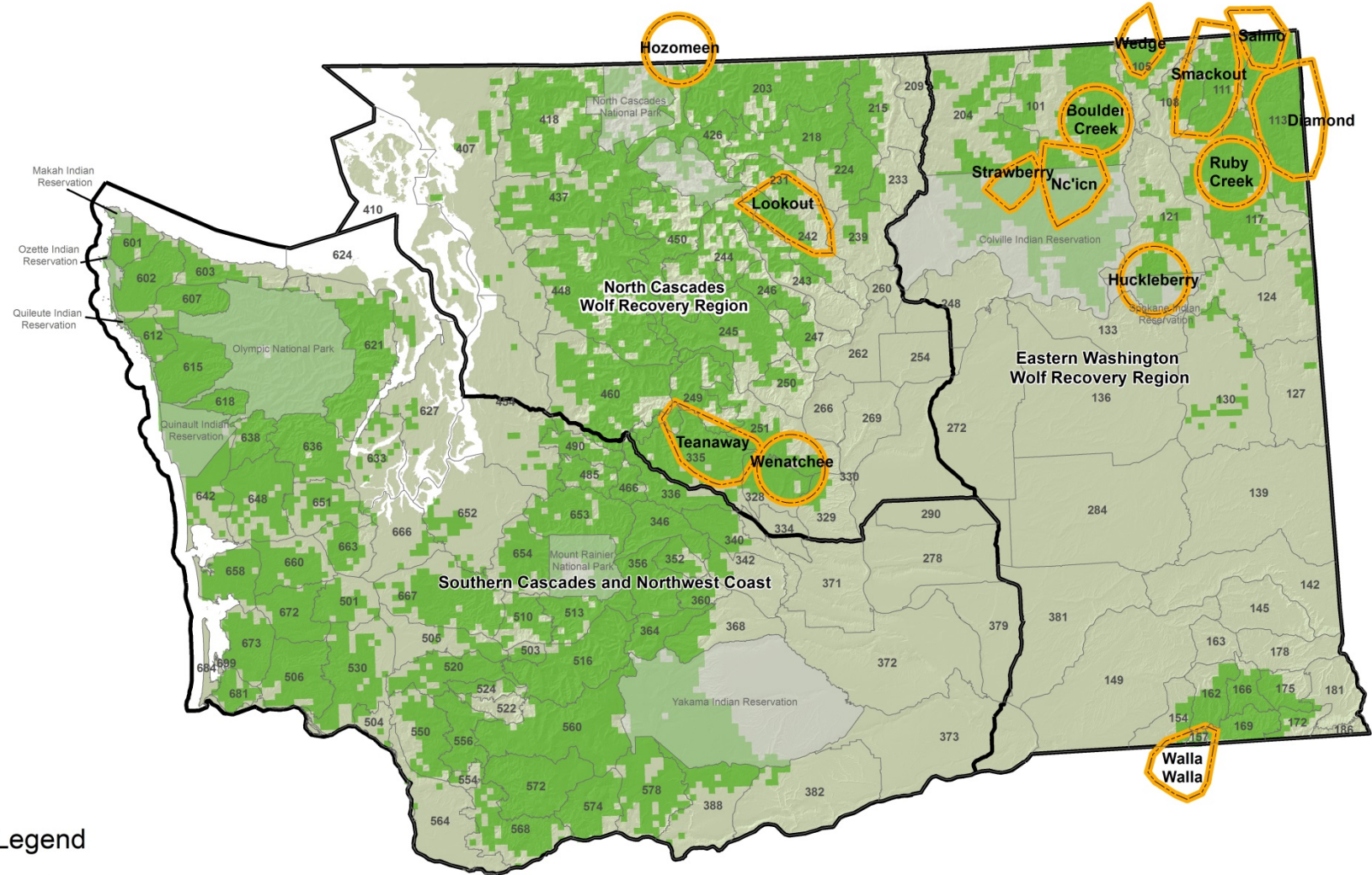


Tom Meier



WDFW, Jay Shepherd

# Washington Wolf Packs Relative to Estimated Suitable Wolf Habitat



## Legend

- Wolf packs (confirmed and suspected)
- Estimated suitable wolf habitat (greater than or equal to 50% probability of occupancy; see page 60 in Wolf Conservation and Management plan)

# Time line for 2013

- Monitor packs
- Investigate reports south of I-90 and Mt. Saint Helens areas
- Winter surveys & Success Breeding Pairs
- Updates to F&W Commission & public
- Final report to USFWS March 2014



# Wolf-livestock depredations

- Improved methodology and training
- 2 member team
- 15 depredation investigations
  - 2 were caused by wolf
  - 2 were unknown cause
- 11 non-wolf
  - 6 were known predator
  - Other causes:
    - structural,
    - fall/drown,
    - domestic canine



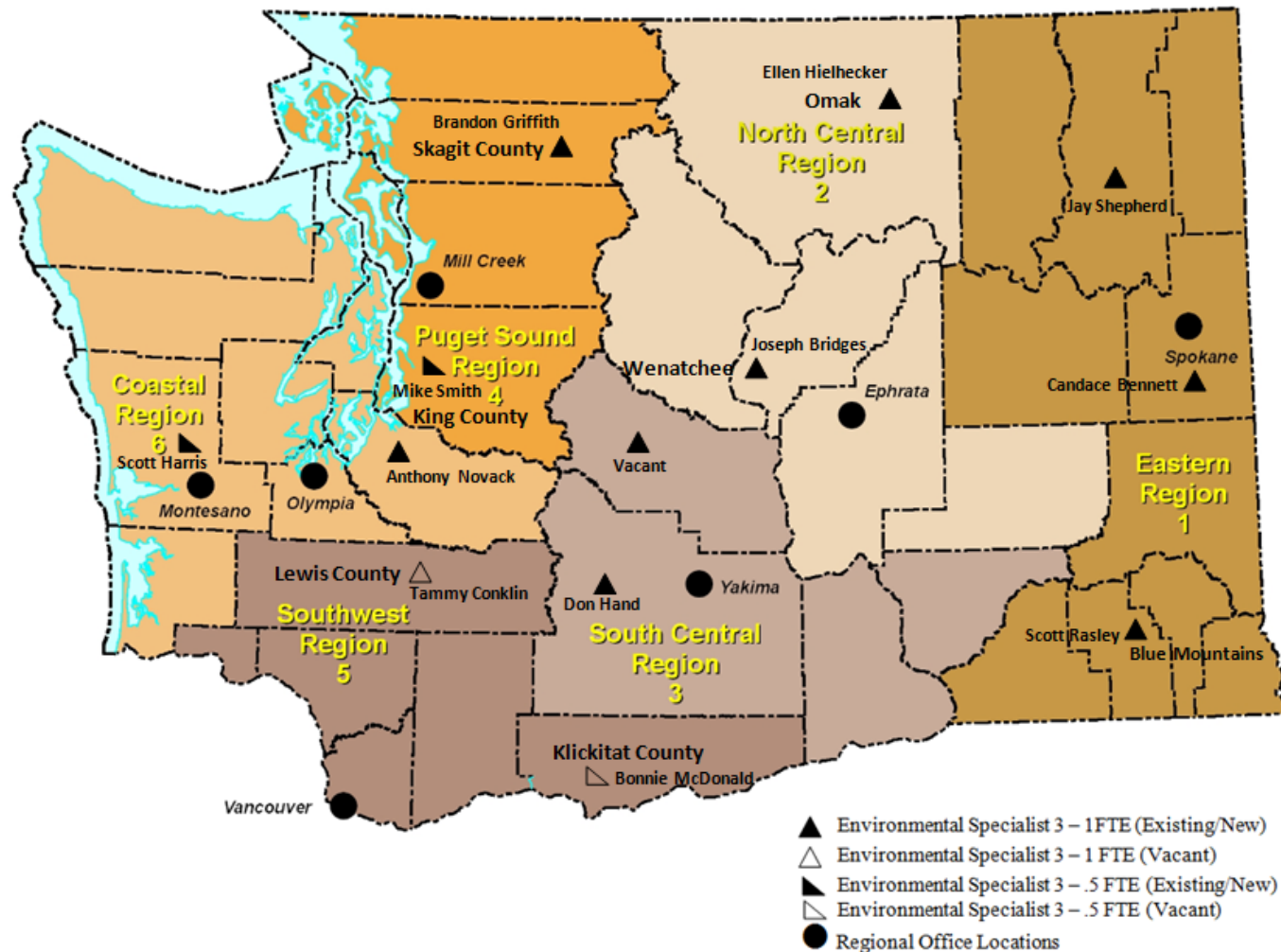
# Preventative, non-lethal tools

- Tools:
  - fladry, range riders, sanitation, noise boxes and other forms of hazing
- Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements
  - 29 statewide
  - Most deploy: sanitation, range riding, hazing
- Other
  - Pilot sanitation project
  - Research projects
  - Contracted outreach project



# Recent conflict staff rollout

Wildlife Conflict Permanent Staff- October 3, 2013



# Outreach

- Meetings (n=41)
  - 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



# Outreach

- Online resources
  - WDFW web page, weekly staff reports, webinar, sighting reports, wolf conservation and management plan
- Contracted services for outreach development
  - Project designed to reach residents, hunters, livestock producers

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

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## CONSERVATION

Home About WDFW Conservation Fishing Hunting Wildlife Viewing Licensing & Permits Living with Wildlife

Gray Wolf Management

Frequently Asked Questions

Washington Wolf Packs

Wolves and Livestock

Non-Lethal Wolf Control Methods

Reporting Depredation Incidents

Compensation Rules for Depredation Incidents

Damage Prevention

Cooperative Agreements

Frequently Asked Questions

Wolves and Big Game

Wolves in Washington

Report a Wolf Sighting

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

### Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

#### Non-Lethal Wolf Control Methods

Although wolves mostly prey on elk, deer, and moose, some will attack livestock or scavenge on carcasses. Many non-lethal strategies have been developed to protect livestock from wolf predation and WDFW provides assistance to adapt them to individual producer situations.

WDFW currently provides this kind of assistance, with support from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services, U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies and grazing land managers.

#### Assess where and when

The livestock you manage, and where they reside when, are important to consider for reducing the potential for problems with wolves. Assess, and perhaps change, where and when to turn out livestock of what age and type.

#### Report a Wolf Sighting

The type, age and number of livestock you manage is key. Sheep, goats and calves are the livestock most commonly attacked by wolves; adult bulls, cows, and horses are less at risk.

The location, size, and accessibility of your calving/lambing areas, feedlots, grazing sites and pastures may dictate your level of risk. Livestock ranges that are remote or in rugged terrain make it harder for stock owners and managers to observe animals and detect wolf-livestock conflict situations. Changing grazing sites temporarily may be necessary to avoid conflicts with wolves while they are at pup-rearing dens or rendezvous sites.

**Dial 911 to report an emergency**

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock  
**1-877-933-9847**

**More information on wolf-livestock conflicts**

Procedure for Investigation of Livestock Injuries & Mortalities: A Manual for WDFW Field Personnel

**WARNING:** This manual contains graphic and potentially disturbing photos of depredation incidents.

# Future efforts

- More trainings and expand cooperation
  - with other organizations; veterinarians, local law enforcement, Wildlife Services
- Continue testing new preventative techniques
- Fill remaining Wildlife Conflict position
  - continue training efforts
- Improve outreach materials
  - Provide current, up-to-date information including videos
  - Create new materials for web, in-person, and mail delivery

# Draft 2013-15 BN Budget

Description	PLP/Orca	Tester
Wolf-Livestock Conflict Research WSU	\$80,000	
Outreach	\$82,550	
Conflict Control - WS Contract & payments	\$150,000	
Wolf Monitoring Carnivore Section staff - 2.00 FTEs	\$421,694	
Wolf Conflict R1 - 1.49 FTEs	\$268,056	
Wolf Conflict R2 - 1.20 FTEs	\$187,778	
Wolf Conflict R3 - 0.64 FTE	\$124,613	
Wolf Conflict R4		
Wolf Conflict R5		
Goods & services (eg. radio collars, flights, contracts)	\$175,000	\$85,722
Compensation	\$300,000	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,789,691</b>	<b>\$145,722</b>

# 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
- Directive:
  - Advise implementation of wolf plan policy
  - Review board for compensation

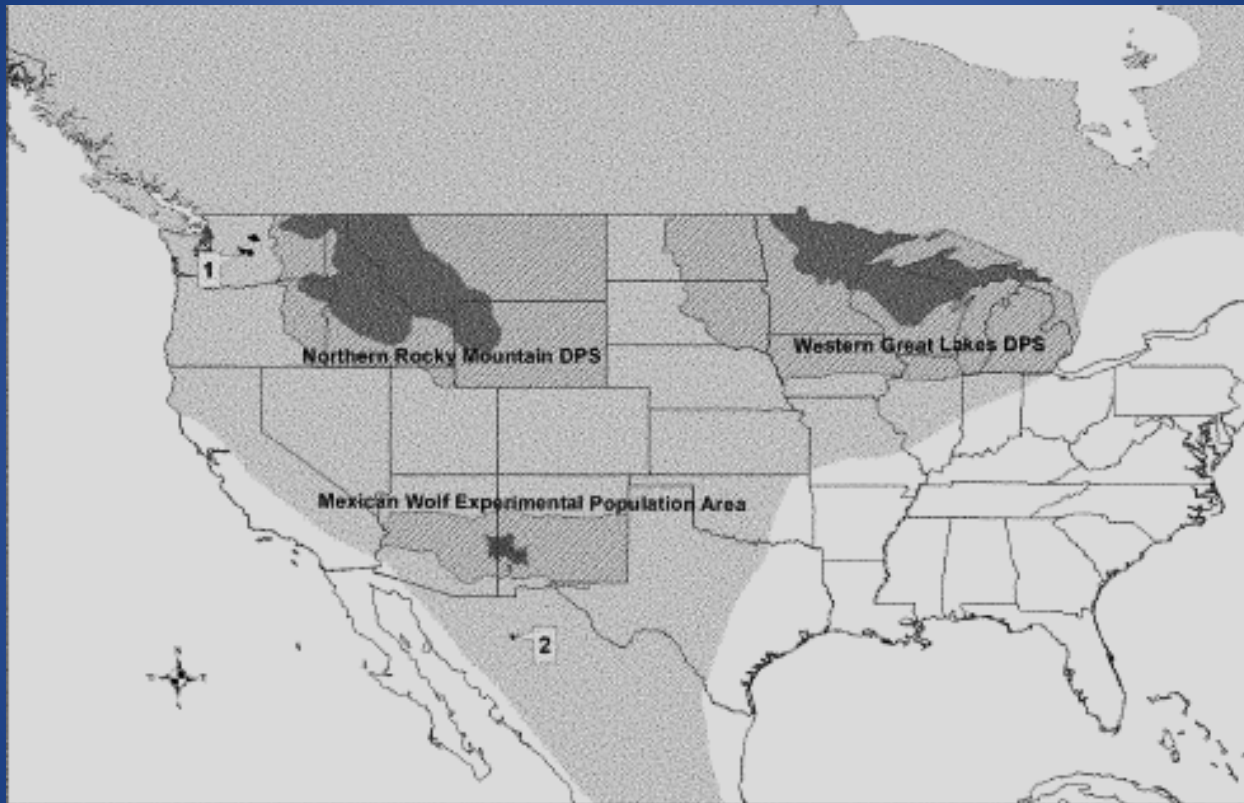
• Tri-County Commissioners
• Farm Bureau
• Washington State Cattlemen's Association
• Cattle Producers of Washington
• Conservation Northwest
• Humane Society of United States
• Wolf Haven International
• Sierra Club
• Hunter's Heritage



# Federal Delisting Proposal

1. Remove Canis lupus (gray wolf) from ESA listing
2. Maintain Endangered status for Canis lupus baileyi (Mexican wolf)
3. Change taxonomic structure of subspecies Canis lupus lycaon to species Canis lycaon

# Federal Delisting Proposal



# Washington ESA Listing Status



# Federal Delisting Proposal

## Washington's situation

- Recovery plan in place
- Regulatory mechanisms in place
- Ongoing monitoring of recovery
- Connectivity and dispersal
- Rapid wolf population growth
- Long-term wolf population stability
- Outreach and education on coexistence
- Adaptive conflict management

# Questions



Teaway Pack (Photo courtesy of Western Transportation Institute)