

Agenda Item 21

Wolf Conservation and Management 2015 Annual Report



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Donny Martorello | Wolf Policy Lead

Scott Becker | Wolf Specialist

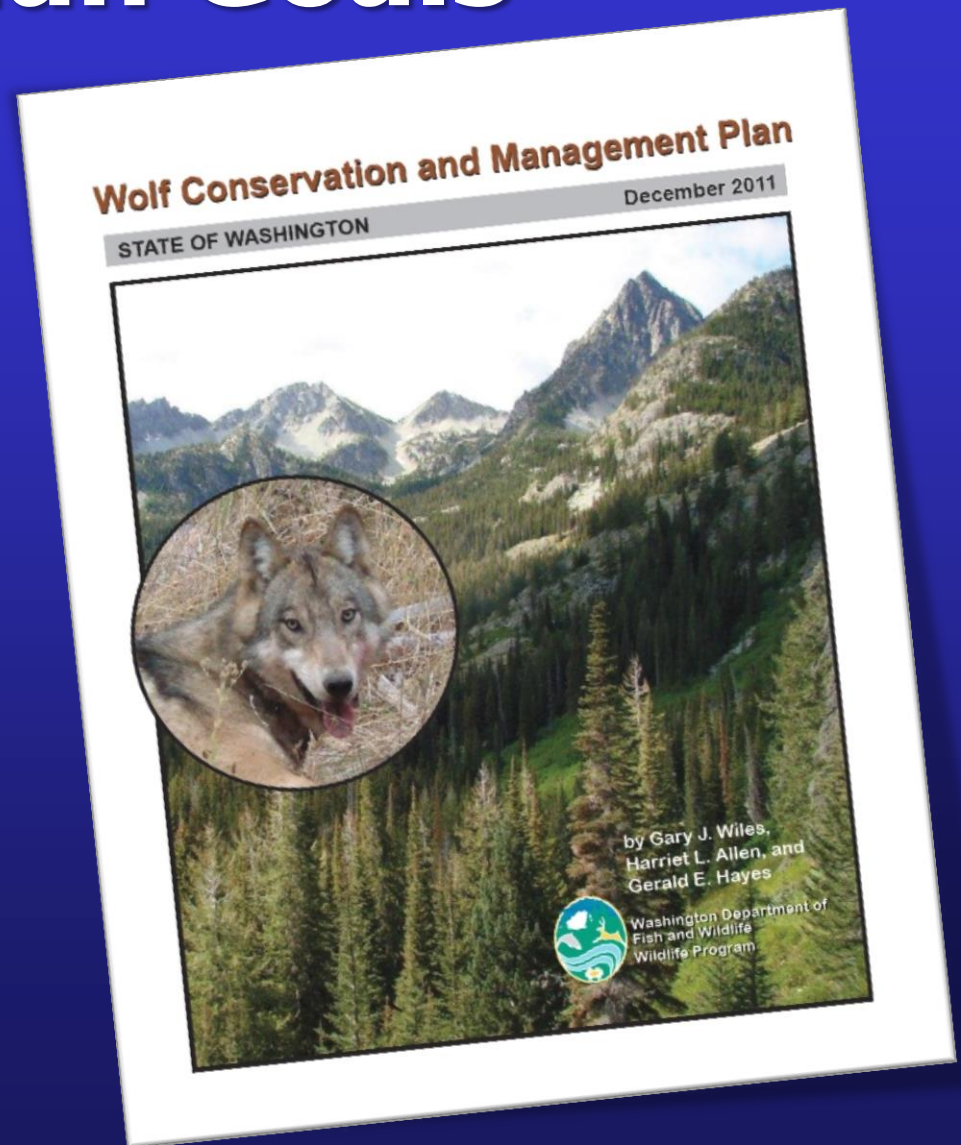
Candace Bennett | Wildlife Conflict Specialist

Summary

- Overview of recovery objectives
- Population trends
- Conflict management
- Wolf-ungulate interactions
- Stakeholder engagement
- Budget
- Looking ahead

Wolf Plan Goals

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



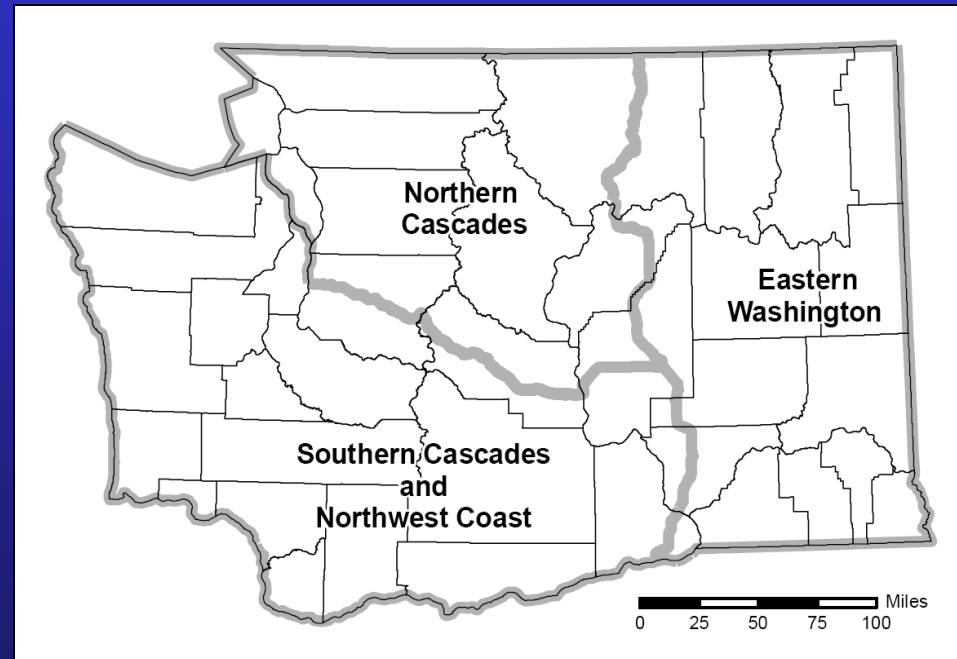
Definitions



- **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



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

Reports From the Public

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

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION

HELP | EMPLOYMENT | NEWS | CONTACT

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Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
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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 at the site to secure it from disturbance. Treat the area as though it were a crime scene. This includes taking the following steps:

- Avoid walking in or around the area.
- Do not touch or handle the animal.
- Keep all children and pets away from the area.
- Place a sign or marker to warn others.
- Take photos of the animal and the surrounding area.

Dial 911 to report an emergency
Carnivore Depredation on Livestock
1-877-933-9847

More information on wolf-livestock conflicts

Washington Guide to Addressing Wolf-Livestock Conflicts
Manual for Investigation of Livestock Mortalities: A Manual for WDFW Personnel
This manual contains graphic and potentially disturbing photos of depredation incidents.

Washington's 2015 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations


Effective April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

Photo by Joe Lind

Special Permit Application Deadline: May 20, 2015

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Online Reporting 2015 Reports

 **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: (____) ____-____
* 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.

How to recognize a gray wolf

GRAY WOLF	COYOTE
Color: light gray to black	Color: light gray/brown
Shoulders: 13 feet tall, 5-6 feet long	Shoulders: 13 feet tall, 4 feet long
Head: broad	Head: narrow
Round ears	Tall pointed ears

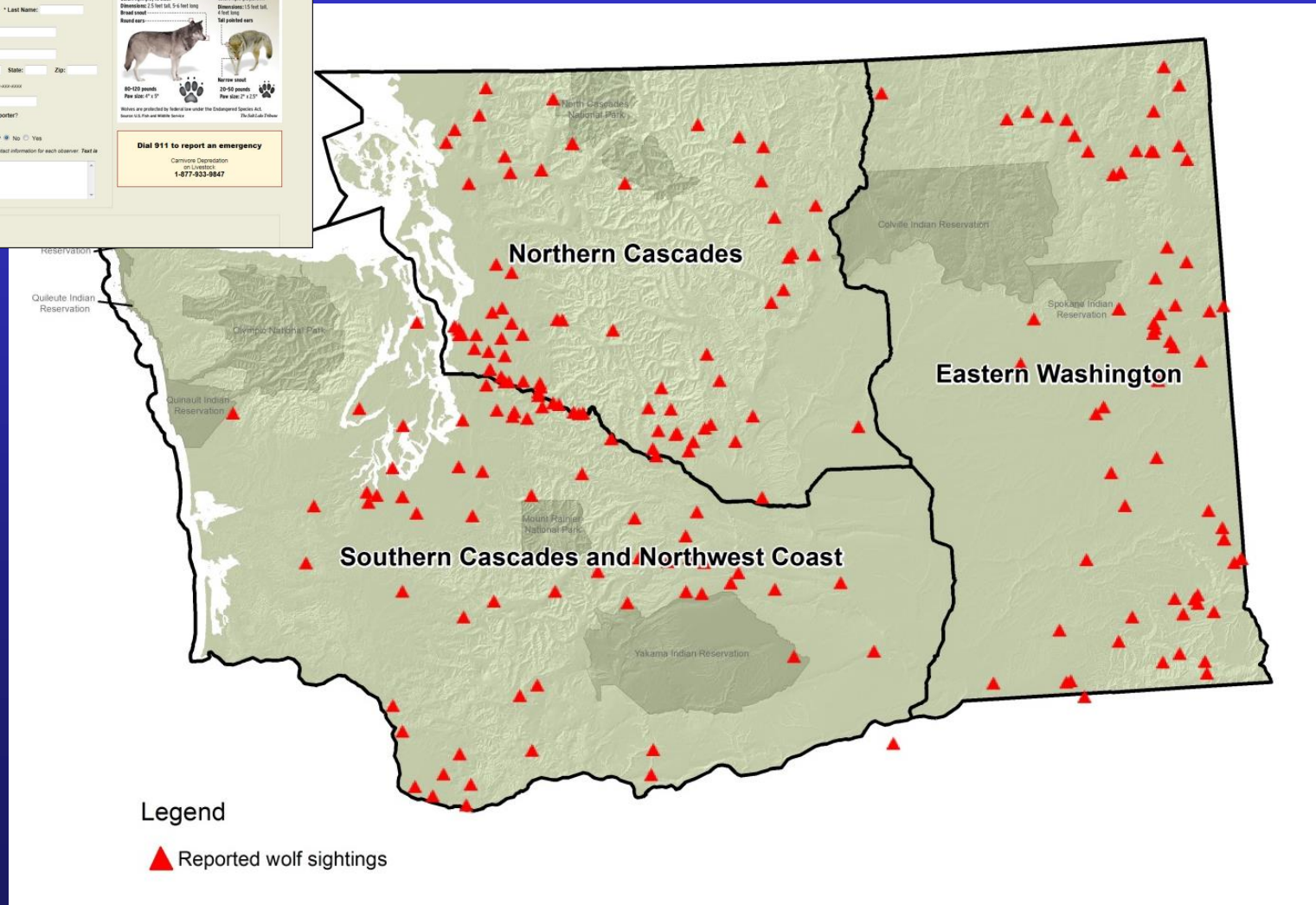


80-110 pounds
Face size: 1" x 1"

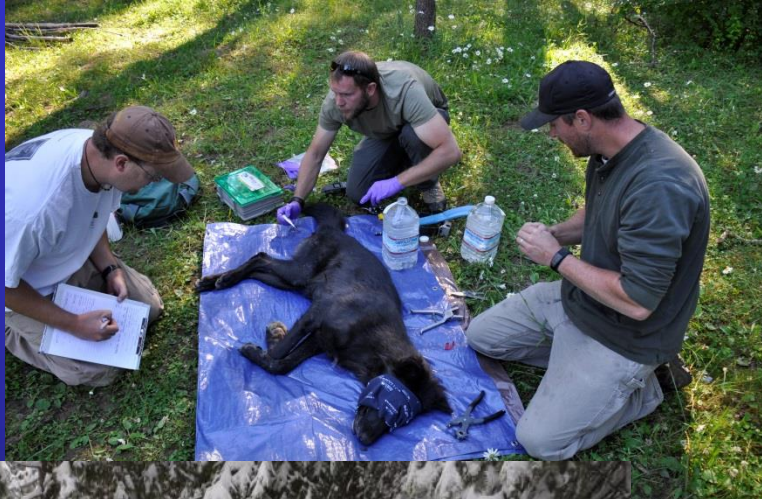
Narrow snout
30-40 pounds
Face size: 2" x 2.5"

Dial 911 to report an emergency
Carnivore Depredation and Loss Unit
1-877-933-9647

Observation Details
*Indicates required fields



Capture and Monitoring





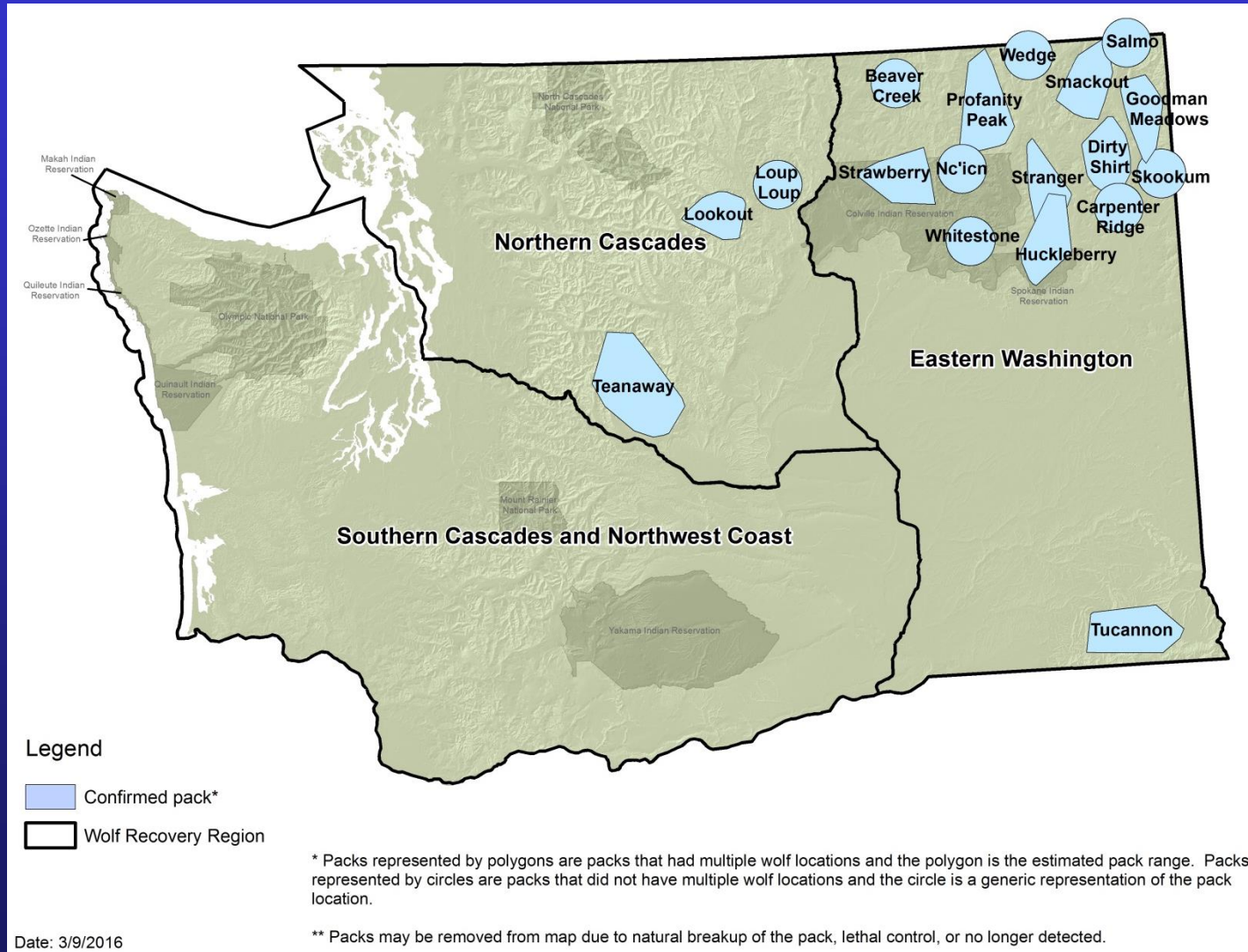
Aerial wolf capture using a net gun in the Diamond pack, Feb 2013.



Setting wolf leg-hold trap, WDFW.

Washington's Known Wolf Packs

As of December 31, 2015



Capture and Monitoring

2015 Calendar Year

- Captured 14 unique wolves
- 9 adults, 2 yearlings, 3 pups
- 12 radio collars deployed
- Monitored 22 unique radio collared wolves (24% of minimum known population) from 13 packs (65% of known packs)
- Monitoring 11 collared wolves at end of calendar year

Statewide

Recovery Region	Successful Breeding Pair	Min Count	Mortality	Known Dispersal	Depredations
Eastern	7	77	6	0	6
N. Cascades	1	13	1	1	2
S. Cascades/Coastal	0	0	0	0	0
STATEWIDE TOTAL	8	90	7	1	8



Eastern Washington Recovery Area

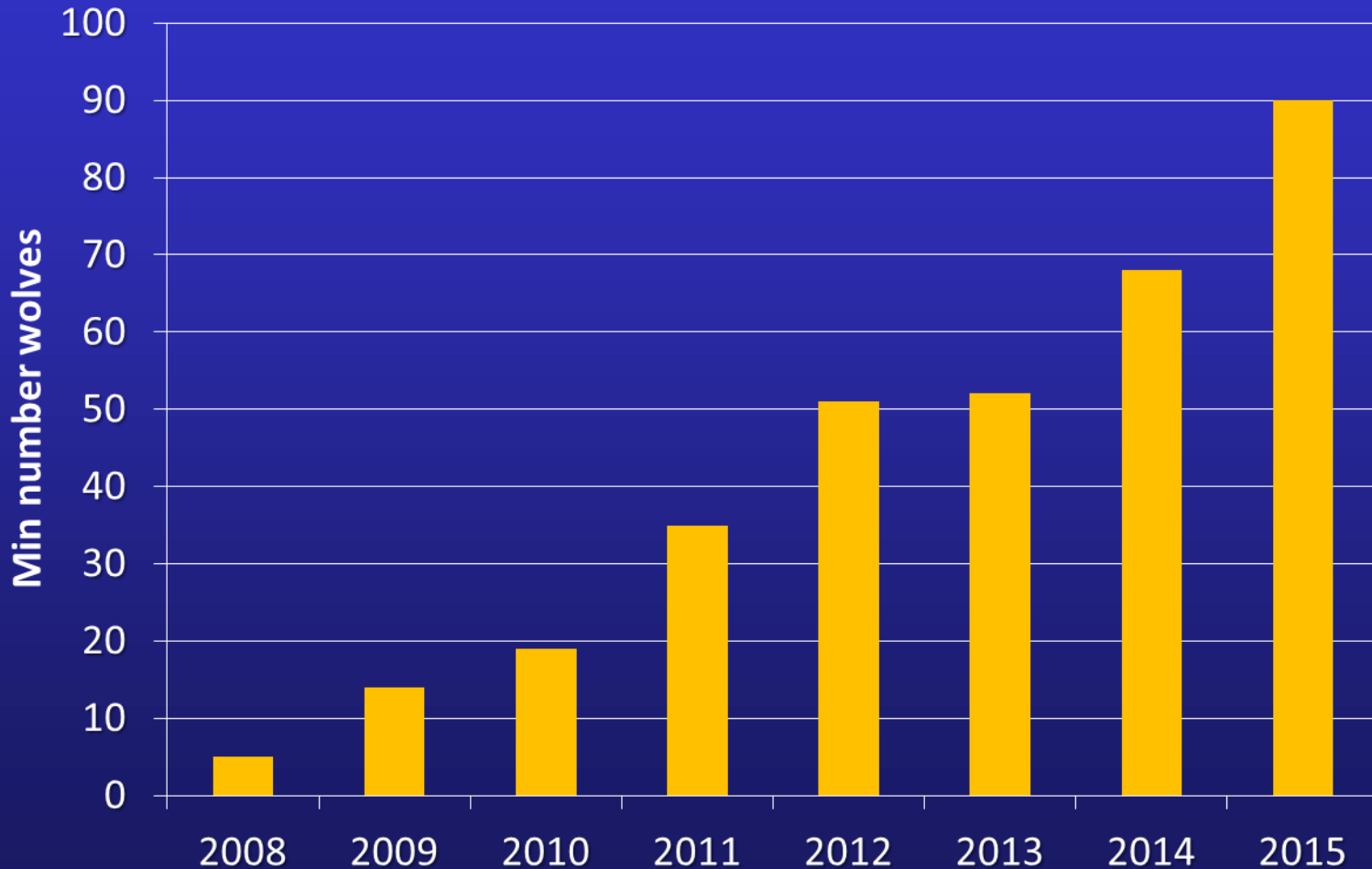
Confirmed Pack	Successful Breeding Pair	Min Count	Mortality	Known Dispersal	Depredations
Beaver Creek	No	2	0	0	0
Carpenter Ridge	No	2	0	0	0
Diamond	--	--	--	--	--
Dirty Shirt	Yes	8	0	0	4
Goodman Meadows	Yes	7	0	0	0
Huckleberry	Yes	5	3	0	0
Nc'icn (CCT)	No	5	1	0	0
Profanity Peak	Yes	7	1	0	0
Salmo	No	3	0	0	0
Skookum	Yes	5	0	0	0
Smackout	Yes	8	0	0	1
Stranger	No	2	0	0	1
Strawberry (CCT)	No	4	0	0	0
Tucannon	Yes	5	0	0	0
Wedge	No	3	0	0	0
Whitestone (CCT)	No	2	0	0	0
Misc/Lone Wolves	No	9	1	0	0
Recovery area total	7	77	6	0	6

North Cascades Recovery Area

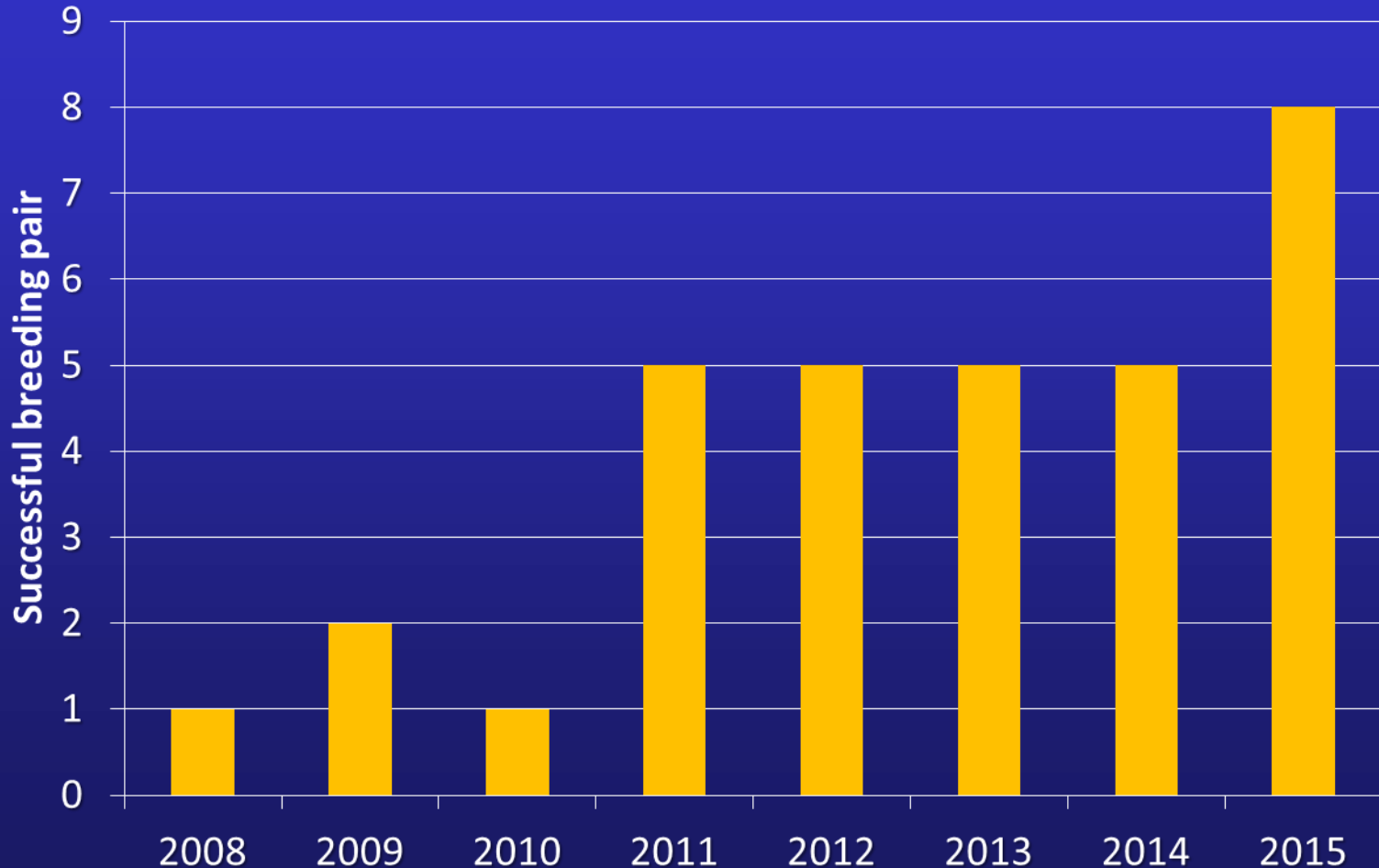
Confirmed Pack	Successful Breeding Pair	Min Count	Mortality	Known Dispersal	Depredations
Lookout	No	3	0	0	0
<u>Loup Loup</u>	Yes	6	0	0	0
Teaway	No	3	0	1	2
Wenatchee	--	--	--	--	--
Misc/Lone Wolves	No	1	1	0	0
Recovery area total	1	13	1	1	2



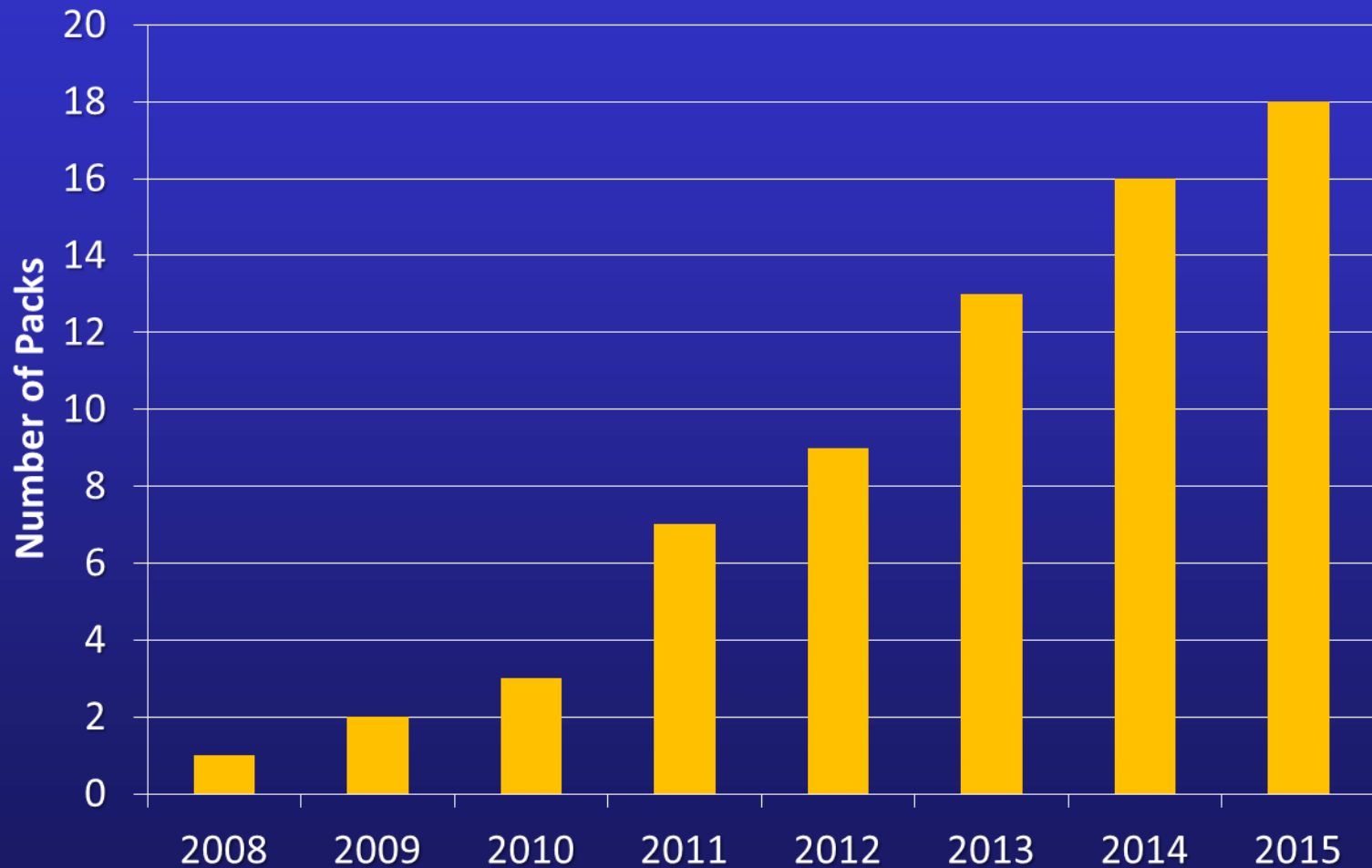
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



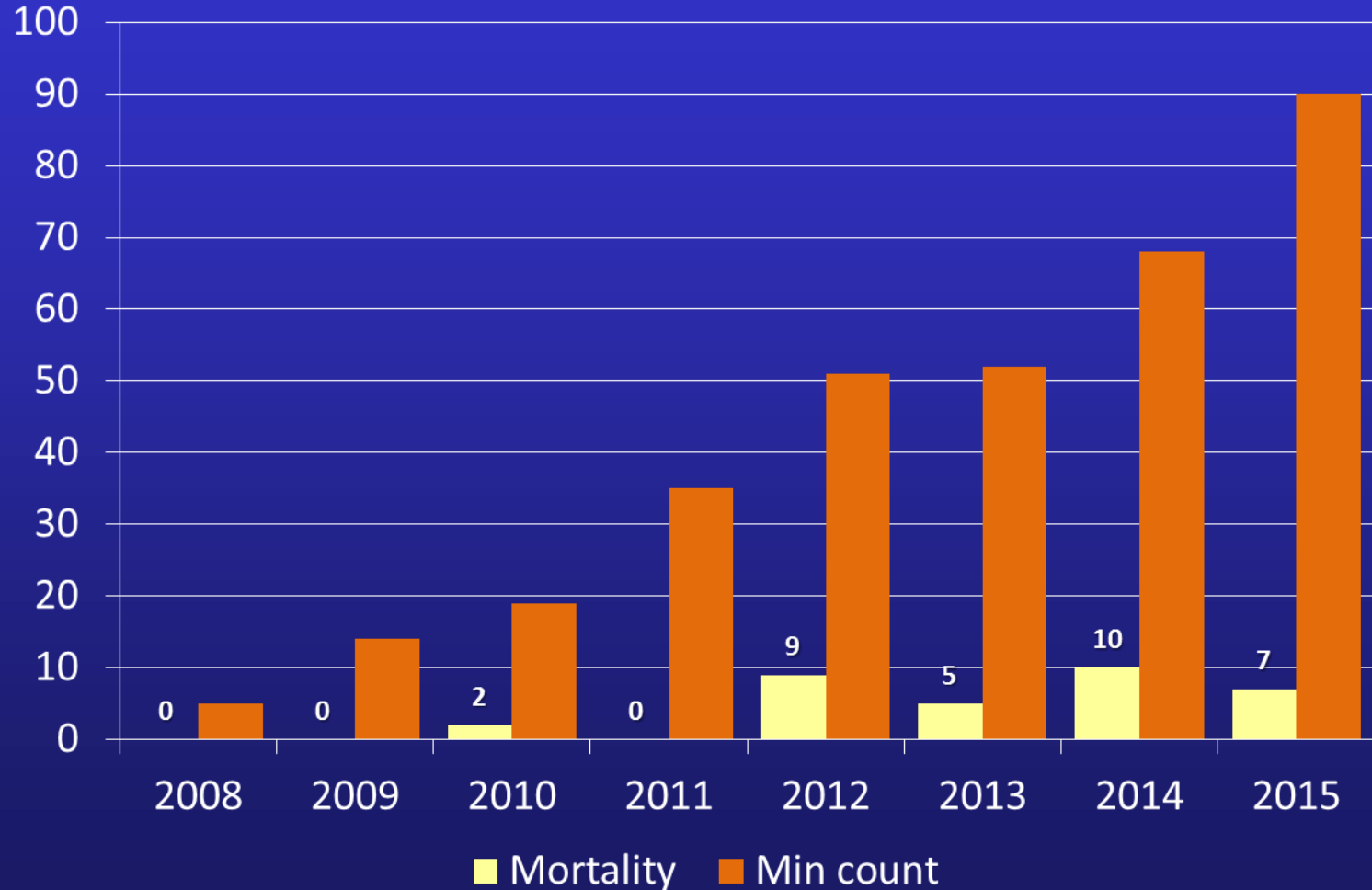
Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



Known Wolf Mortalities



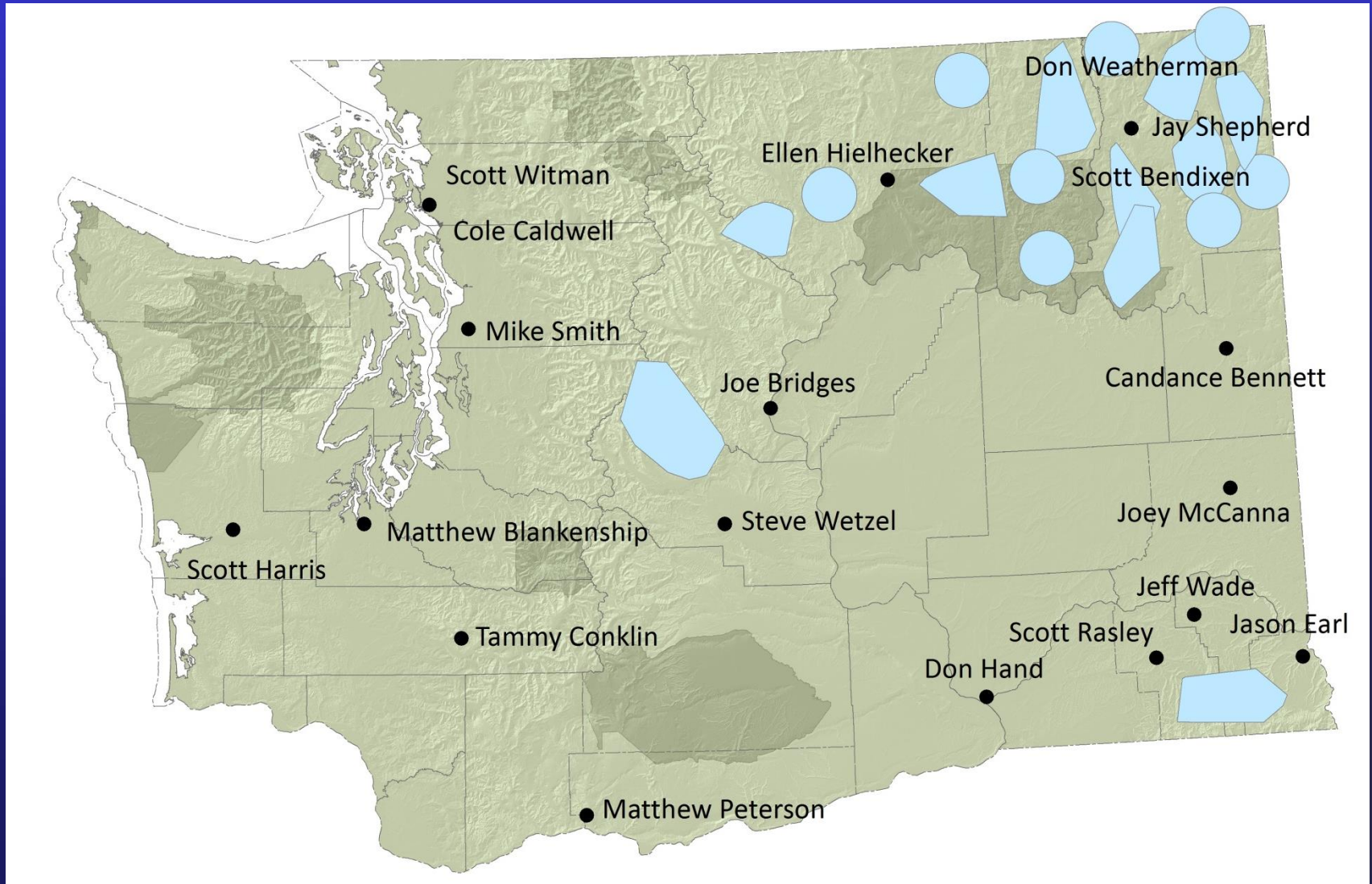
Conflict Management

Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict

- Wildlife Conflict Specialists
- Preventive measures
- Coordination w/ producers
 - One-on-one
 - Checklist
 - Prevention agreement
- Compensation
 - Direct
 - Indirect
- Lethal control



Wildlife Conflict Specialist



Prevention Tools Implemented

- Range riders
- Carcass removal
- Carcass disposal
- Guarding/herding dogs
- Fladry
- Hazing devices
- RAG box/telemetry equipment
- Collar data sharing
- Fencing rearing areas
- Relocating rearing areas
- Delayed turn out of livestock
- Removal of sick or injured livestock
- Grazing plan adjustments



Checklist of non-lethal tools

Required

1. Remove livestock carcasses
2. Remove sick/injured livestock
3. Secure boneyards where applicable
4. Calf/lamb away from wolves
5. Haze wolves if encountered



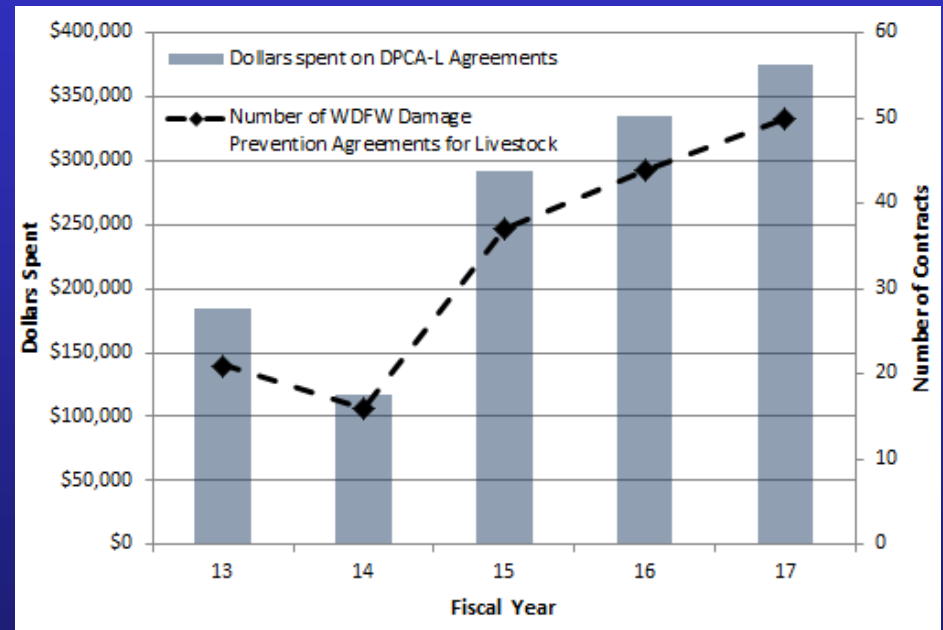
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Staff Guidelines: LIVESTOCK-WOLF MITIGATION MEASURES

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 cooperators' 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:		

Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements

- Coordination with local Conflict Specialists
- Preventive measures specific to each operation (range riders, sanitation, etc.)
- Cost-share option

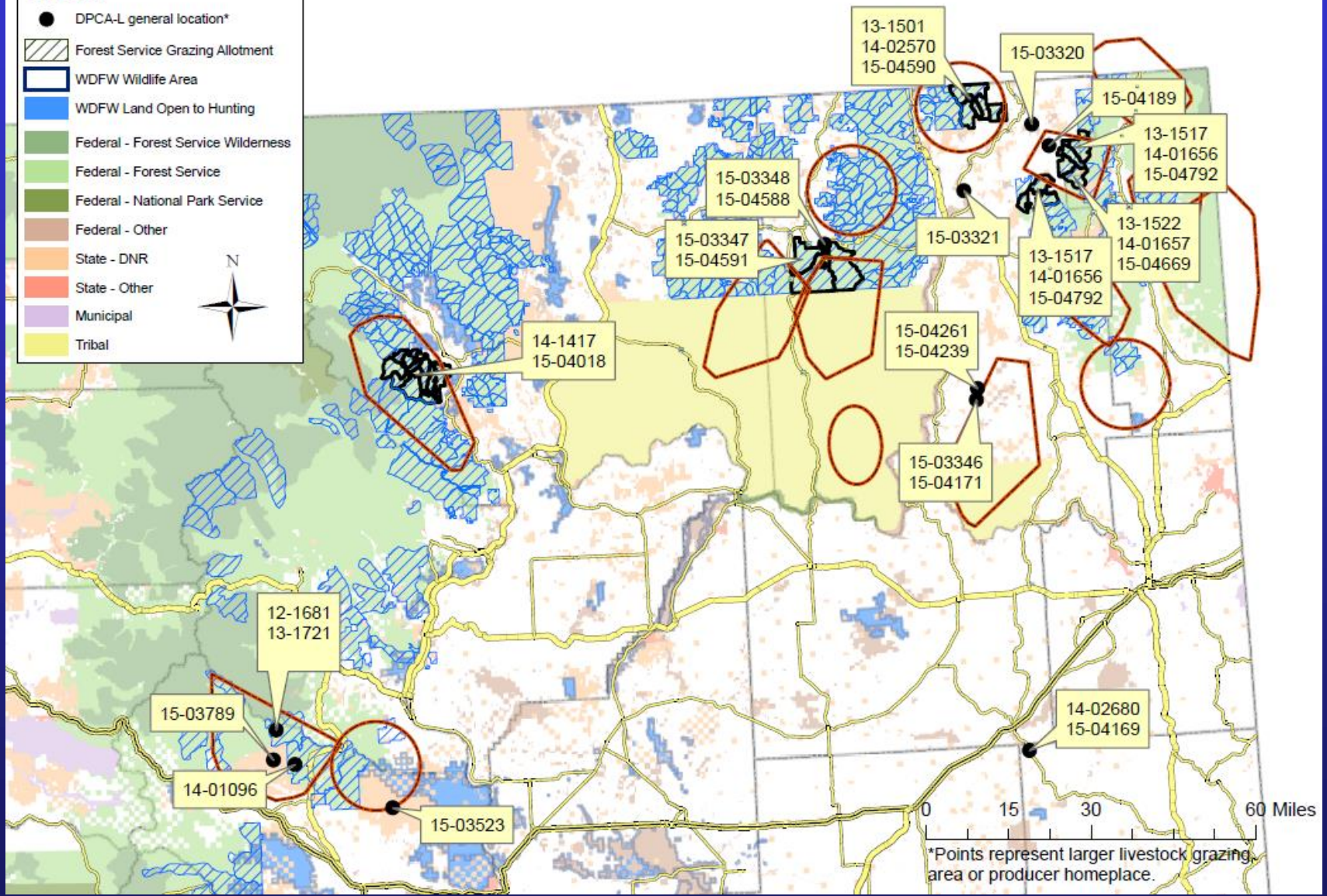


Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreement for Livestock Northeastern and Central, Washington

Legend

- DPCA-L general location*
- ▨ Forest Service Grazing Allotment
- ▭ WDFW Wildlife Area
- WDFW Land Open to Hunting
- Federal - Forest Service Wilderness
- Federal - Forest Service
- Federal - National Park Service
- Federal - Other
- State - DNR
- State - Other
- Municipal
- Tribal

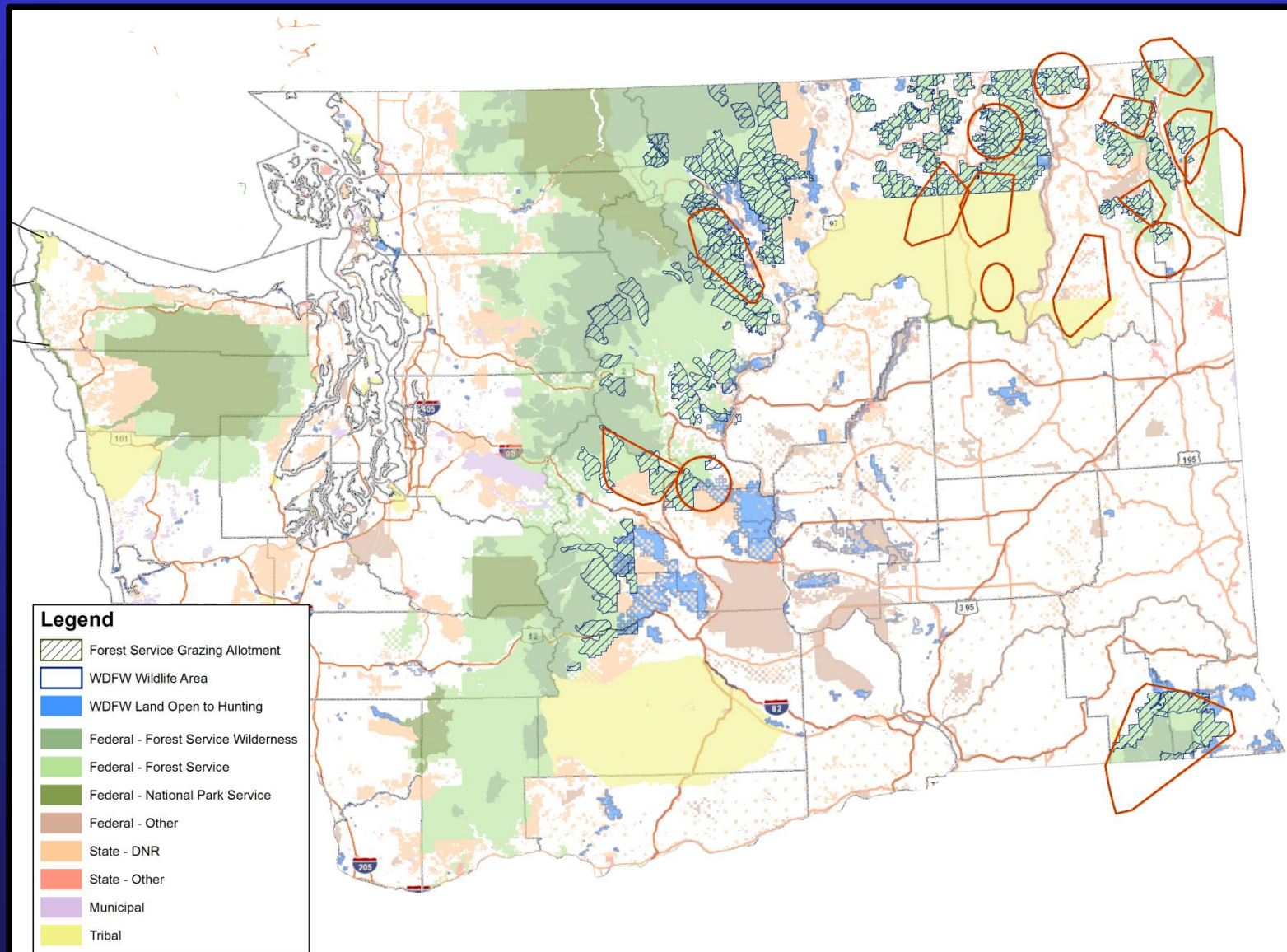
N



0 15 30 60 Miles

*Points represent larger livestock grazing area or producer homeplace.

Evaluating Risk and Prevention



2015 Wolf-Livestock Conflict Readiness Assessment

1. 2014 min number of wolves
2. Number of radioed individuals and type of collar
3. Summer trapping plans
4. Do we know general denning area?
5. Conflict specialist lead for this pack?
6. Pack's conflict history
7. Knowledge of allotments/producers/grazing practices in area
8. Number of livestock agreements
9. Status of deterrence plans
10. Outreach with producers
11. Plans for verbal communication of wolf locations to area producers
12. Status of formal data sharing agreements with producers/counties
13. Approaches for sanitation
14. Range rider/human presence
15. Outreach to producers on WDFW lands
16. Any other items of interest/awareness...?

- Gray Wolf Management
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Washington Wolf Packs
 - Eastern Washington*
 - Carpenter Ridge
 - Diamond
 - Dirty Shirt
 - Goodman Meadows
 - Huckleberry
 - Ne'lon
 - Profanity Peak
 - Salmo
 - Smackout
 - Strawberry
 - Tucannon
 - Wedge
 - Whitestone
 - Northern Cascades*
 - Lookout
 - Teaway
 - Wenatchee
- Annual Survey of Wolves in Washington
- Wolves and Livestock
- Wolves and Big Game
- Wolves in Washington
- Wolf Observations and Sightings
- Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Wolf Advisory Group
- 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

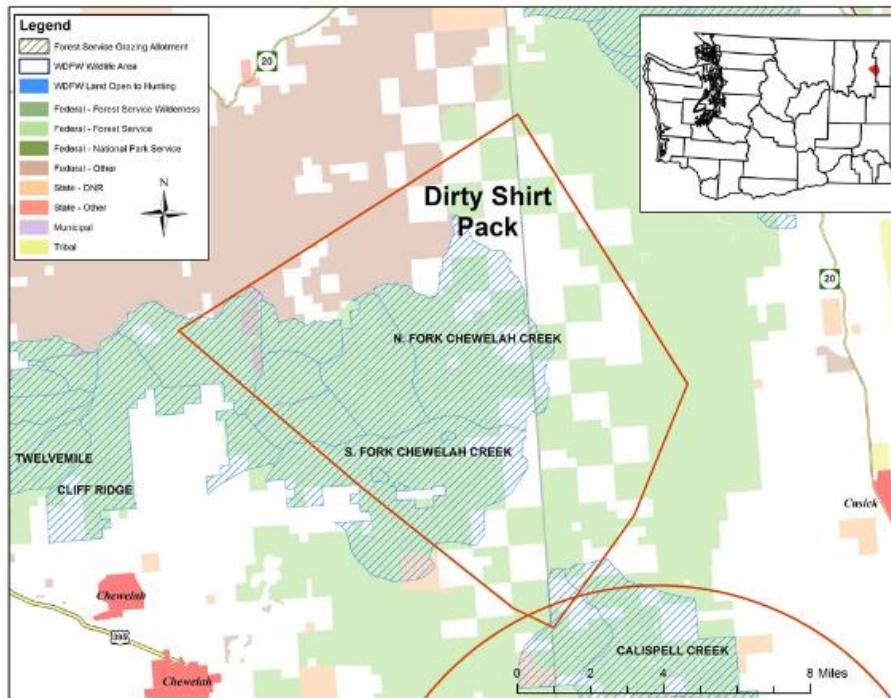
Jim Unsworth
 Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Wolf Packs in Washington

Dirty Shirt

The Dirty Shirt wolf pack was confirmed as a pack in 2013. According to the annual survey conducted in December 2014, the pack had a minimum count of 3 wolves, but did not have a successful breeding pair. (See pages 58-59 in the state's *Wolf Conservation and Management Plan* for a description of a successful breeding pair).



[CLICK TO ENLARGE MAP](#)

[Event Chronology](#) 

[Wolf-Livestock Conflict Deterrence Update](#) 

- Carpenter Ridge
- Diamond
- Dirty Shirt
- Goodman Meadows
- Huckleberry
- No'ion
- Profanity Peak
- Salmo
- Smackout
- Strawberry
- Tucannon
- Wedge
- Whitestone

- Lookout
- Teanaway
- Wenatchee

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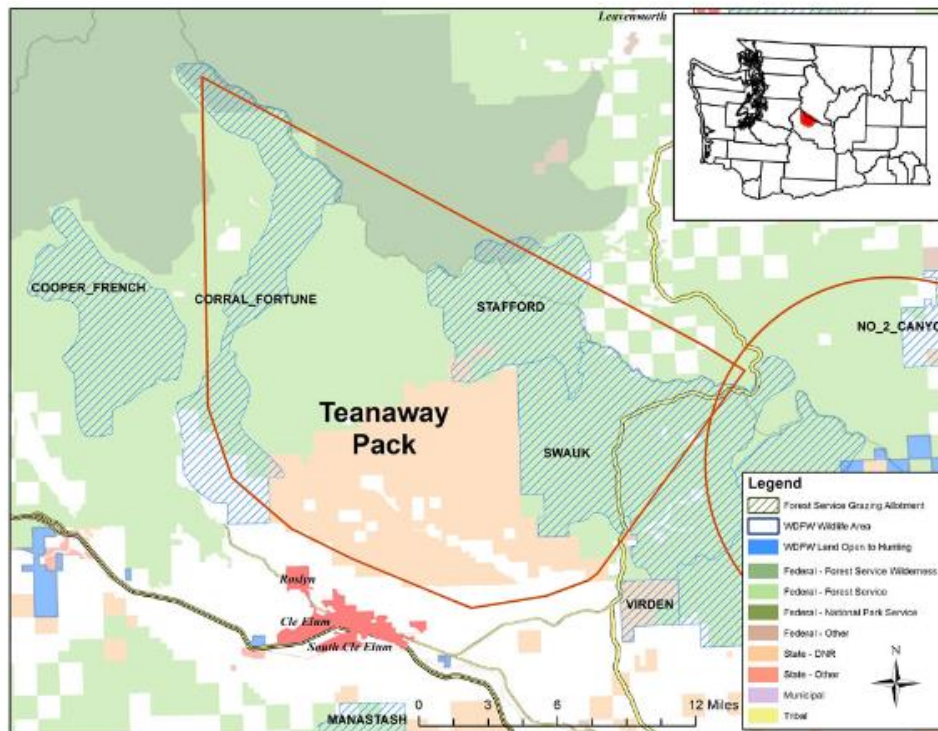
Jim Unsworth
 Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Wolf Packs in Washington

Teanaway

The Teanaway wolf pack was confirmed as a pack in 2011. According to the annual survey conducted in December 2014, the pack had a minimum count of 5 wolves, including a successful breeding pair. (See pages 58-59 in the state's [Wolf Conservation and Management Plan](#) for a description of a successful breeding pair).



[CLICK TO ENLARGE MAP](#)

[Event Chronology](#) 

[Wolf-Livestock Conflict Deterrence Update](#) 

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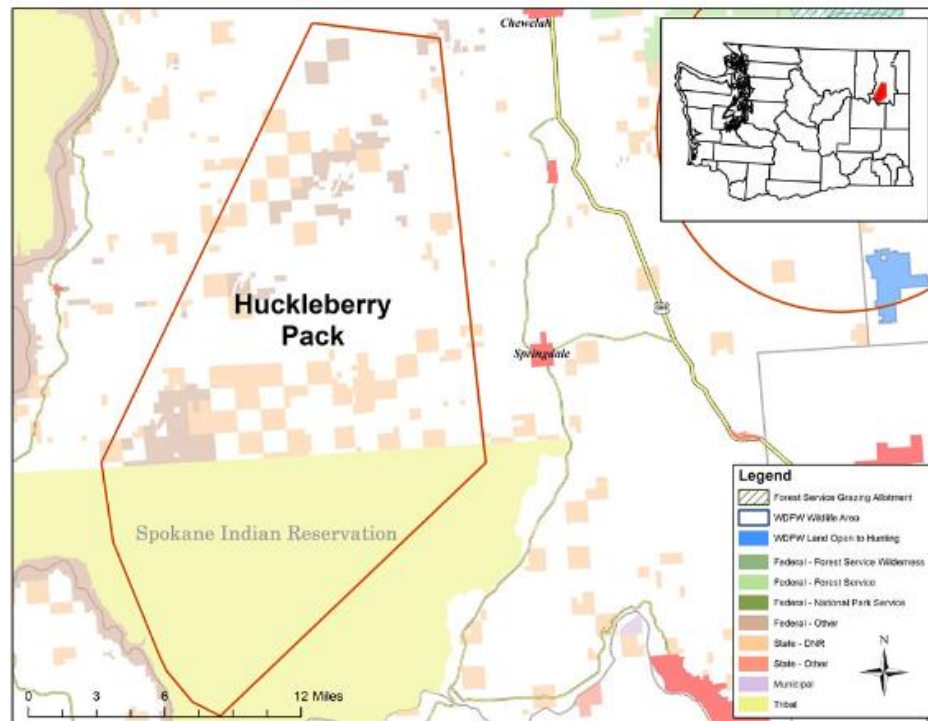
Jim Unsworth
Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Wolf Packs in Washington

Huckleberry

The Huckleberry wolf pack was confirmed as a pack in 2012. According to the annual survey conducted in December 2014, the pack had a minimum count of 6 wolves, including a successful breeding pair. (See pages 58-59 in the state's [Wolf Conservation and Management Plan](#) for a description of a successful breeding pair).



[CLICK TO ENLARGE MAP](#)

[Event Chronology](#)

[Wolf-Livestock Conflict Deterrence Update](#)

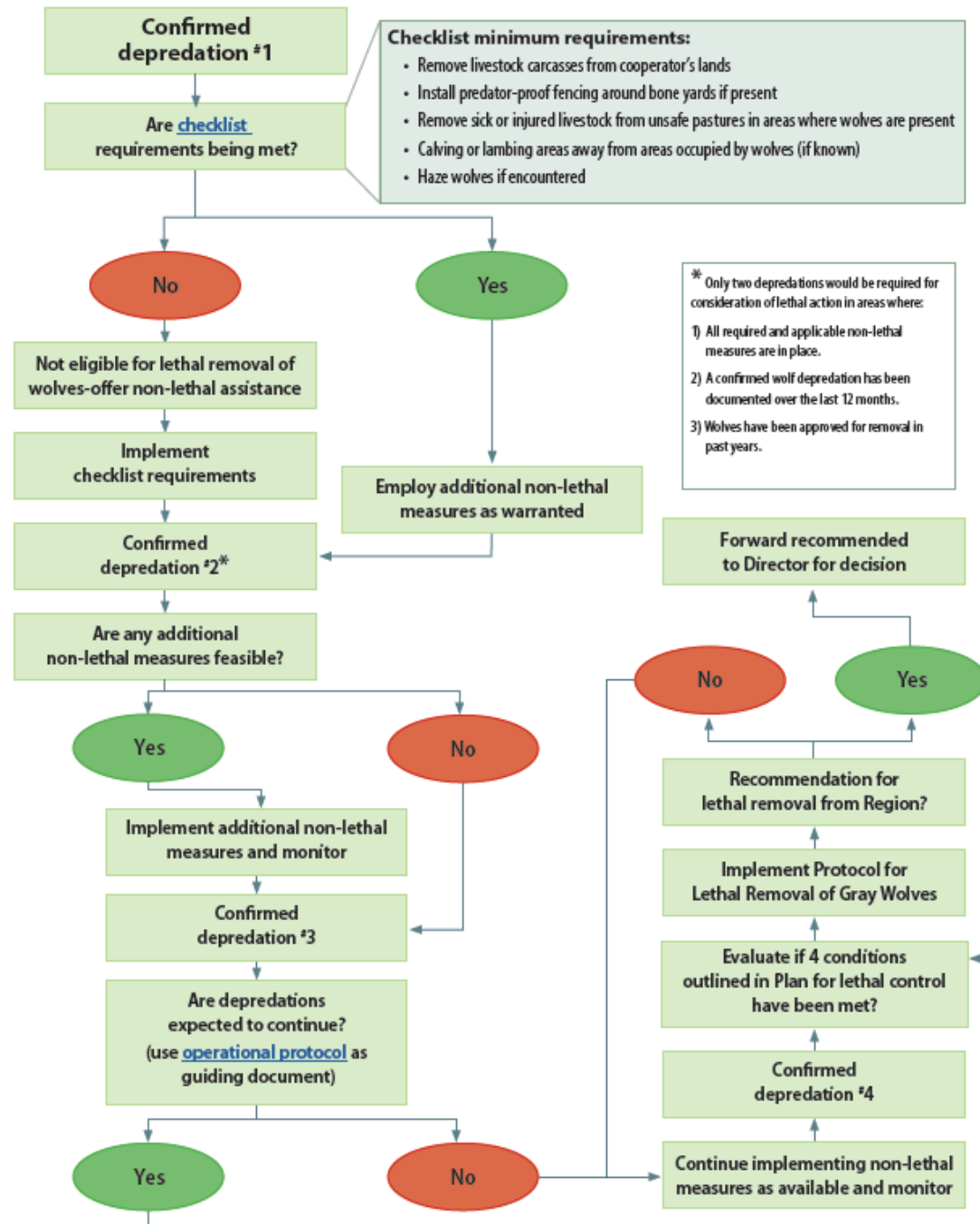


Flowchart for consideration of lethal control

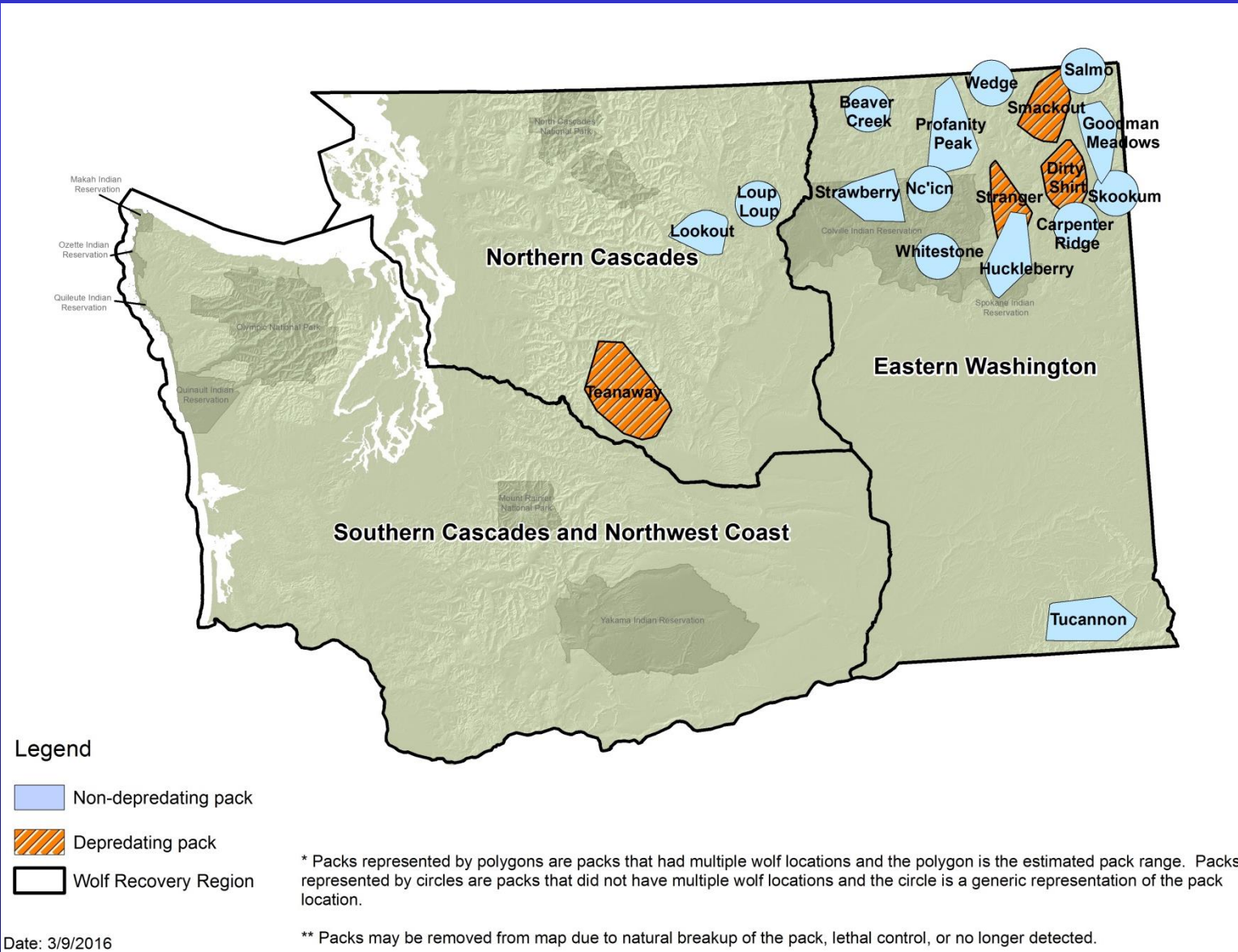
Foundation

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

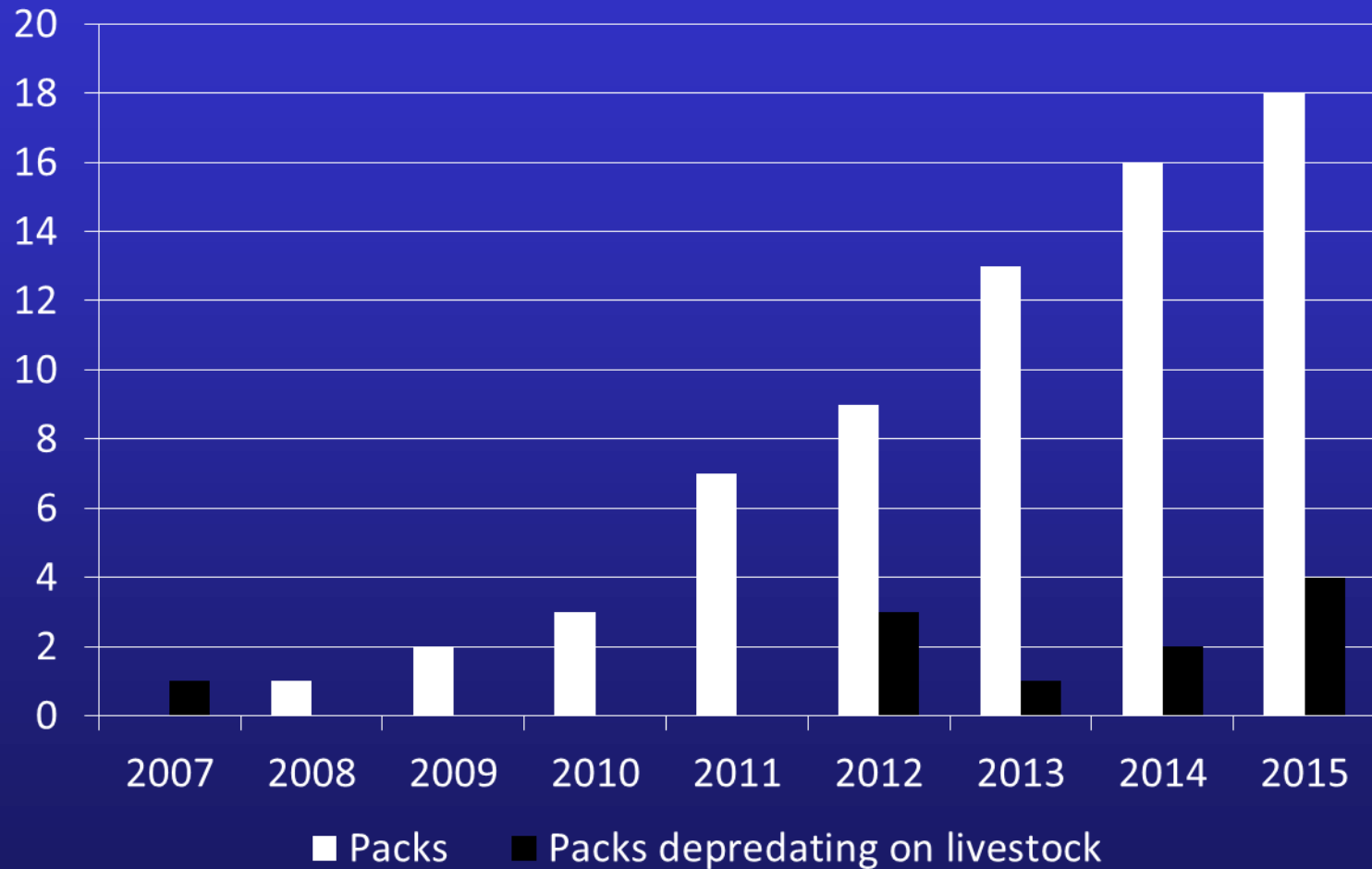
Wolf Conflict Management Flowchart



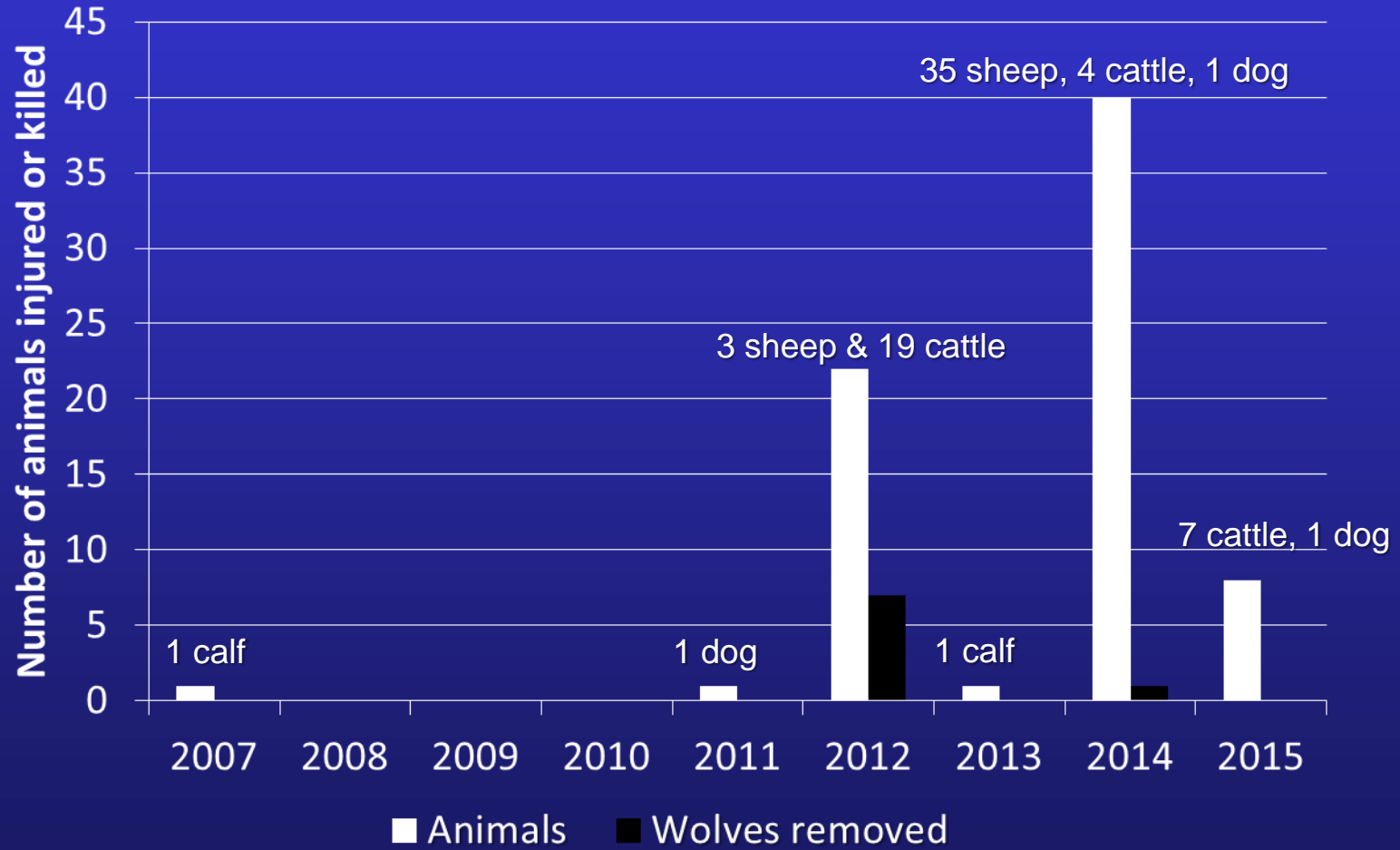
Packs Depredating on Livestock in 2015



Packs Depredating on Livestock



Wolf Depredations in Washington



Compensation for Livestock Depredations

For injured or killed livestock

Depredation	Grazing site > 100 acres	Other sites
Confirmed	Full current market value for 2 animals	Full current market value for 1 animal
Probable	Half the current market value for 2 animals	Half the current market value for 1 animal

Claim date	Livestock	Claim amount	Appraised value	Amount paid by WDFW
07/27/2015	2 cattle	\$4,560	\$3,475 x2	\$6,950 on 03/17/2016
08/11/2015	1 guard dog	\$351	--	\$351 on 12/15/2015
09/09/2015	2 cattle	\$6,425	\$3,600 x2	\$7,200 on 12/12/2015

Compensation for Livestock Depredations

For Indirect Losses

Indirect losses

- Greater than normal losses
- Reduced weight gain
- Reduced pregnancy rates

Claims for Livestock Review Board

Claim date	Livestock	Claim amount	Amount paid by WDFW
11/03/2014	278 sheep losses	\$60,410	Pending
05/27/2015	Reduced pregnancy	\$26,000	Pending

Washington Wolf Population Summary

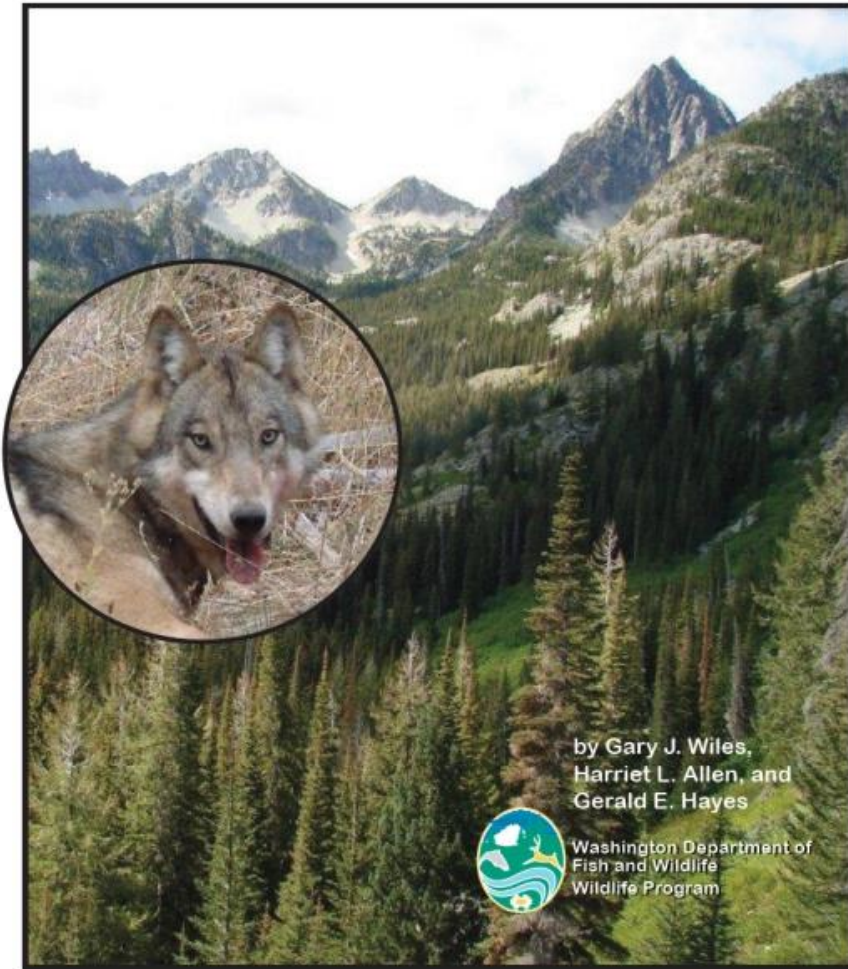
Year	Min count	Known No. Packs	SBP	Growth Rate	Known Wolf Mortality	Depredating packs (%)
2008	5	1	1	--	0	0%
2009	14	2	2	--	0	0%
2010	19	3	1	36%	2	0%
2011	35	7	5	84%	0	0%
2012	51	9	5	46%	9	33%
2013	52	13	5	2%	5	8%
2014	68	16	5	31%	10	13%
2015	90	18	8	32%	7	22%
Ave				36%		10%

Wolf-Ungulate Interactions

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

STATE OF WASHINGTON

December 2011



The potential impacts of wolves to Washington's ungulate species was considered in the development of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

The Plan discusses wolf predation and the potential resulting management of wolves in page 116.

Washington Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

Washington's wolf plan has a strategy that allows the state to address wolf impacts to "at risk" deer, elk, moose, or other ungulates.

WDFW could consider reducing wolf abundance in the localized area occupied by the ungulate population if wolf predation is found to be a primary limiting factor

Definition of “At Risk” Ungulate Population

- Any Federally or State listed ungulate population
- Any ungulate population that falls 25% below its population objective for two consecutive years,
- Or if the harvest decreases 25% below the 10-year average harvest rate for two consecutive years



Woodland Caribou

Ungulate Harvest and Population Trend Data in Areas of Washington with Wolves

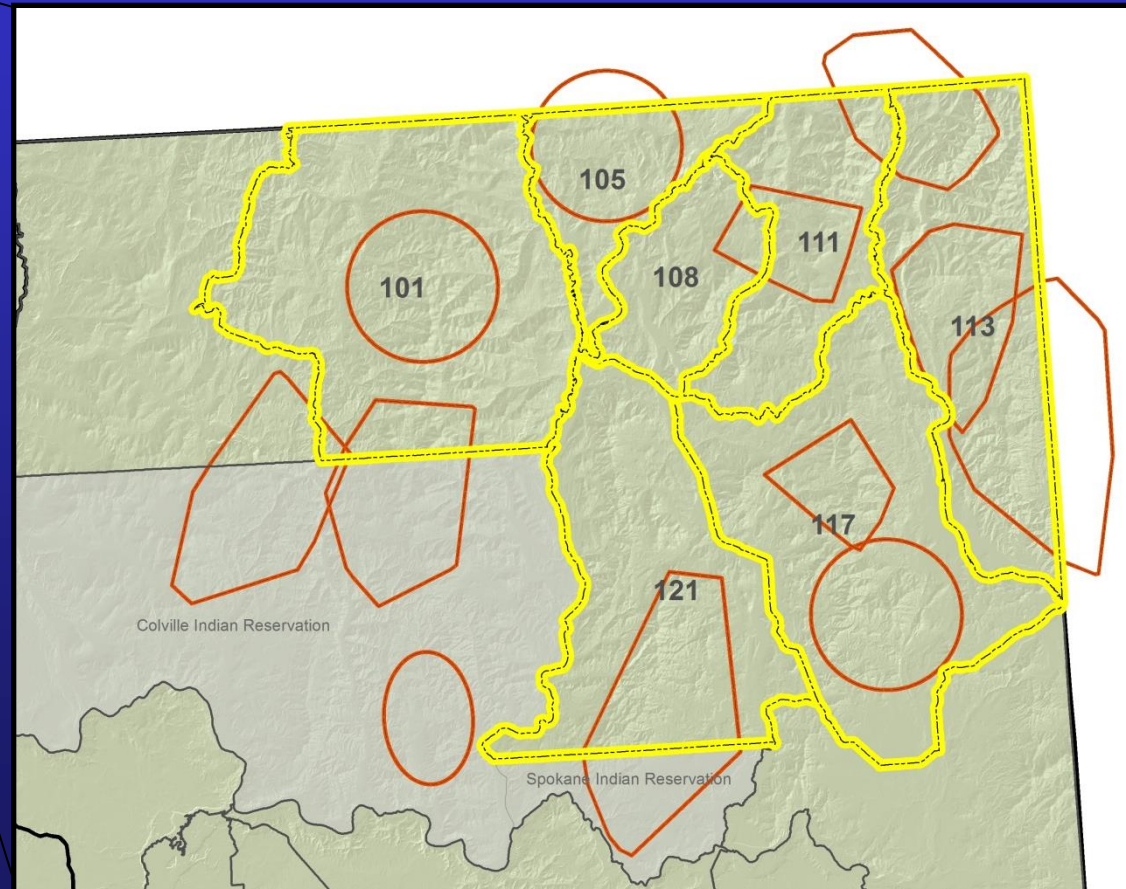
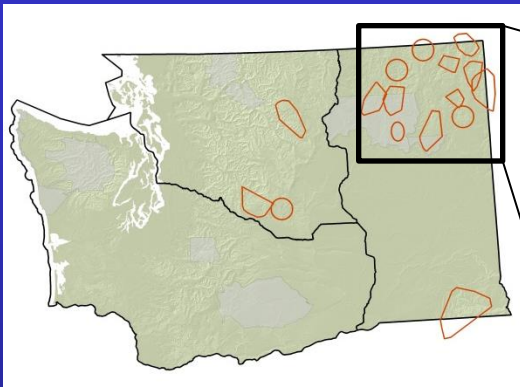


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May 2015

Buck Harvest in Core GMUs with Wolves

GMUs 101 – 121



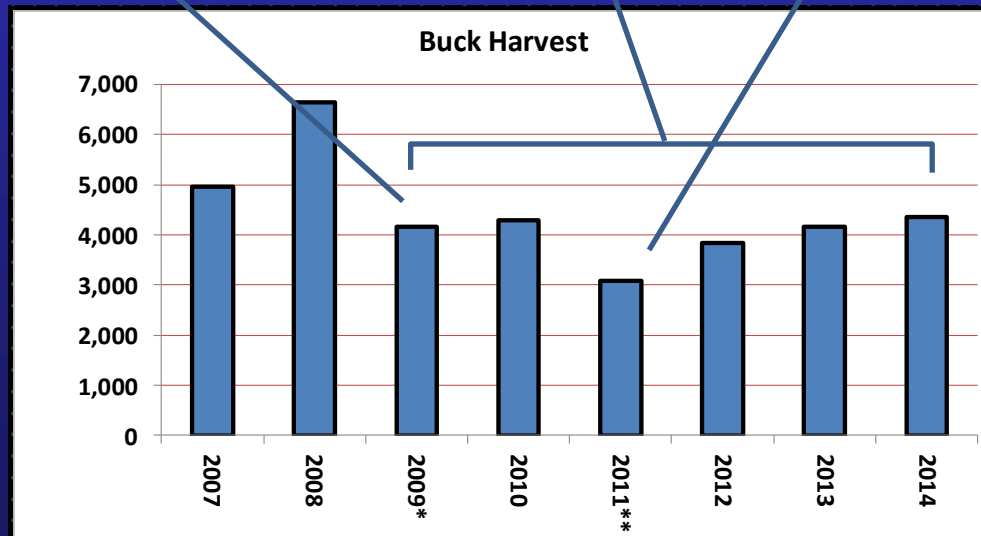
Buck Harvest in Core GMUs with Wolves

GMUs 101 – 121

Buck harvest declined significantly after two hard winters in 2007 & 2008

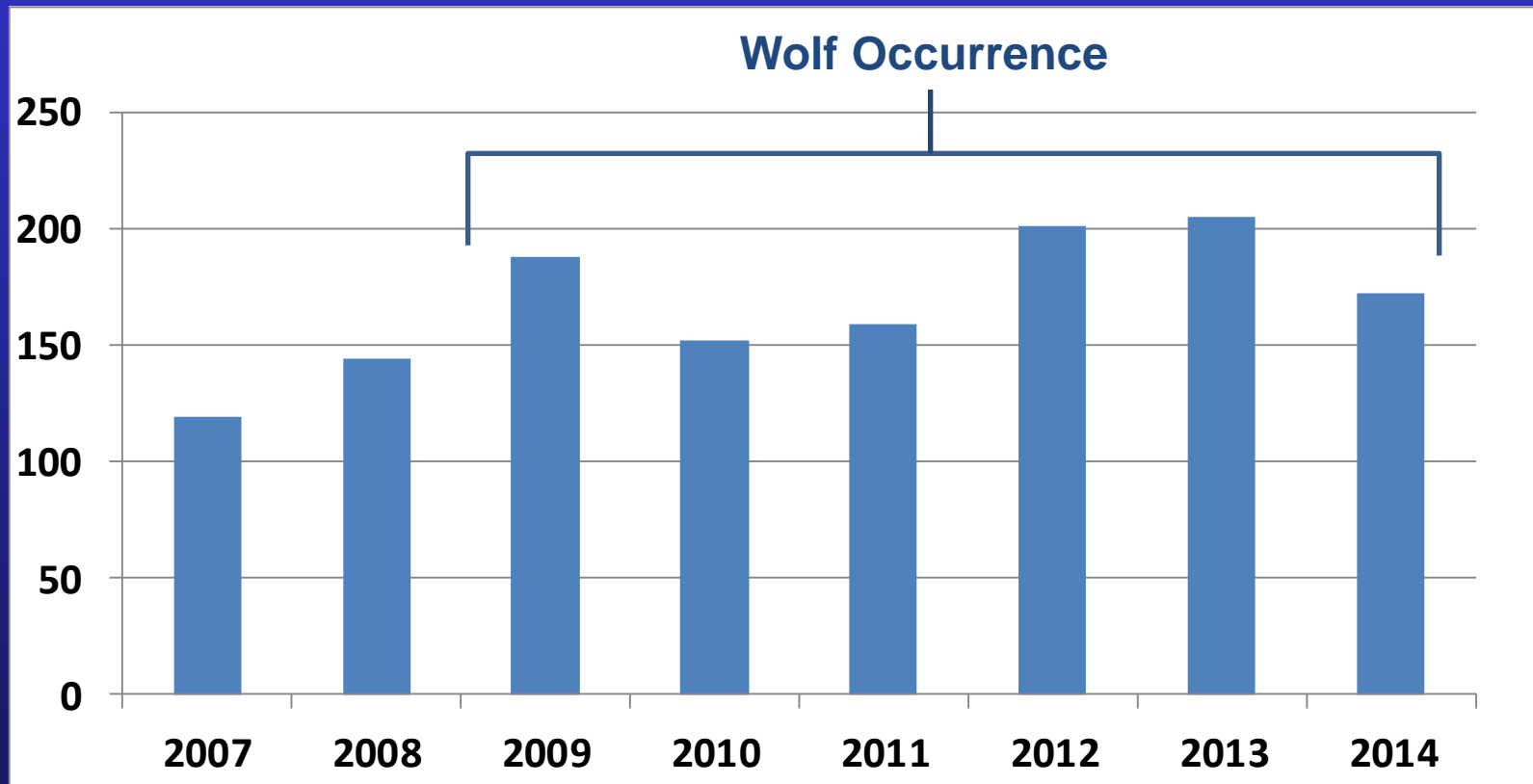
The first wolf pack was documented in 2009 and there were twelve in 2014

In 2011 a four point buck restriction was implemented in the two largest units (117 & 121)



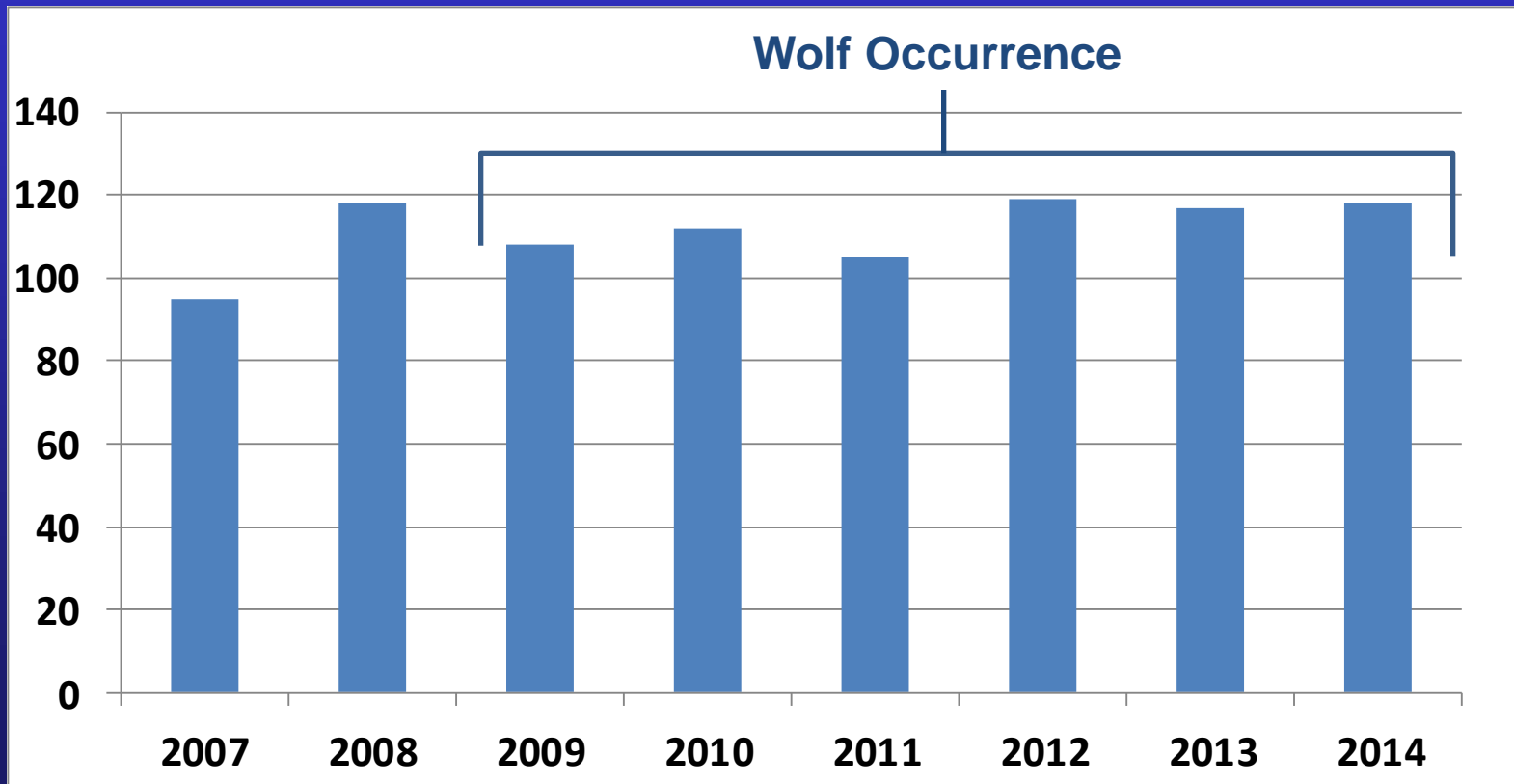
Bull Elk Harvest in Core GMUs with Wolves

GMUs 101 – 121



Moose Harvest in Core GMUs with Wolves

GMUs 101 – 121



Wolf-Ungulate Interactions

- Moose progress report
- Coming soon
 - Ungulate assessment
 - Predator-prey investigations



Stakeholder Engagement

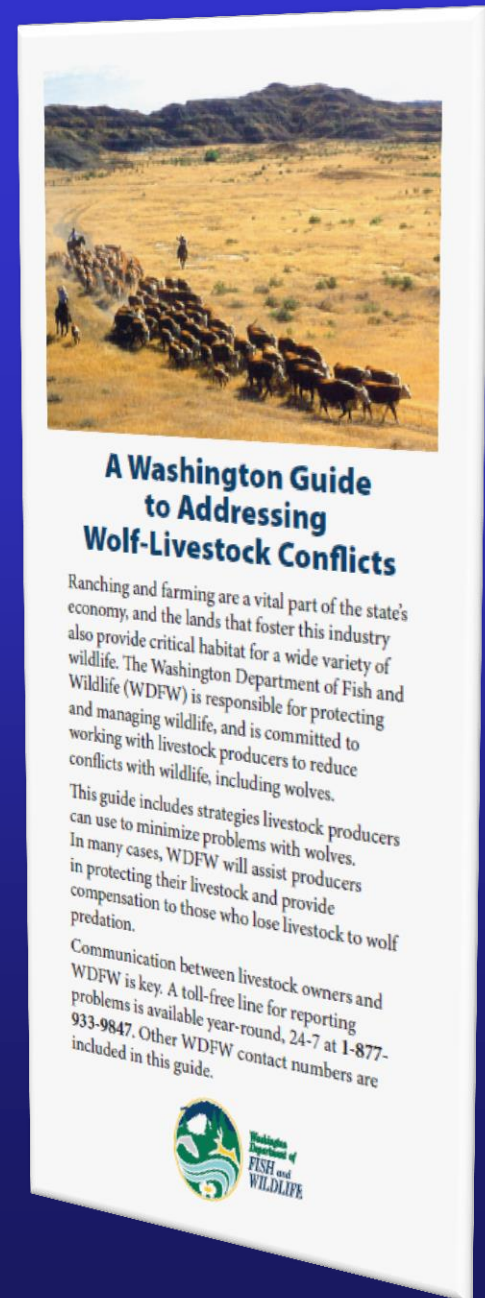
Online Resources

- Web Pages
 - Plan
 - FAQ, natural history
 - Pack history
 - Preventive tools, checklist, lethal control protocol
 - Ungulate interactions
 - Report sightings
 - WAG information



Outreach

- Meetings
 - Public, Conservation Districts, Non-government interest groups, Wolf Advisory Group, Fish and Wildlife Commission
 - Media Tour
- Producer outreach
 - Grazing meetings
 - One-on-one
- Trainings
- WDFW News releases and other printed materials
 - Brochures, hunting regulations pamphlet, magnet



Research

- Monitoring and modeling wolf population dynamics and spatial ecology in Washington
- Impact of recolonizing gray wolves on mule and white-tailed deer
- Wolf-Livestock investigations
- Guarding dogs
- Developing a wolf economy for Washington

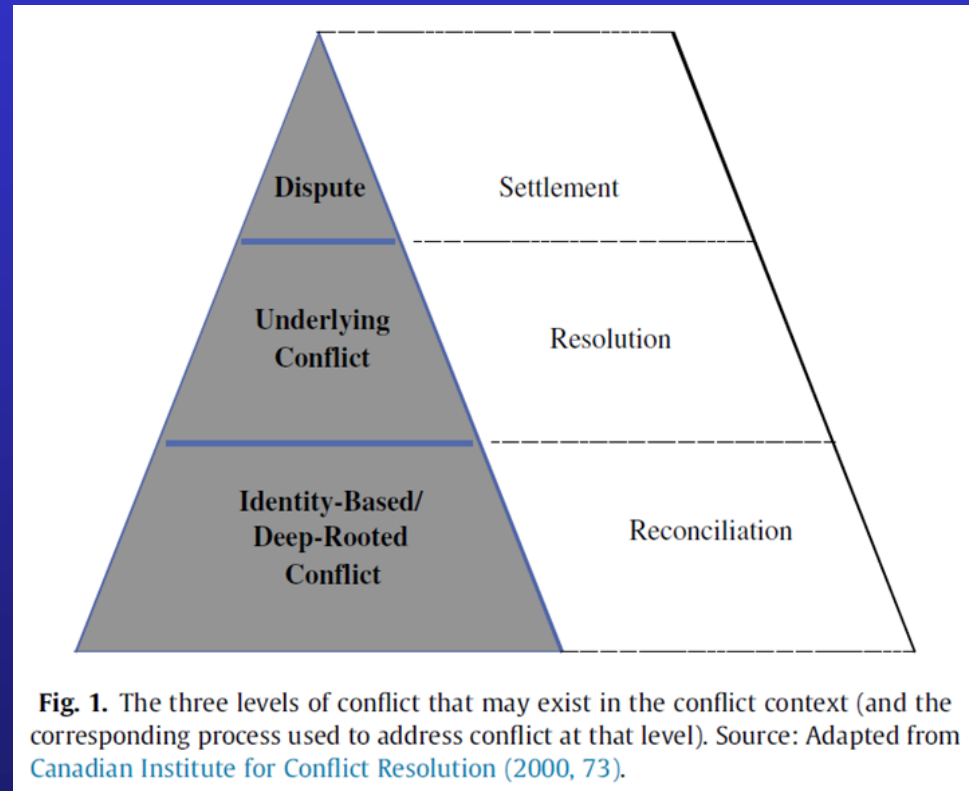


Other Items

- 2013 Federal Delisting proposal
- USFWS-WDFW-WS coordination strategy
- Federal Ruling to USDA Wildlife Services
- Interagency wolf committee
- Wolf Advisory Group
- People and Wolves in Washington: Stakeholder Conflict Assessment and Recommendations for Conflict Transformation
- Dealing with deep-rooted conflict in wolf management
- Conflict Transformation process

Addressing Social Conflict in Wolf Management

- Engaging stakeholders
- Understanding barriers to stakeholder progress
- Building trust
- Addressing deep-rooted conflict
- Creative solutions



From Madden and McQinn 2014

Wolf Advisory Group



Representation

- Livestock producers, environmentalist, hunters
- 13 organizations

Process

- 5 meetings
- 5 conference calls
- 1 field trip

Topics

- Building resilient relationships
- Individual producer plan
- Damage Prevention agreements
- Lethal control

Wolf Expenditures 2015

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Description	Wolf expenditures
Wolf-Livestock Conflict Research	\$130,100
Outreach	\$34,323
Conflict Control - WS Contract & payments	\$90,689
Wolf Monitoring Carnivore Section staff – 3.24FTEs	\$240,517
Wolf Conflict R1 – 1.11 FTEs	\$126,705
Wolf Conflict R2 – 0.31 FTEs	\$19,572
Wolf Conflict R3 – 0.33 FTE	\$15,619
Wolf Conflict R4 – 0.07 FTE	\$1,598
Wolf Conflict R5 – 0.07 FTE	\$2,153
Goods & services (eg. radio collars, flights, contracts)	\$193,528
Compensation	\$850
DPCA-Ls	\$25,450
TOTAL	\$1,260,772

Fund source: State/PLP/Orca \$977,605 /Federal \$283,167

Looking Ahead

- April meetings with livestock producers
- WAG and stakeholder engagement
- Expansion of Interagency Wolf Committee
- Streamline compensation claim time line



For More Information

- **Website**
- **http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/**

- **Contact**
- **Donny Martorello**
- **Wolf Policy Lead**
- **Donny.Martorello@dfw.wa.gov**
- **(360) 902-2521 (office)**
- **(360) 790-5682 (cell)**