

Agenda Item 19

Wolf Conservation and Management 2016 Annual Report



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

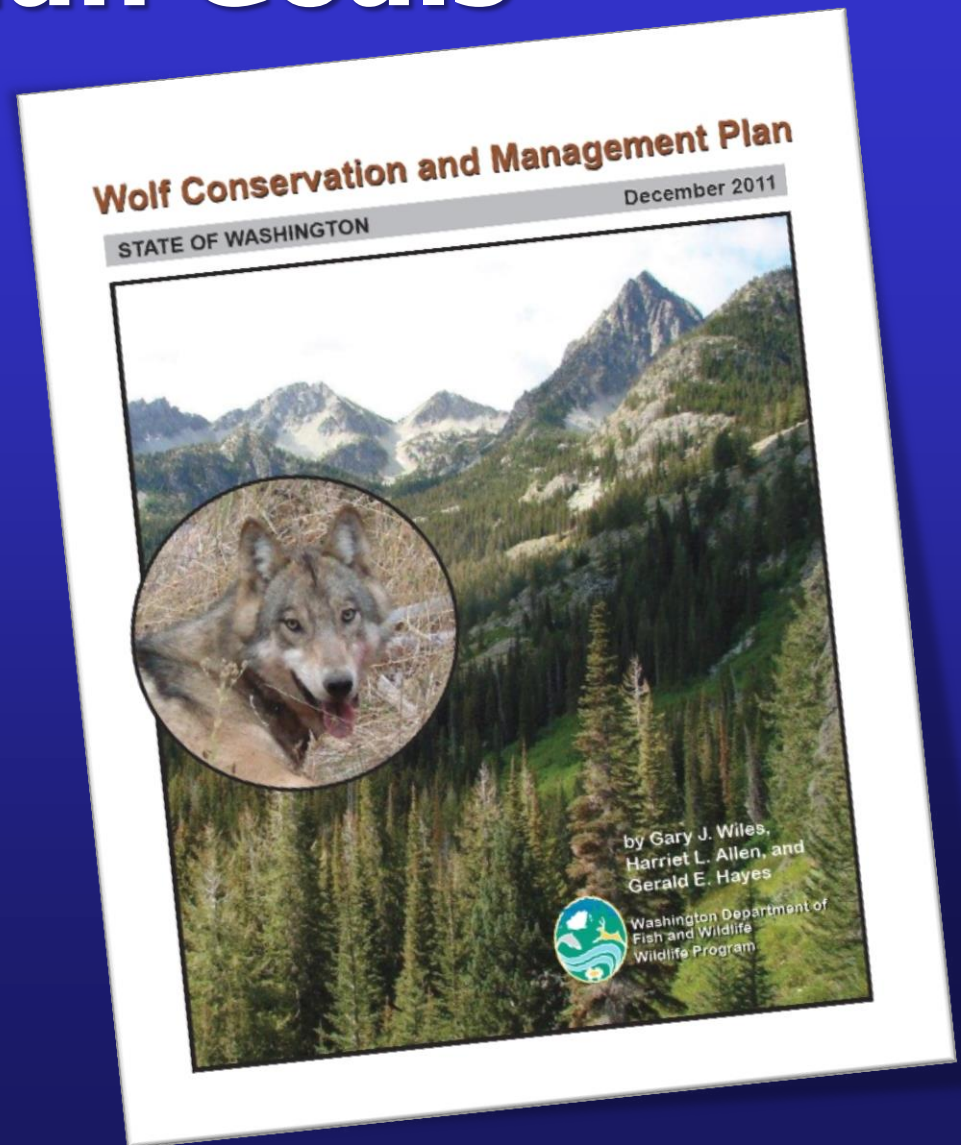
Donny Martorello | Wolf Policy Lead

Summary

- Overview of recovery objectives
- Population trends
- Conflict management
- Stakeholder engagement
- Research
- 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



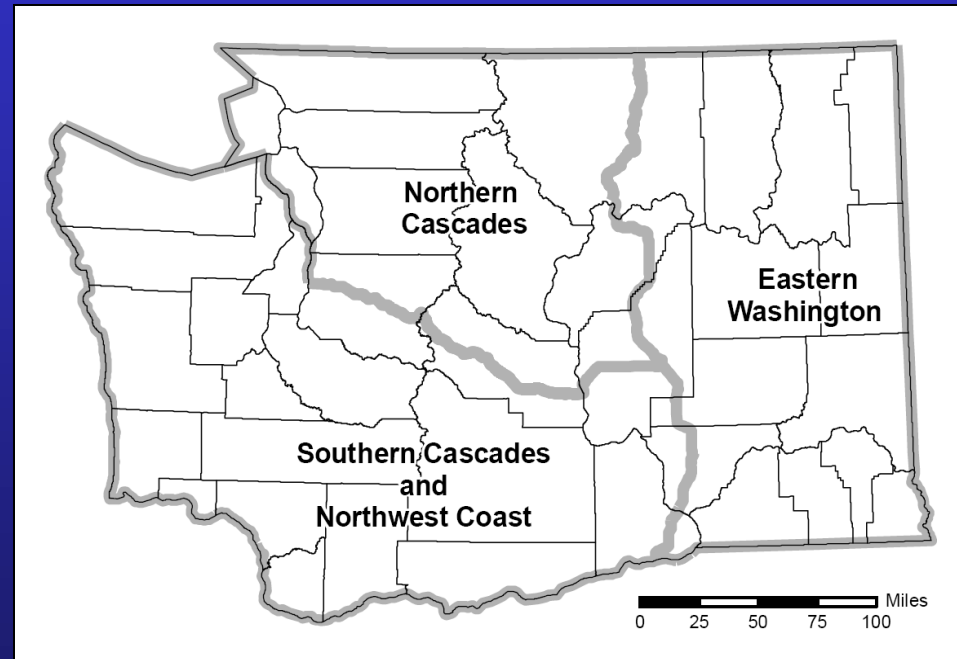
Definitions



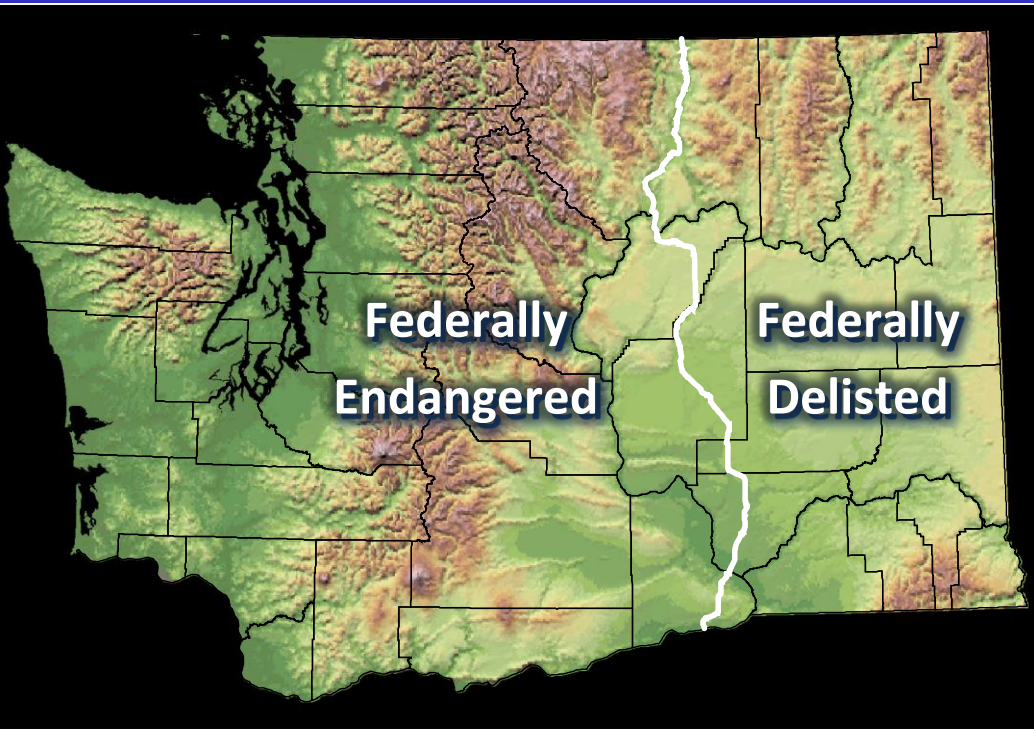
- **Pack:** 2 or more wolves traveling together
- **Successful Breeding Pair:** male and female raising 2 or more pups until Dec 31

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

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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 barrier around the area.
- 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

Capture and Monitoring





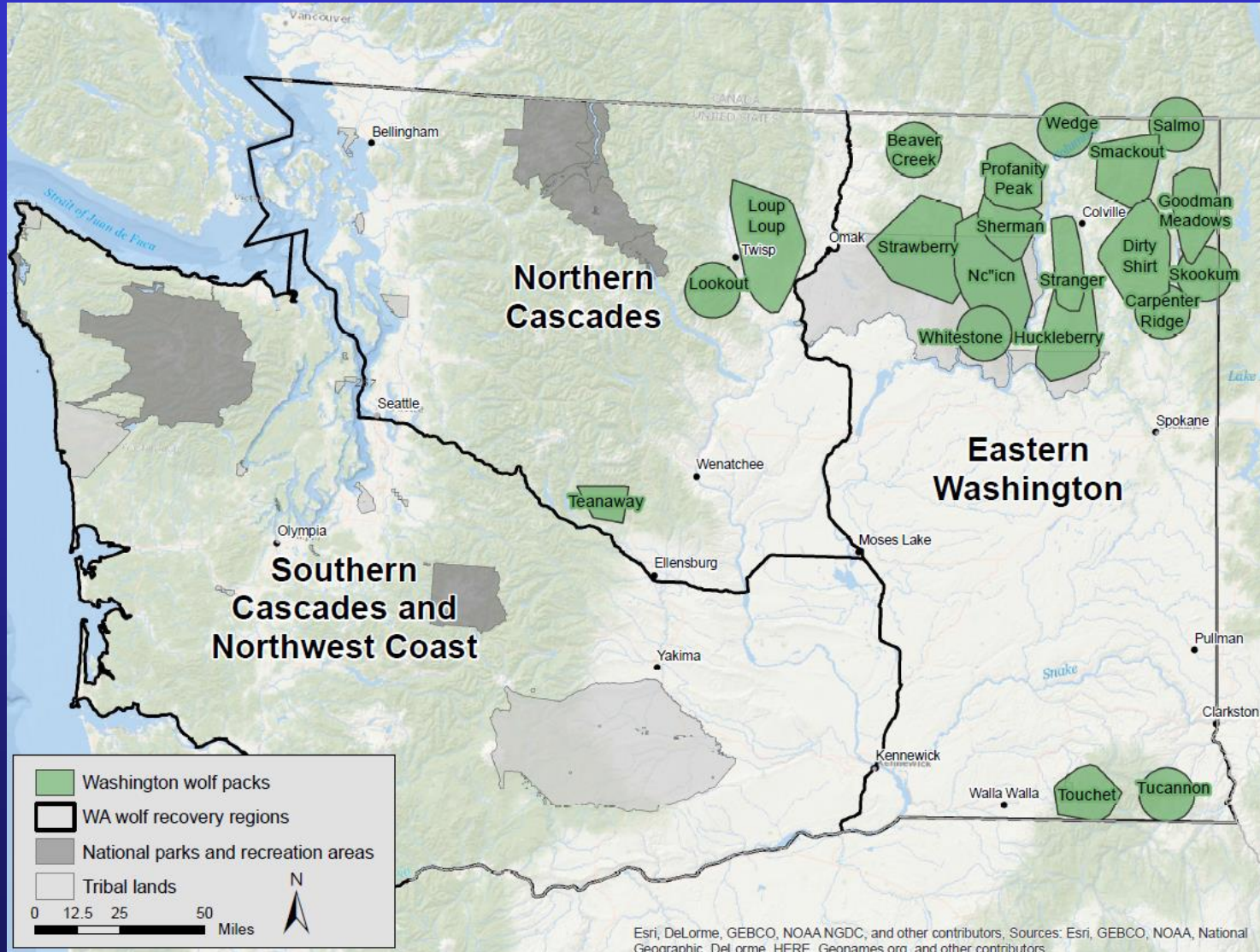
Aerial wolf capture using a net gun in the Diamond pack, Feb 2013.



Setting wolf leg-hold trap, WDFW.

Washington's Known Wolf Packs

As of December 31, 2016



Capture and Monitoring

2016 Calendar Year

- Captured 14 unique wolves
- 8 adults, 5 yearlings, 2 pups
- 14 radio collars deployed
- Monitored 25 unique radio collared wolves (22% of minimum known population) from 13 packs (65% of known packs)
- Monitoring 18 collared wolves at end of calendar year

Statewide

Recovery Region	Successful Breeding Pair	Min Count	Mortality	Known Dispersal	Depredations
Eastern	8	97	14	2	15
N. Cascades	2	18	0	1	0
S. Cascades/Coastal	0	0	0	0	0
STATEWIDE TOTAL	10	115	14	3	15



Eastern Washington Recovery Area

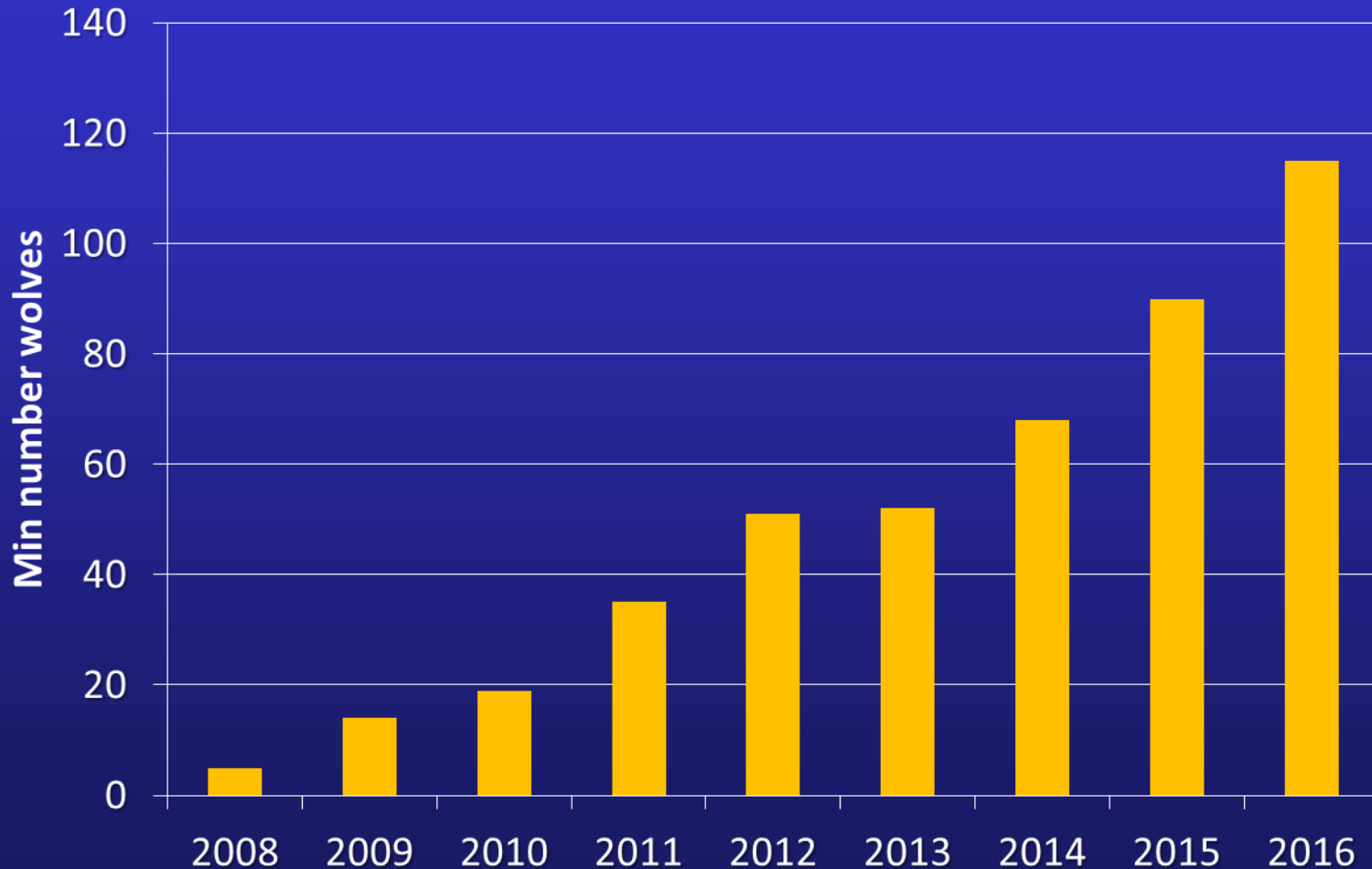
Confirmed Pack	Successful Breeding Pair	Min Count	Mortality	Known Dispersal	Depredations
Beaver Creek	No	4	0	0	0
<u>Carpenter Ridge</u>	Yes	6	0	0	0
<u>Dirty Shirt</u>	Yes	13	1	0	1
<u>Goodman Meadows</u>	Yes	7	0	0	0
Huckleberry	No	4	2	1	0
<u>Nc'ich (CCT)</u>	Yes	5	0	0	0
Profanity Peak	No	4	7	0	10
Salmo	No	3	0	0	0
<u>Sherman</u>	Yes	5	0	0	0
<u>Skookum</u>	Yes	5	0	0	0
<u>Smackout</u>	Yes	8	0	1	2
Stranger	No	4	0	0	1*
<u>Strawberry (CCT)</u>	Yes	7	1	0	0
Touchet	No	2	0	0	0
Tucannon	No	4	1	0	1
Wedge	No	3	0	0	0
Whitestone (CCT)	No	2	0	0	0
Misc/Lone Wolves	--	11	2	0	0
Recovery area total	8	97	14	2	15

North Cascades Recovery Area

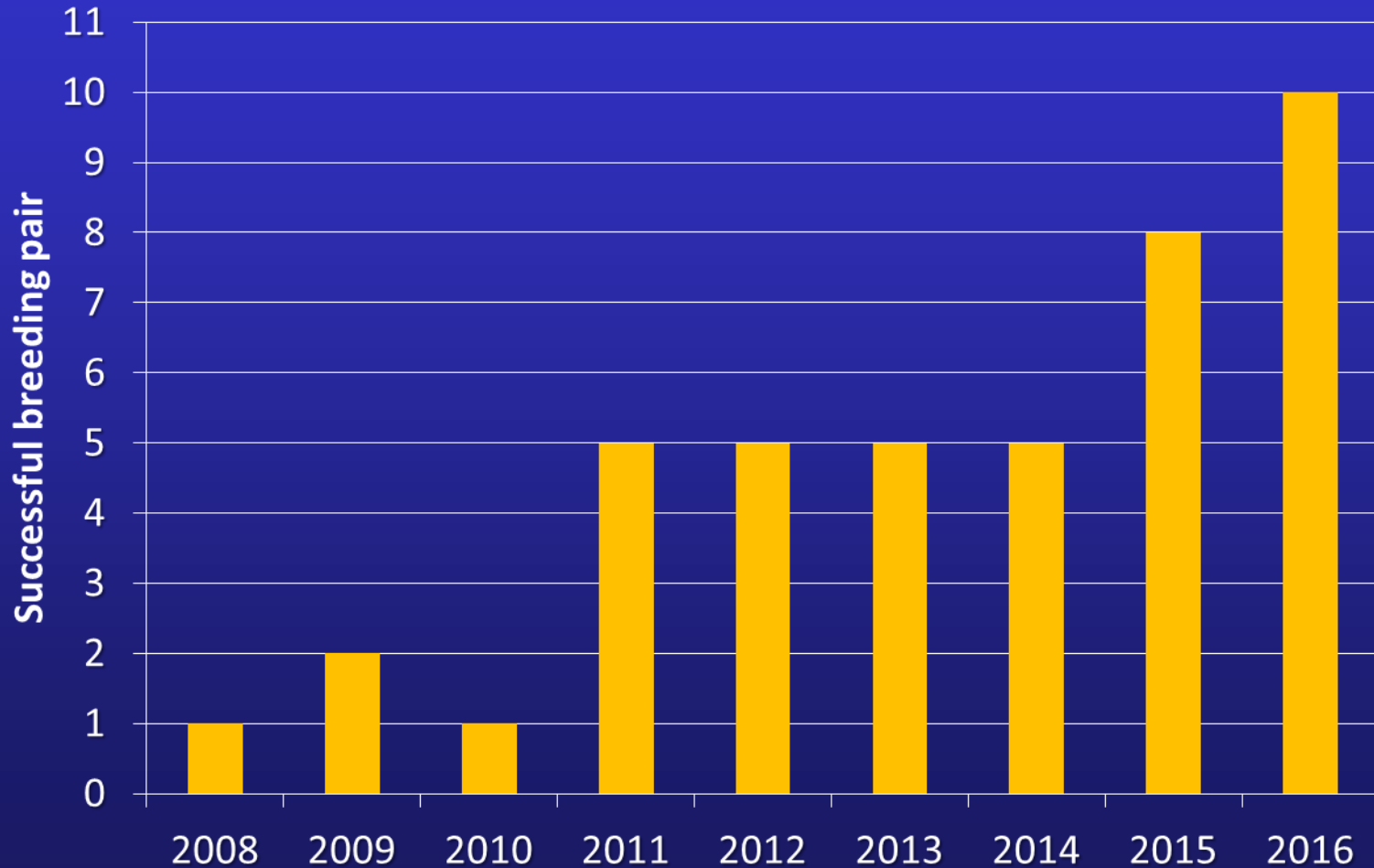
Confirmed Pack	Successful Breeding Pair	Min Count	Mortality	Known Dispersal	Depredations
Lookout	No	3	0	0	0
<u>Loup Loup</u>	Yes	8	0	0	0
<u>Teanaway</u>	Yes	5	0	1	0
Misc/Lone Wolves	--	2	0	0	0
Recovery area total	2	18	0	1	0



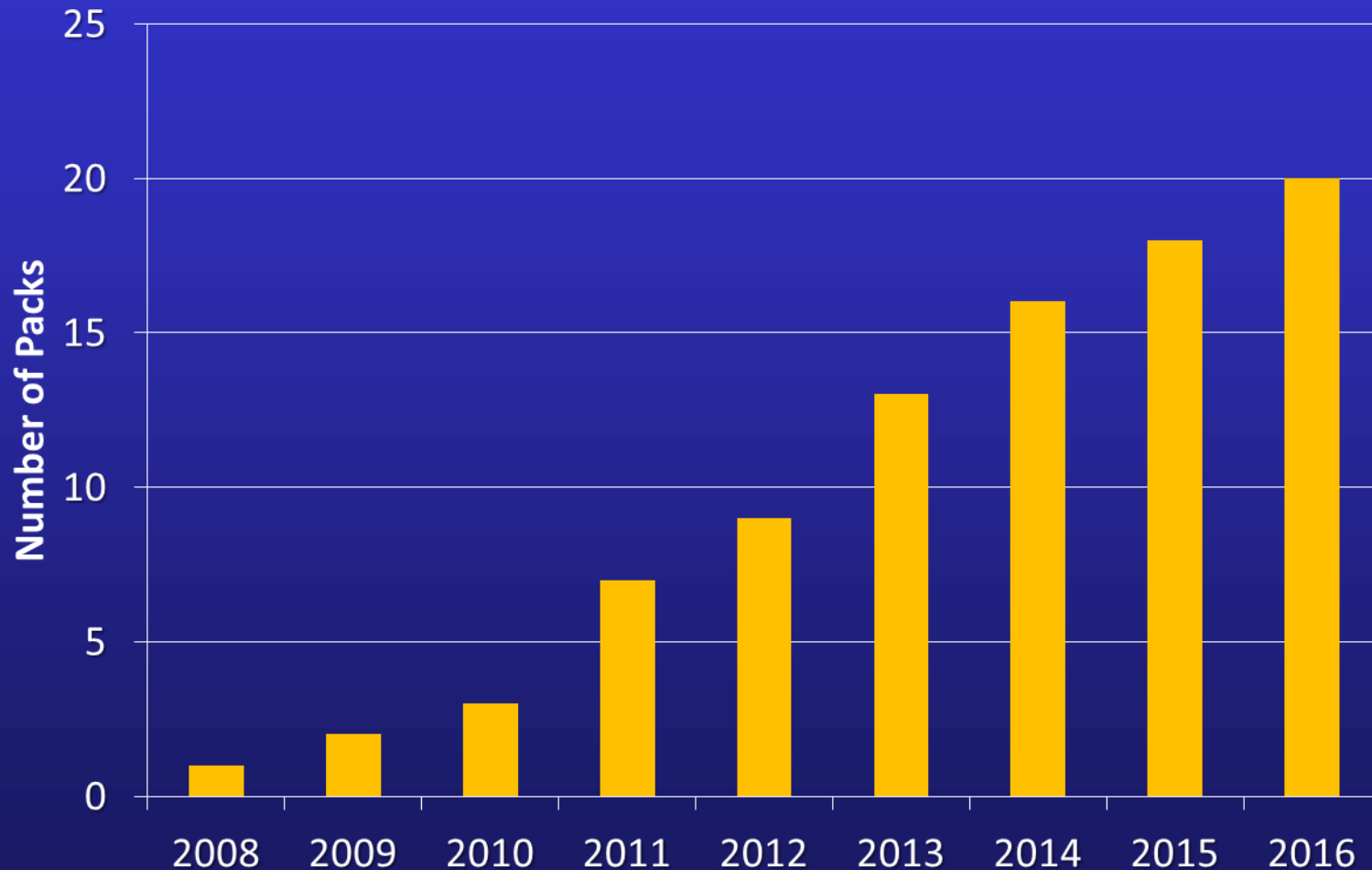
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



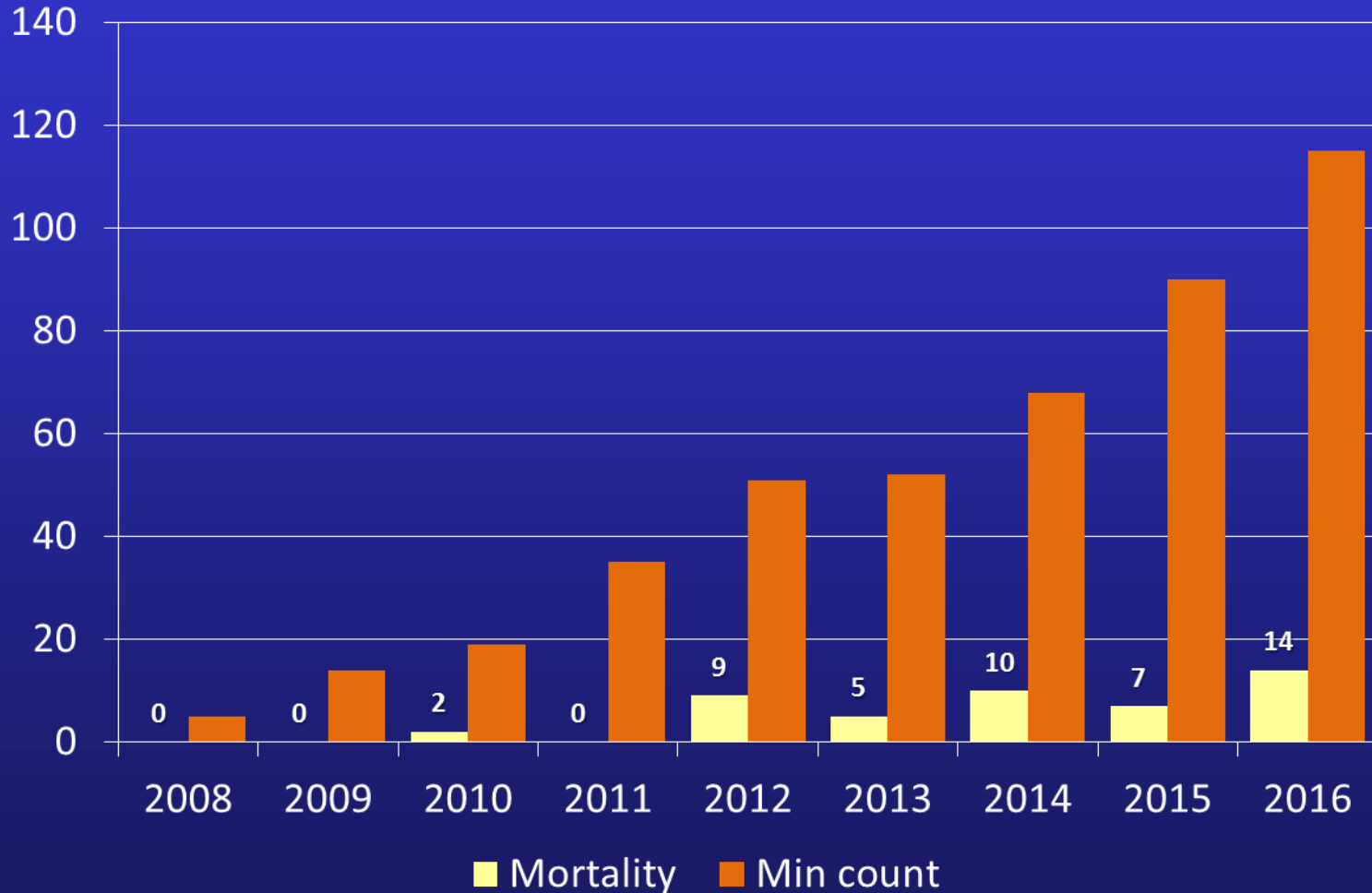
Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



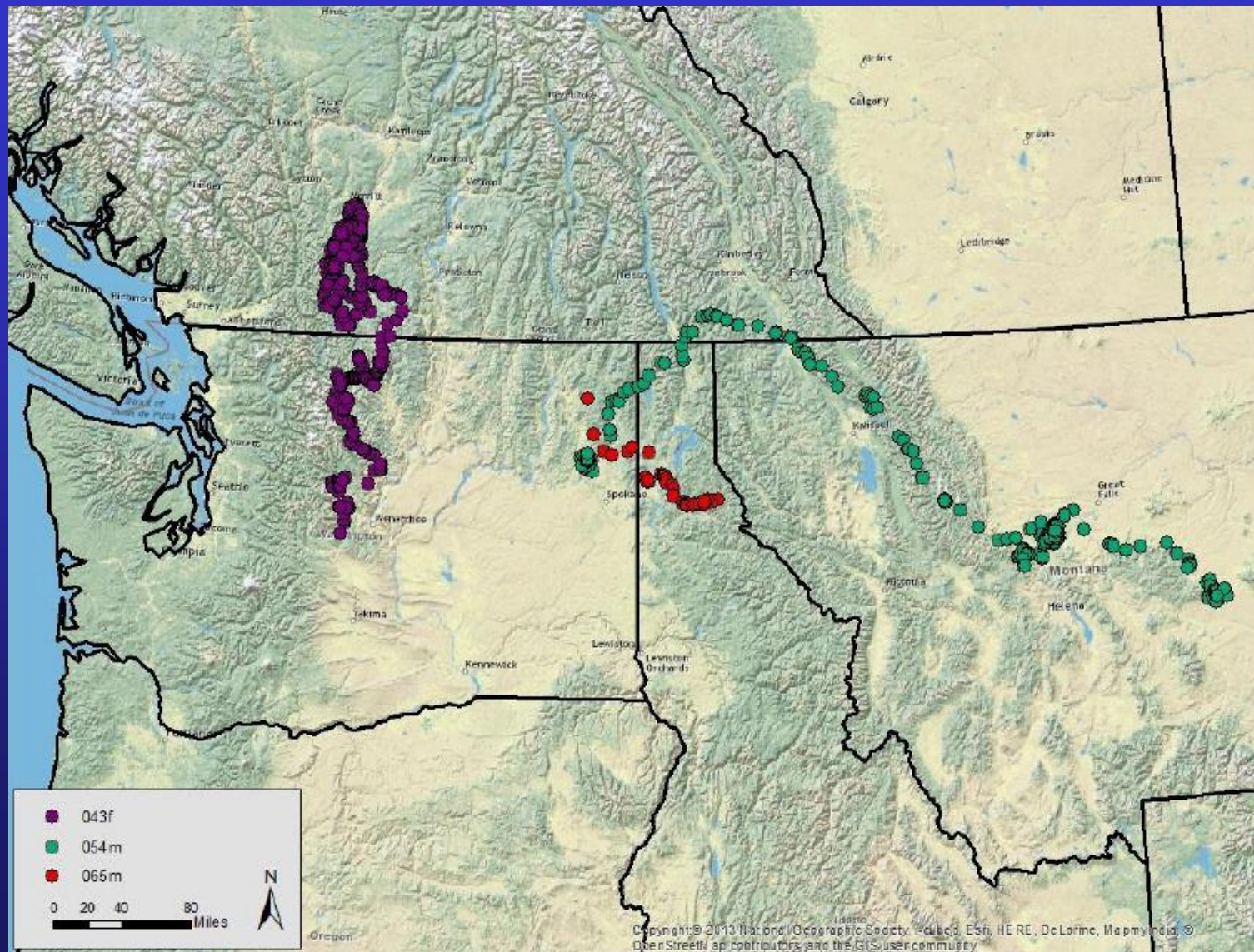
Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



Known Wolf Mortalities



Known Wolf Dispersers



Conflict Management

Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict

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



2016 Wolf-Livestock Conflict Readiness Assessment

1. 2015 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...?



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:		

Informal Checklist of Deterrent Measures

- Sanitation
- Sick and injured livestock
- Calving and lambing areas
- Turnout
- Range riders and sheepherders
- Hazing practices
- Fencing
- Other techniques

Increased Human Presence

Contracted Range Riders

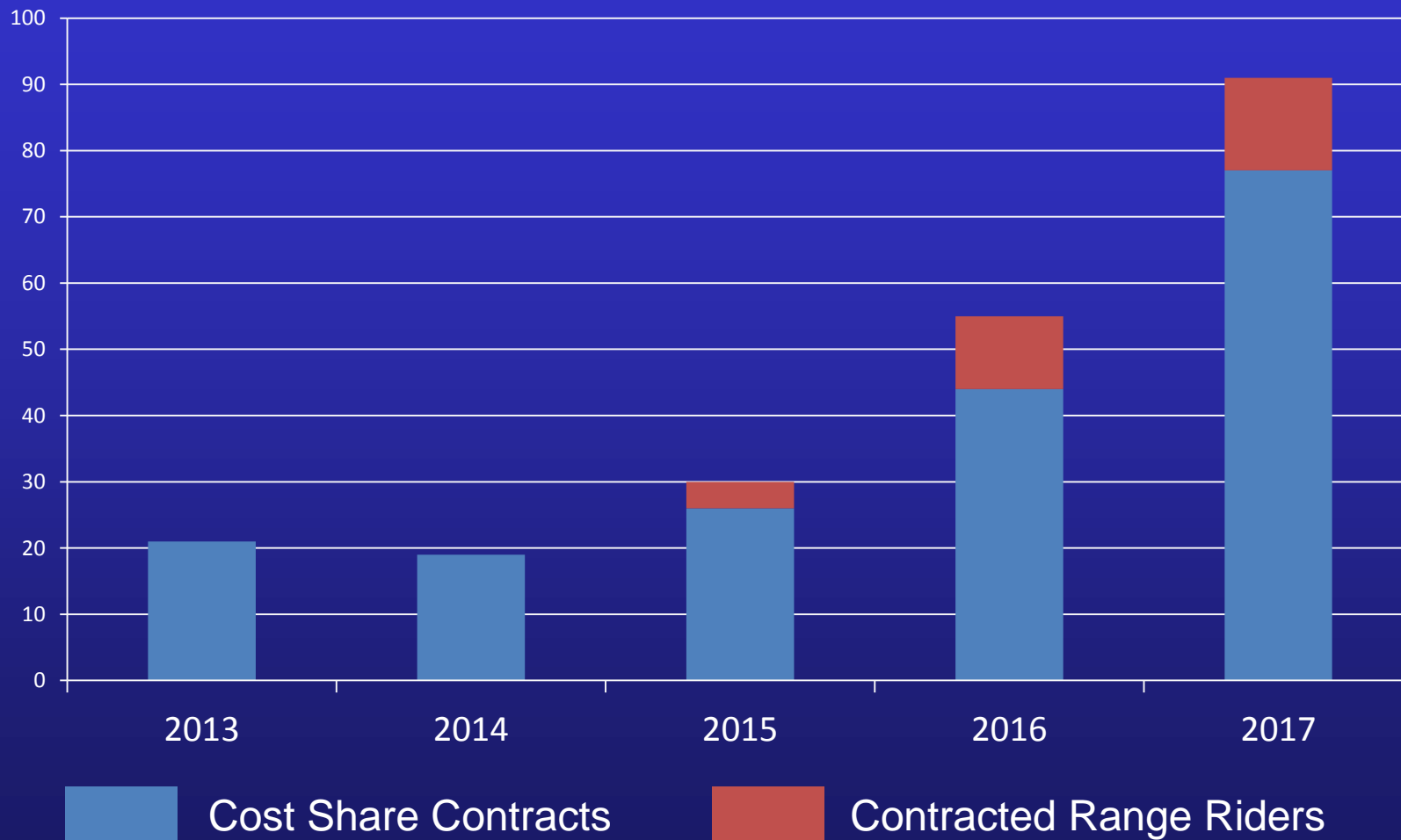


Cost-Share Contracts

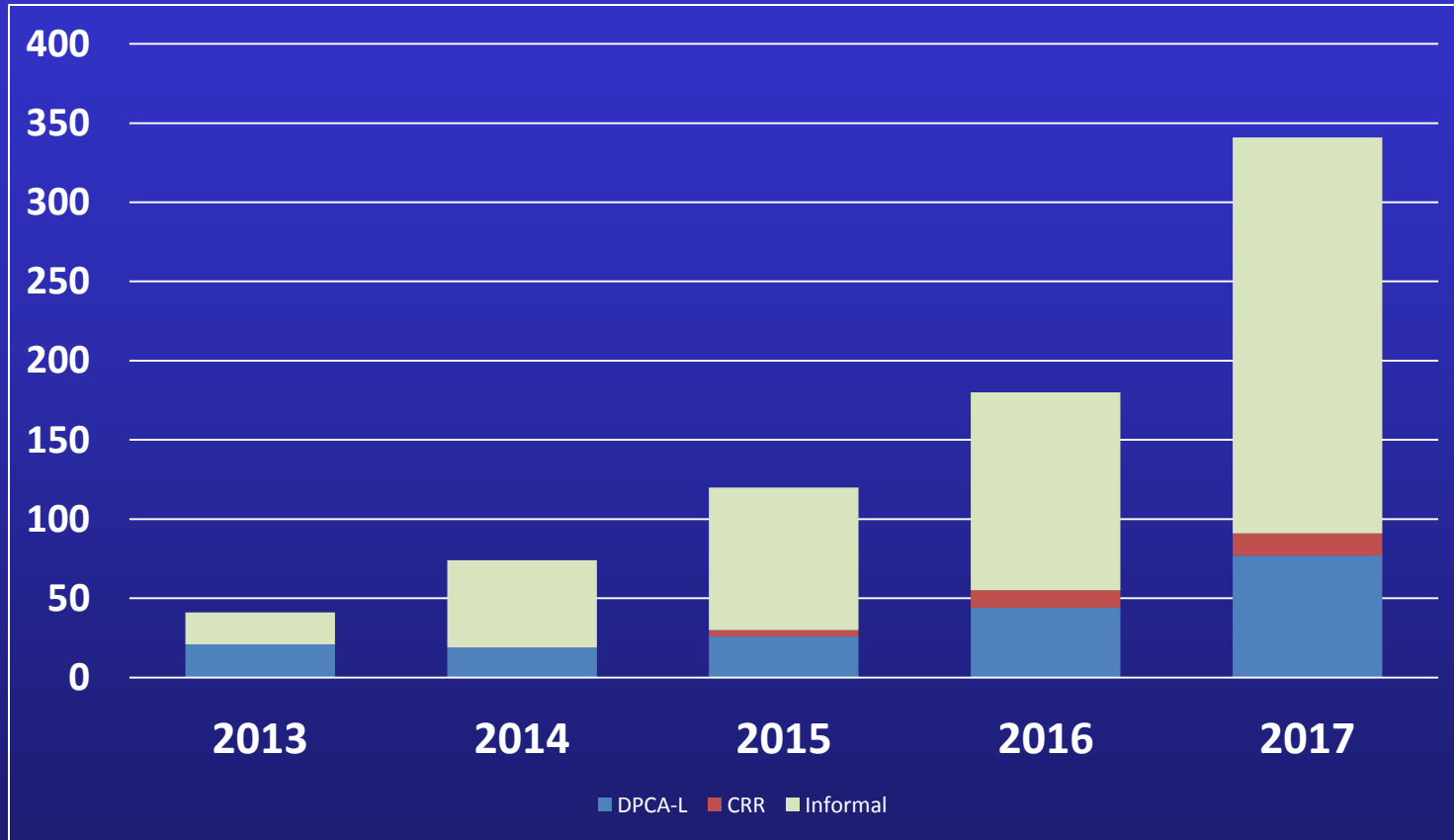
- Range riders / sheep herders
- Fencing
- Turbo-fladry
- Carcass removal
- Livestock guardian dogs
- Herding dogs
- Screamers, projectile pyrotechnics
- Hazing tool
- Radio activated guard units
- Delayed turn out
- Other





Uptake and Use of Proactive Deterrence



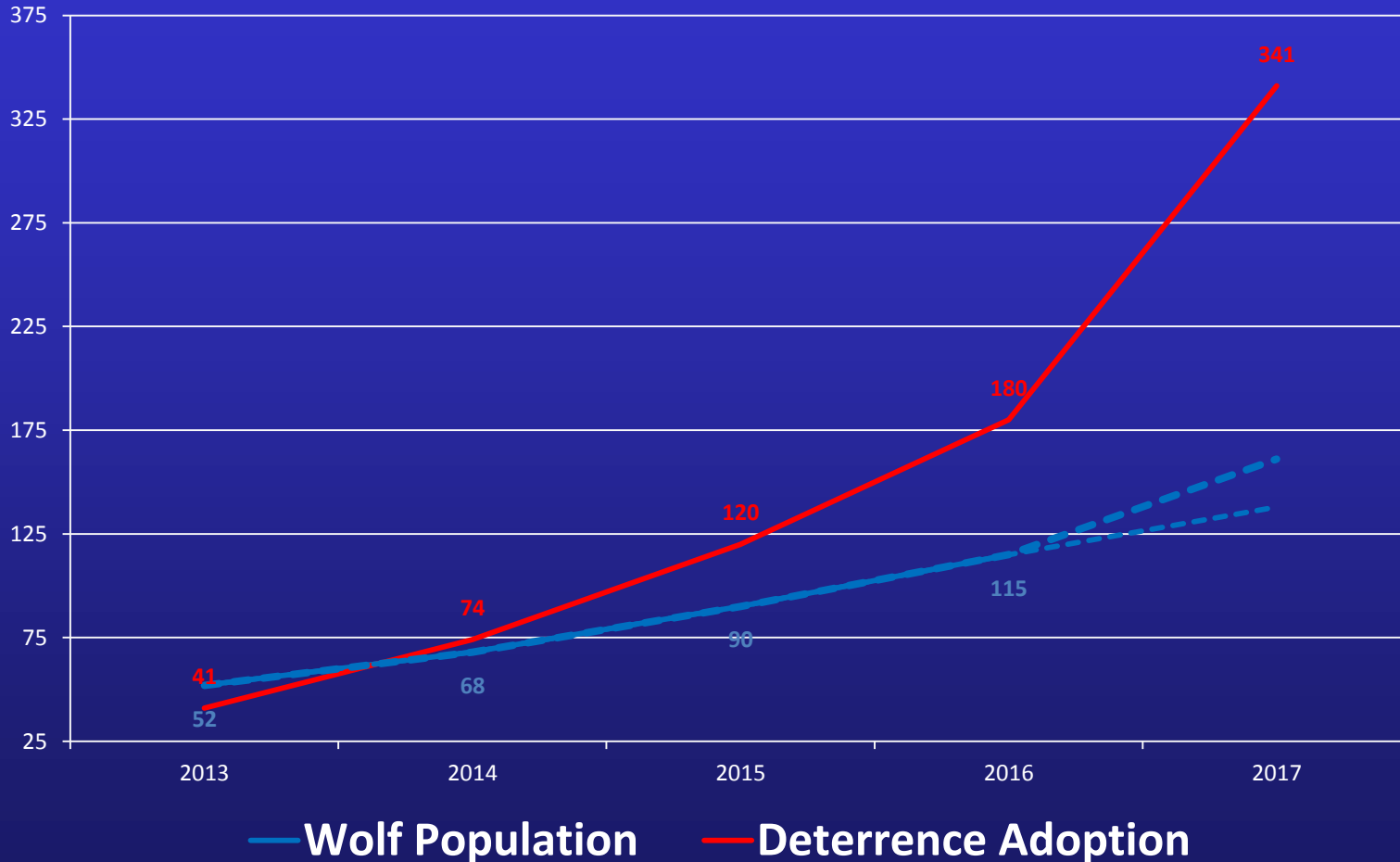
Uptake and Use of Deterrence Measures



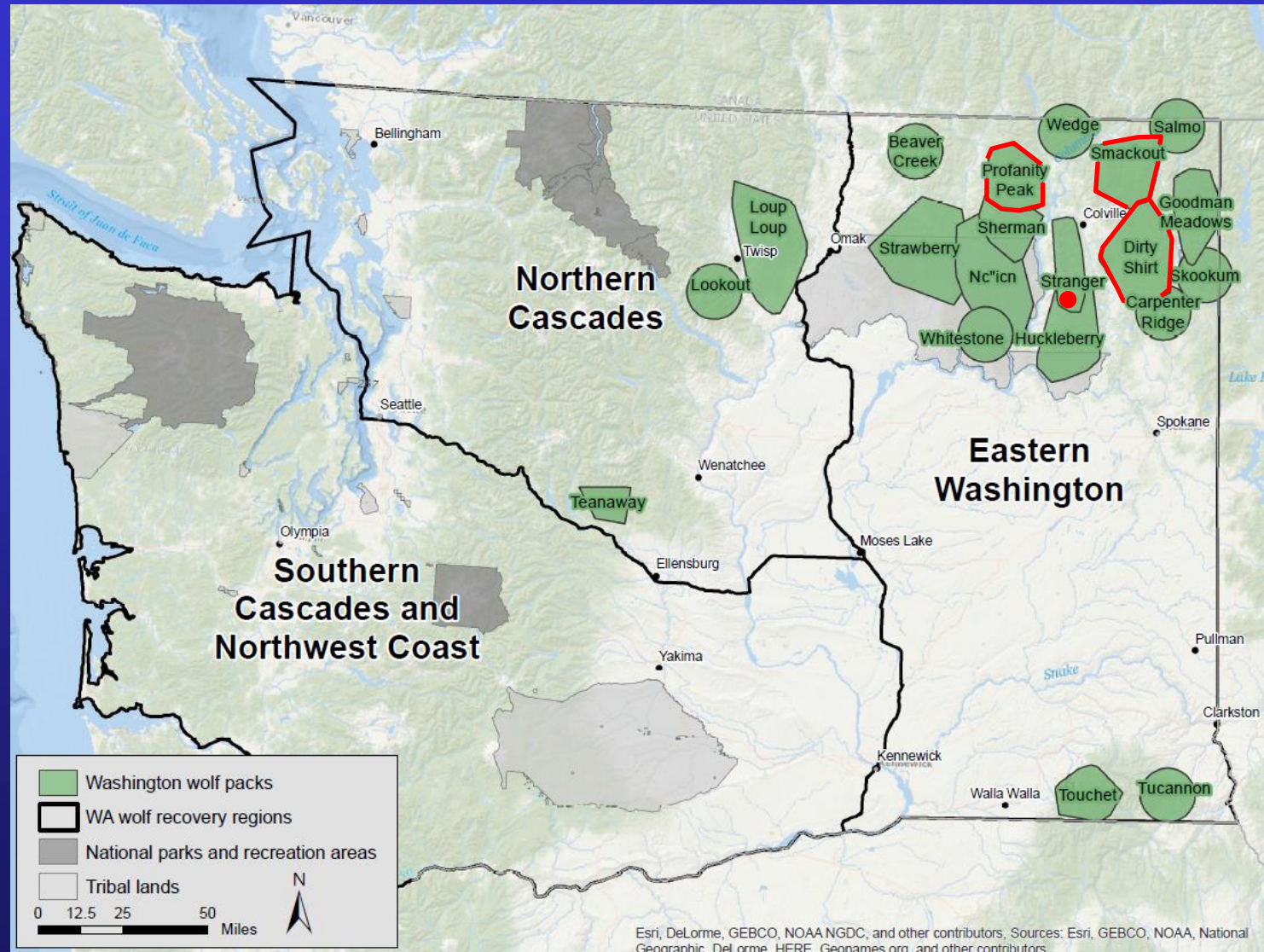
 Cost share contracts
 Informal contacts

 Contracted range riders

Growth of Wolf Population and Use of Deterrence Measures



Packs Depredating on Livestock in 2016



2016 Protocol for consideration and implementation of lethal removal of gray wolves during recovery to stop wolf depredations on livestock

The purpose of lethal removal is to stop wolf depredations from continuing in the near future

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Protocol for consideration and implementation of lethal removal of gray wolves during recovery to stop wolf depredations on livestock

Revision date May 31, 2016

Section 1. Purpose and background

The primary purpose of this document is to describe when the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (herein Department or WDFW) considers lethal removal of gray wolves during recovery to stop repeated wolf depredations on livestock and the implementation of lethal removals. Wolf depredations on livestock and the lethal removal of wolves are serious matters, and affect a diverse array of Washingtonians in different ways. To understand the diversity of views and needs, the Department's Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) and a diversity of Department staff co-developed and unanimously agreed to this protocol. As such, this protocol represents input and considerations from numerous individuals representing Department staff, livestock producer, environmental, and hunter interests.



CONSERVATION

 Search

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- Conservation**
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- Living with Wildlife

- Gray Wolf Management
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Washington Wolf Packs
 - Eastern Washington
 - Beaver Creek
 - Carpenter Ridge
 - Dirty Shirt
 - Goodman Meadows
 - Huckleberry
 - Ne'icn
 - Profanity Peak
 - Salmo
 - Sherman
 - Skookum
 - Smackout
 - Stranger
 - Strawberry
 - Touchet
 - Tucannon
 - Wedge
 - Whitestone
 - Northern Cascades
 - Lookout
 - Loup Loup
 - Teaway
 - Former Wolf Packs
 - Diamond
 - 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

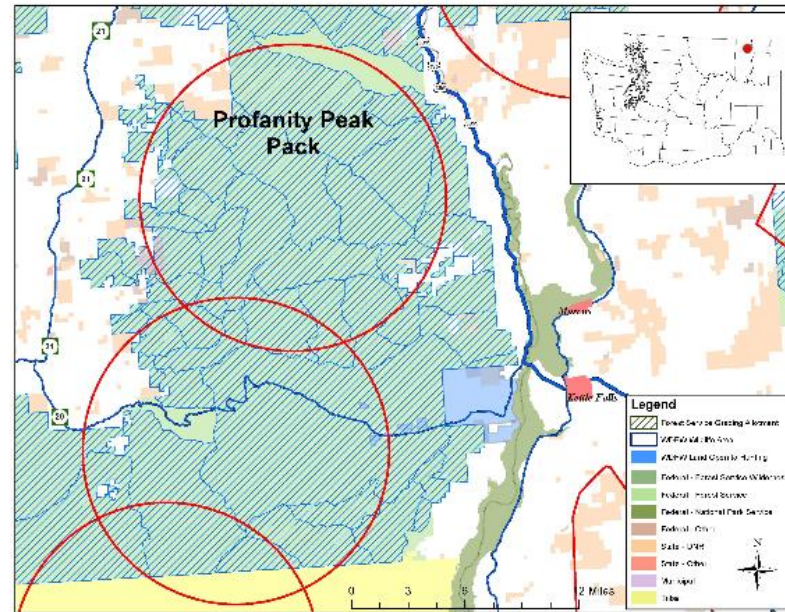
Main Office
 Natural Resources Building
 1111 Washington St. SE
 Olympia, WA 98501
 360-902-2200
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Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Wolf Packs in Washington

Profanity Peak

The Profanity Peak wolf pack was confirmed as a pack in 2014. Based on surveys in June 2016, the pack had a minimum of 11 members, up from seven estimated during the annual survey in December 2015 (See pages 58-59 in the state's [Wolf Conservation and Management Plan](#) for a description of a successful breeding pair).



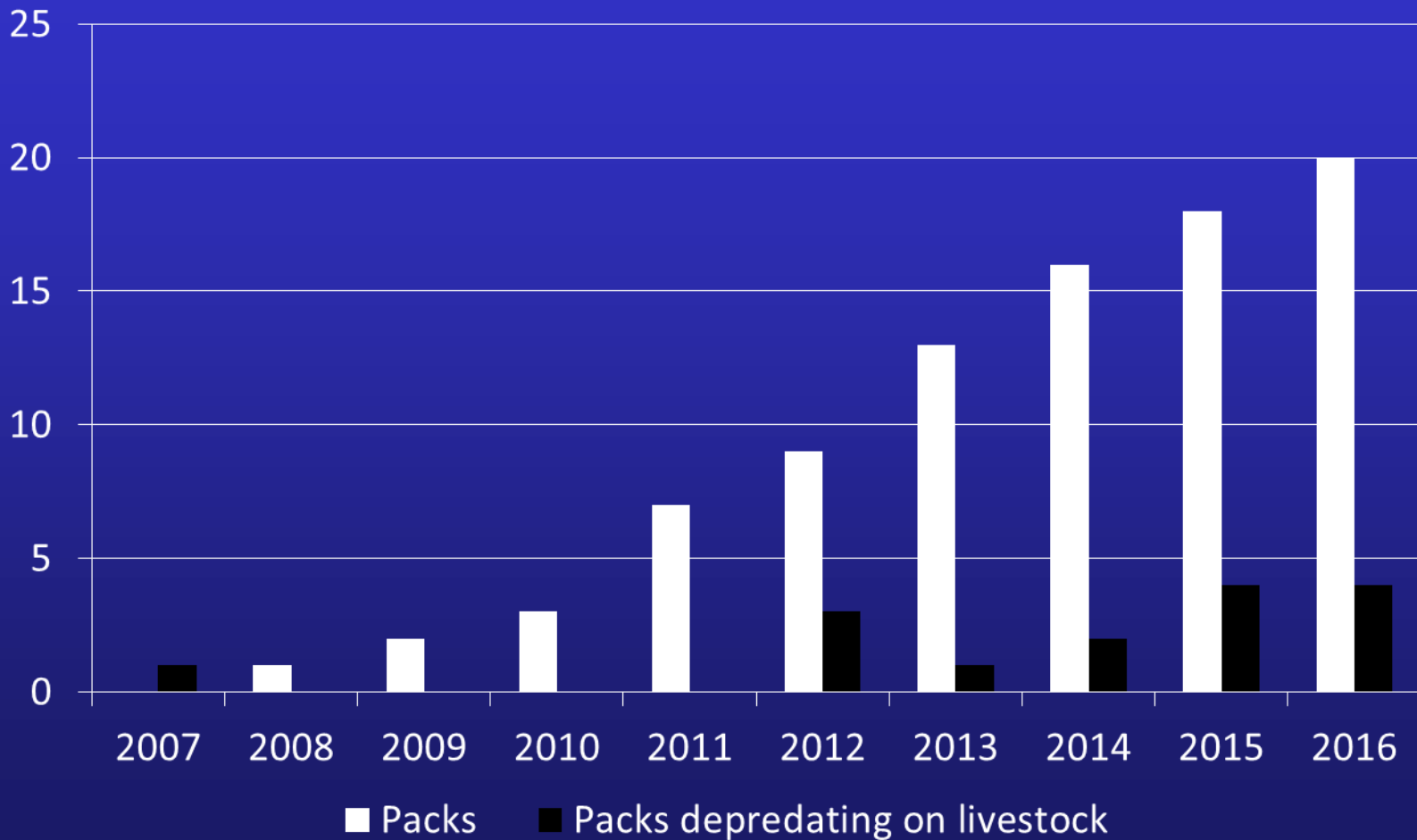
[CLICK TO ENLARGE MAP](#)

[Event Chronology](#)

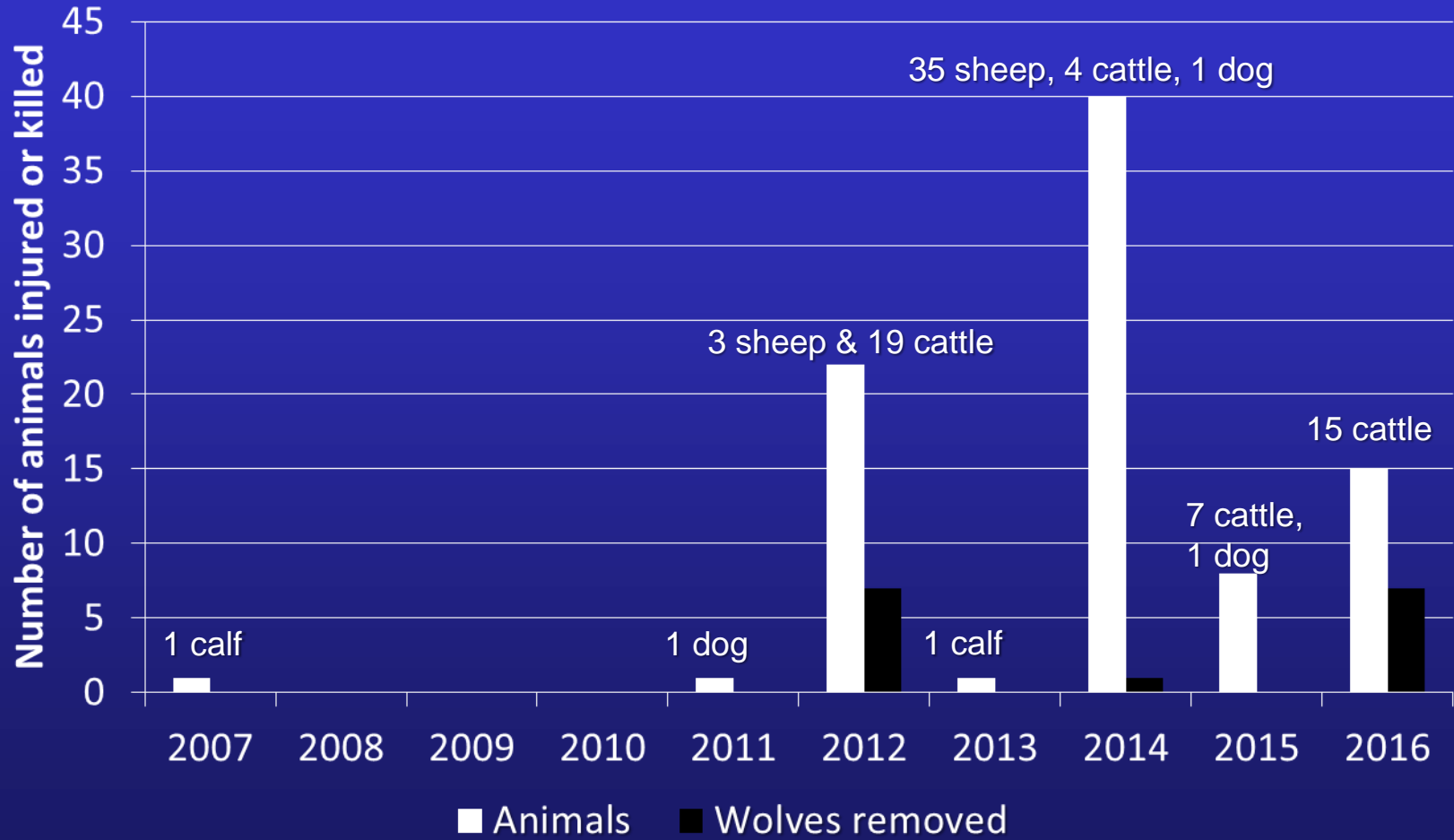
[Wolf-Livestock Conflict Deterrence Update](#)

[Annual Deterrence Post-action Report](#)

Packs Depredating on Livestock



Wolf Depredations in Washington



Compensation for Livestock Depredations

For injured or killed livestock

Claim date	Claim amount	Appraised value	Amount paid by WDFW
10/14/2016	Pending	In process	In process
1/4/2017	\$506	2/27/2017	Closed
10/31/2016	\$3,600	2/22/2017	Closed
8/5/2016	\$1,234	8/24/2016	Closed
3/14/2016	\$545	5/31/2016	Closed
9/21/2015	\$7,200	12/11/2015	Closed
10/6/2015	\$6,950	3/8/2016	Closed
	Total \$20,037		

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	Amount paid by WDFW
11/03/2014	Sheep losses	\$42,064
05/27/2015	Reduced pregnancy	\$23,583

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%
2016	115	20	10	28%	14	20%
Ave				35%		9%

Stakeholder Engagement, Research, and Budget

Online Resources

- Gray Wolf Management
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Washington Wolf Packs
- Wolves and Livestock
- Wolves and Big Game
- Wolves in Washington
- Wolf Observations and Sightings
- Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- Wolf Advisory Group
- Other Links

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1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
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[Get Directions](#)

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

Jim Unsworth
Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Introduction

The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), a native species that was nearly extirpated early last century, is returning to Washington on its own, dispersing from populations in other states and provinces. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working to manage this recovering endangered species, guided by a citizen-developed plan to address conflicts with livestock and impacts to other wildlife species. Citizen reports of wolf activity and problems are encouraged as WDFW staff monitor the growth of Washington's wolves.

Latest Updates

- [Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management: 2016 Annual Report](#) **NEW**
- [Profanity Peak wolf pack: 2016 lethal removal action report](#)
- [Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Population Area Map](#)
- [Ungulate Status in Washington: 2015](#)
- [People and Wolves in Washington: An independent conflict assessment](#)

Wolf Packs in Washington (as of December 2016)

Click on map for enlargement

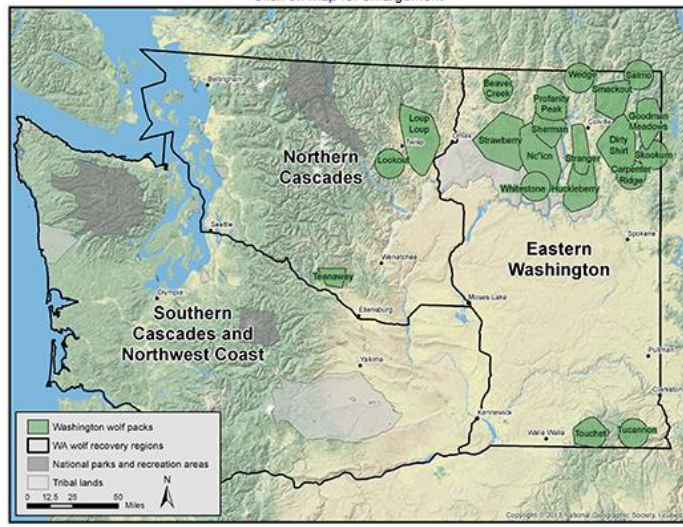


Photo by Gary Kramer, USFWS

Report Wolf Sightings

Depredation Reporting Hotline
1-877-933-9847

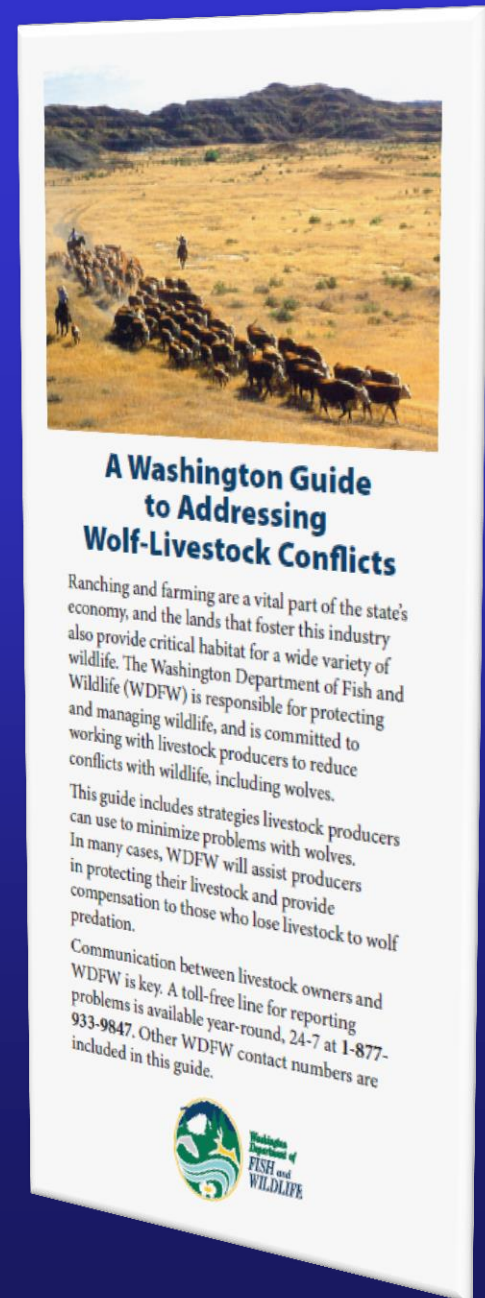
Interested in receiving notices about wolves in Washington?

Sign up here

For current wolf activity please read the *Wildlife Program Weekly Activity Reports*

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



Wolf Advisory Group



Representation

- Livestock producers, environmentalist, hunters
- 13 organizations

Process

- 5 meetings
- 3 conference calls

Topics

- Expectations for deterrence measures
- Damage Prevention agreements
- 2016 Protocol for lethal removal

Research

- Livestock mortality rates in wolf occupied areas of Washington (WSU)
- Predator-Prey Project (WDFW-UW)
- Interactions between wolves and cougars in eastern Washington State (UW)
- Wolf predation in livestock occupied areas of Washington State (WSU)
- Forecasting livestock depredation risk by recolonizing gray wolves in Washington, USA (WSU)
- Risk effects of wolves on livestock productivity in Washington (WSU)
- Habitat use of wolves in relation to wildfire in Washington State (UW)
- Impacts of wolves on mule deer and white-tailed deer in northeastern WA (UW)
- Impacts of wolf recovery on interspecific competition between carnivores (UW)



Wolf Expenditures

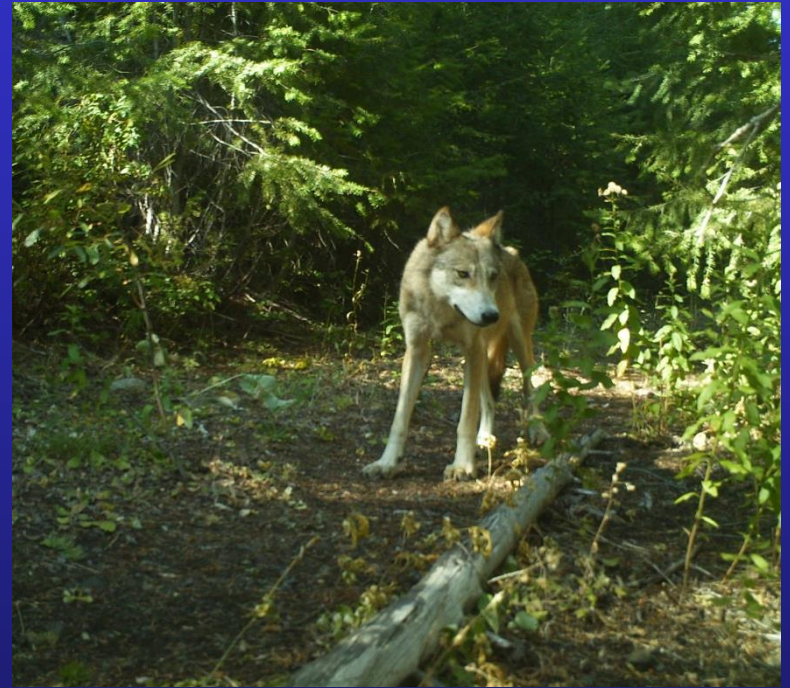
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Description	Wolf expenditures
Population monitoring	
• Captures, monitoring, surveys	\$108,938
• Staff time	\$240,530
• USDA Wildlife Services assistance	\$174,337
• Total	\$523,805
Conflict Management	
• Staff time	\$273,160
• Deterrence measures (cost-share, range riders, other)	\$430,452
• Compensation	\$28,872
• Total	\$732,484
TOTAL	\$1,256,290

Fund source: WLS/SG/PLP/Orca \$944,006 /Federal \$312,283

Looking Ahead

- Coordination with livestock producers
- WAG and stakeholder engagement
- Interagency Wolf Committee engagement
- Streamline compensation claim process



For More Information

Website

http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/

Contact

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