

Agenda Item 11

Wolf Conservation and Management



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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Outline

- Highlights on implementation of current wolf conservation and management plan
- Planning process for wolf conservation and management when wolves have successfully reached recovery objectives

Legal Status



- Entire state listed as Endangered by WDFW

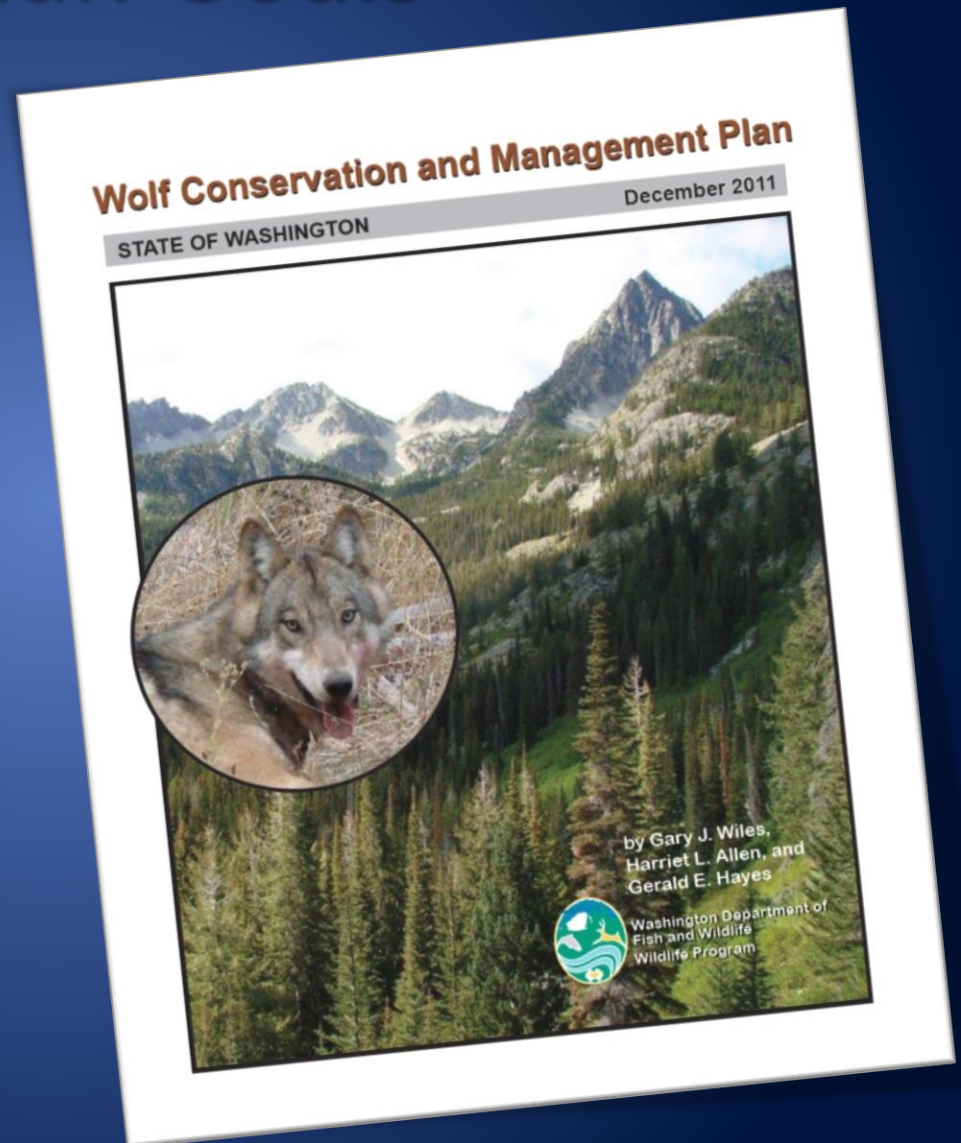
- Federally delisted in Eastern 1/3 WA in 2011
- Federally listed as Endangered in Western 2/3 WA

Wolf 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

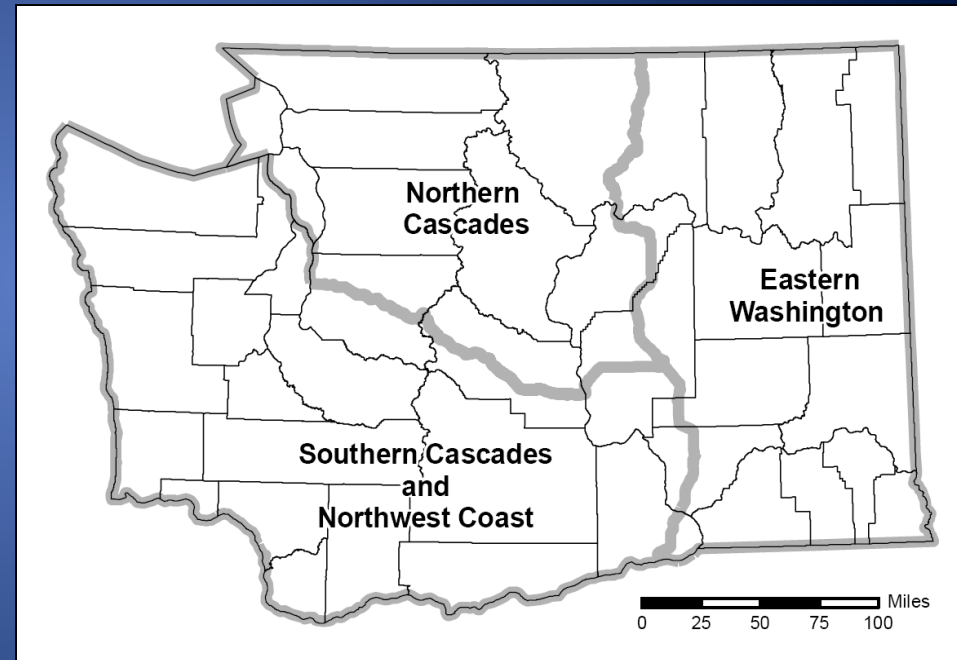


Restore self-sustaining wolf populations

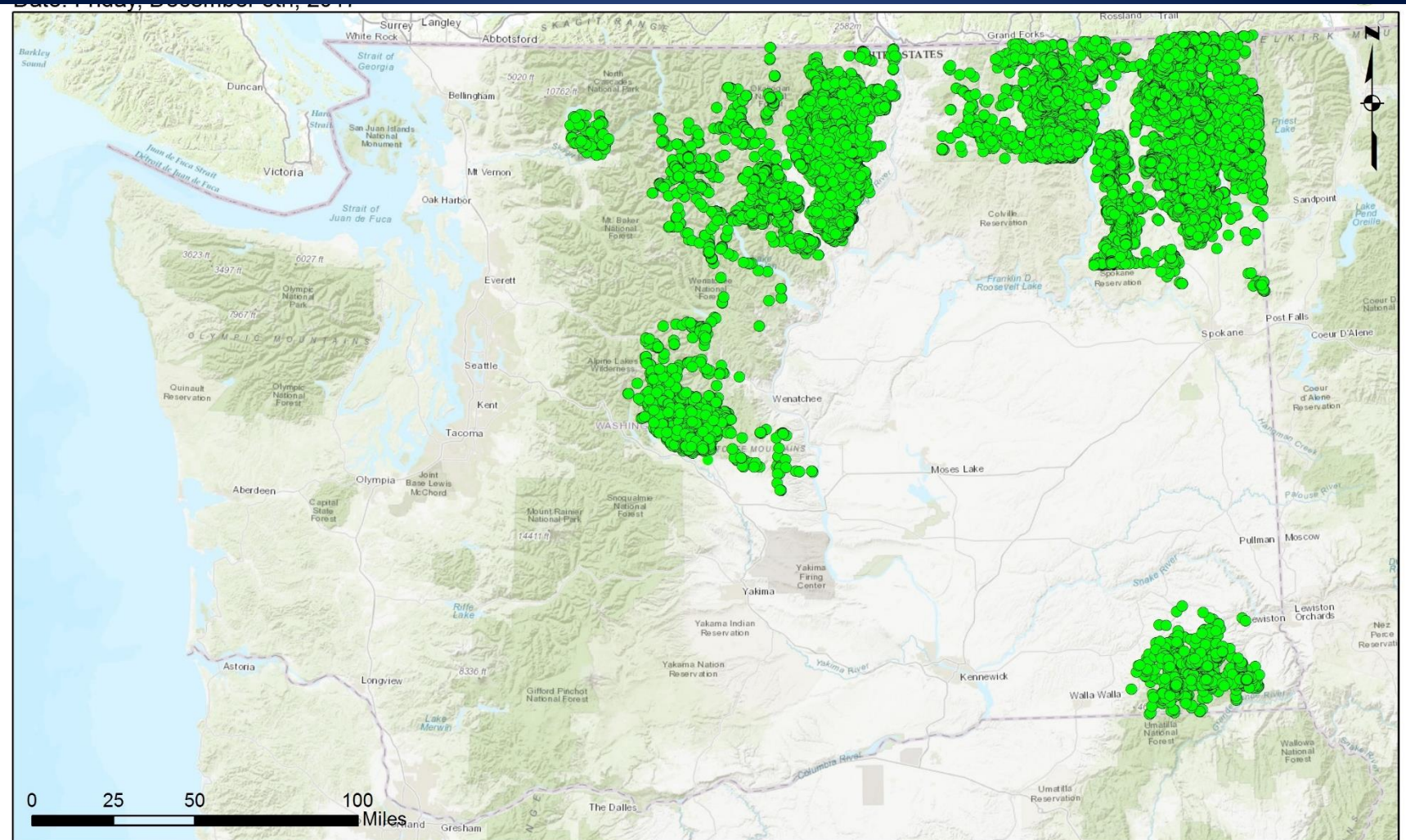
Restore self-sustaining wolf populations

Recovery Objectives

- Delist at 15 successful breeding pairs for 3 consecutive years
- Or 18 successful breeding pairs for 1 year
- Distributed among 3 recovery regions



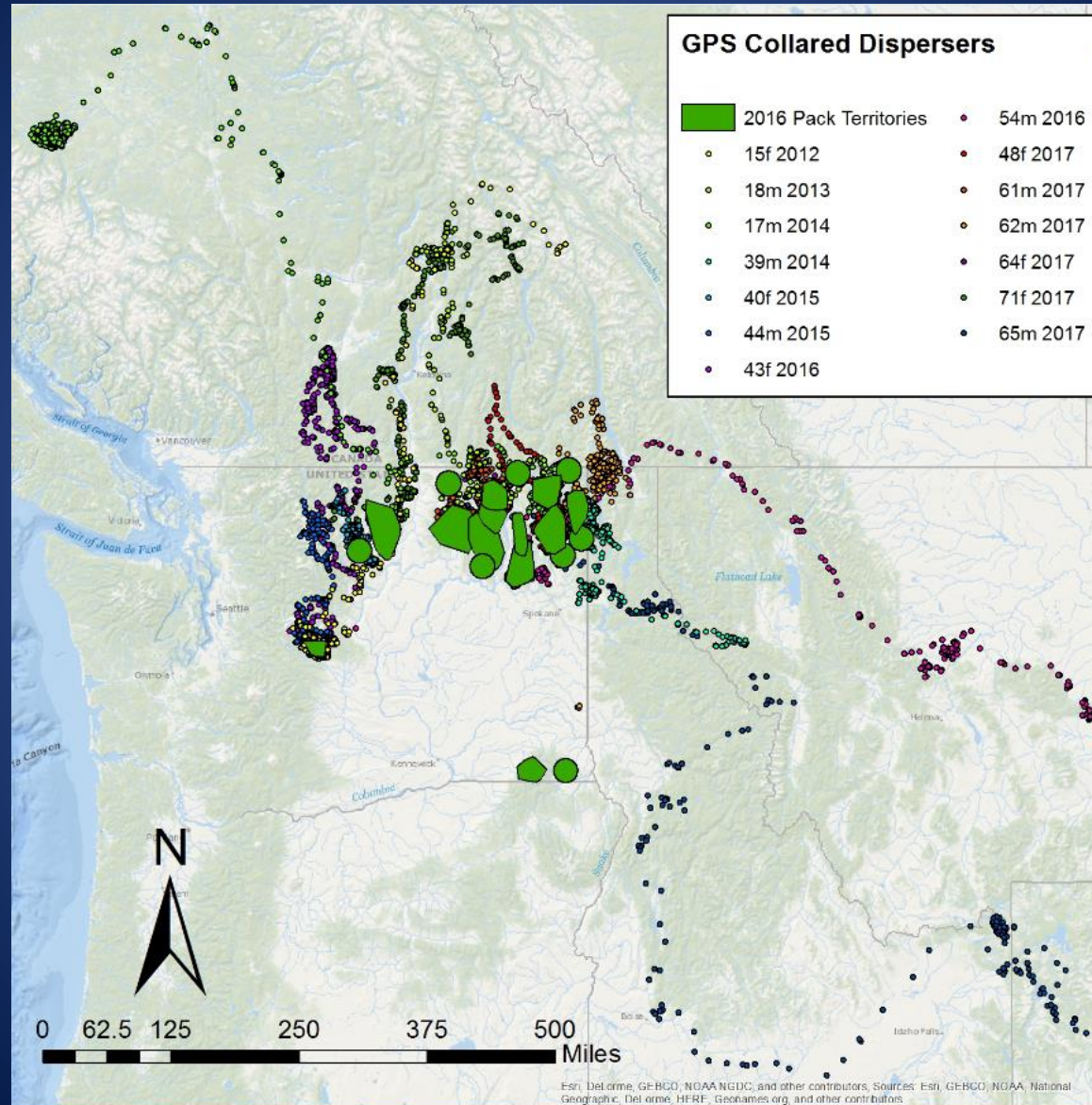
Locations of GPS collared wolves 2008-2017



Disclaimer: This map represents the most complete dataset currently available of wolf telemetry locations in Washington State. Locations outside of Washington's jurisdiction (e.g., tribal lands) are not displayed. A coarse attempt was made to remove locations pre- and post-deployment that resulted in removing 1,051 locations (73,031 originally, 71,980 filtered).

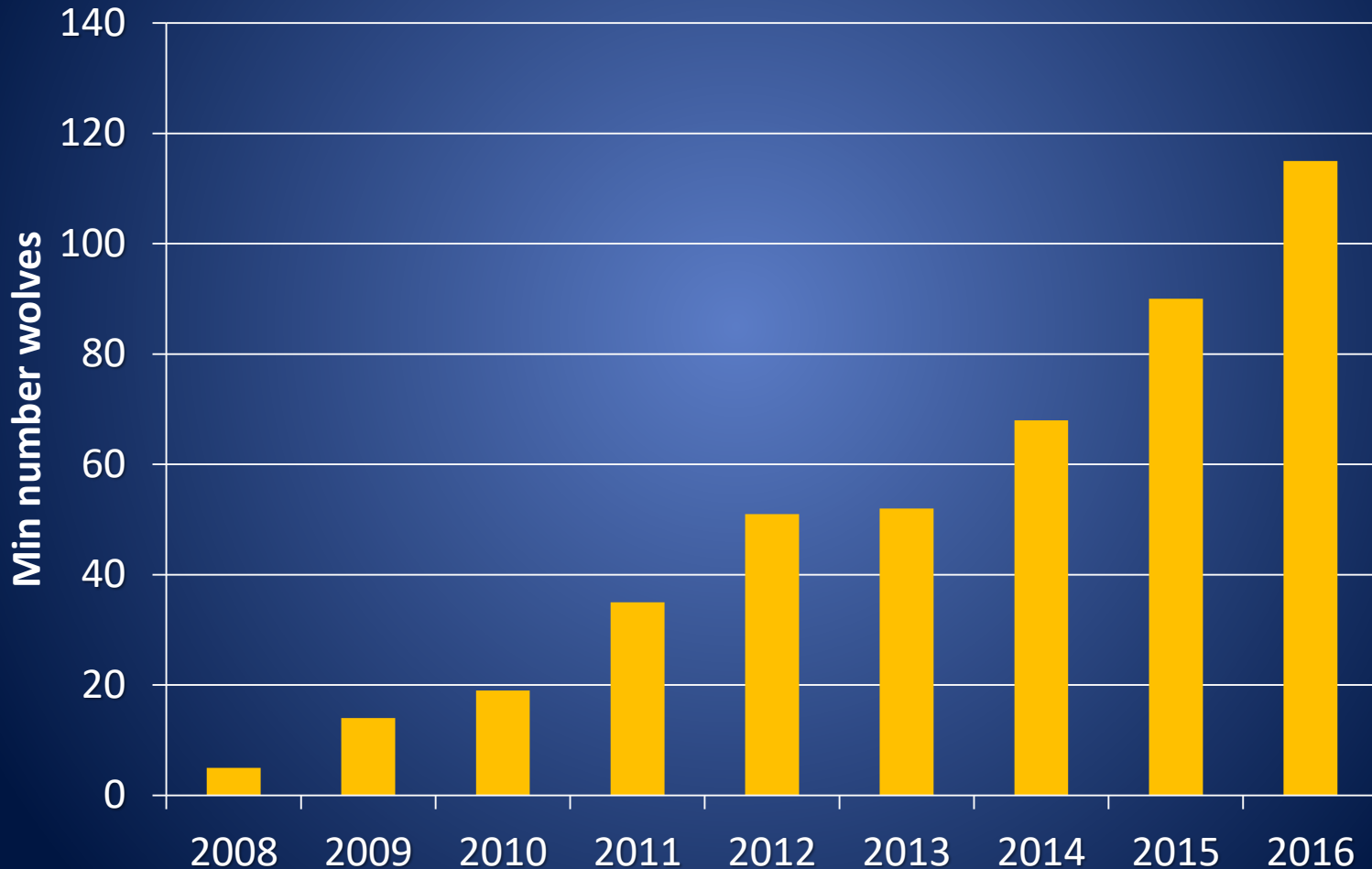
Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Washington's Known Dispersals

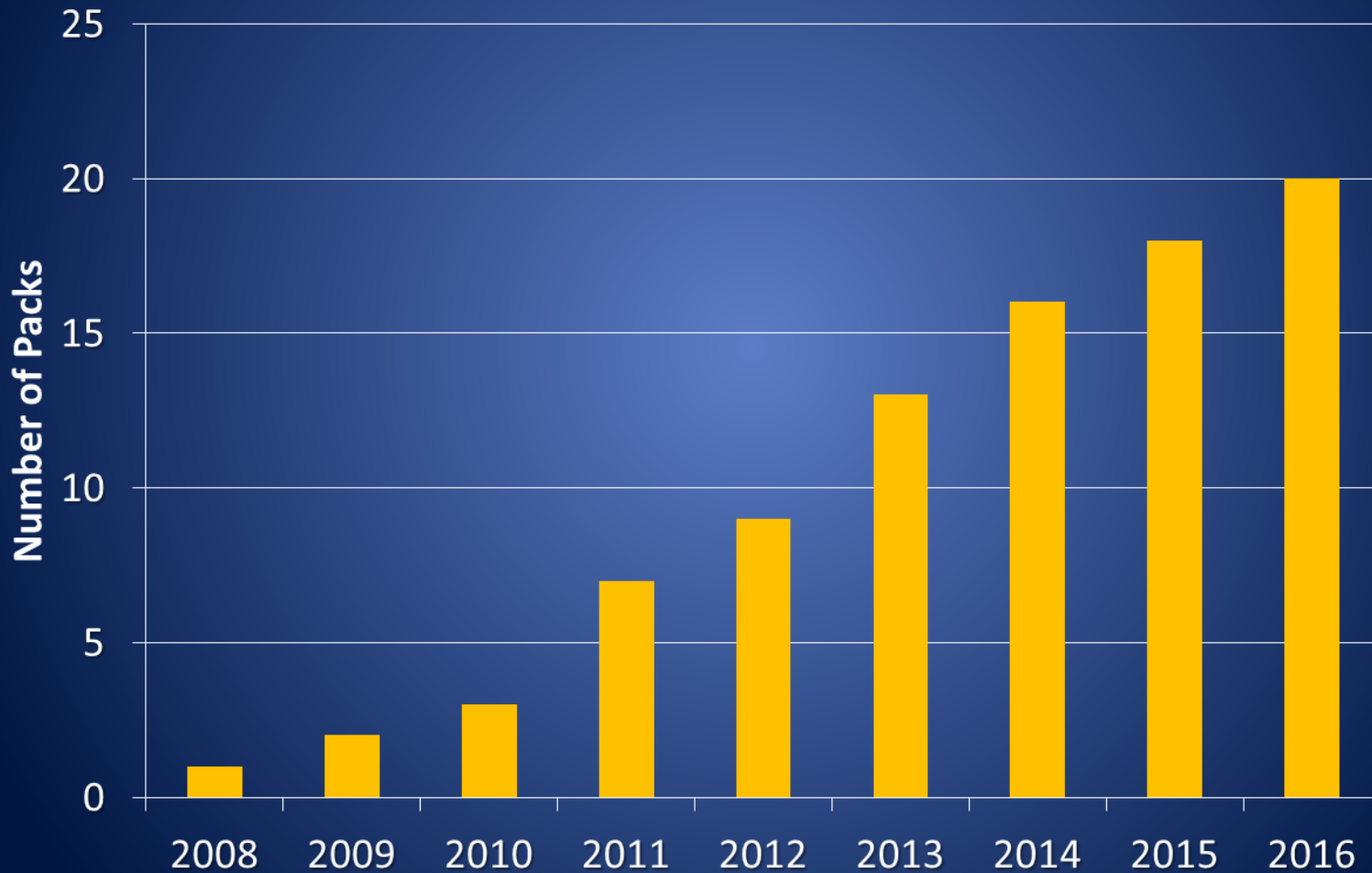


Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves

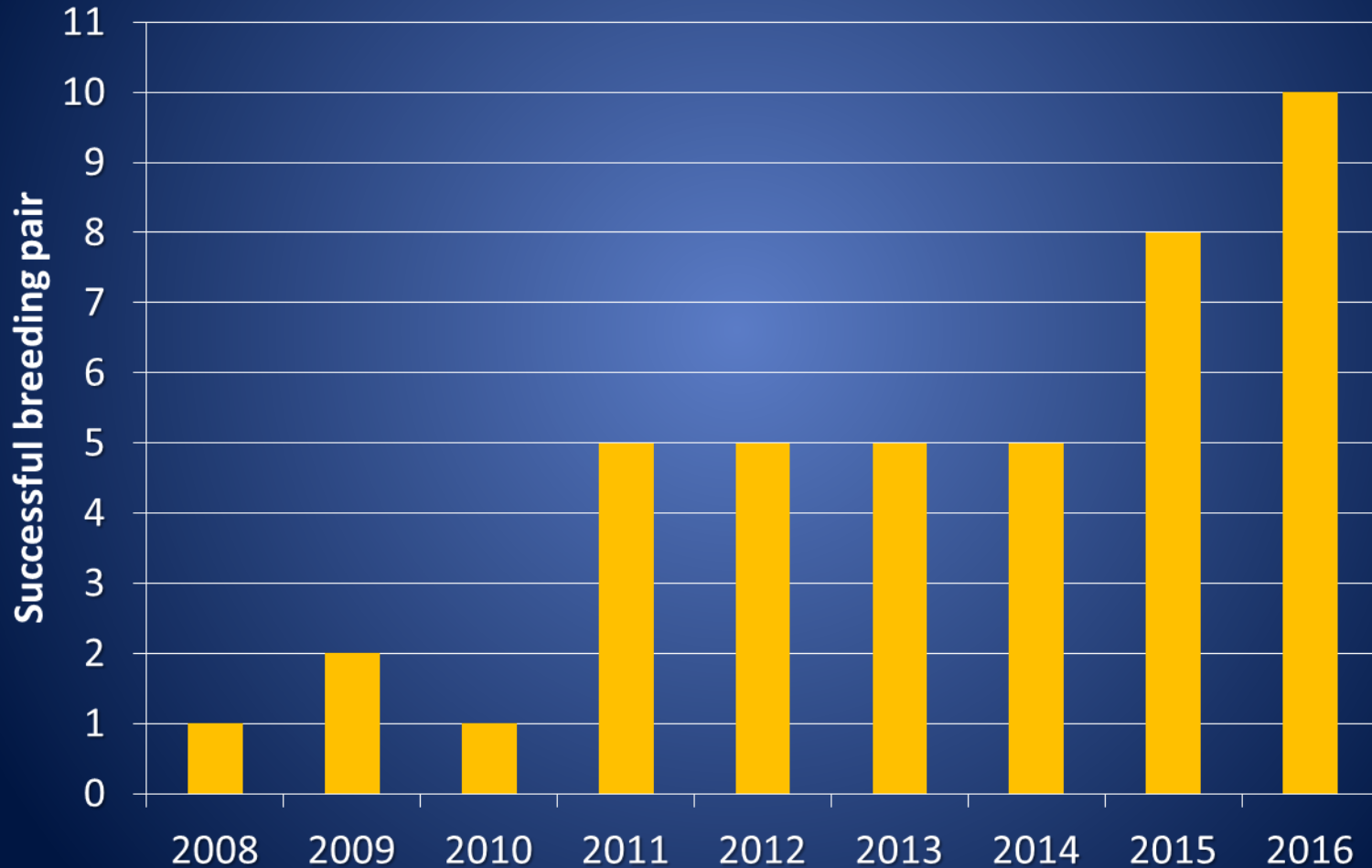
(~30% average annual growth rate)



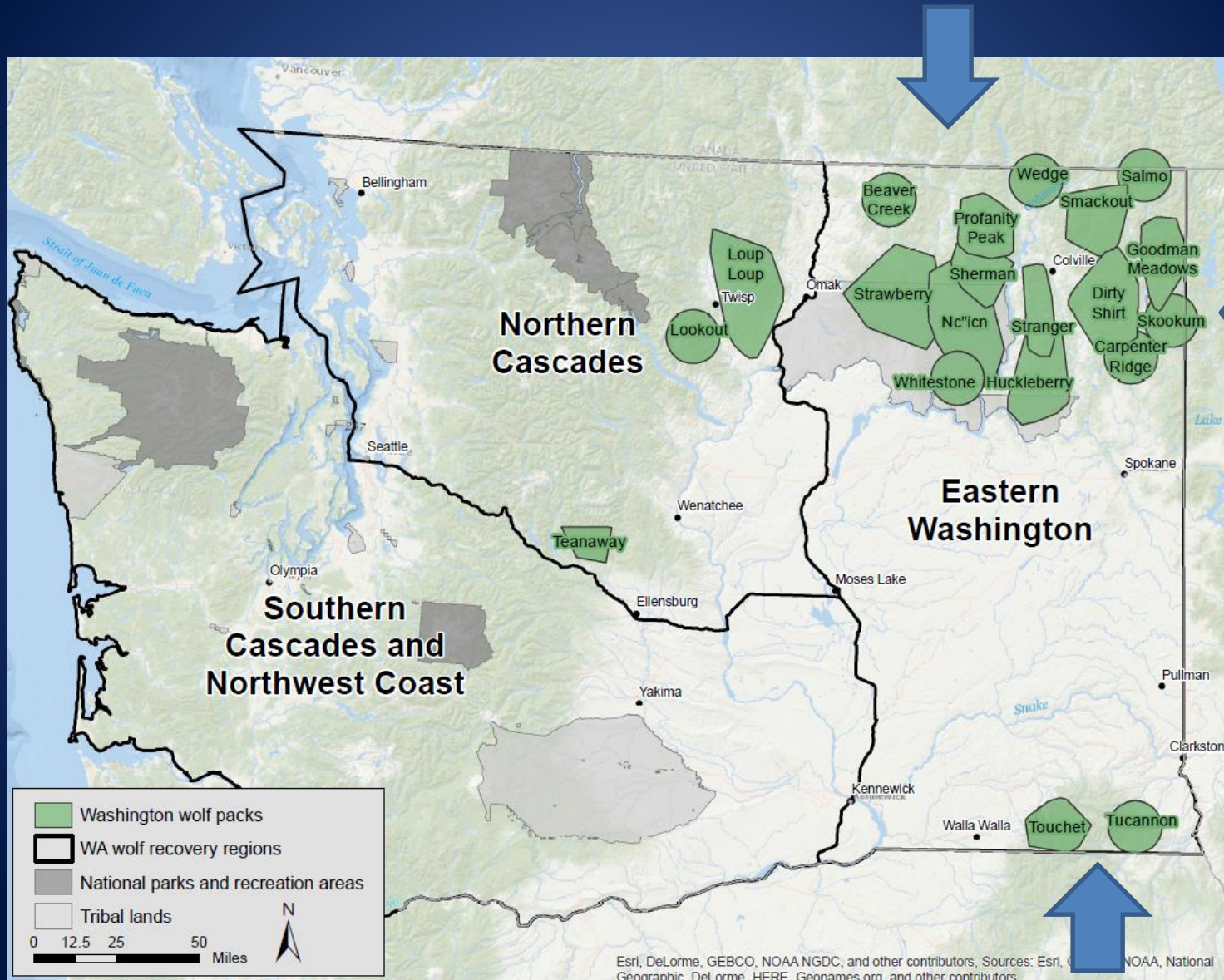
Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



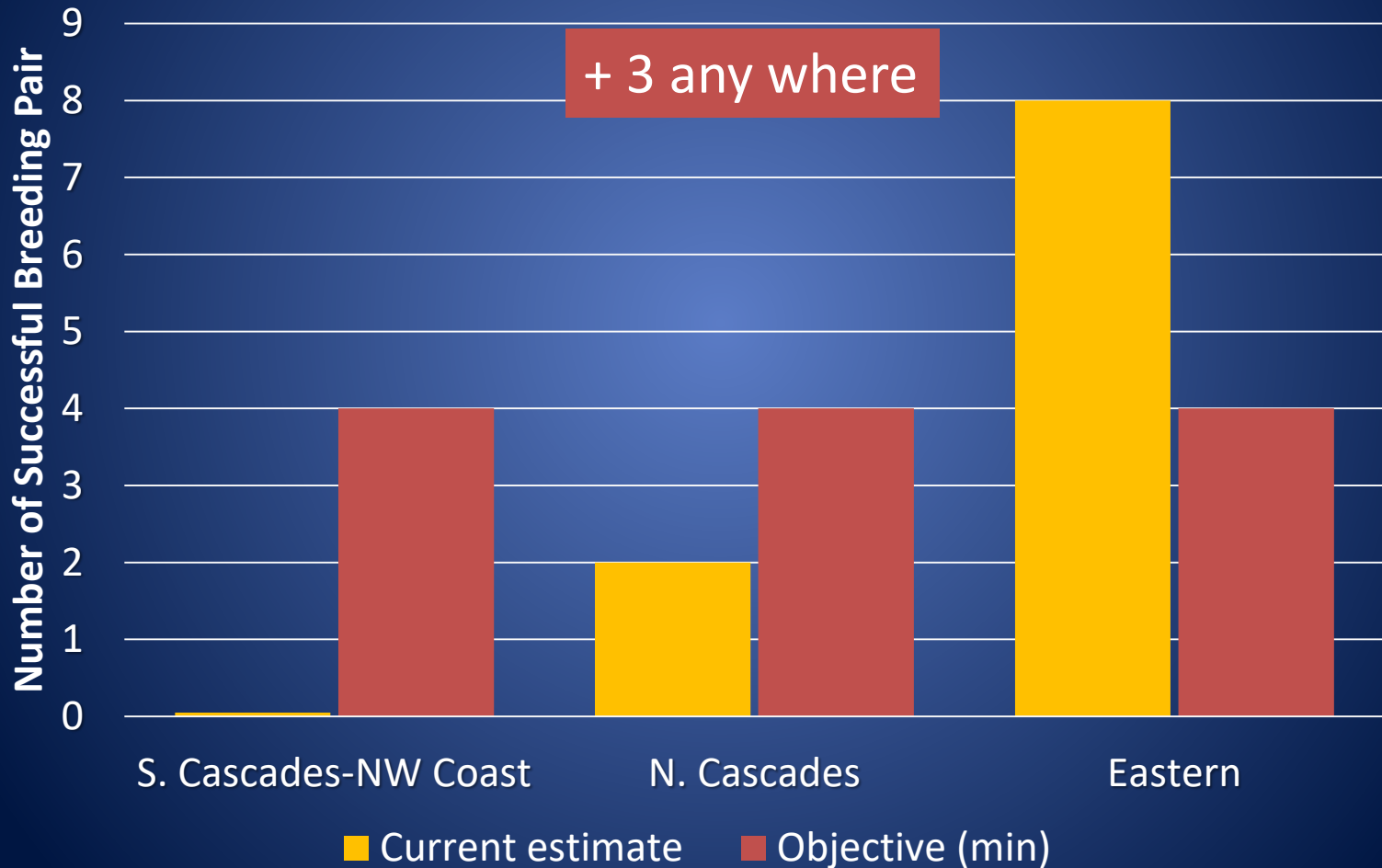
Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pairs



Recovery pattern – East to West



Successful Breeding Pairs by Recovery Zone (as of Mar 2017)

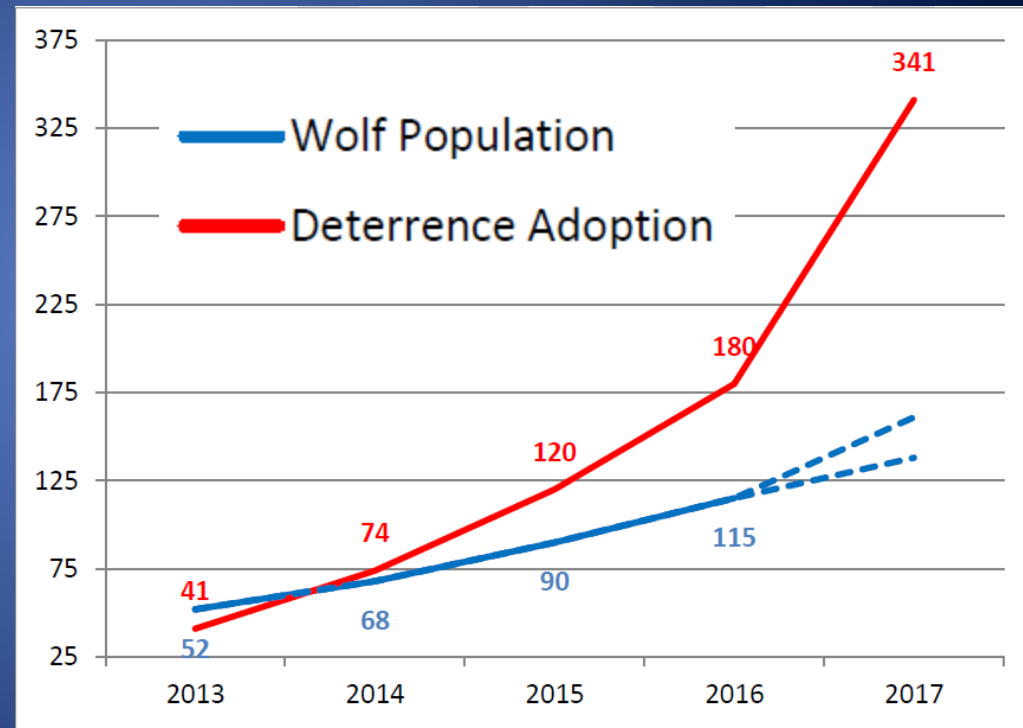


Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict

Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict

Use of proactive non-lethal deterrence measures

- Damage Prevention
Cooperative Agreements
- Contracted range riders
- Informal (checklist of tools, collaboration, etc)
- Assistance while communities adjust to new large carnivore
- Community vitality and financial sustainability



Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict

Compensation for livestock damages by wolves

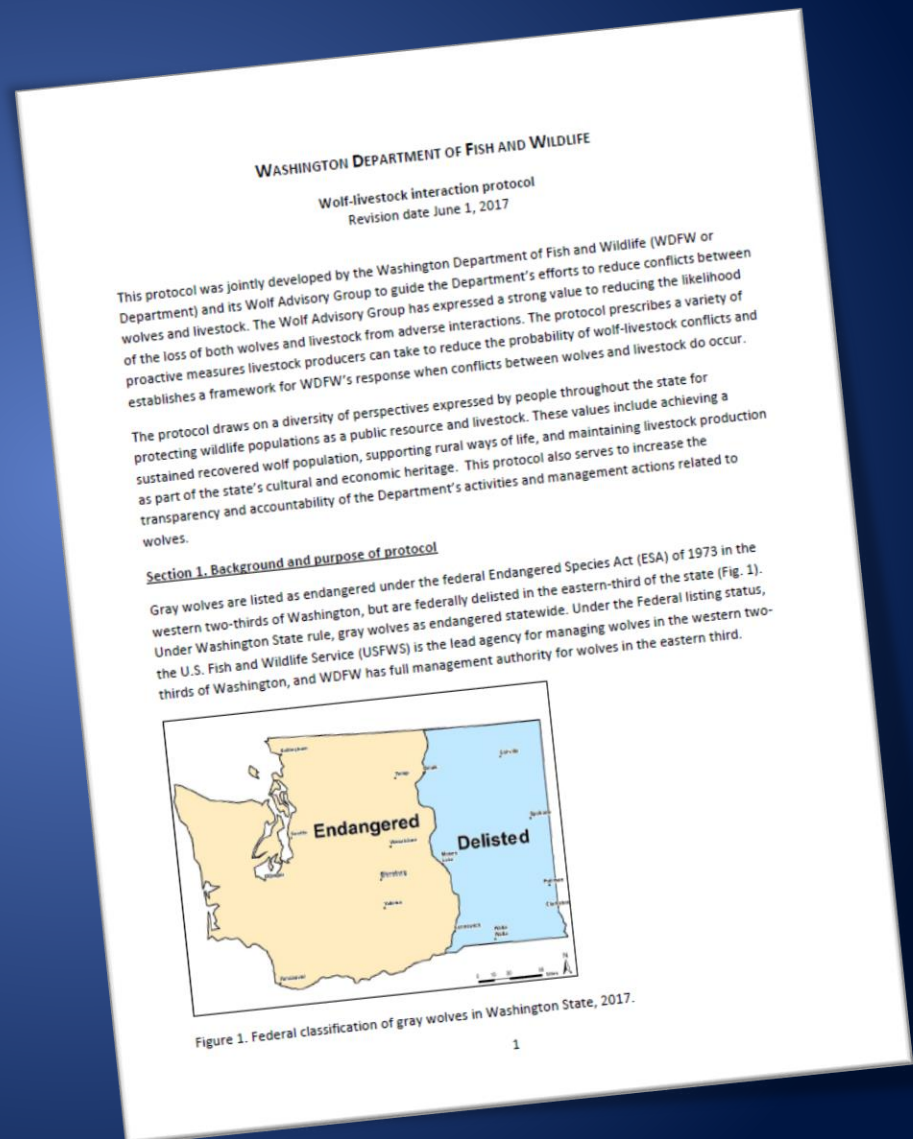
- Direct – injury or death
- Indirect
 - Greater than normal losses
 - Reduced pregnancy rates
 - Reduced weight gain
- Livestock Review Board
- \$101,291 paid in six years (does not represent all damages)



Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict

Wolf-livestock interaction protocol

- Co-development with staff and citizen based Wolf Advisory Group
- Conflict transformation process
- Cohesion on issues
- Consistency and clarity for public



Maintain Healthy Prey Base

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Population objectives, management priorities, and monitoring

- Game management plan
- Elk herd plans
- Mule and white-tailed deer plans
- Game status and trend reports
- Game harvest reports



Maintain Healthy Prey Base

Population assessments

- Annual surveys
- Ungulate status in Washington (2015)
- Ungulate assessment (2016)



Research studies

- Impacts of wolves on mule deer and white-tailed deer in northeastern WA (UW)
- Impacts of wolf recovery on the predator and prey community in NE Washington (UW)
- Cooperative predator-prey project (UW-WDFW)

Develop Public Understanding and Promote Coexistence

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- Wolf Internal Group (Why?)
- Wolf advisory group
- Interagency wolf committee
- Livestock review board
- Annual & monthly wolf reports
- Agency communications with public
- Website, online tools, and outreach materials
- Presentations to the public and small group meetings
- Collaboration with local government



Key Points

- Continue implementing wolf plan
- Continue collaborative stakeholder processes
- Wolf population growth is expected to continue
- Modeling suggests may reach recovery objectives by 2021



Planning process for wolf conservation and management when wolves have successfully reached recovery objectives

Desired Process

- Engage wide and diverse cross section of Washingtonians
- Inclusive of diversity of perspectives, cultures, and world views
- Community involvement
- Sufficient resources and time for good process, yet timely when wolves successfully reach recovery objectives
- Integrated SEPA and conflict transformation processes

Integrated Process

Post delisting Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

SEPA

- Scoping
- Science review
- Draft alternatives
- Public input
- Finalize alternatives
- DEIS
- Public input
- FEIS

Conflict Transformation

- Relationships based
- Inclusive & diverse
- Go slow to go fast
- Mutual learning
- Co-develop process
- Build it, own it
- Creative solutions
- Cohesion on issues

Next Steps

- Continued engagement with Fish and Wildlife Commission, WAG, and public
- Process considerations, design, desired outcomes
- Develop timeline
- Initiate integrated SEPA-Conflict Transformation process



Questions

Website

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

Contact

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