

2020 Annual Wolf Report – Briefing FWC April 23, 2021

Ben Maletzke & Dan Brinson
Wildlife Program



Listing Status

Federally Delisted January 2021

State Listed – Endangered
where WDFW has jurisdiction

Wolf Conservation and
Management Plan: 2011

- 3 recovery areas
- Delisting requirements

State and tribal management



Recovery Objectives

Pack: Two or more wolves traveling together in the winter.

Successful Breeding Pair (SBP): An adult male and an adult female with at least two pups surviving to December 31st in a given year.

Delisting Requirements in the Plan

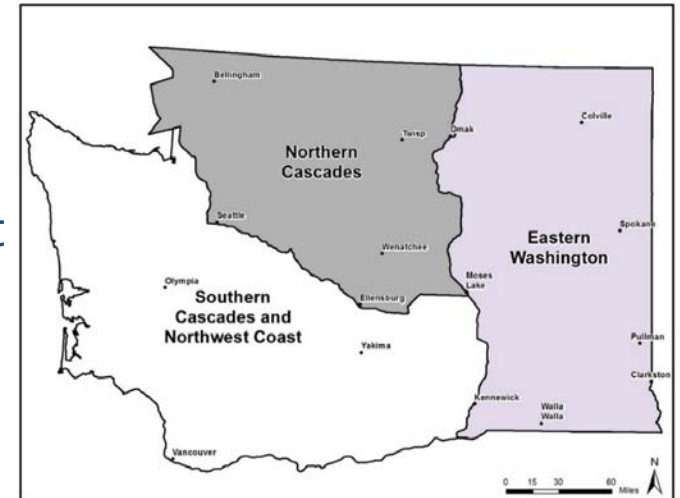
15 SBP's for 3 consecutive years with:

- 4 SBP's in Eastern WA Recovery Area
- 4 SBP's in North Cascades Recovery Area
- 4 SBP's in Southern Cascades and NW Coast
- 3 SBP's anywhere in the state

or

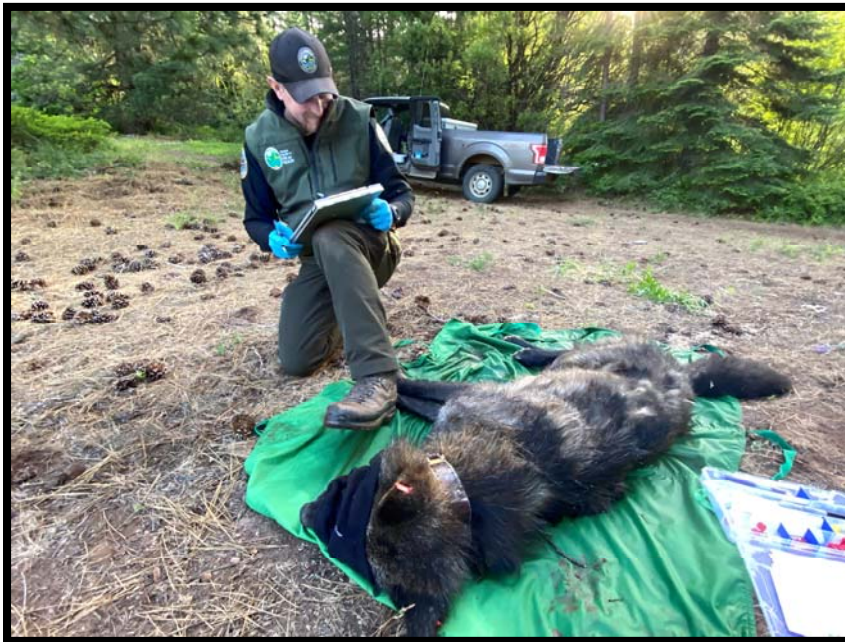
18 SBP's for 1 year with

- 4 SBP's in Eastern WA Recovery Area
- 4 SBP's in North Cascades Recovery Area
- 4 SBP's in Southern Cascades and NW Coast
- 6 SBP's anywhere in the state



Capture and Monitoring 2020 Calendar Year

- Captured 12 wolves - From 8 different packs
- Monitored 21 wolves from 14 packs
- Currently monitoring 16 collared wolves (9% of minimum number of known wolves) from 10 packs (35% of known packs) in Washington



Winter Annual Survey Counts

- Packs with collared wolves – Aerial Surveys
- Packs without collared wolves – Track and Camera Surveys

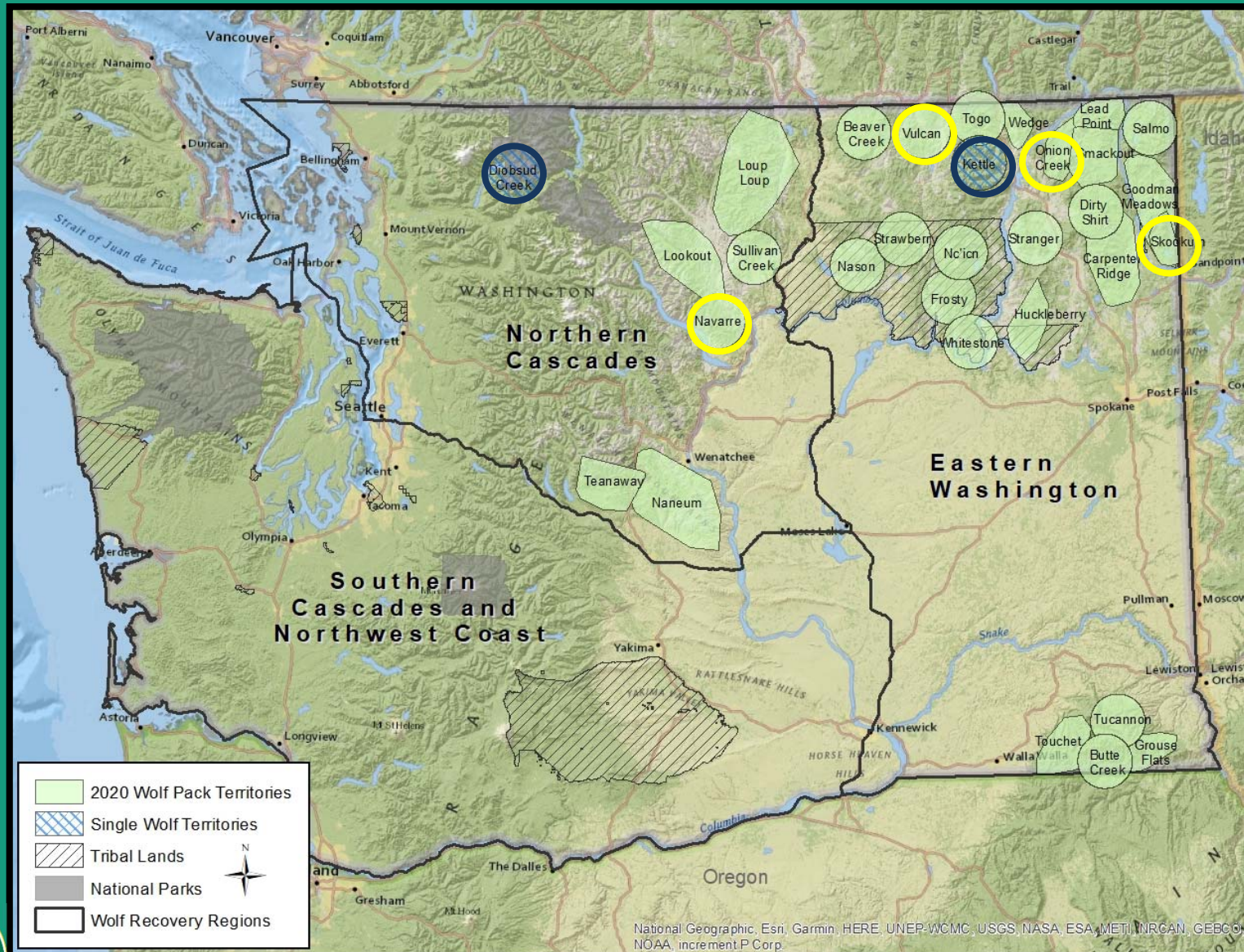


How to Count a Wolf



Washington's Known Wolf Packs

As of December 31, 2020

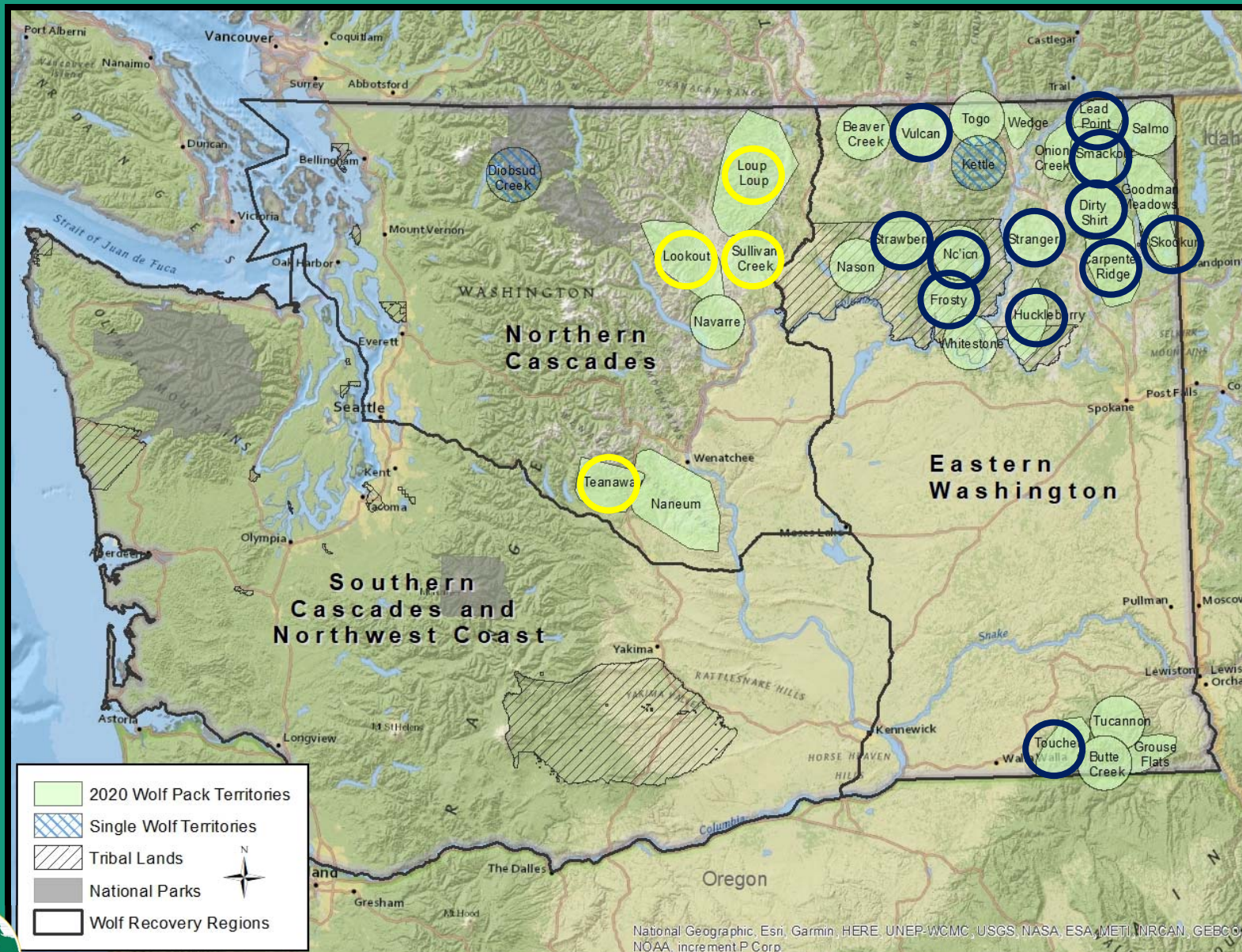


Wolf Population Status

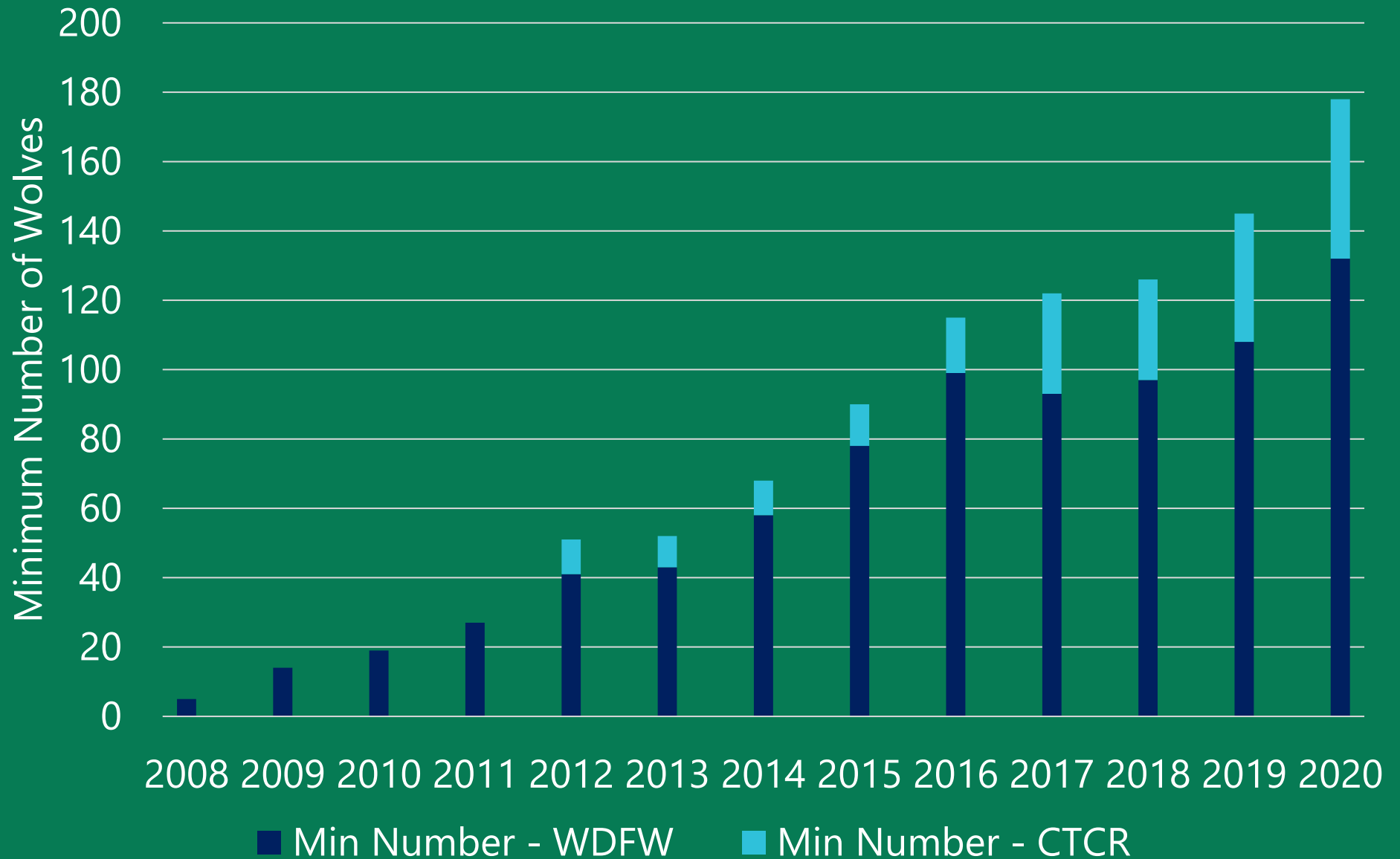
Recovery Region	Successful Breeding Pairs	Minimum Count	Number of Packs
Eastern – WDFW Co-managed	9	98	18
Eastern – CTCR	3*	46*	5
North Cascades	4	34	6
South Cascades / Northwest Coast	0	0	0
Total	16	178	29



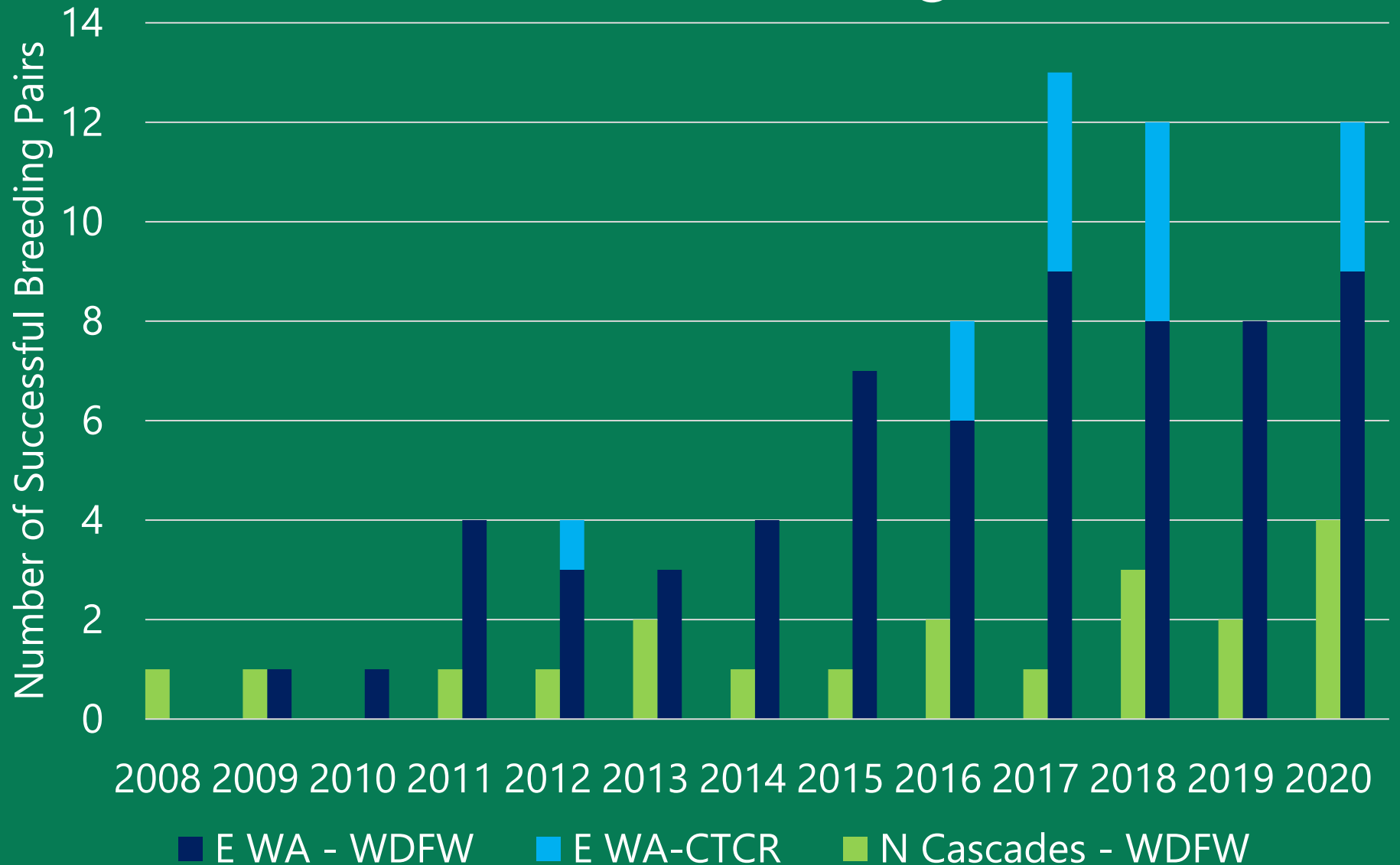
Successful Breeding Pairs in 2020



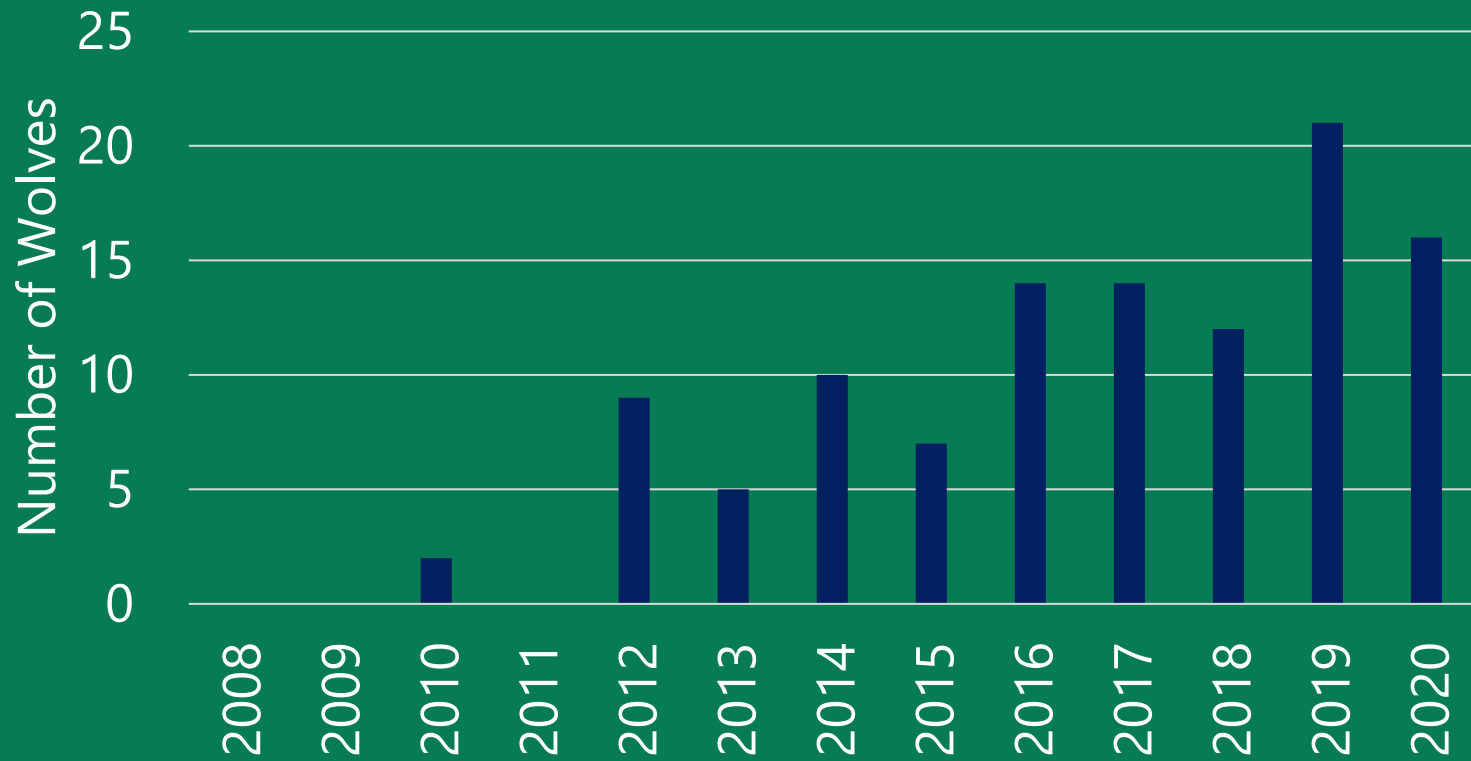
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



Known Wolf Mortalities by Year



Cause	Legal Tribal Harvest	Vehicle	Natural Causes	Human Caused (shot)	Depredations-WDFW Lethal Removal	Unknown
# of Mortalities	8	1	2	1	3	1

Known Wolf Dispersals in 2020



Wolf Population Summary

YEAR	Minimum Count	# of Packs	# of SBP	Annual Growth Rate	Known 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%
2017	122	22	14	6%	14	23%
2018	126	27	15	3%	12	19%
2019	145*	26	10*	14%	21	14%
2020	178*	29	16*	24%	16	24%
<i>Ave</i>				<i>26%</i>		<i>14%</i>





Wolf – Livestock Interactions

Guiding Documents

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wolf-livestock interaction protocol
Revision date June 1, 2017

This protocol was jointly developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW or Department) and its Wolf Advisory Group to guide the Department's efforts to reduce conflicts between wolves and livestock. The Wolf Advisory Group has expressed a strong value to reducing the likelihood of the loss of both wolves and livestock from adverse interactions. The protocol prescribes a variety of proactive measures livestock producers can take to reduce the probability of wolf-livestock conflicts and establishes a framework for WDFW's response when conflicts between wolves and livestock do occur.

The protocol draws on a diversity of perspectives expressed by people throughout the state for protecting wildlife populations as a public resource and livestock. These values include achieving a sustained recovered wolf population, supporting rural ways of life, and maintaining livestock production as part of the state's cultural and economic heritage. This protocol also serves to increase the transparency and accountability of the Department's activities and management actions related to wolves.

Section 1. Background and purpose of protocol

Gray wolves are listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 in the western two-thirds of Washington, but are federally delisted in the eastern-third of the state (Fig. 1). Under Washington State rule, gray wolves are endangered statewide. Under the Federal listing status, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the lead agency for managing wolves in the western two-thirds of Washington, and WDFW has full management authority for wolves in the eastern third.

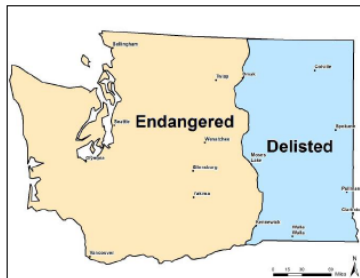


Figure 1. Federal classification of gray wolves in Washington State, 2017.

1

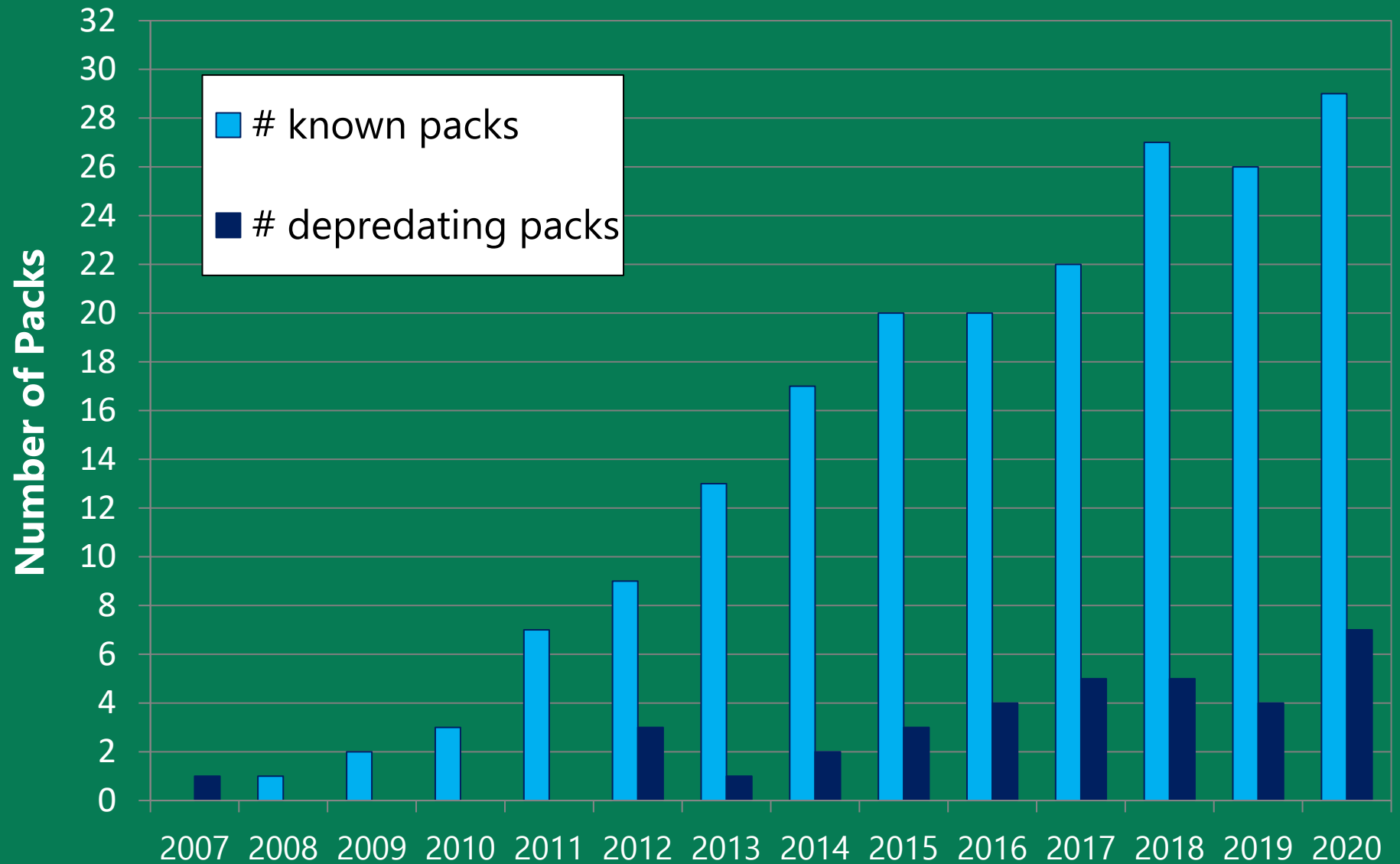


New in 2020

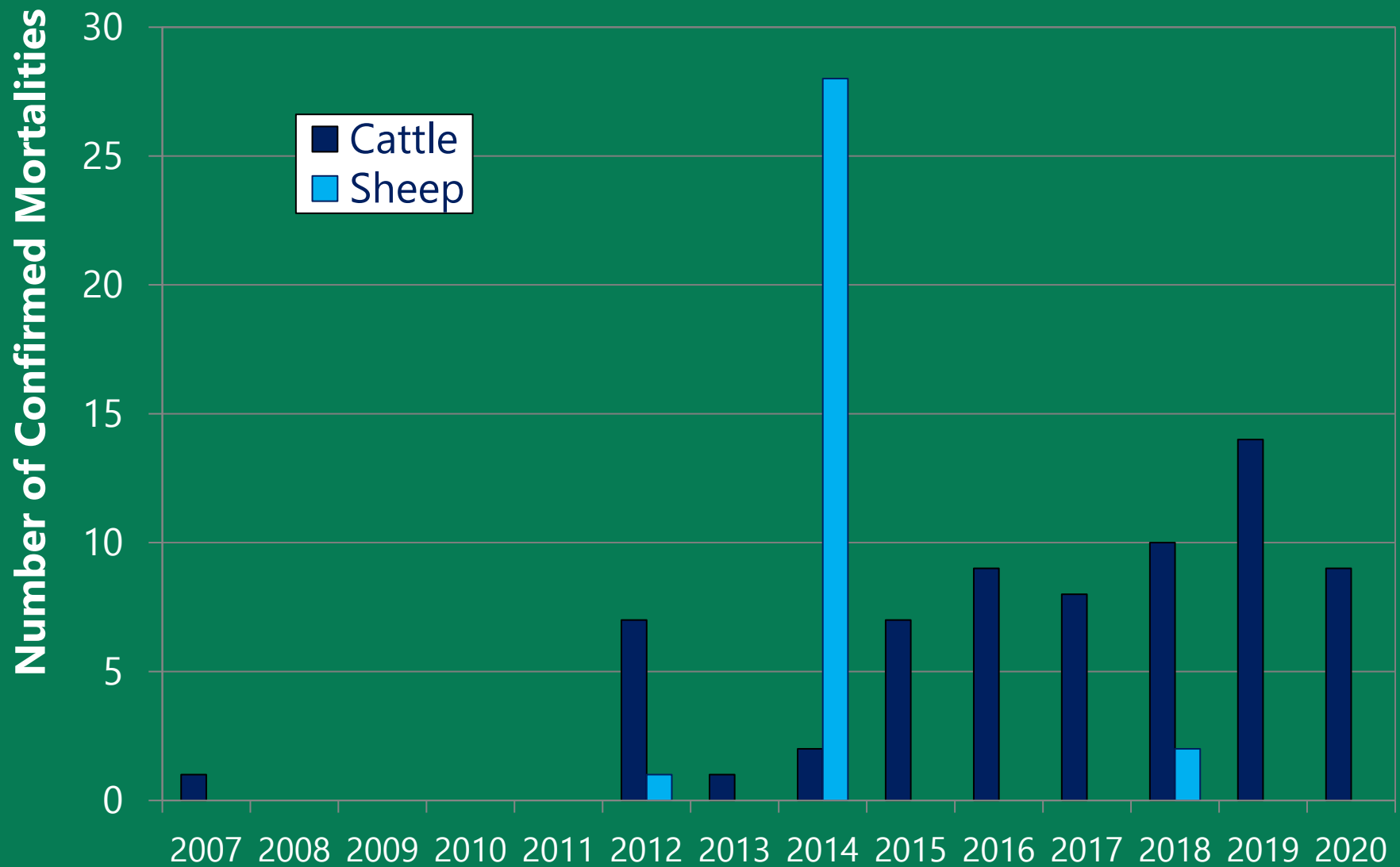
- Range Rider Definitions



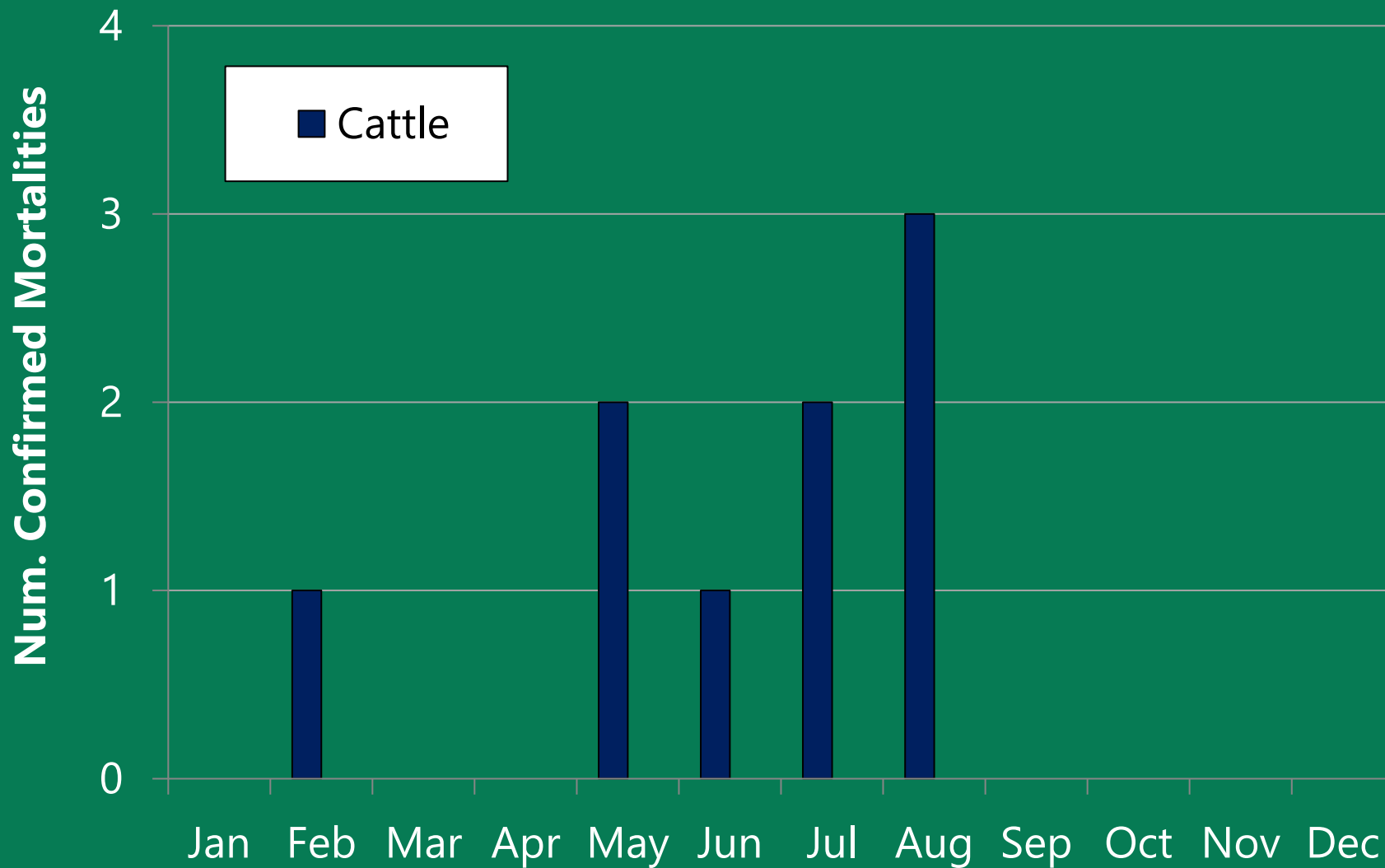
Packs Depredating on Livestock



Wolf- Caused Livestock Mortality by Year



2020 Wolf – Caused Livestock Mortality by Month



Wolf Management Expenditures

(Jan 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020)

Allocation	Use	Cost
Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements – Livestock (DPCAL's)	33 Livestock Producers	\$110,035
Contracted Range Riders	23 Range Riders	\$151,640
Livestock Losses (Indirect and Direct)	5 Livestock Producers	\$17,201
Lethal Removal Operations	Reducing Depredations on Livestock	\$77,281
Wolf Management	Management and Research Activities	\$1,198,135
Total		\$1,554,292

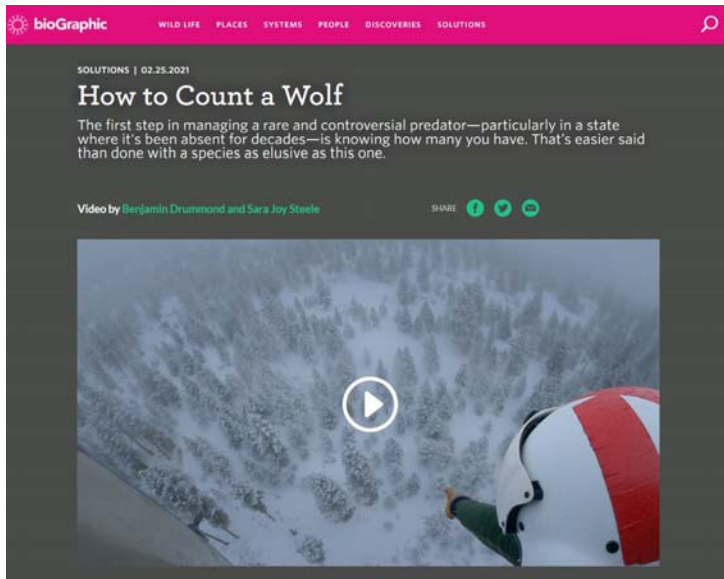


Ongoing Research

- **WDFW - Predator/Prey Project**
- **T. Ganz (UW)** - Ungulate – Predator Dynamics in Northern WA
- **L. Satterfield (UW)** - Interactions between Wolves and Cougars in Eastern Washington State
- **B. Windell (UW)** - Interactions among Large and Small Carnivores in Washington
- **S. Bassing (UW)** - Spatiotemporal Patterns of Predator-Prey Interactions
- **T. Roussin (UW)** – Methods for Long-term Monitoring of Wolves
- **S. Wasser (UW)** - Monitoring Impacts of Wolf Recovery on Medium to Large Carnivores and Their Prey in Washington State
- **WA Dept of Transportation** - Coast to Cascades Habitat Connectivity Analysis for a Reestablishing Gray Wolf Population
- **S. Warren (UM)** - Influence of Gray Wolves on Interspecies Movement Patterns in the Central Cascades
- **L. Petracca (UW)** - A semi-spatial integrated population model to assess the population dynamics of wolves in Washington state



Outreach



"Patriarch" Washington wolf passes
3,254 views · Aug 19, 2020

TheWDFW
11.4K subscribers

With the natural passing of a 'patriarch' wolf in Washington, statewide wolf specialist Ben Maletzke reflects on the first wolf he radio collared in this state; the animal that literally started the repopulation of wolves in Washington's central Cascades.



Washington Predator-Prey Project

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/publications>



Gray Wolf Reports, Publications, and Videos.
Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (December 2011)...

wdfw.wa.gov



Questions?

