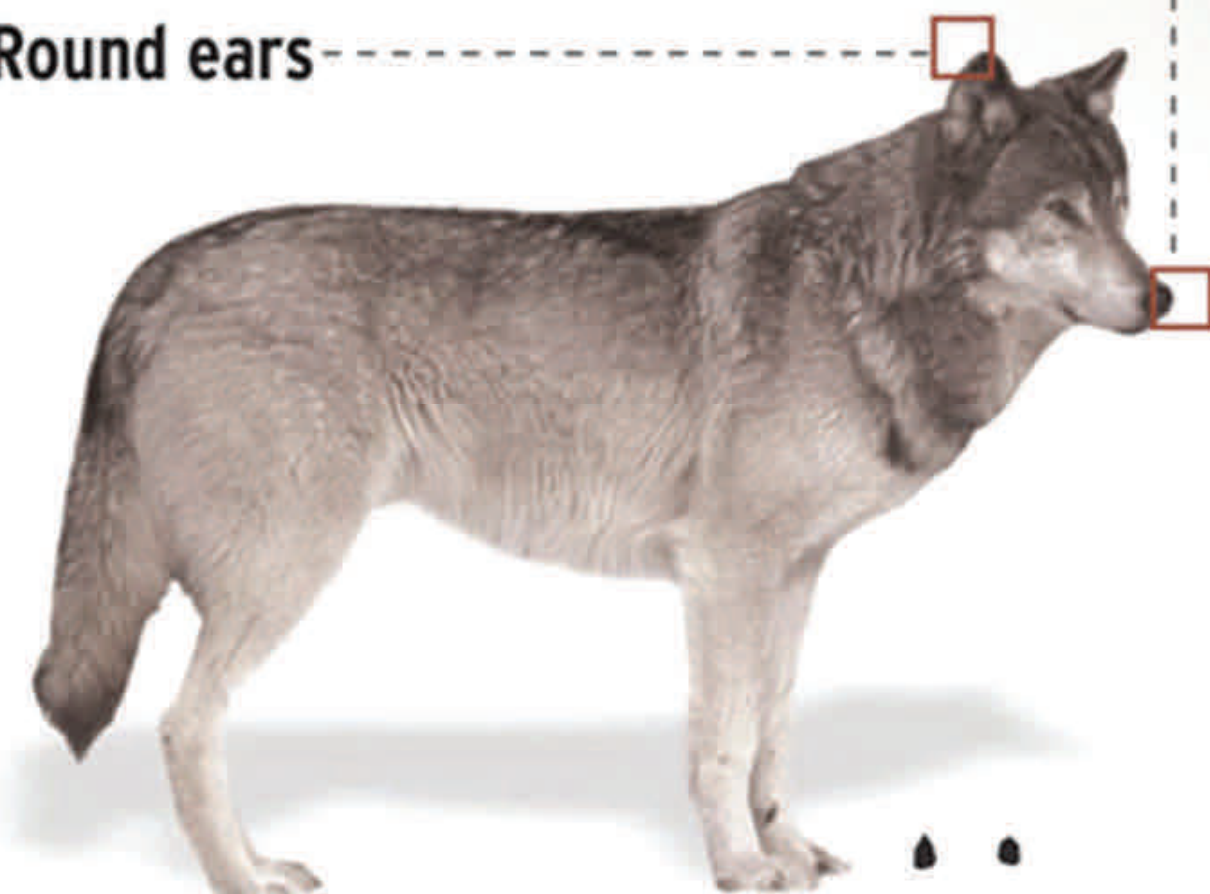


Identifying Gray Wolves in Washington

How to recognize a gray wolf

GRAY WOLF

Color: light gray to black
Dimensions: 2.5 feet tall, 5-6 feet long
Broad snout
Round ears

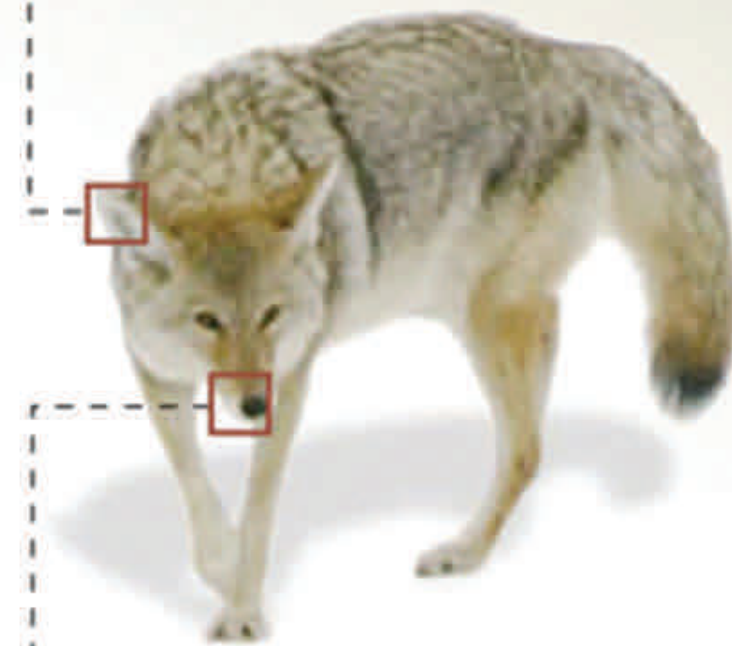


80-120 pounds
Paw size: 4" x 5"



COYOTE

Color: light gray/brown
Dimensions: 1.5 feet tall, 4 feet long
Tall pointed ears
Narrow snout



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

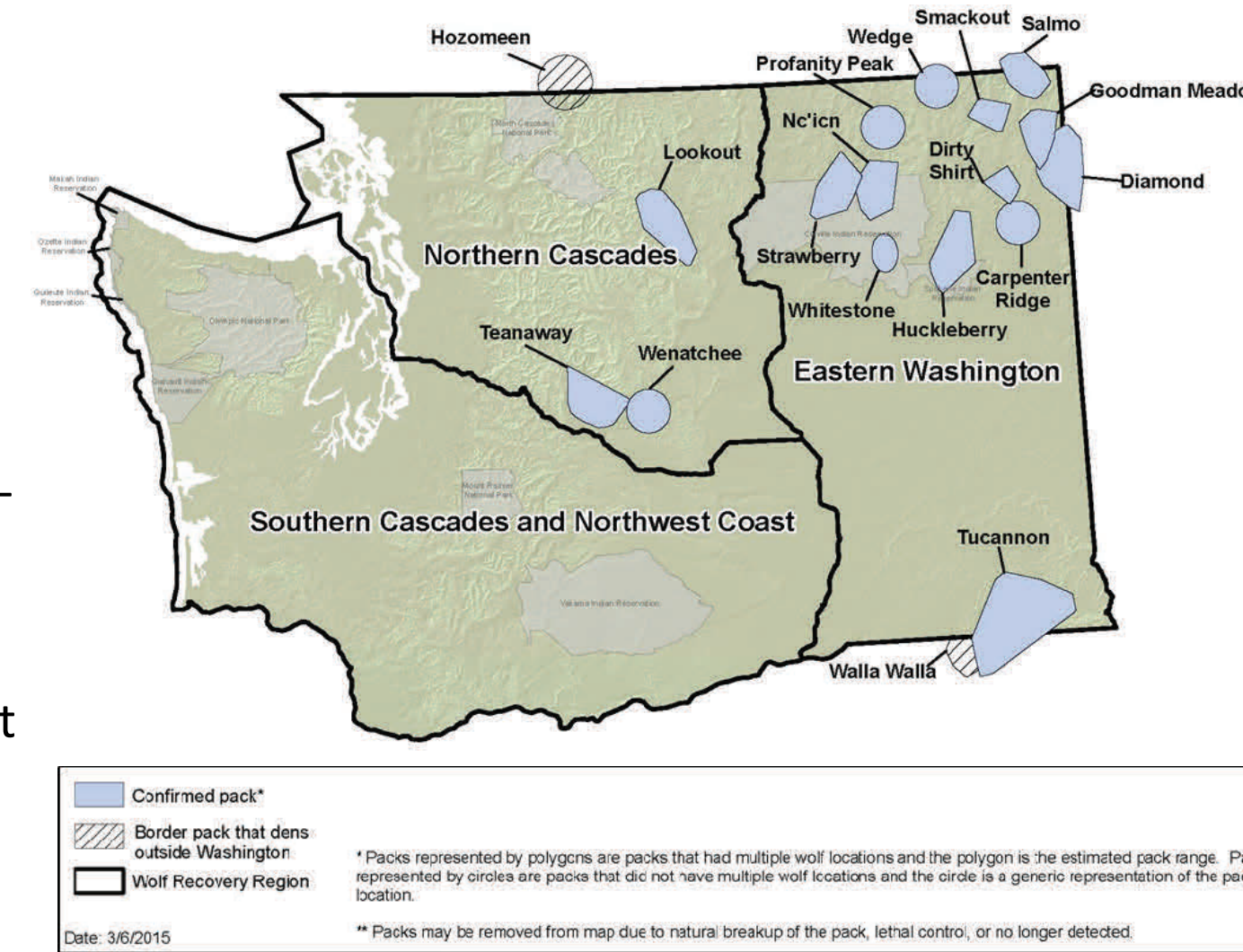
The Salt Lake Tribune

Wolf facts and road-killed wolf response protocol

With the recent discovery of an apparent wolf (confirmation awaits DNA analysis) killed on I-90 west of Snoqualmie Pass, 4 wolves are known to have been killed on Washington highways in recent years. Washington's native wolf population was eliminated in the 1930s. Wolves did not start naturally returning to the region from neighboring territories until the 1990s. The current population is growing, at the pace about 30% per year. Wolves remain federally listed as an endangered species in the western two-thirds of our state.

If you find a wolf dead on the roadside, please move it, if necessary, to eliminate any hazard to motorists. If you are west of the line formed by US 097, SR 017, and SR 395 (north to south), call Eric Marek, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Enforcement officer. Otherwise, call the nearest Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) office (see list at right) and report the incident. Either the federal or state fish and wildlife agency will arrange removal of the carcass.

Gray Wolf Pack Distribution



Confirmed pack*
Border pack that dens outside Washington
Wolf Recovery Region

* Packs represented by polygons are packs that had multiple wolf locations and the polygon is the estimated pack range. Packs represented by circles are packs that did not have multiple wolf locations and the circle is a generic representation of the pack location.
 ** Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.
 Date: 3/6/2015

For federally listed wolves west of the line created by US 097, SR 017, and SR 395 (north to south), call:

USFWS Enforcement (Eric Marek) — (206) 512-9329

For all other wolves, call the WDFW regional office:

Regional offices

Region 1—Spokane: (509) 892-1001

Region 2—Ephrata (509) 754-4624

District Office—Wenatchee (509) 662-0452

Region 3—Yakima (509) 575-2740

Region 4—Mill Creek (425) 775-1311

Region 5—Vancouver (360) 696-6211

Region 6—Montesano (360) 249-4628

As of 3/6/2015, there are 16 confirmed wolf packs in Washington, mostly located in the northeast corner of the state. Unconfirmed public wolf sightings are recorded from across the state.

A minimum of 68 wolves were identified in Washington State in 2014, though the actual number is likely higher.

	Wolves	Coyotes
Weight (adults)	60–120 pounds	25–45 pounds
Shoulder Height	27–33 inches	20–22 inches
Total Length	5–6 feet	3.5–4.5 feet
Ears	Erect, round & furry	Erect, pointed & furry
Head	Large, long, blocky snout, low forehead	Long, pointed snout, low forehead

Contrary to their name, gray wolves can be a number of different colors. Their coats can be gray, red, brown, white, or, like the most recent sighting, black.

Coyotes (below left) captured by WSDOT trail cameras and a wolf (below right) captured by a trail camera in Snoqualmie, Washington.



Wolf

- large nose pad
- broad snout
- short ears with rounded tips



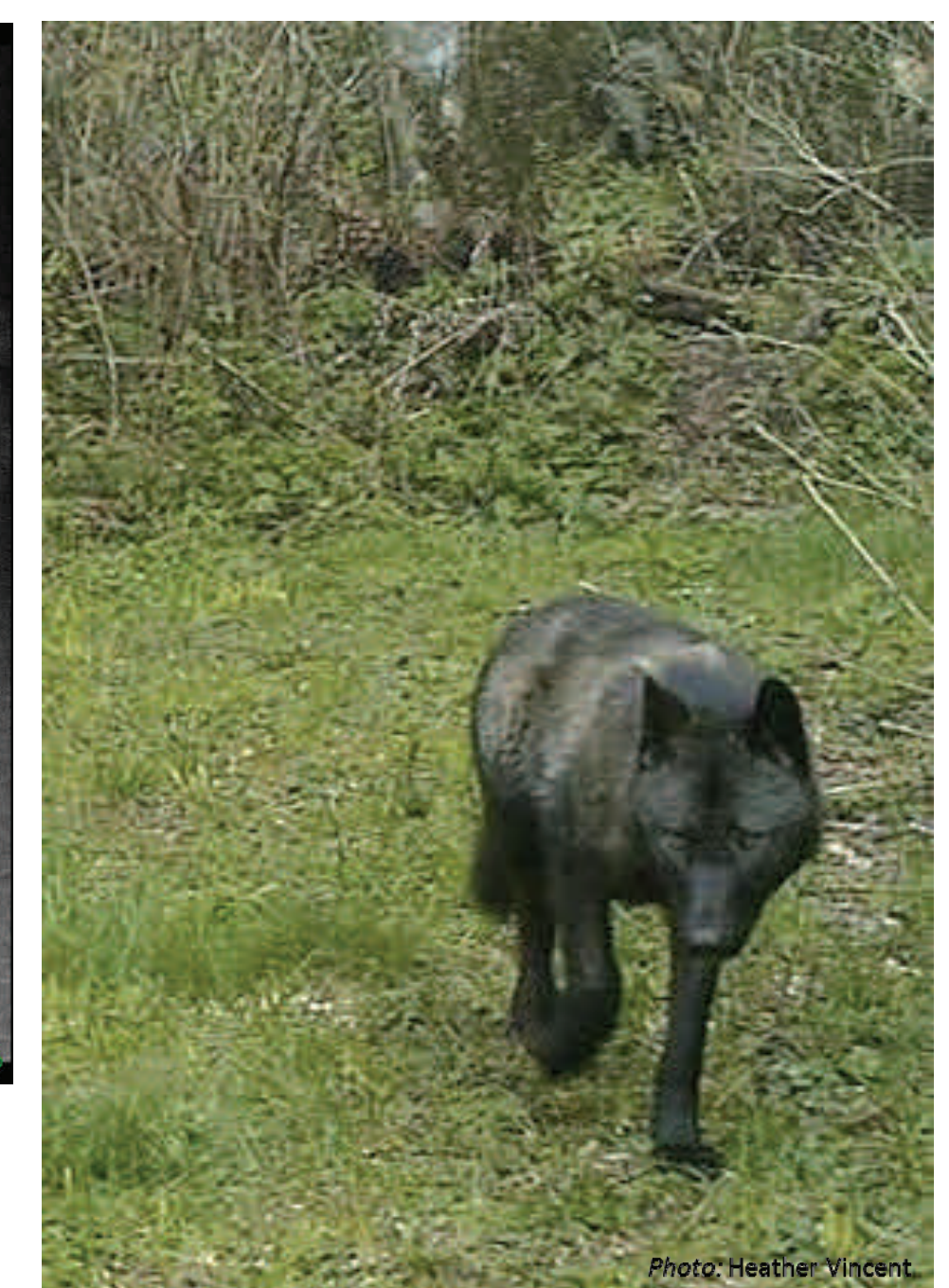
Coyote

- small nose pad
- narrow snout
- long ears with pointed tips



Juvenile Wolf

Note: Juvenile wolves in mid-summer and fall can mirror coyotes closely in size and coloration, but maintain the facial characteristics of wolves.



Washington Wolf Monitoring and Management Update

Scott Becker, WDFW Wolf Specialist



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON GRAY WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

A cooperative effort by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Photo: WDFW

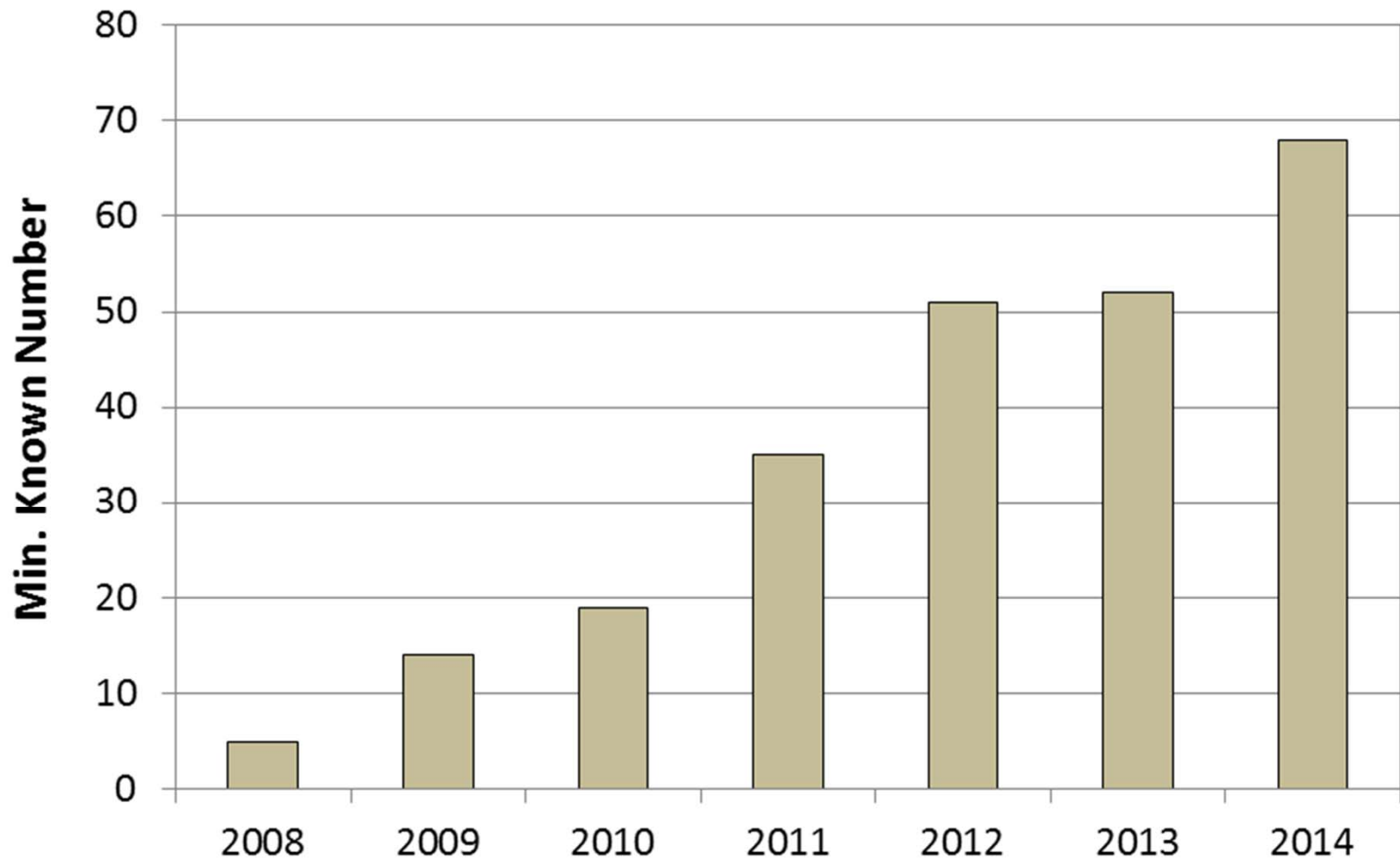
This report presents information on the status, distribution, and management of wolves in the State of Washington from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

This report may be copied and distributed as needed.

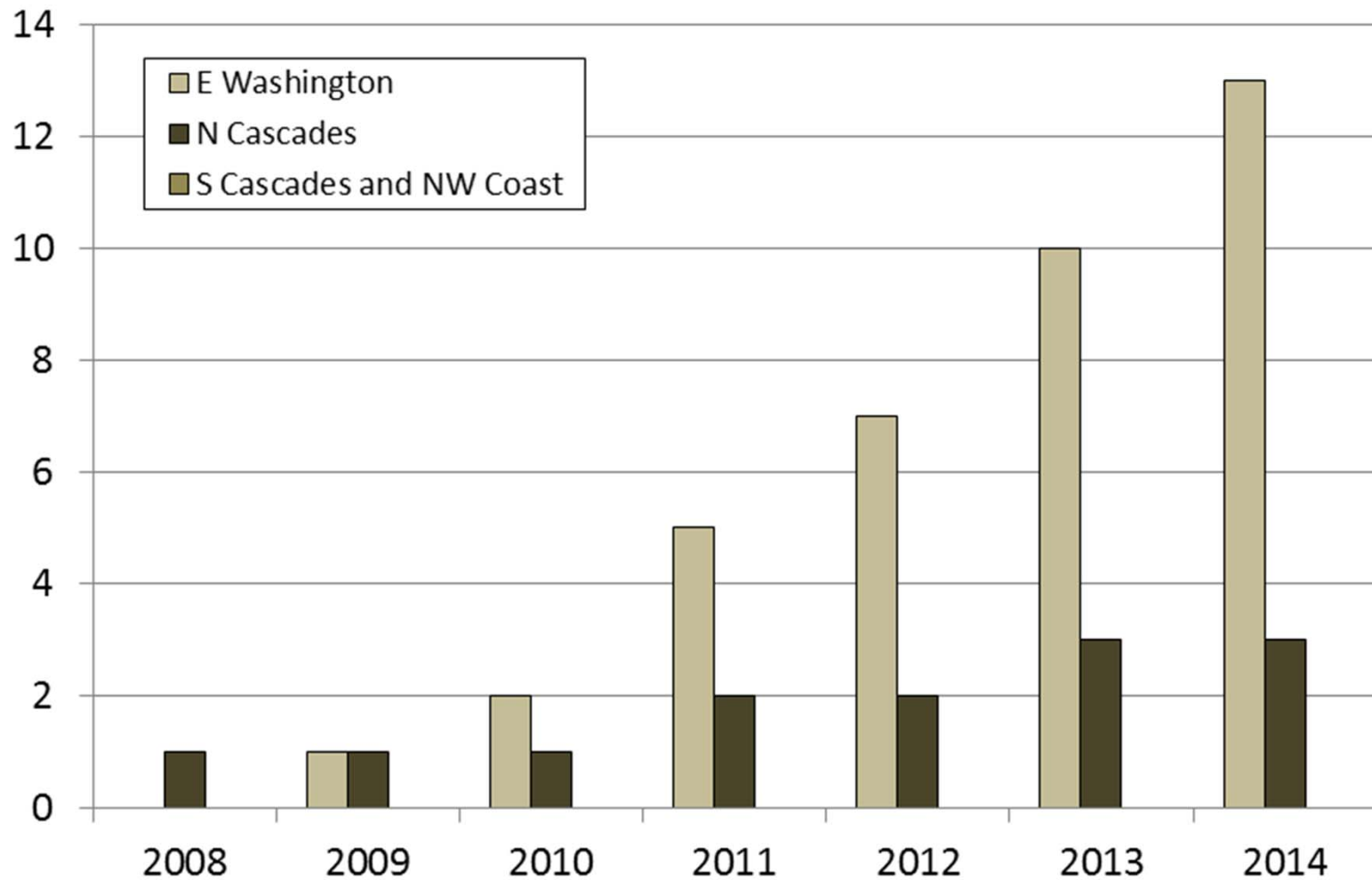
Suggested Citation: Becker, S.A., T. Roussin, E. Krausz, D. Martorello, S. Simek, and B. Kieffer. 2015. Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2014 Annual Report. Pages WA-1 to WA-24 in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rocky Mountain Wolf Program 2014 Annual Report. USFWS, Ecological Services, 585 Shepard Way, Helena, Montana, 59601.

- Monitoring
 - Trapping
 - Aerial captures
 - Capture/monitoring update
 - Known mortalities
 - Data sharing and radio collars
- Management
 - Number of confirmed livestock losses by year
 - Number of packs depredating on livestock by year
 - Number of confirmed livestock losses by month: 2015
 - DPCA-Ls

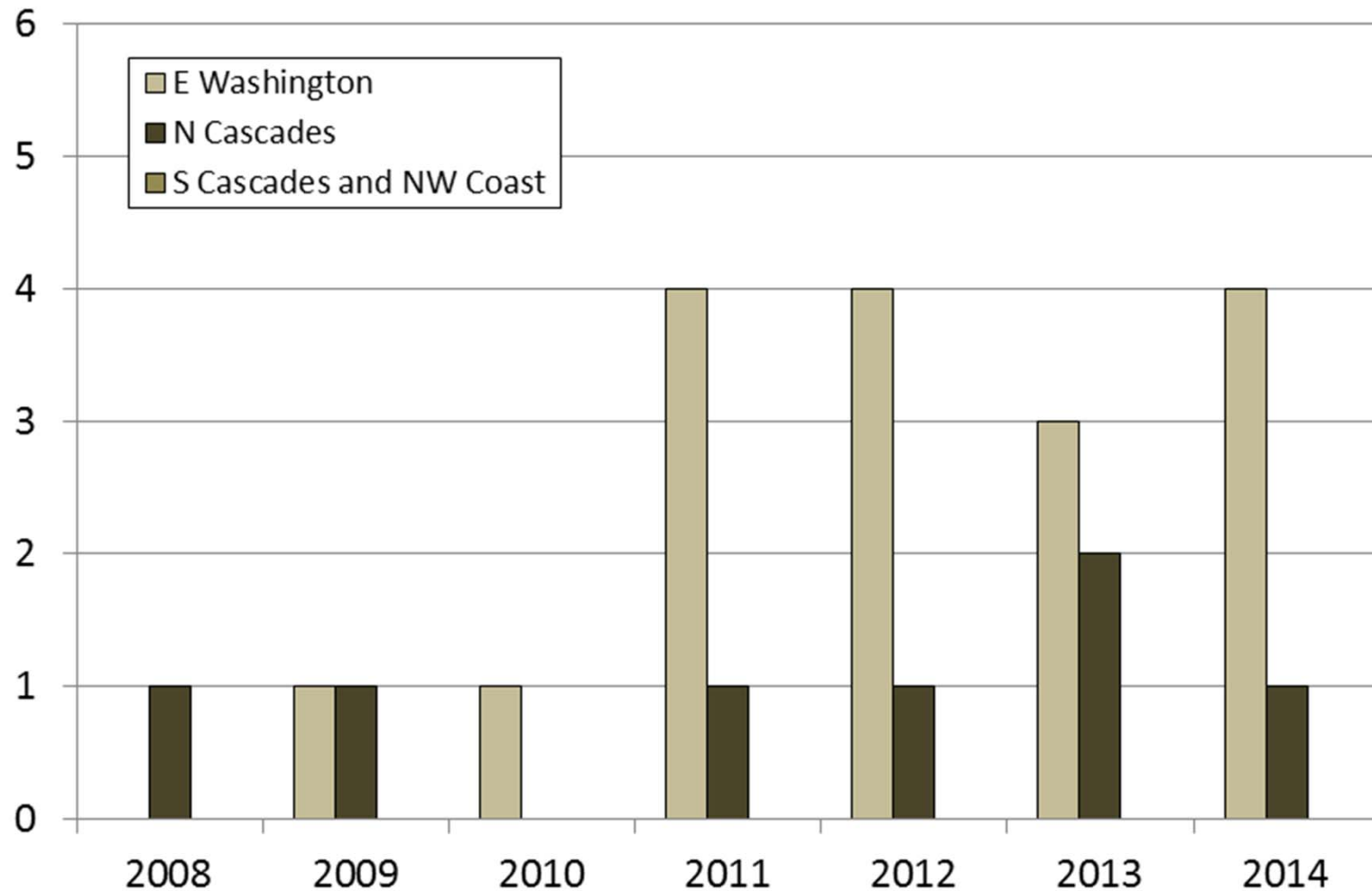
Minimum Known Number of Wolves by Year



Minimum Known Number of Packs by Year



Minimum Known Number of Breeding Pairs by Year



Trapping



- Identifying priorities
- Conduct intensive monitoring
 - If they aren't there, we won't catch anything no matter how pretty our sets are
 - Put in position for success
 - Set on sign
 - PATIENCE & PERSISTENCE
- At least 1 collar in as many packs as possible

Aerial Captures



- Target packs with functional collars only

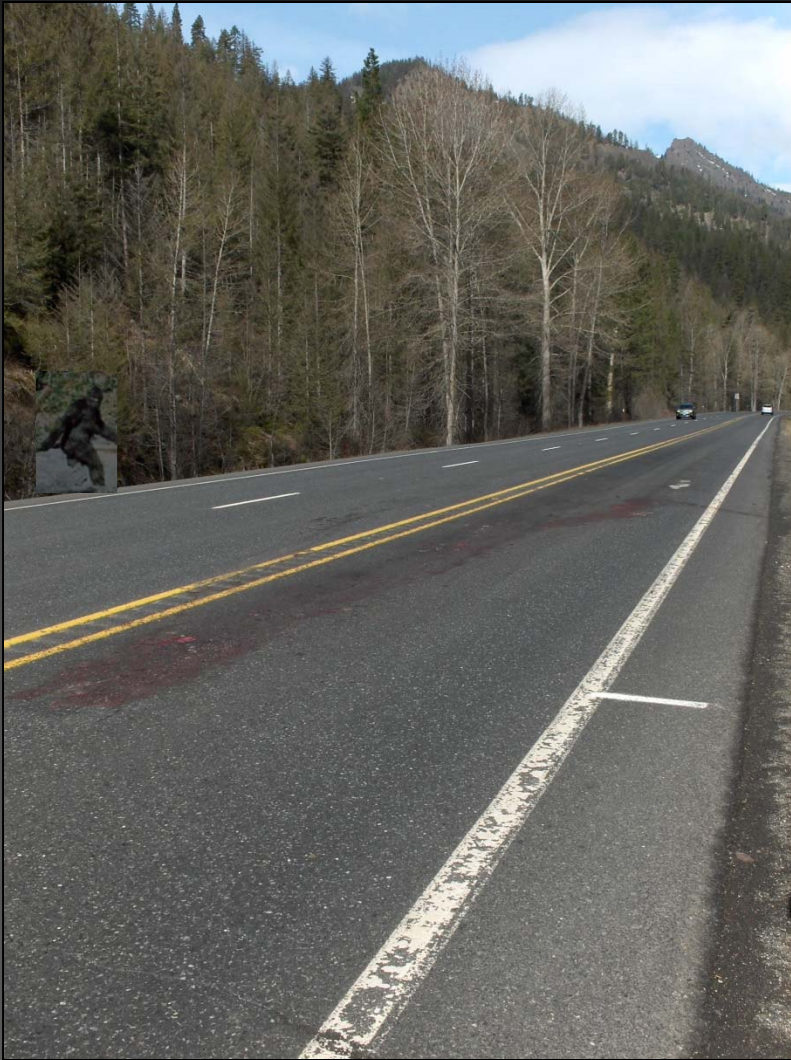


2015 Capture/Monitoring Update



- 2015 Captures
 - Wolves: 15
 - Packs: 9 (plus 1 lone wolf)
- Monitoring
 - Wolves: 15
 - Packs: 10 (plus 1 disperser)
- Continue to follow-up on clusters of public sighting reports to identify areas of potential new activity

Known Mortalities: 2015



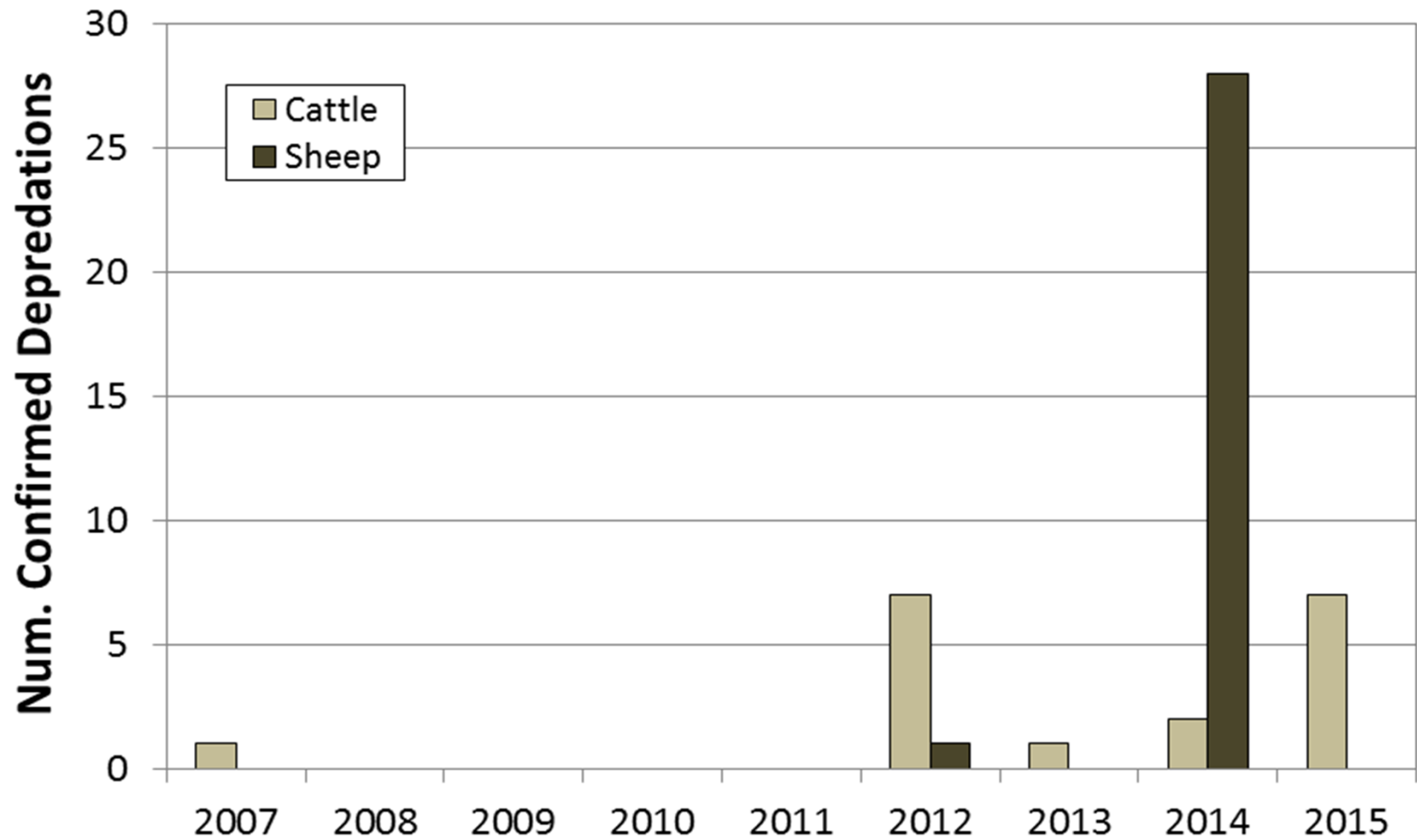
- 2 human-caused
- 1 unknown cause
- 1 under investigation
- 1 legal harvest (ID)

Future of Wolf Monitoring

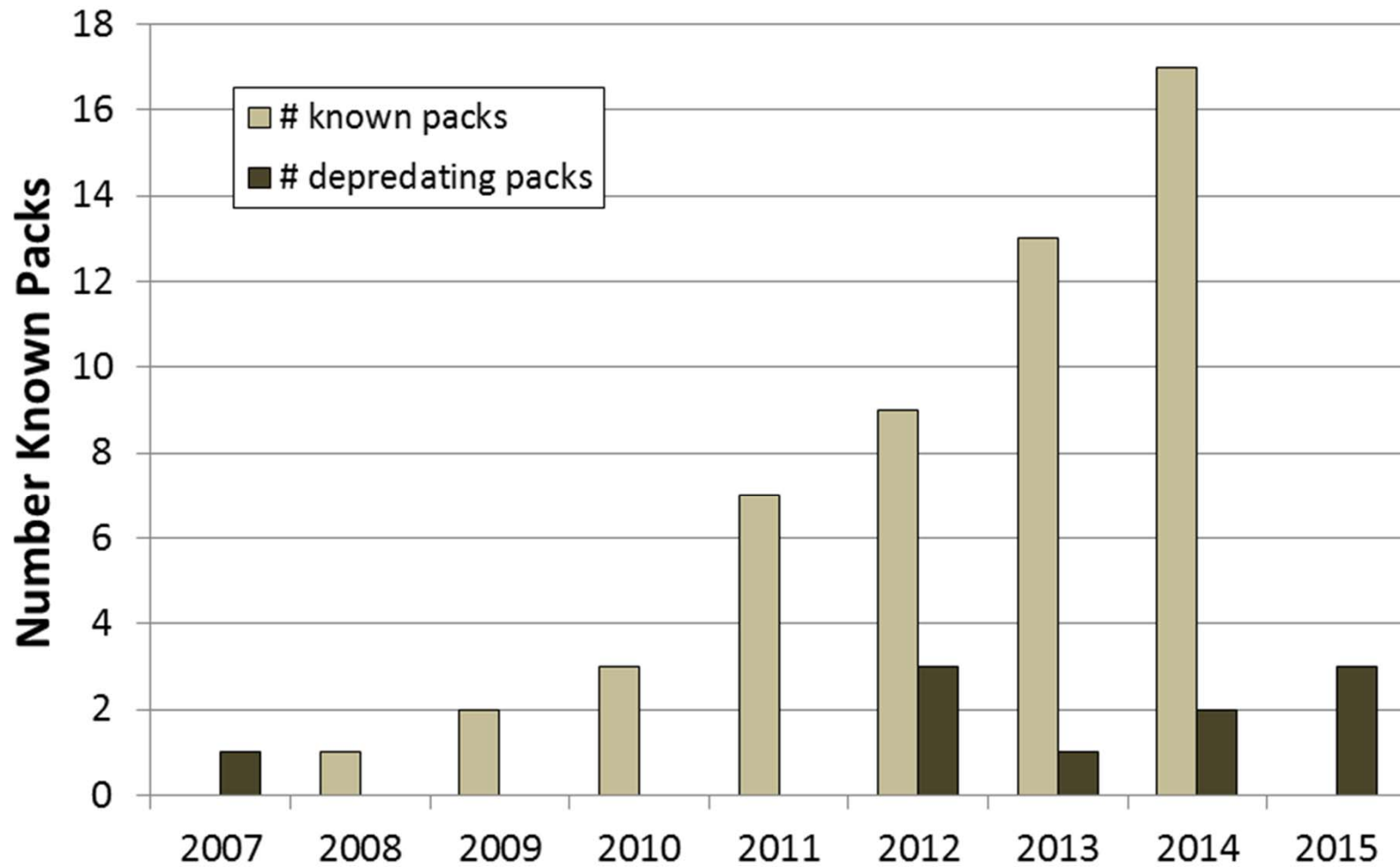


- More challenges as more wolves occupy landscape
- Developing alternative population estimation techniques

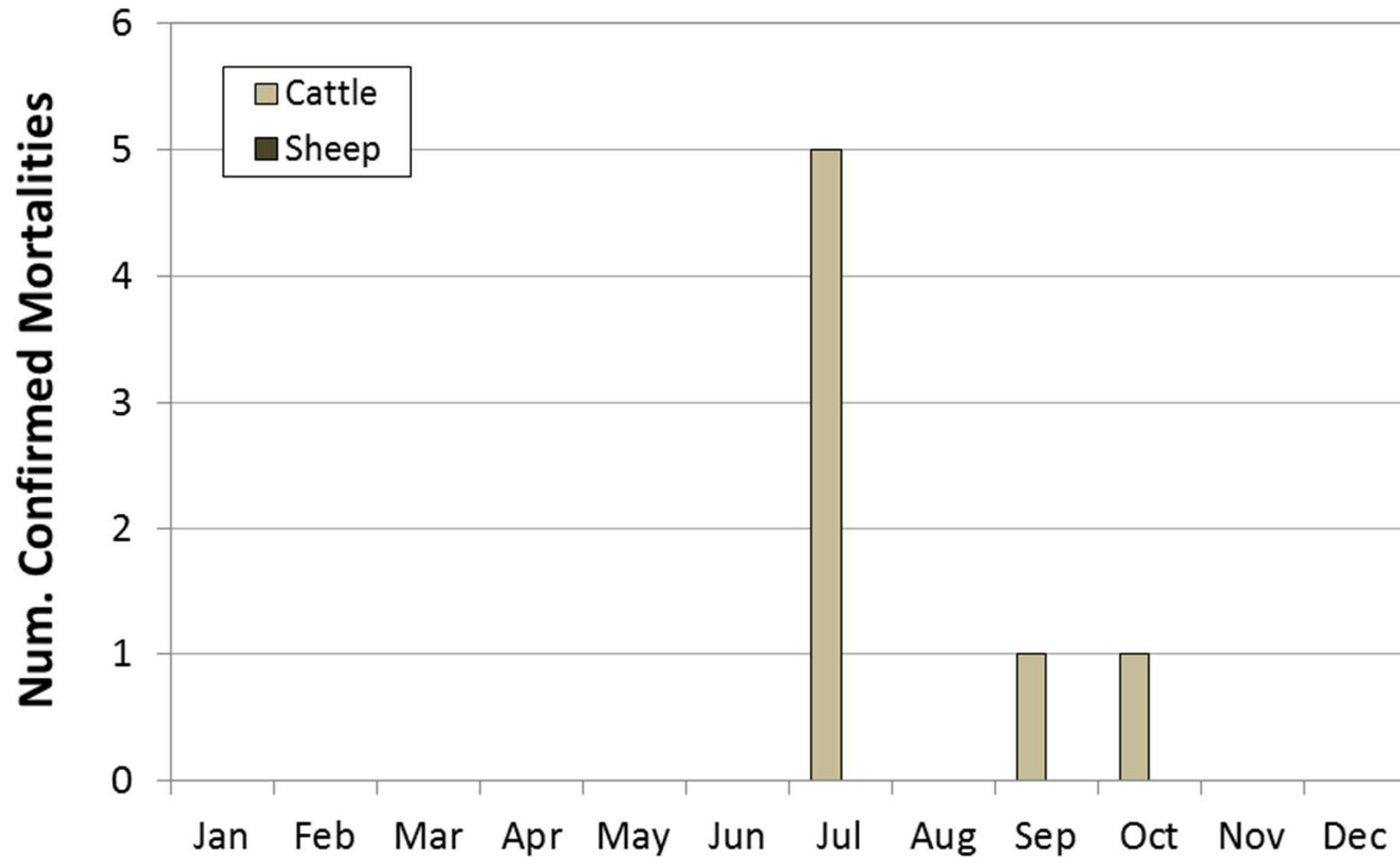
Number of Confirmed Livestock Losses by Year in WA



Number of Packs Depredating on Livestock by Year in WA



Number of Confirmed Livestock Losses by Month: 2015



Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements for Livestock

- Coordination with local conflict staff
 - Preventive measures specific to each operation
 - Cost-share option
 - 23 producers signed DPCA-Ls in 2015
- Currently under revision
 - More permanent funding
 - Create criteria for priority areas
 - Review of tools and most effective and efficient ways to implement
 - Assistance from WAG



Questions??



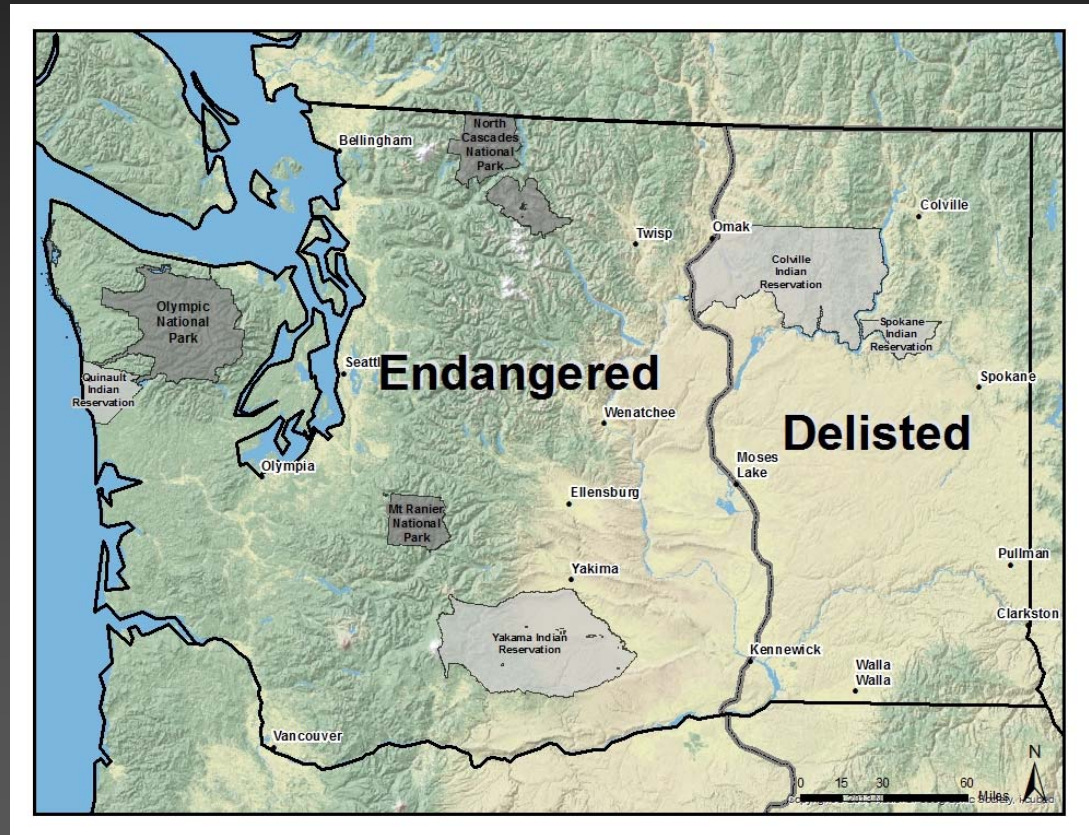
Definitions



- Pack
 - Two or more wolves traveling together in a defined territory
- Successful breeding pair
 - Male and female raising two or more pups until Dec 31

Federal Status

- Eastern 1/3 Washington
 - Federally delisted in 2011
- Western 2/3 Washington
 - Federally listed as endangered under ESA
- No federal wolf recovery requirements
 - USFWS proposal to delist wolves in remainder of lower 48 (2013)
 - Decision still pending



State Status



- Endangered species statewide
- Wolf Conservation and Management Plan: 2011
 - 3 recovery areas
 - Delisting requirements
- Federal, state, tribal management

Data Sharing & Radio Collars



- Data sharing web maps
 - Unique system with many moving parts
 - New technology will always have some minor glitches
- GPS collars
 - Expectation to perform for purposes not originally designed for
 - Variation in fix rate success and transmission rates
 - Influenced by: weather, landscape, satellite configuration, battery, and wear/damage (i.e., internet or cell service)

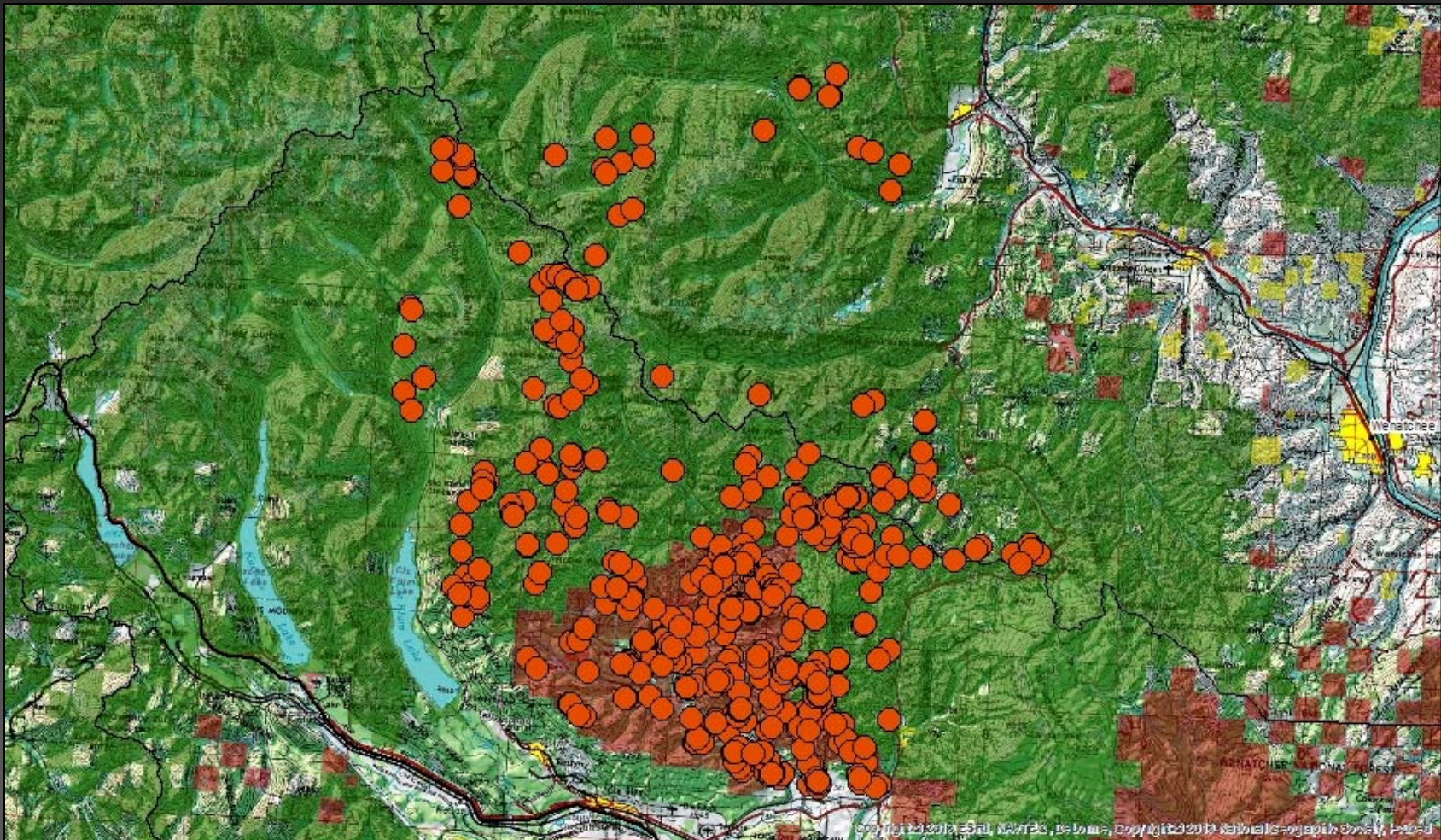
Best Times to Trap

- Late spring/early summer

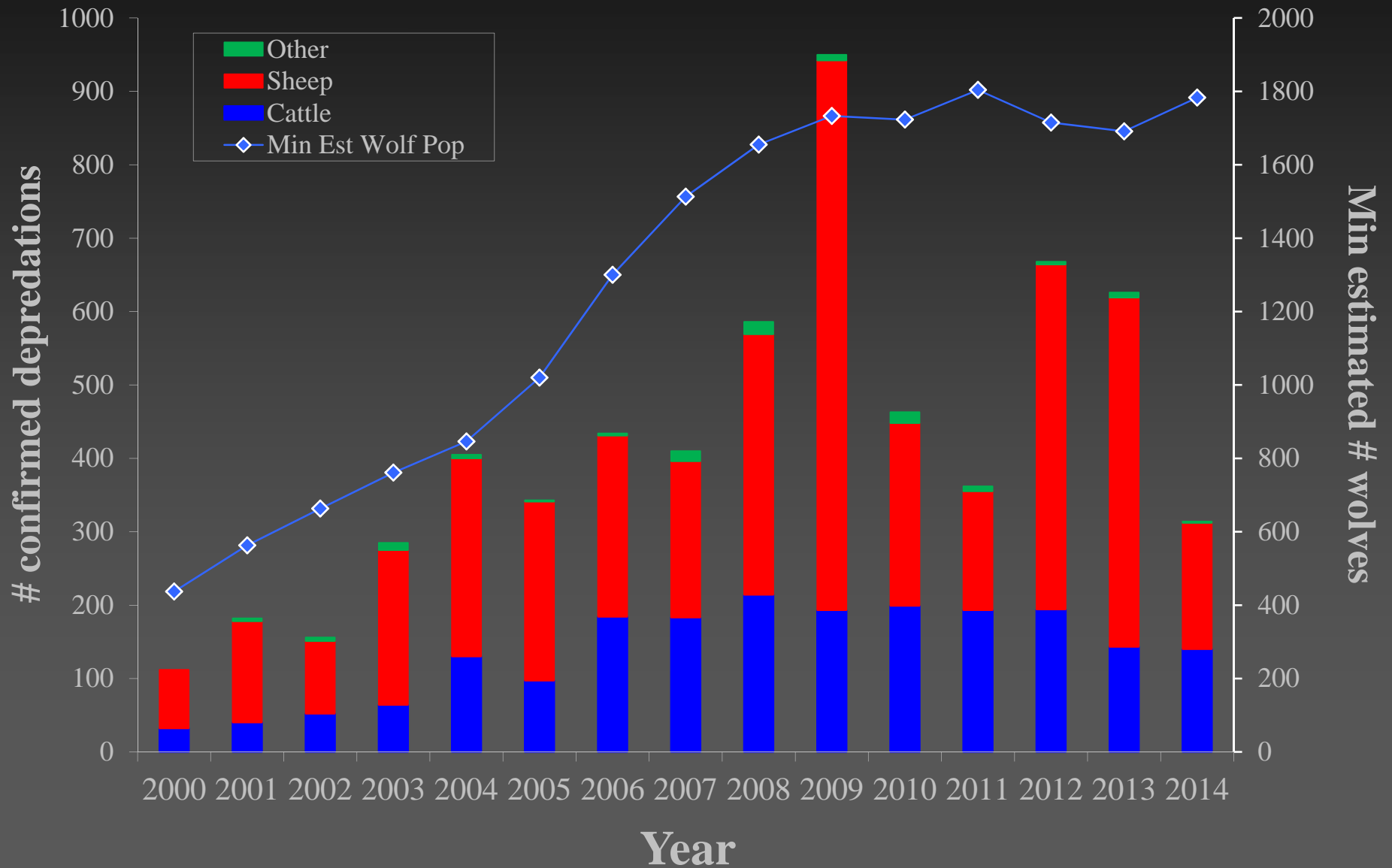


Best Times to Trap

- Late summer/early fall

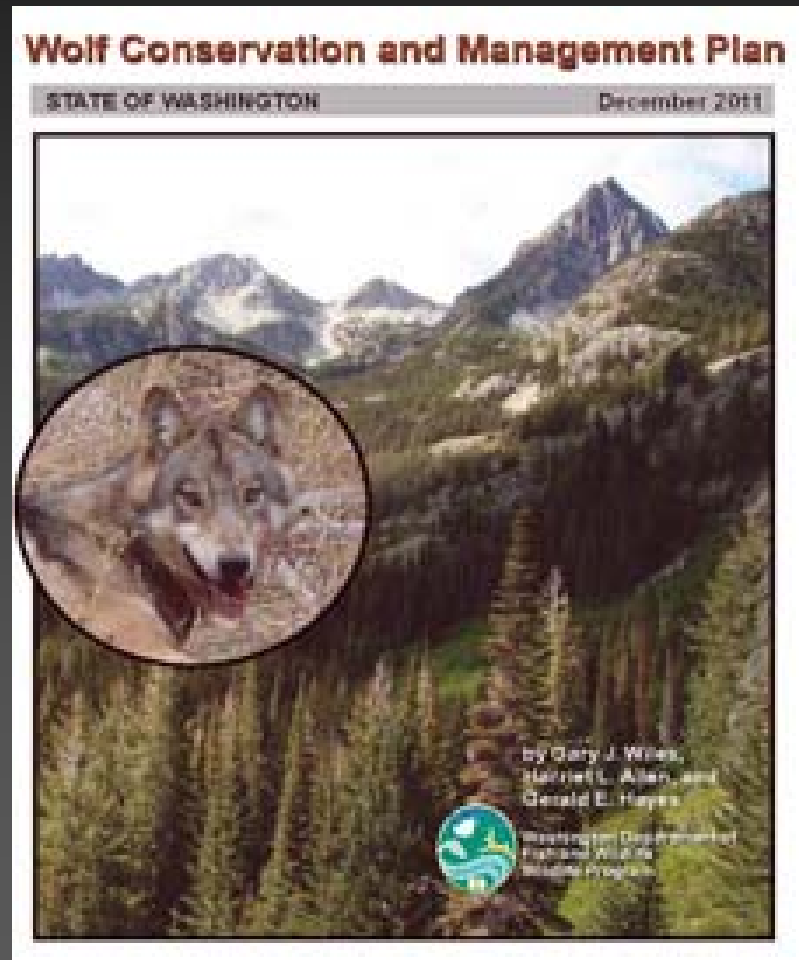


NRM Trends



Wolf Advisory Group

- 18 members representing various stakeholder groups
 - Appointed by WDFW Director
- Mission
 - Allow a diverse group of stakeholders to advise WDFW on implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan



Livestock Compensation Panel

- Panel members soon to be appointed by Director
- Review claims submitted for indirect losses
- Provide recommendation to WDFW for payment
- Indirect losses
 - Greater than normal losses
 - Reduced weight gain
 - Reduced pregnancy rates



Interagency Wolf Committee Communication Plan

1. Full Committee meetings

The majority of the communication and coordination will occur during scheduled meetings. Meeting topics will vary, but will be associated with implementation of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

2. Email updates to Full Committee

WDFW will also send out periodic updates to the entire committee on items the group wishes to be informed about, such as:

- Wolf captures
- Confirmation of new wolf pack
- Confirmed wolf mortality or injury
- Confirmed wolf depredation on livestock
- Lethal removal of wolves (agency action or permit to producer to kill wolves)
- Relocation of wolves
- Wolf presentations at public forums (e.g., Commission meetings, town-hall meetings; excludes smaller events)
- Annual reports
- Final products from Wolf Advisory Group

3. Regional communication and field level coordination

Regional communications between agencies/tribes occurs regularly for field level operations and typically will not be included in email updates to the Interagency Wolf Committee. These are likely to include items such as:

- Start-stop dates for trapping and helicopter captures
- Wolf camera, track, and howling surveys
- Confirmed wolf activity in new areas
- Confirmed denning activity
- Community meetings on conflict preventative measures
- Wolves mingling with or pursuing livestock
- Reported and unconfirmed depredations
- Confirmed depredations where the predator species is not wolves or is unknown

Why does WDFW graze?

- Manipulate vegetation for fish and wildlife
- Accomplish specific habitat objective
- Facilitate coordinated resource management

(Policy C-6003)







Other Regulatory Guidance

- WAC
- SEPA
- Department Strategic Plan
- Individual wildlife area management plans
- Species Recovery Plans
- (Habitat Conservation Plan)
- (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances)



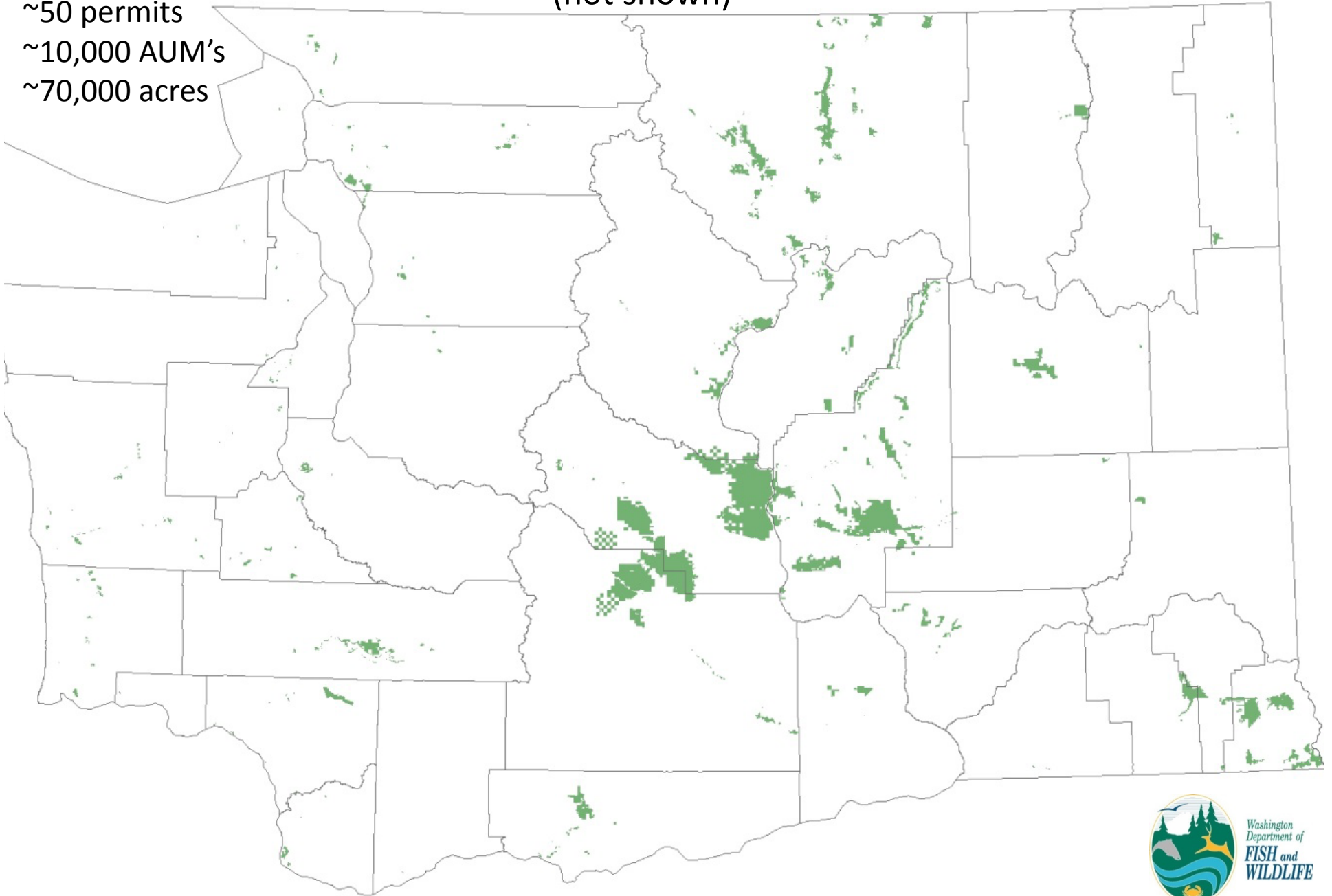
Fish and Wildlife Commission Requirements

- Maintain ecological integrity
- Cross-program review
- Grazing management plan
- Coordinated resource management and adaptive management encouraged



WDFW Grazing Permits (not shown)

~50 permits
~10,000 AUM's
~70,000 acres



Grazing Management Plans

- History, purpose, regulatory environment
- Resource description
- Goals and objectives
- Grazing prescription
- Effects and assessment
- Issues and contingencies
- Monitoring plan



“To use the term ‘grazing’ in a generic sense is meaningless.”

(Borman 2005)



Grazing prescription

- Type of livestock
- Intensity (stocking rate)
- Season, duration, frequency
- Pasture layout

Ecological Integrity

- Analogous to federal concept of rangeland health
 - Soil and site stability
 - Hydrologic function
 - Biotic integrity



Monitoring

- Compliance
- Effectiveness

—————→ Adaptive management

Cowiche/Worrell unit, Emerick Permit
Range Trend Plot #4, Line 2, 120 degrees
Loamy 15+” PZ, Columbia Plateau Steppe and Grassland
18 April 2013



Banks Lake Unit, McLean permit
Range Trend Plot #3, Line 2 (120 degrees)
Loamy 9-15" PZ
23 May 2013



Permittee Requirements

- Contact availability
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Dates, reports



7. CHANGE IN SIZE OF AREA AND CHANGE IN NUMBER OF AUM'S IN ALLOTMENT: WDFW reserves the right to alter and change the provisions of the grazing use plan to include reduction in acres of pasture available and number of AUMs authorized when WDFW determines that such changes are required to benefit fish or wildlife management or public hunting and other recreational uses.

