WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee

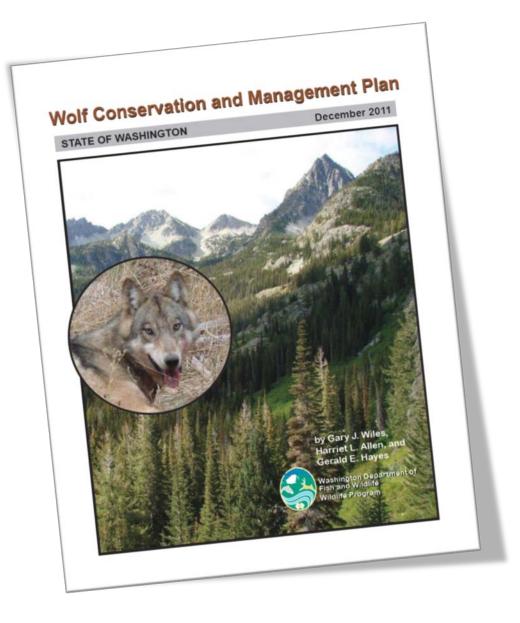
Jan 22, 2019



Kelly Susewind, Director Donny Martorello, Ph.D., Wolf Policy Lead

Wolf Plan Goals

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



Listing Status

Federal status

- Eastern 1/3 delisted
- Western 2/3 listed as Endangered

State status

Listed statewide as Endangered

What that means – Neither WDFW or USFWS have authority to lethally remove wolves to address wolf-livestock conflict or impacts to at risk species



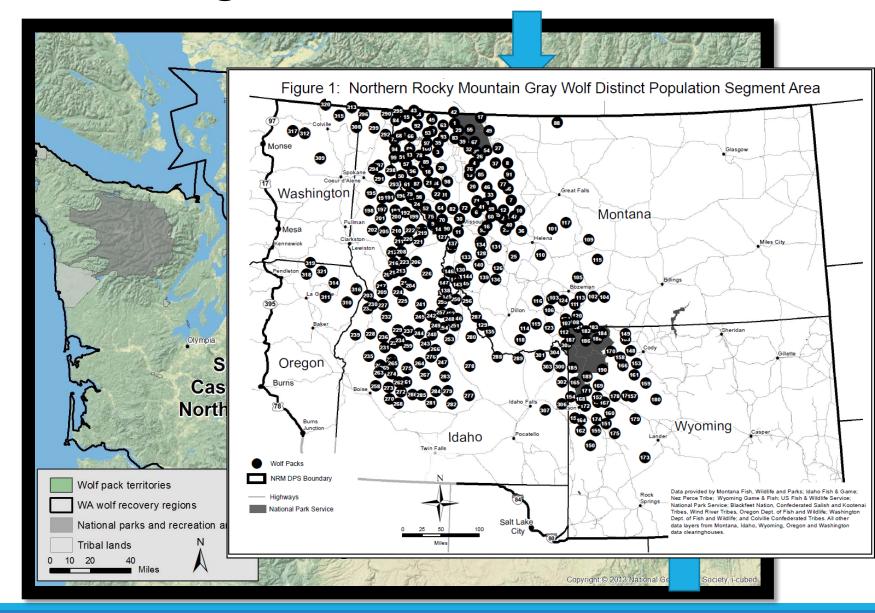
State Recovery Objectives

- Delist at 15 successful breeding pairs for three consecutive years
- Or 18 successful breeding pairs in one year
- Distributed among three recovery regions



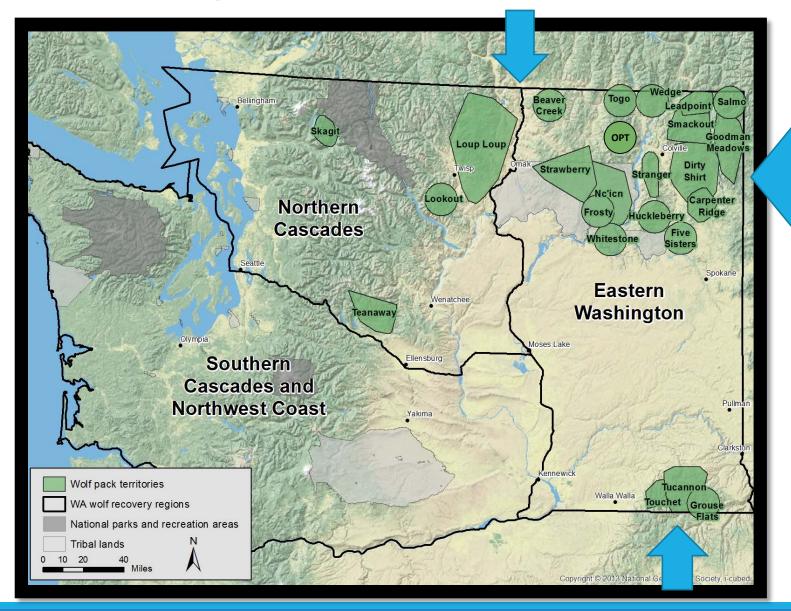
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Washington's Known Wolf Packs

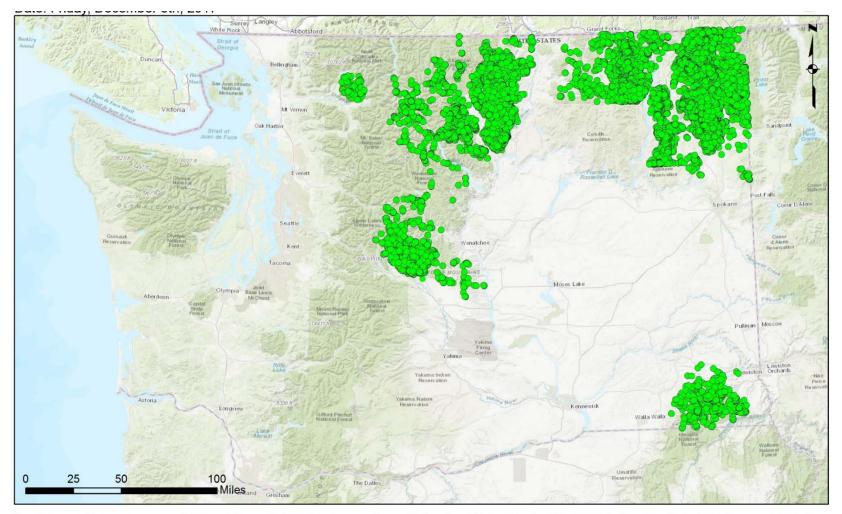


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Washington's Known Wolf Packs



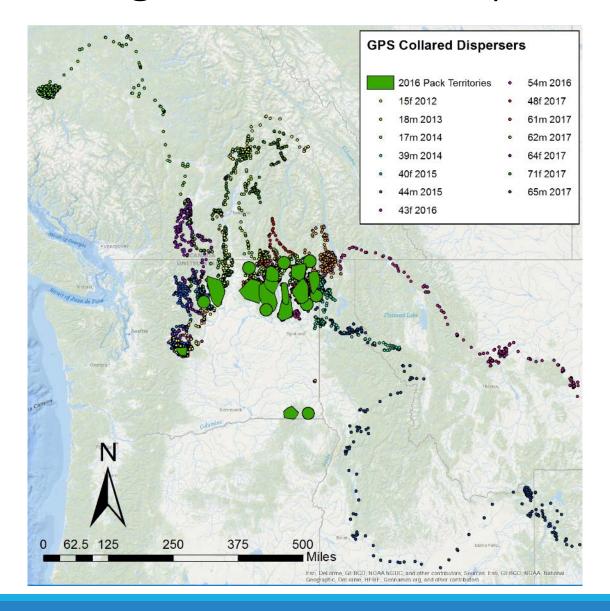
Locations of GPS collared wolves 2008-2017



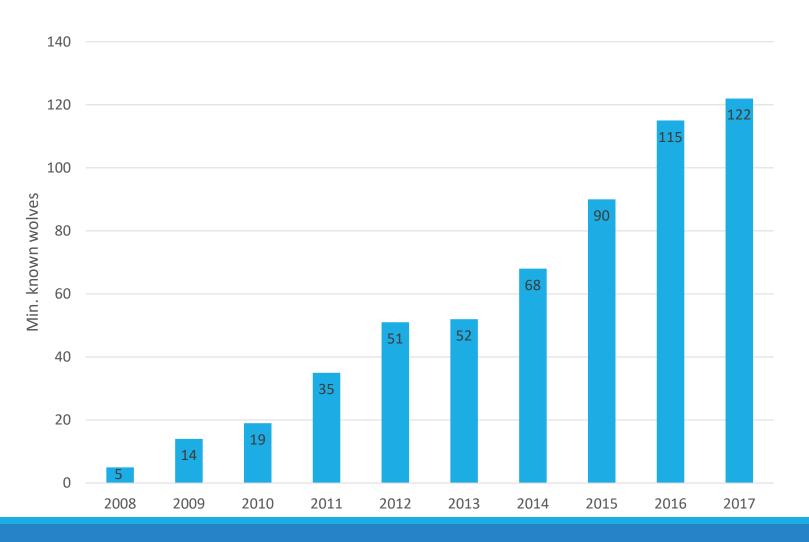
Disclaimer: This map represents the most complete dataset currently available of wolf telemetry locations in Washington State. Locations outside of Washington's jursidiction (e.g., tribal lands) are not displayed. A coarse attempt was made to remove locations pre- and post-deployment that resulted in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

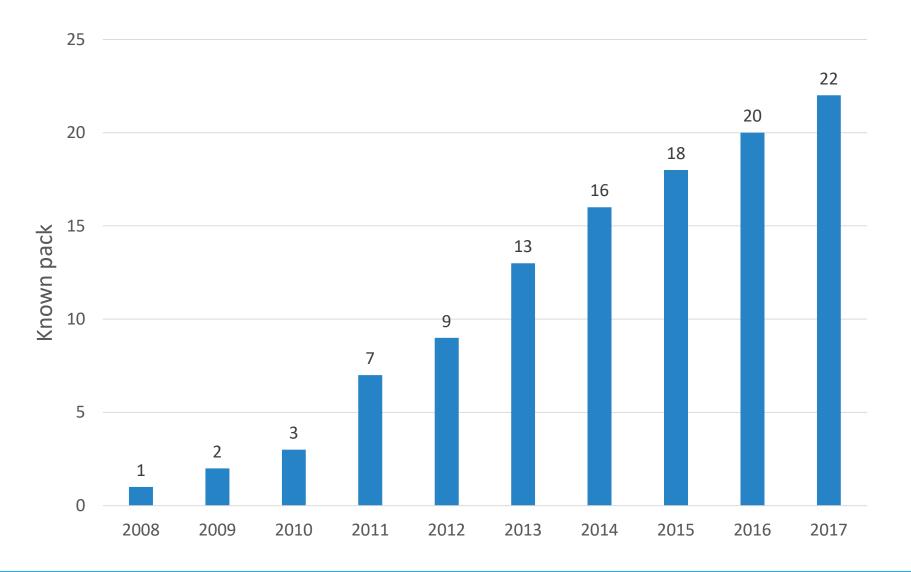
Washington's Known Dispersals



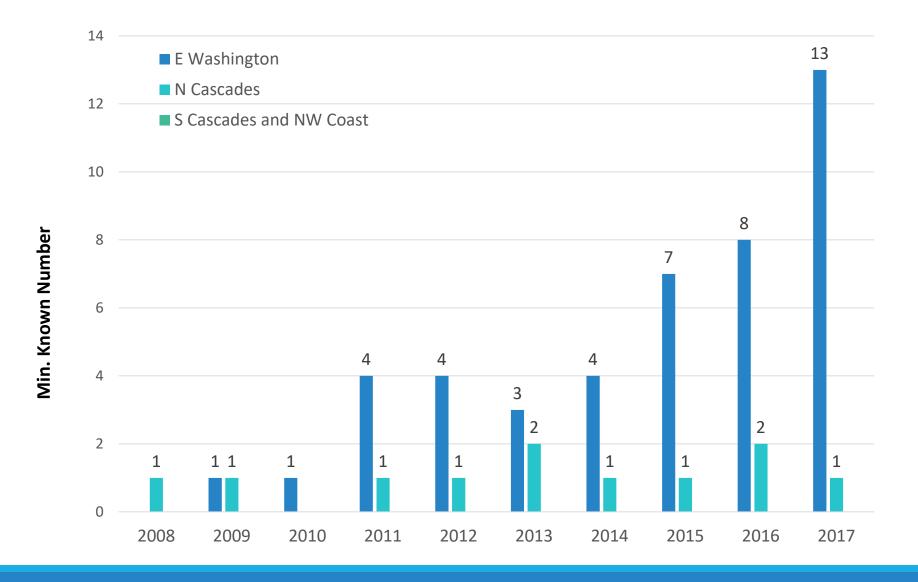
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves (~30% average annual growth rate)



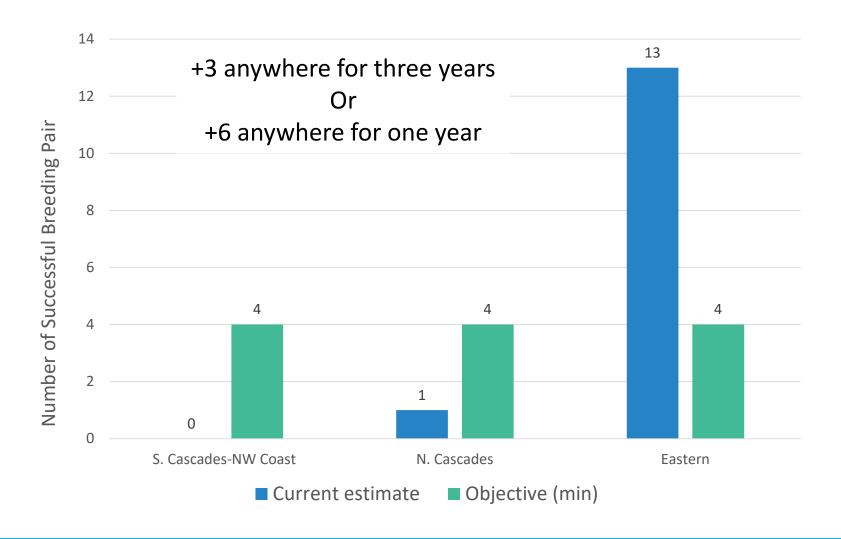
Trend in Number of Wolf Packs



Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pairs

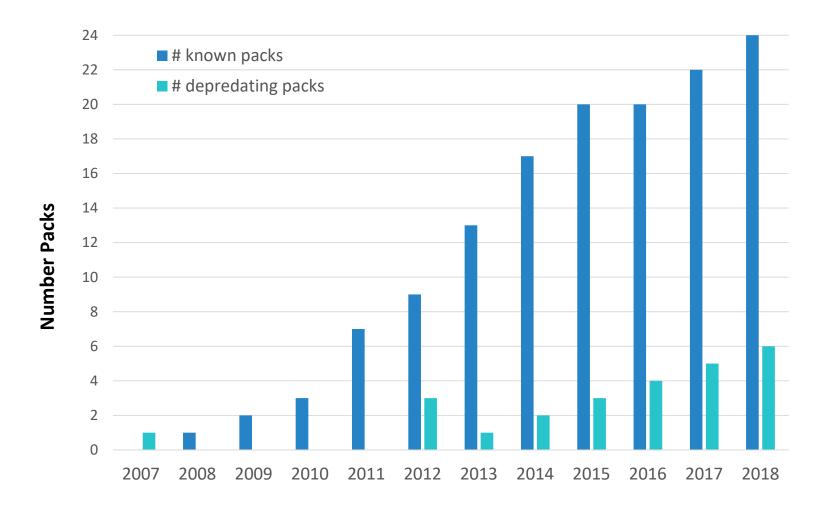


Successful Breeding Pairs

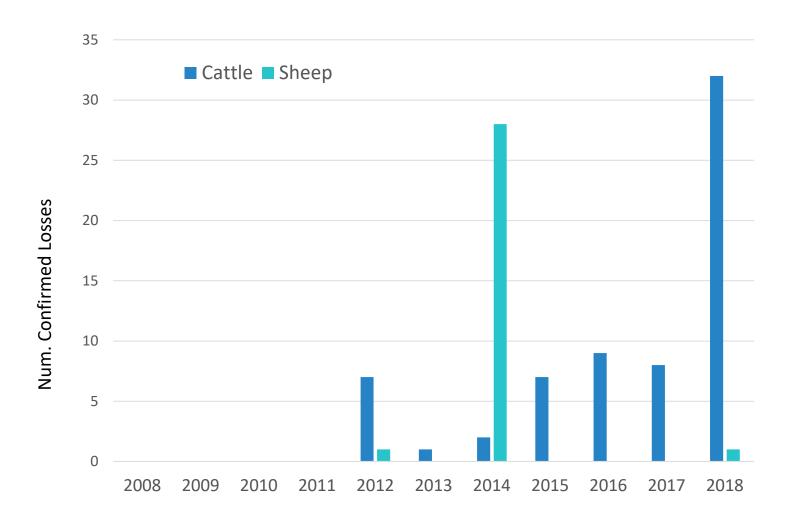


Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict

Packs Depredating on Livestock



Wolf Depredations in Washington



Uptake and Use of Proactive Deterrence



Cost – Share Contracts Promoting Deterrence Measures

- Fladry
- Foxlights
- Fencing
- Remove livestock carcasses
- Range Riders and sheepherders
- Sick and injured livestock
- Calving and lambing areas
- Delayed turnout
- Others...



Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflict Compensation for livestock damages by wolves

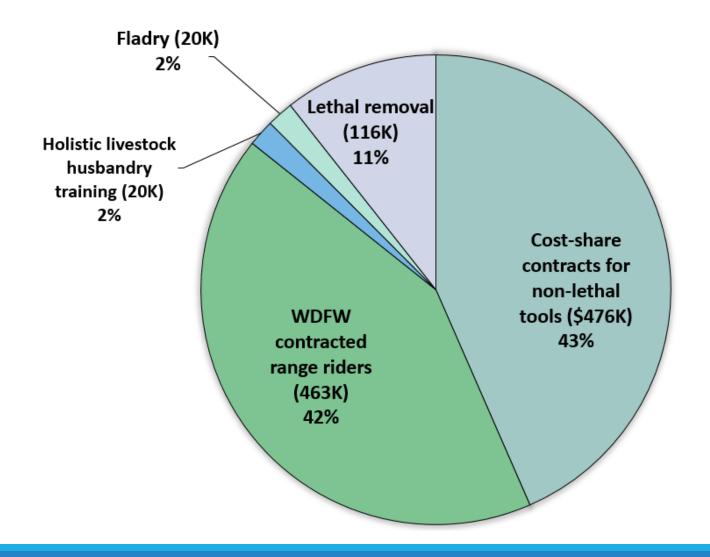
- Direct injury or death
- Indirect
 - Greater than normal losses
 - Reduced pregnancy rates
 - Reduced weight gain
 - Livestock Review Board



\$101,291 paid in six years (does not represent all damages)

Costs of Non-lethal and Lethal Tools

2017-2019 Biennium



Develop Public Understanding and Promote Coexistence Wolf Advisory Group and Conflict Transformation



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

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.

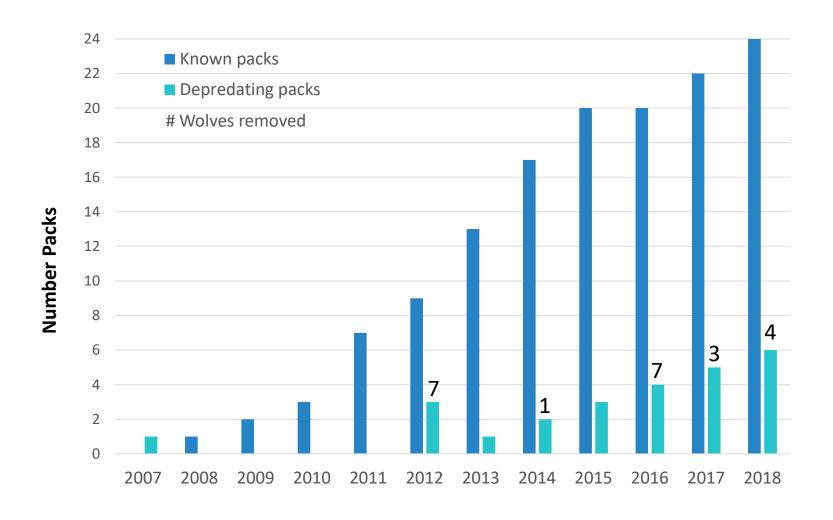
The protocol draws on a diversity of perspectives expressed by people throughout the state for protecting wildlife populations as a public resource and livestock. These values include achieving a sustained recovered wolf population, supporting rural ways of life, and maintaining livestock production 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

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 as 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 twothirds 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.

Trends in the Use of Lethal Removal



Maintain Healthy Prey Base

Maintain Healthy Prey Base

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



Wolf-Ungulate Interactions

Wolf Plan allows for non-lethal and lethal action on wolves if WDFW determines wolves are a primary limiting factor for atrisk ungulate populations



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)
- Wolf population dynamics and prey items (UW)

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Looking Ahead

- Continue implementing wolf plan
- Continue collaborative stakeholder processes
- Wolf population growth is expected to continue
- Initiate EIS process for postdelisting wolf plan
- 2018 Proviso → develop EIS to consider wolf translocation
- Complete Periodic Status Review



Questions?

For more information:

Website

http://wdfw.wa.gov

Contact

Donny Martorello, Wolf Policy Lead Donny.Martorello@dfw.wa.gov 360-790-5682



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