

Periodic Status Review for the Gray Wolf December 5, 2023

Kelly Susewind
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife





WDFW released the first-ever draft status review for wolves in Washington. The wolf's state status has not been reviewed since their original listing in 1980.

1980



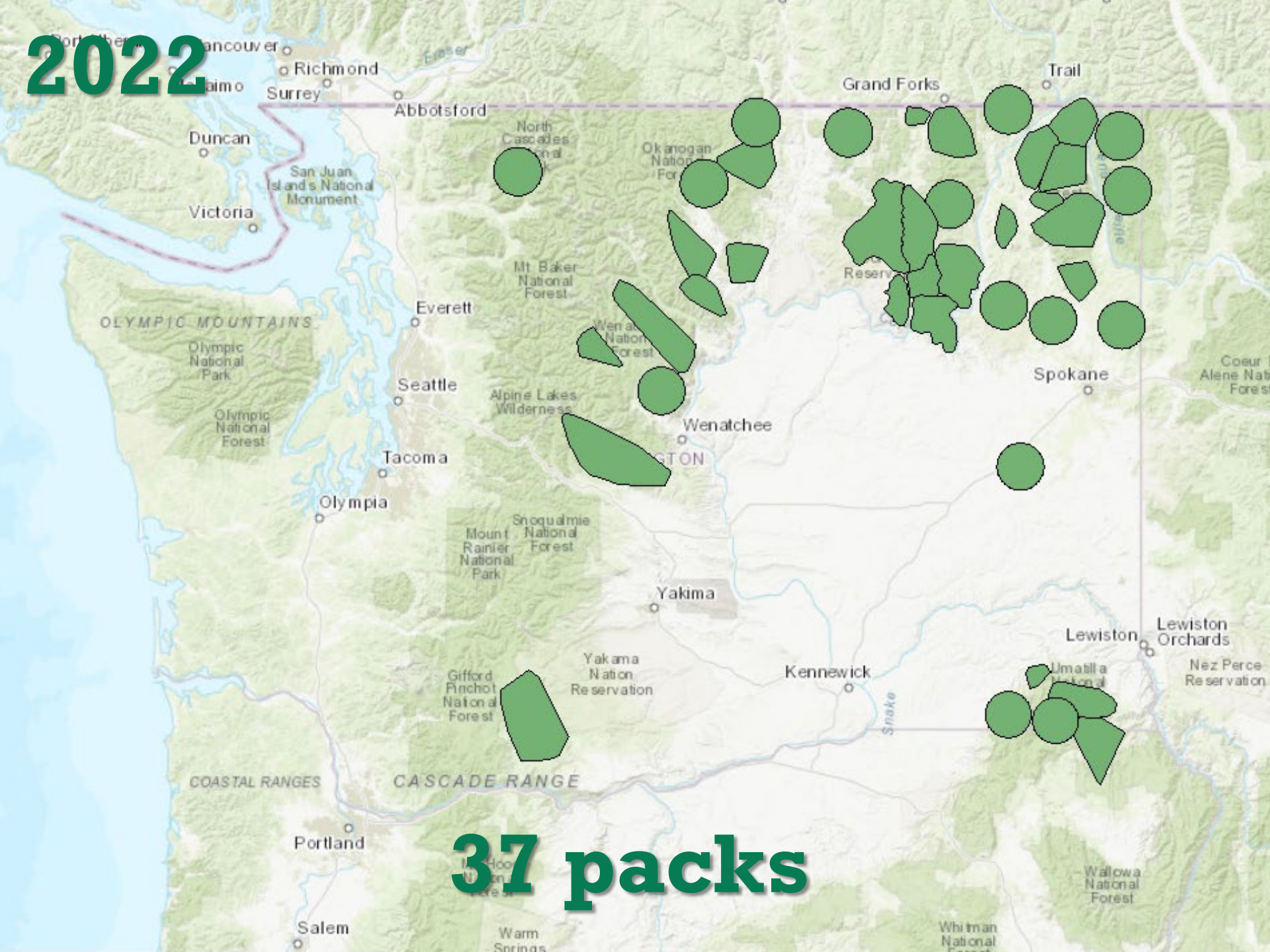
No known wolf packs

2011



5 packs

2022



37 packs

Eastern WA: 3 packs → 27

Fed. listed area:
2 packs → 10

Northern
Cascades

Eastern
Washington



Legend:

- 2022 Breeding Pairs (Dark Green)
- 2022 Nonbreeding Packs (Light Green)
- Single Wolf Territories (Blue Cross-hatch)
- Tribal Lands (Diagonal Lines)
- National Parks and Recreation Areas (Grey)
- Wolf Recovery Regions (Black Outline)

North Arrow

Definitions in WAC 220-610-110

- "Endangered" means any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that is **seriously threatened with extinction** throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state.
- "Threatened" means any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that is **likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future** throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats.
- "Sensitive" means any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that is **vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened** in a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats.



If wolves were downlisted, what would stay the same?

- Wolves remain protected
- Wolves managed for recovery
- WDFW goal of minimizing both livestock losses and wolf removals and commitment to proactive non-lethal conflict mitigation strategies
- Process of considering/authorizing lethal removal to mitigate livestock depredation
- Law enforcement investigations/investment in illegally killed wolves
- No hunting (excluding tribal)
- Wolf Plan goals for delisting



The agency recommendation based upon the periodic status review will be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for final decision in 2024.



QUESTIONS?

Wolf-livestock conflict, 2008 - 2022

