

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation F&W Department

GRAY WOLF UPDATE



68°F



05 / 13 / 2023

09 : 13 AM

SHERMAN

2

2023 Washington wolf
packs

Estimated 48 packs

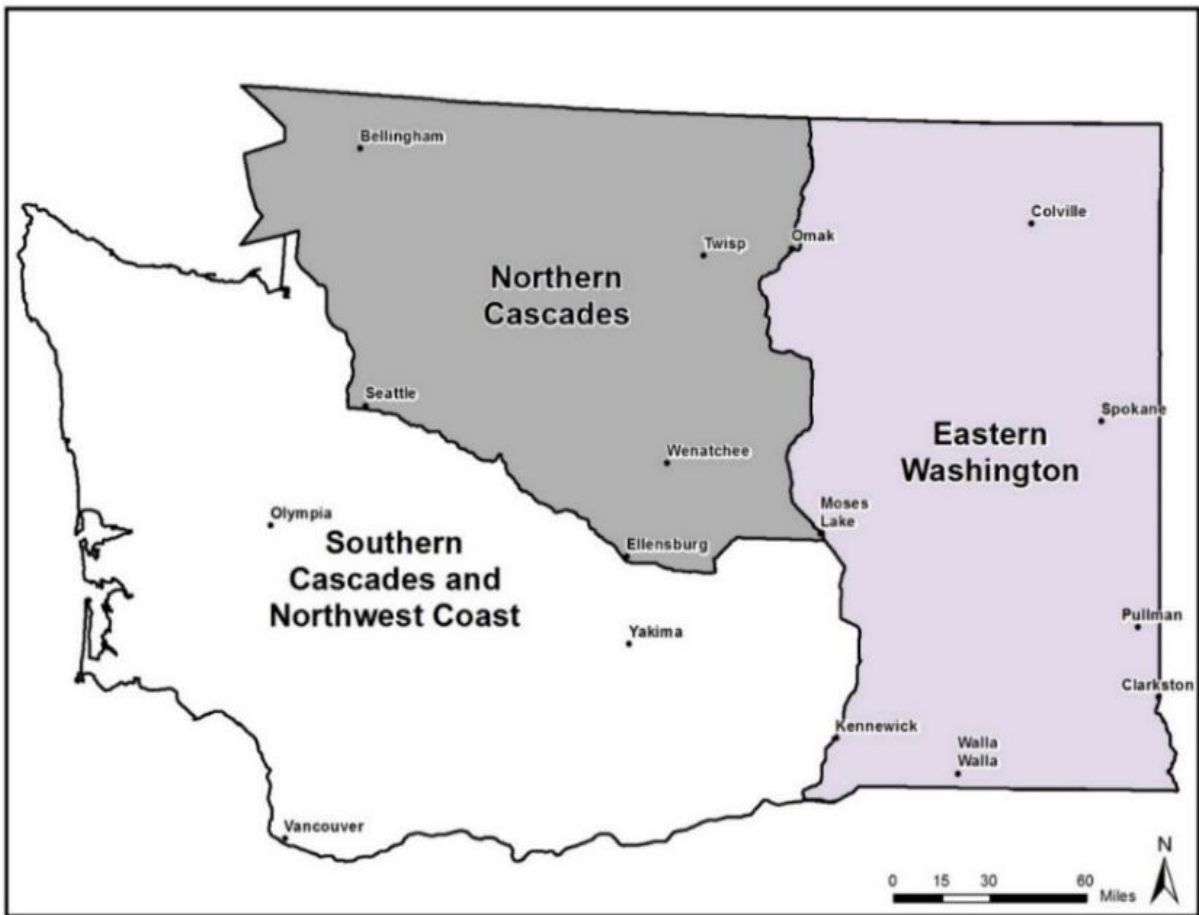
Estimated 260 wolves

Continue to expand
across Washington.

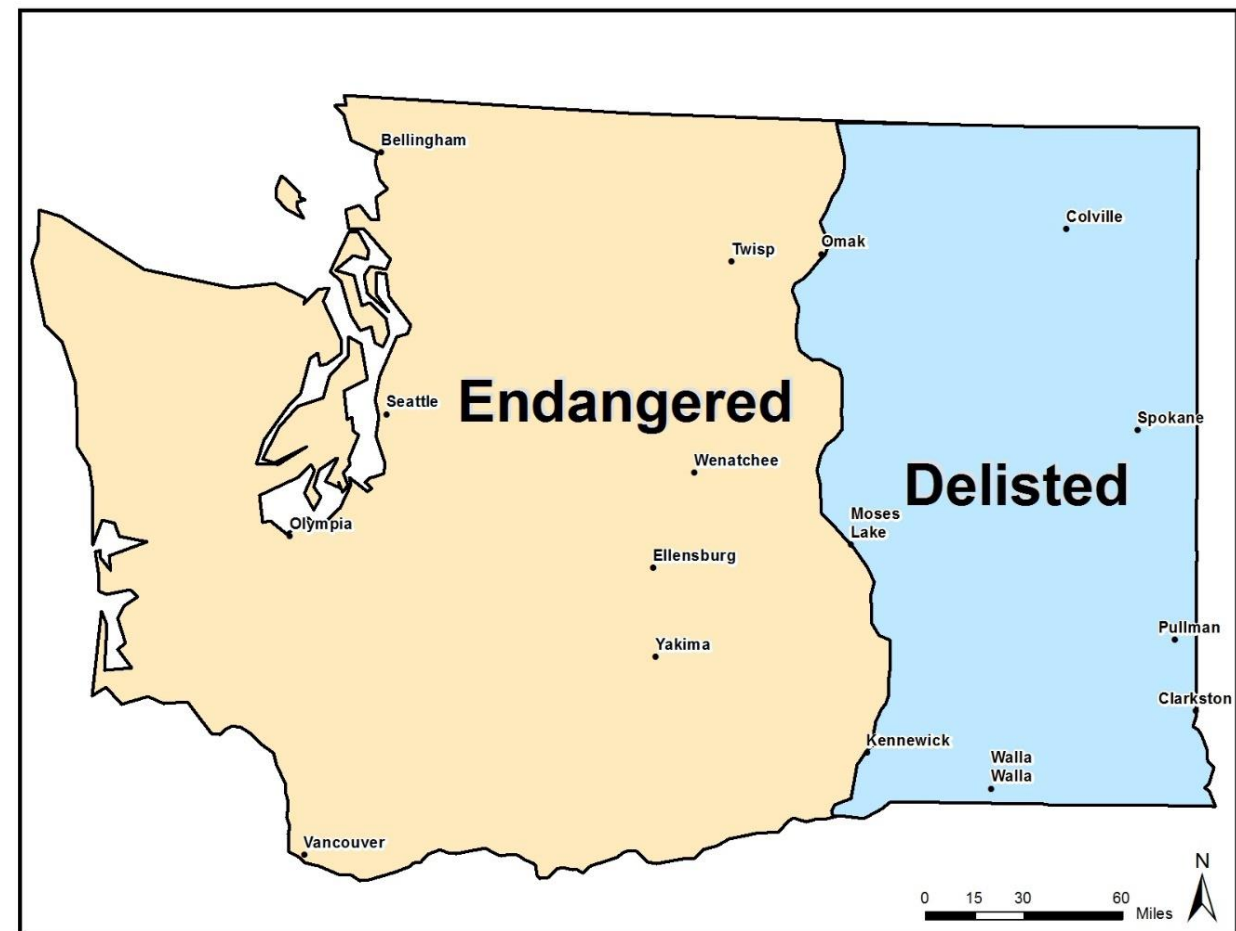
State and Tribal Biologist
are continuously
monitoring.

Wolves are now in all 3
recovery regions.

Recovery Regions in WA



Wolf Status in WA



Continue to expand
across the reservation.

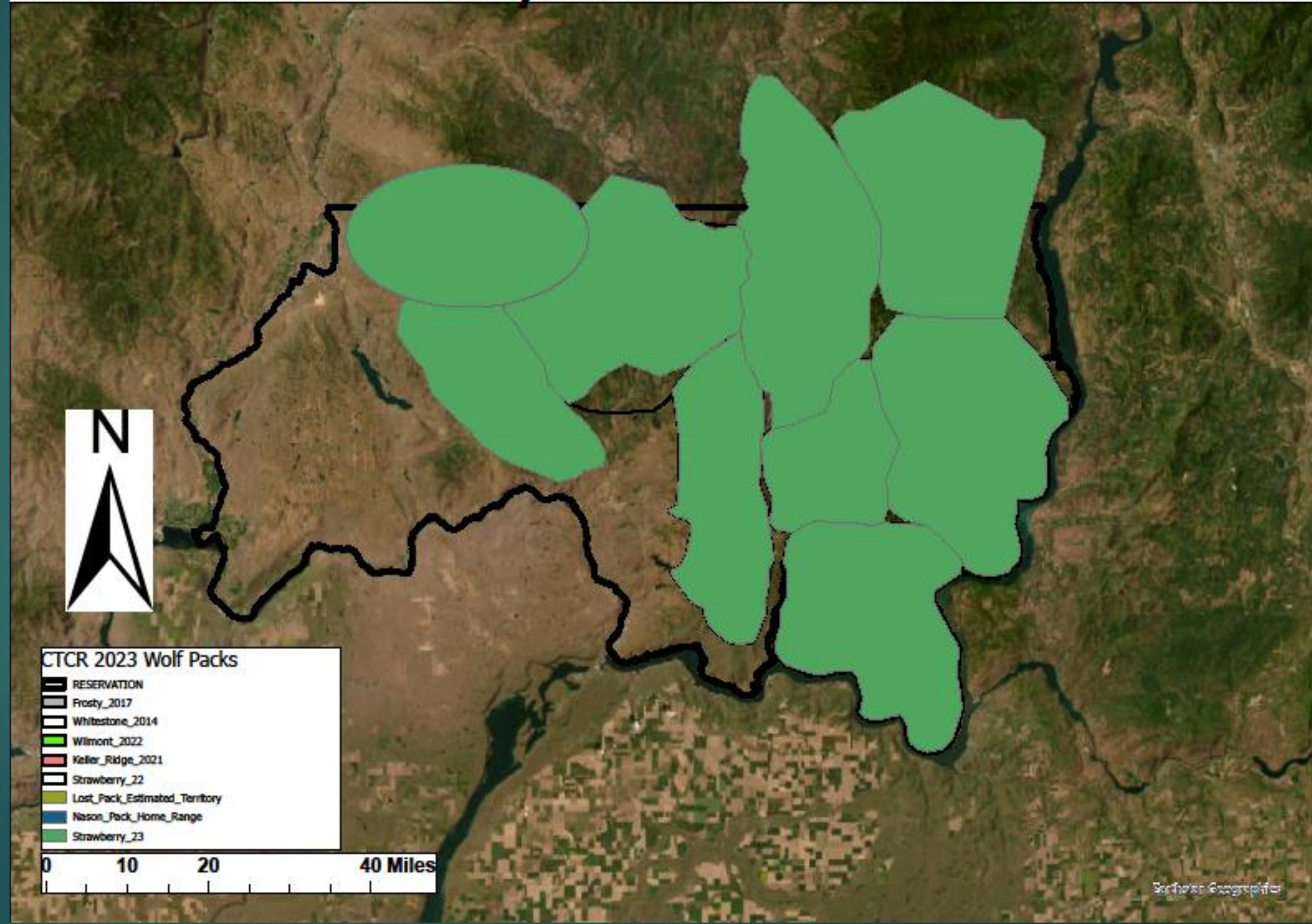
Believe we are near our
carrying capacity for
wolf numbers and pack
territories for the
reservation.

All habitats that are
preferred by wolves
have been claimed by
a pack.

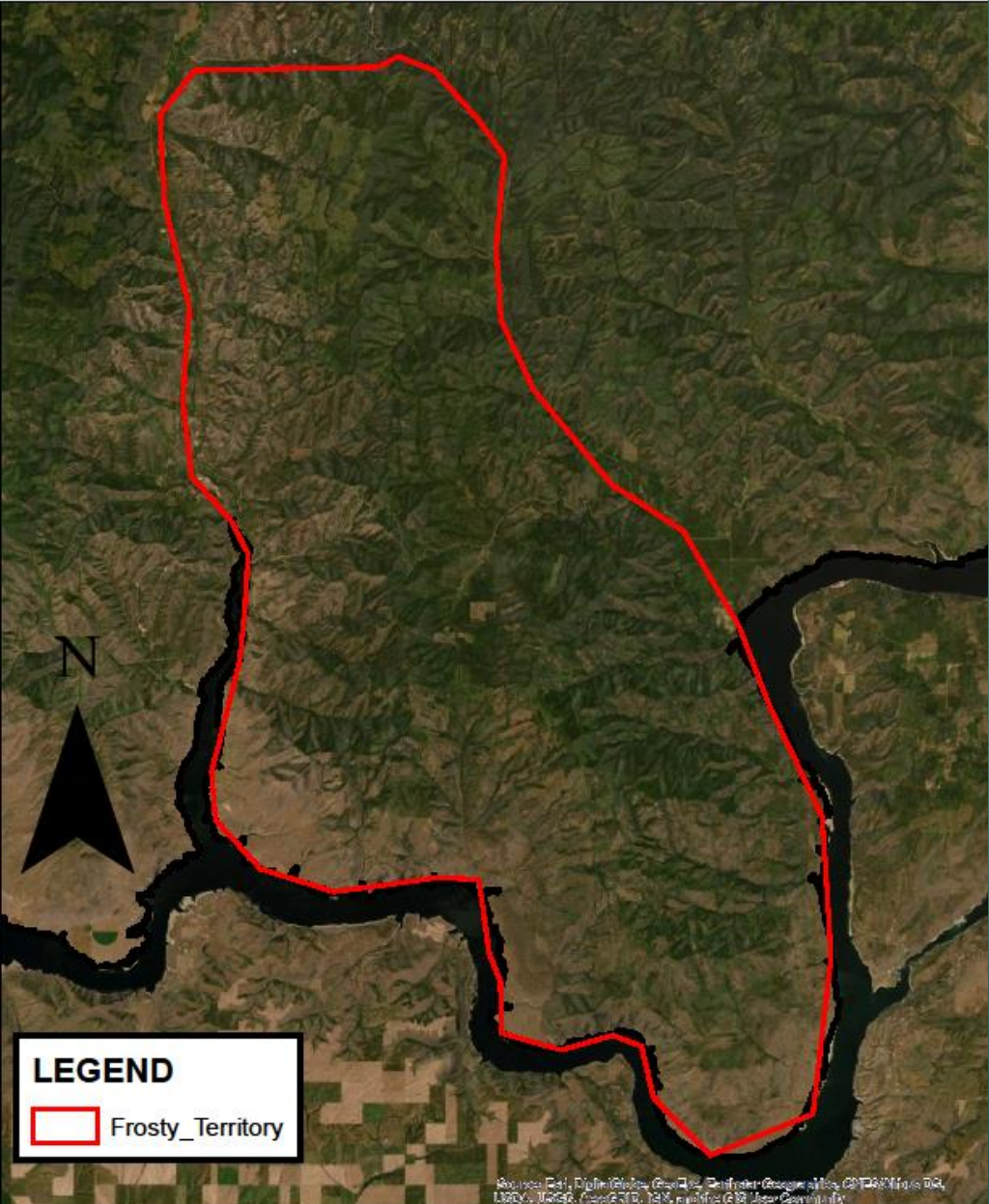
Total of 9 packs.

After pups were born in
2023, we estimated 70
total.

CTCR Gray Wolf Packs 2023



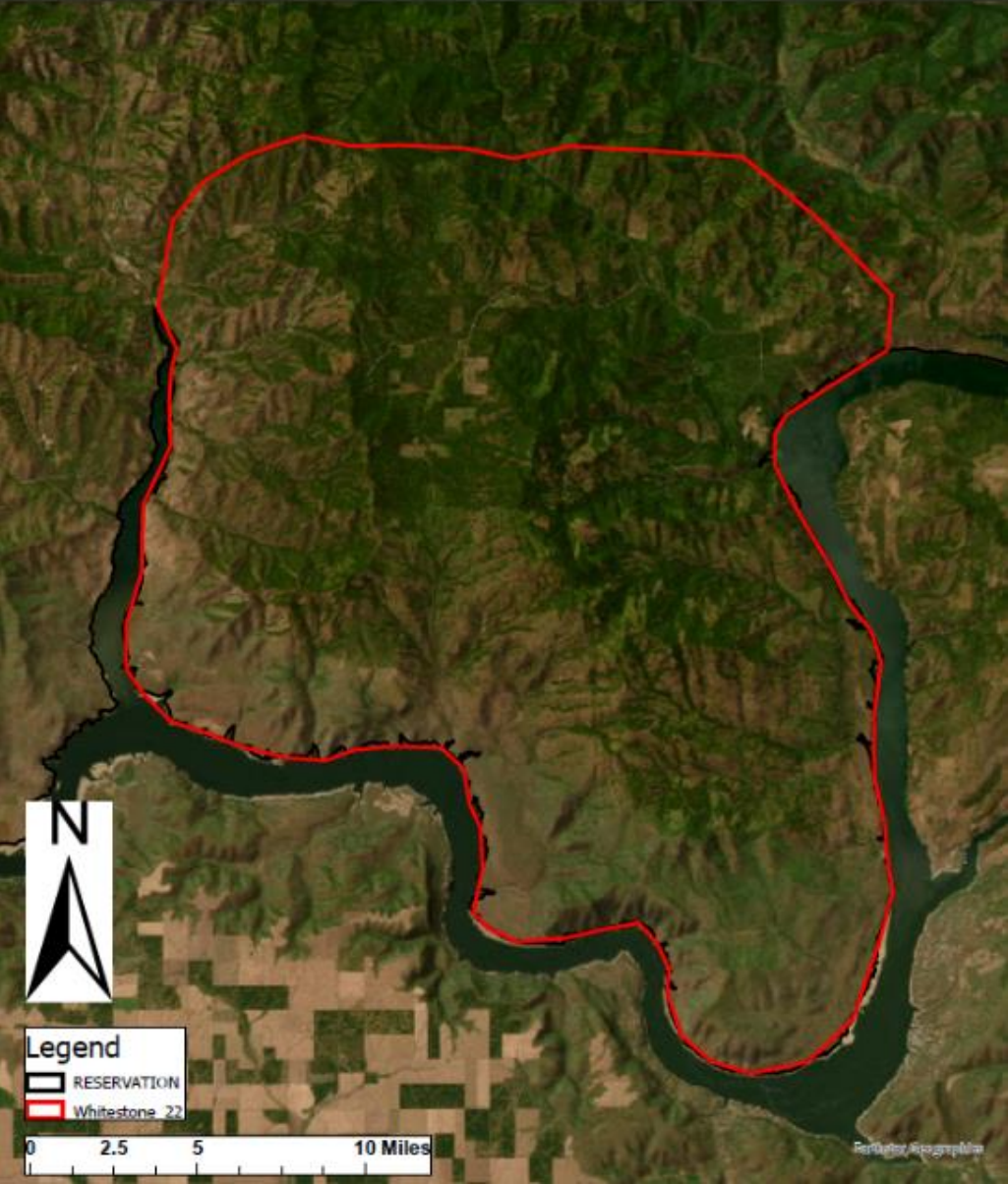
Frosty Meadows Territory



We have observed
pack territories
being split in two.

Territory boundaries
are continuously
changing.

Whitestone Territory



CTCR wolf pack history

- ▶ 2008 was the first confirmed/captured wolf on the reservation.
- ▶ Estimated growth of 23% per year.

- ▶ Nc'icn
- ▶ Strawberry
- ▶ Whitestone
- ▶ Frosty
- ▶ Nason
- ▶ Keller Butte
- ▶ Wilmont
- ▶ Dollar MT
- ▶ Suspected new (Hayden)



2008

New packs with
time

2023

Monitoring Methods

- ▶ GPS Collars
- ▶ Trail cameras
- ▶ Track Surveys
- ▶ Howling Surveys
- ▶ Den Surveys
- ▶ Scat analysis
- ▶ Aerial Surveys

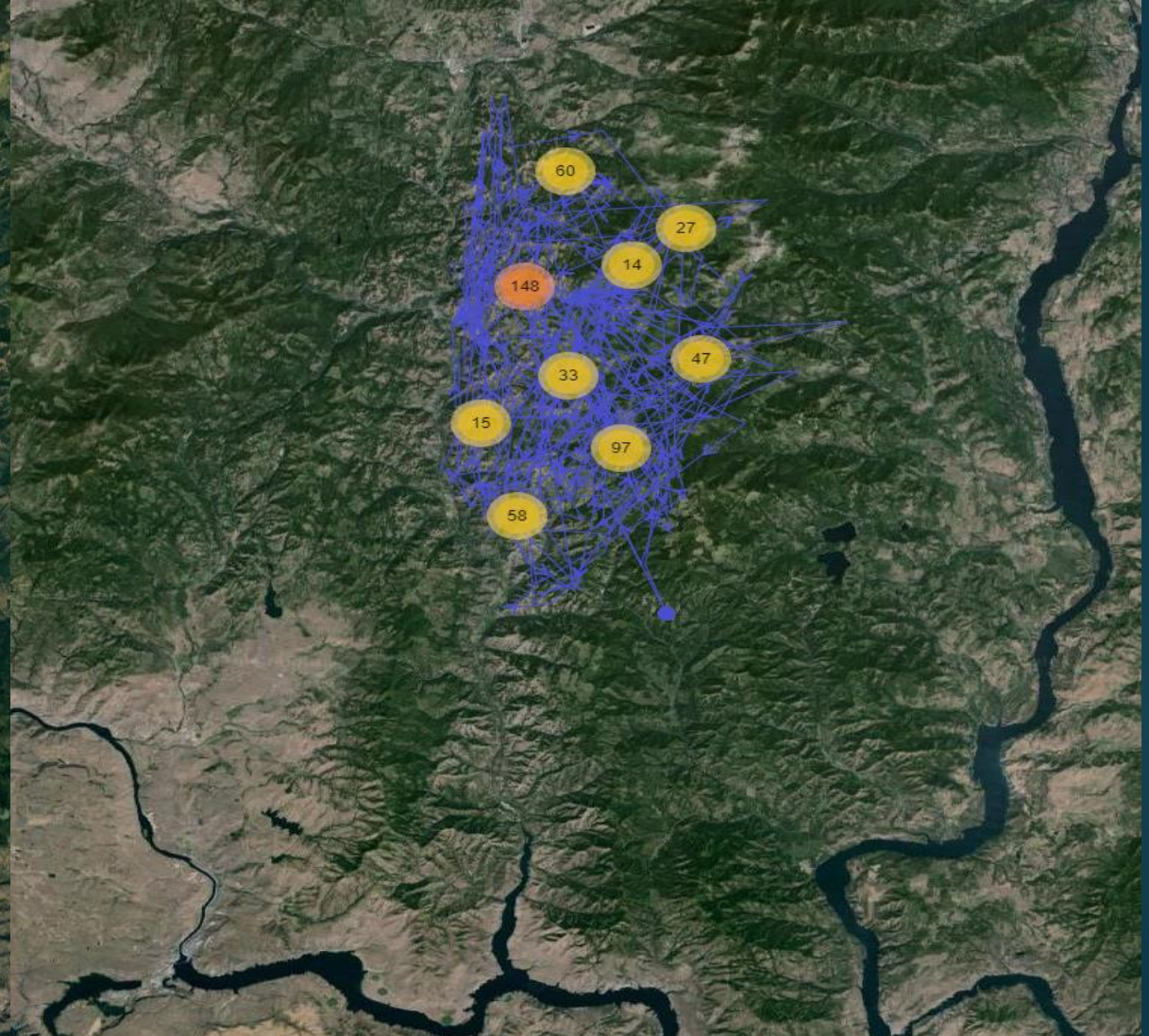
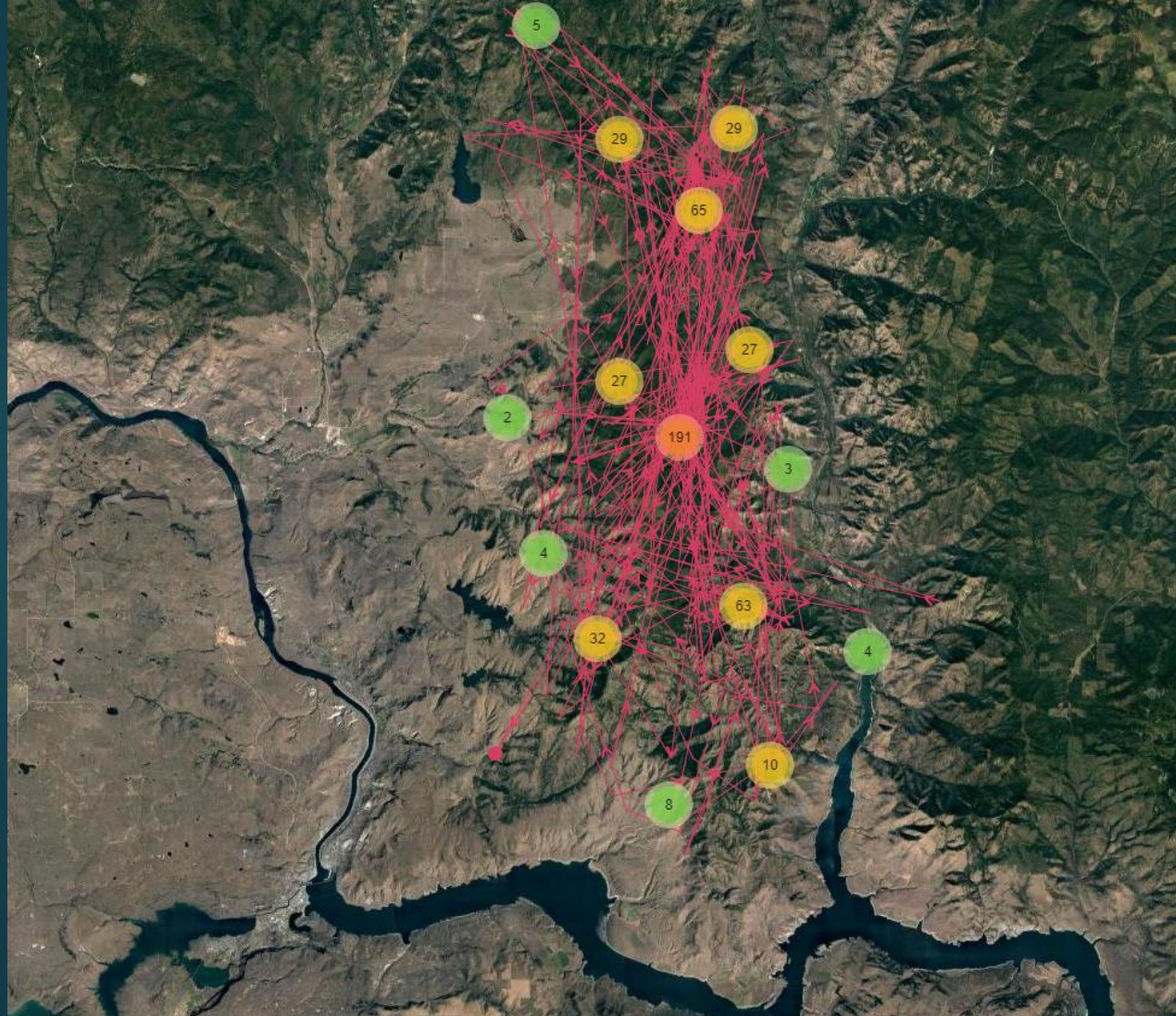
GPS Collar Data: Traditional Territory

Clusters of points

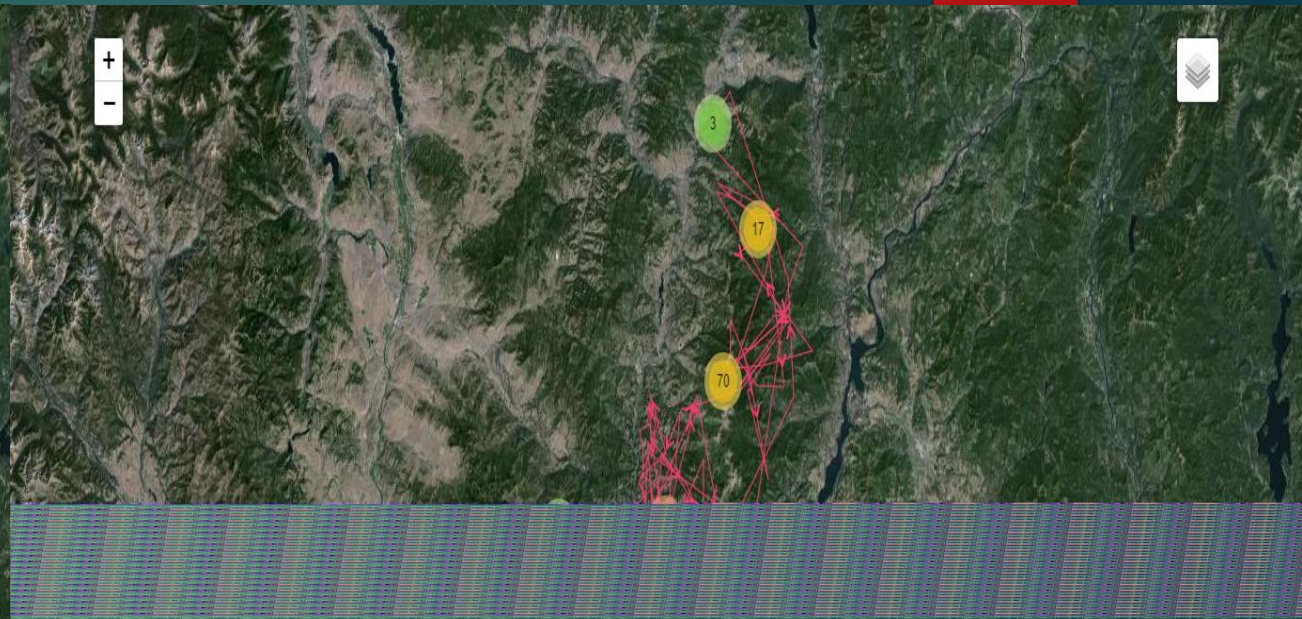
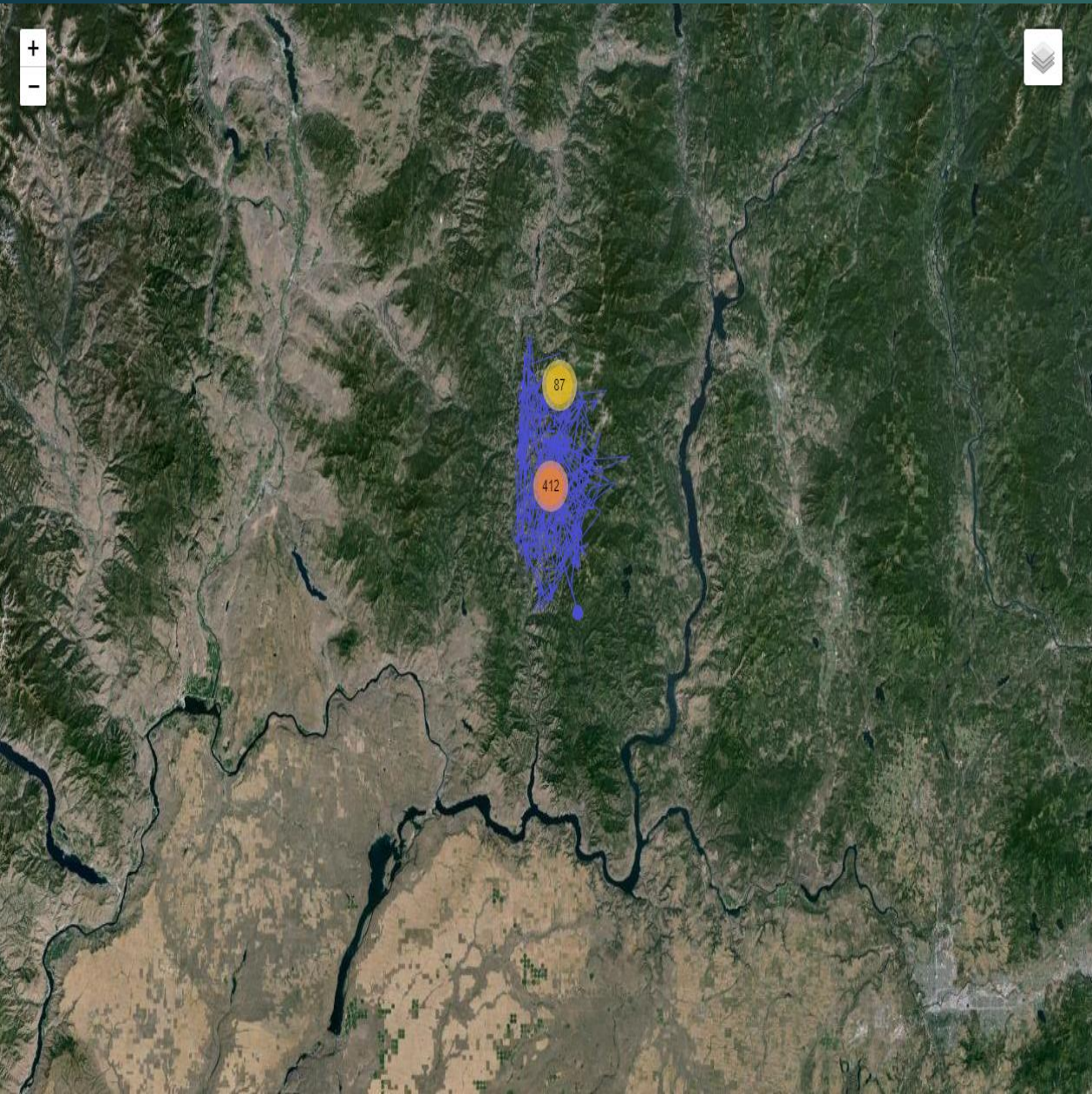
Den sites

Kills

Rendezvous sites



GPS Collar Data: Dispersal Behavior



Average litter is 5

Only 1 or 2 are surviving to the one year mark.

Have documented more than one female per pack having pups, but only the main breeding female seems to receive help from the pack to keep her pups alive, the single female had lost all her pups.

Wolf pup survival



Tribal Member harvest

	South Half 2010 Through 2023 CTR Minimum Observed Wolf Numbers and Harvest by Pack																			
	Minimum Observed Wolf and Harvest Numbers as of December 31st of Each Year																			
	Nc'Icn		Strawberry		Whitestone		Frosty		Nason		Keller Ridge		Wilmont		Dollar Mtn		Susp New (Hayden)		Total Minimum Observed Wolves	Total Harvest
Year	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Minimum Observed	Harvest	Total Minimum Observed Wolves	Total Harvest
2010	1	No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season	1	NA
2011	1	No Legal Hunting Season	1	No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season		No Legal Hunting Season	2	NA
2012	6		3																9	0
2013	5		3																8	0
2014	4		3		2														9	0
2015	5		4		2														11	0
2016	5		7	1	2														14	1
2017	7		8	1	5	1	6	1											26	3
2018	4	1	7		3		6	1	6	1									26	3
2019	7	2	9		6	1	5		6	1									33	4
2020	9	3	10		4	3	10		8										32	6
2021	10	1	9	2	5	2	7		3	9	3								37	14
2022	8	2	5	1	7	1	5		0	2	4	1	6						35	7
2023	12	3	8	5	6	0	12	1	8	6	10	0	3	1	11	1	Unknown	3	70	20
	5 pups		ukn pups		ukn pups		6 pups		3 pups		pups 2		ukn pups		5 pups		ukn pups			



90%

2022/06/12 10:10:17 13°C 55°F Toguard-H85



85%

2022/06/12 10:29:56 15°C 59°F Toguard-H85

Ungulate Behavior

- ▶ Each species have changed their behaviors with the return of wolves.
- ▶ Elk have been more likely to congregate to lower elevations.
- ▶ Mule deer are more likely to be found in steep terrain.
- ▶ Moose are less visible, tend hide more.

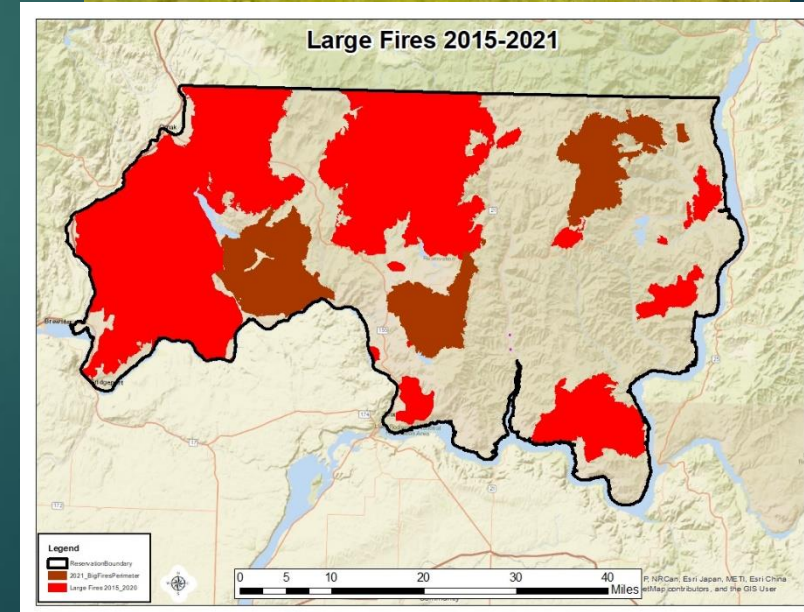
Management Approach

- ▶ A holistic approach focused on healthy, resilient ecosystems
 - ▶ Integrated resource management is an approach to reservation resource management that takes a whole system approach, viewing all resources (natural, social, cultural, and economic) as being interrelated in such a manner that management actions directed at one resource also affect others.
- ▶ Includes a balance between predator and prey species

Colville Wolf Management Plan-" The CCTFWD seeks to guide management and co-management of gray wolves and their primary prey (deer, elk and moose) on the North and South Half of the Colville Reservation, respectively. The primary goals for management of gray wolves and their ungulate prey are to: 1) outline strategies for maintaining viable wolf populations that persist through time, while 2) maintaining healthy ungulate populations capable of meeting the cultural and subsistence needs of Colville Tribal Members and their families. Understanding impacts of gray wolves on ungulates is important within the framework of the CCT given the subsistence culture of the Colville Tribal Members."

Other Management Considerations

- ▶ Forest Management
 - ▶ Focused on forest health and resilience
 - ▶ Commercial treatments on 8,000-10,000 acres per year
 - ▶ Species composition, forest structure, and stocking management managed across the landscape through time and space
- ▶ Fire management
 - ▶ Active prescribed fire and fuels program with annual treated acres averaging
 - ▶ Extensive wildfire impacts over the recent decade



Questions?



58°F



05 / 27 / 2022

01 : 14 PM

M1 CCT F NW