

2021 Annual Wolf Report – Briefing FWC April 9, 2022

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Statewide Wolf Specialist, Wildlife Program



Listing Status

Federally Delisted January 2021
- Relisted February 10, 2022

State Listed – Endangered
where WDFW has jurisdiction

Wolf Conservation and
Management Plan: 2011
– 3 recovery areas
– Delisting requirements

State and tribal management



Capture and Monitoring - 2021 Calendar Year

- Captured 17 wolves - From 12 different packs
- Monitored 29 wolves from 20 packs in 2021
- Currently monitoring 33 collared wolves (16% of minimum number of known wolves) from 16 packs (48% of known packs) in Washington



Winter Annual Survey Counts

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

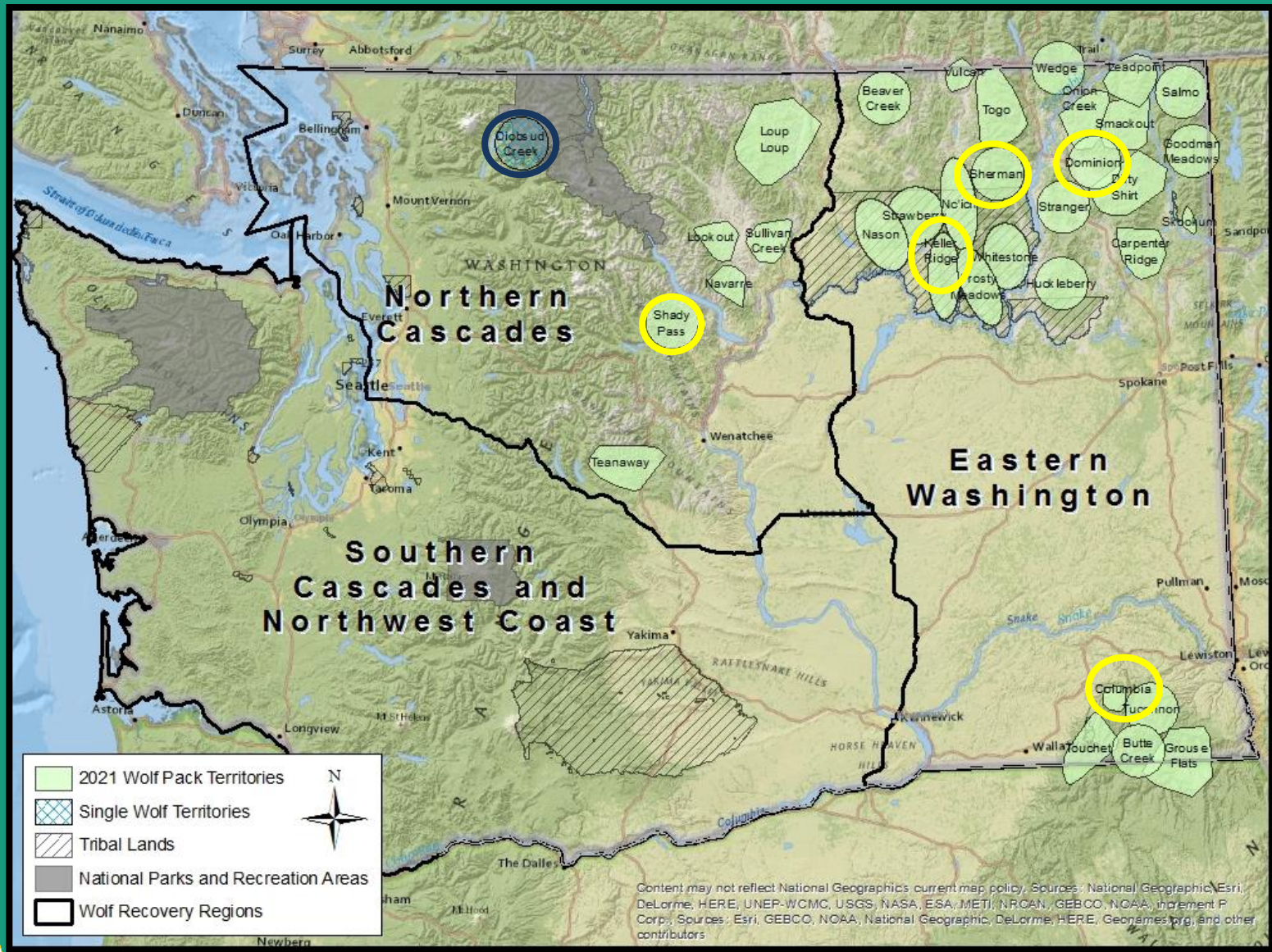


Washington's Known Wolf Packs

As of December 31, 2021

 New Wolf Pack Territory

 Single Wolf Territory



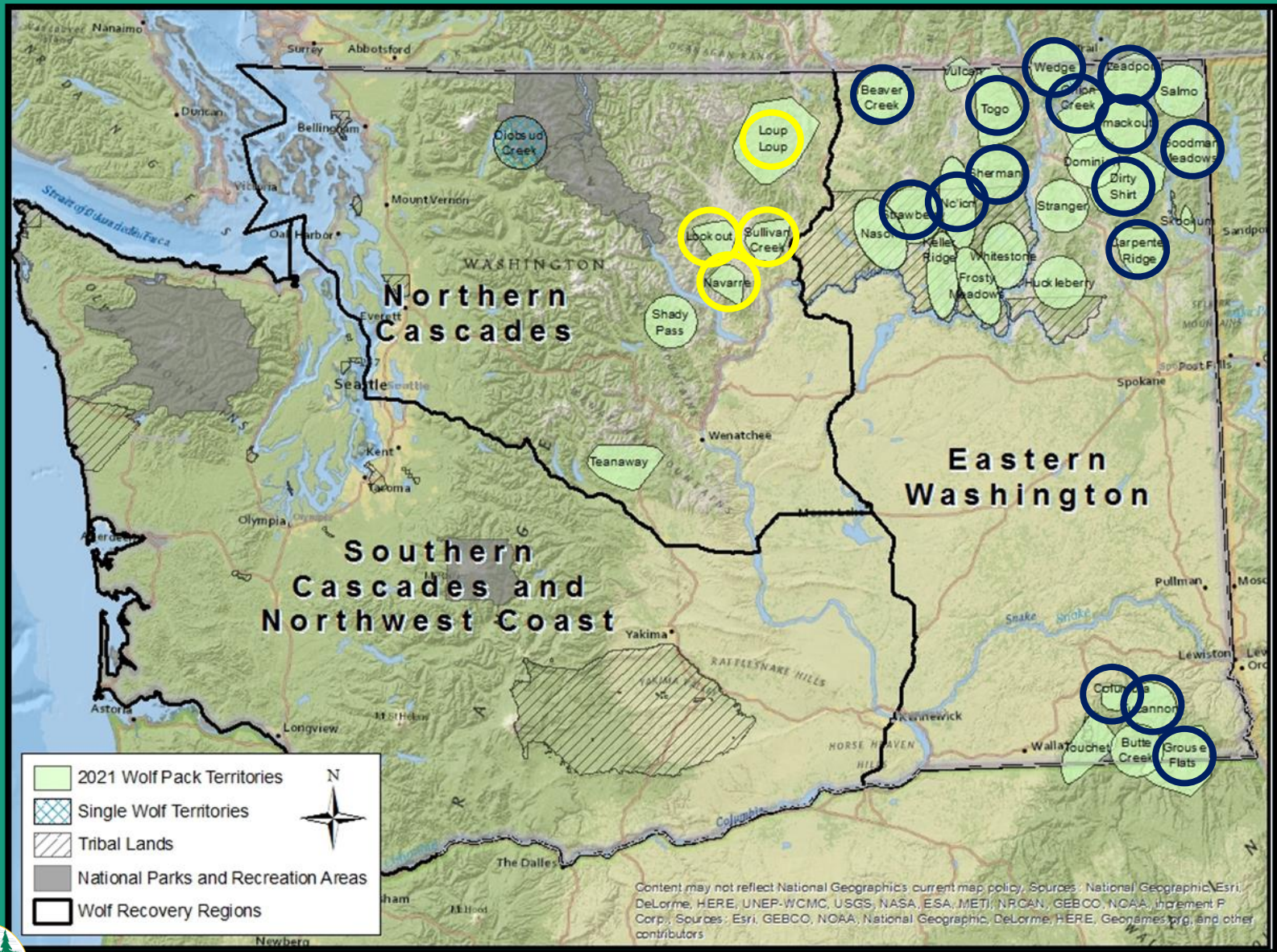
Wolf Population Status

Recovery Region	Successful Breeding Pairs	Minimum Count	Number of Packs
Eastern – WDFW Co-managed	15	163	27
North Cascades	4	42	6
South Cascades / Northwest Coast	0	1	0
Total	19	206	33

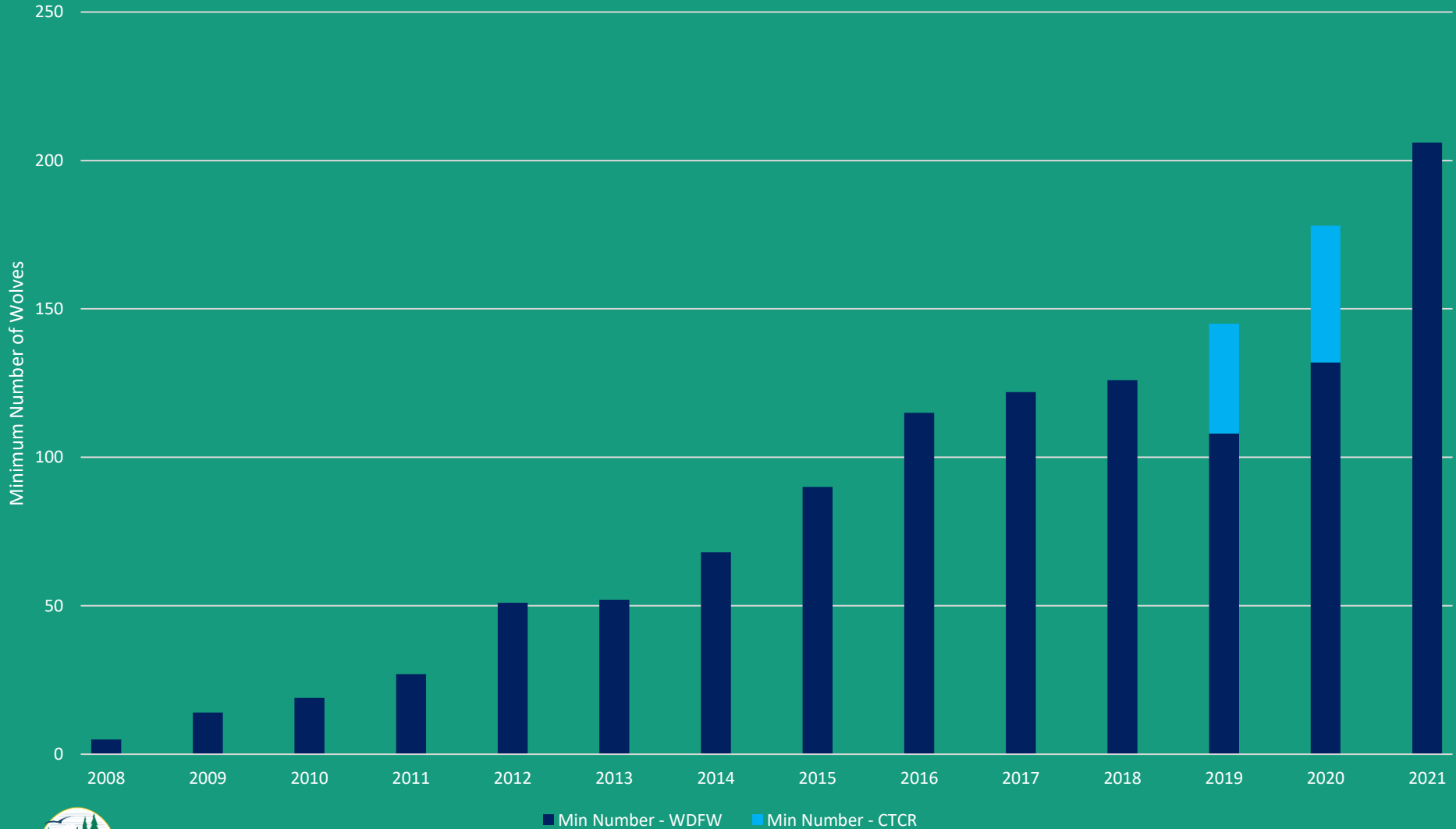


Successful Breeding Pairs in 2021

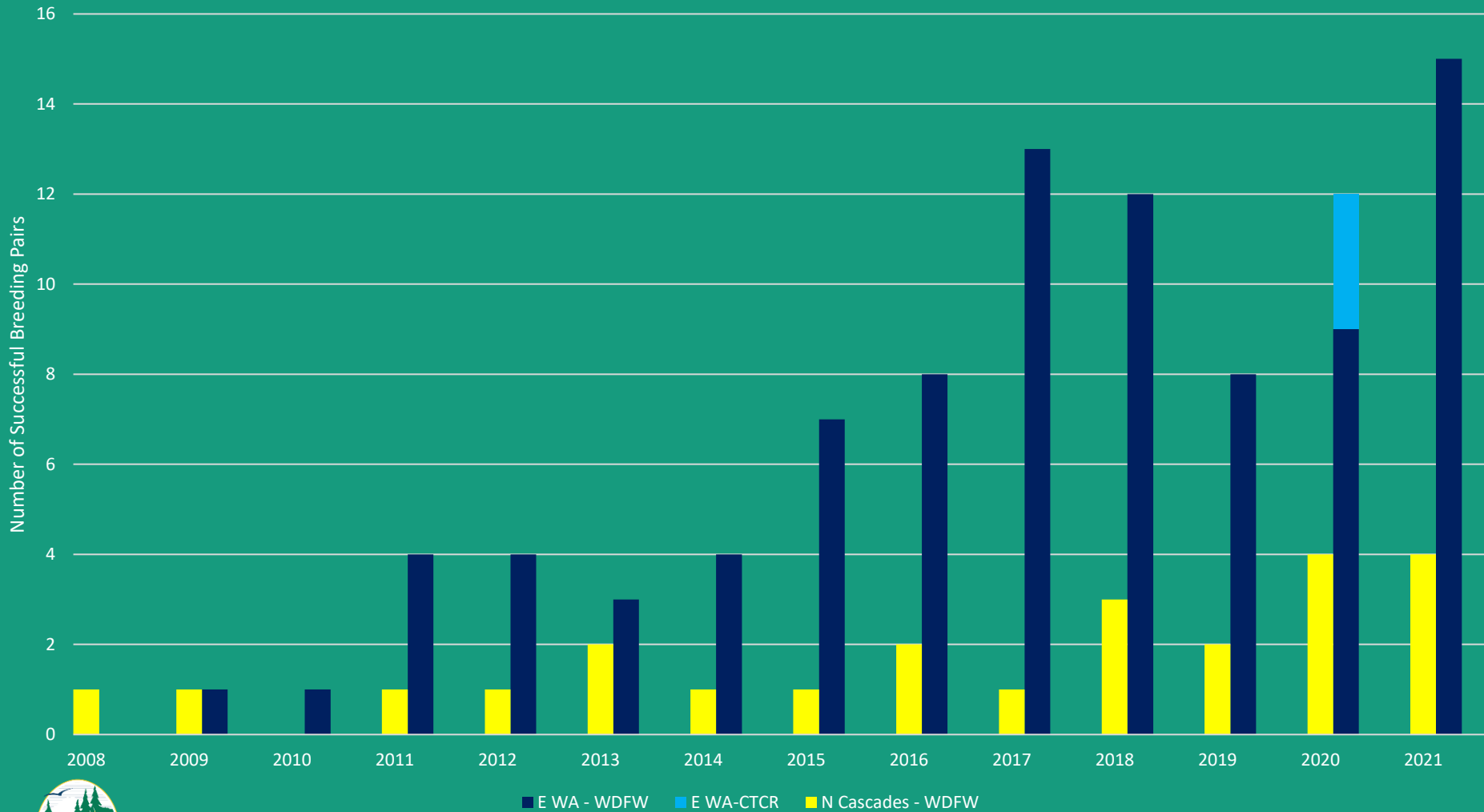
● SBP – North Cascades
● SBP – Eastern



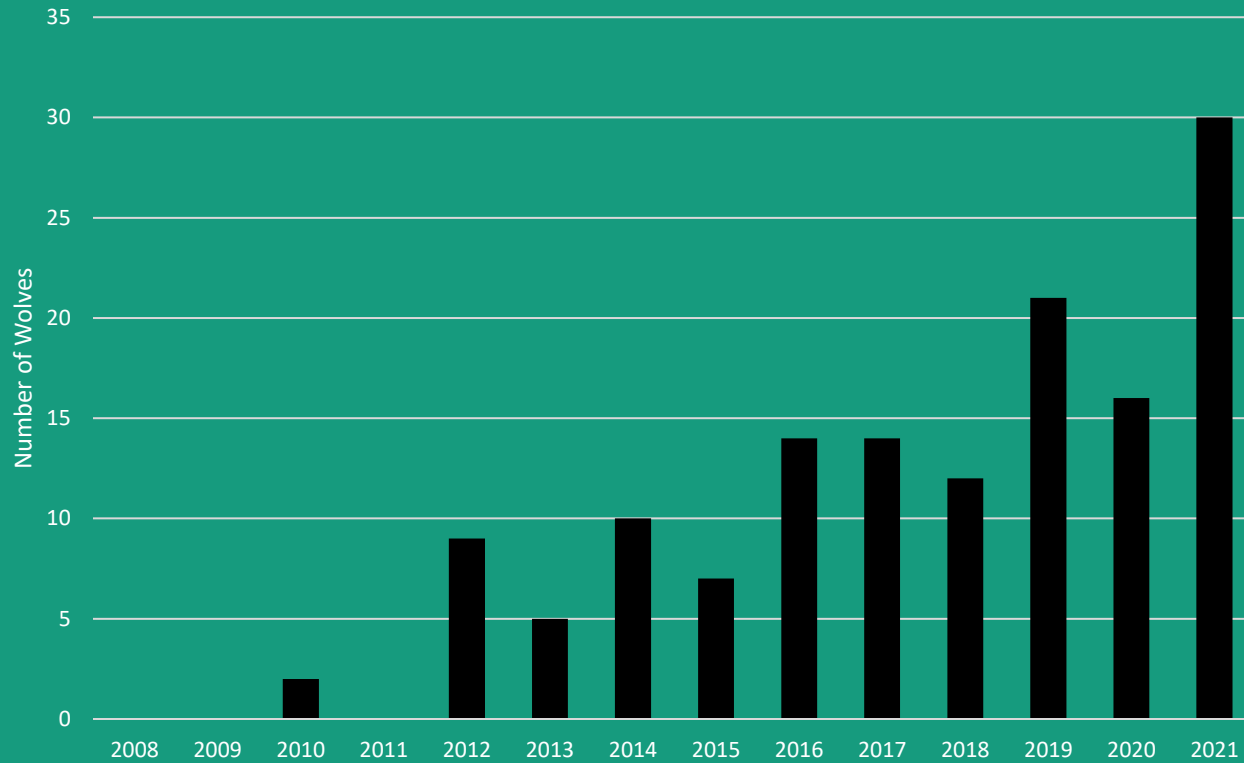
Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves



Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair



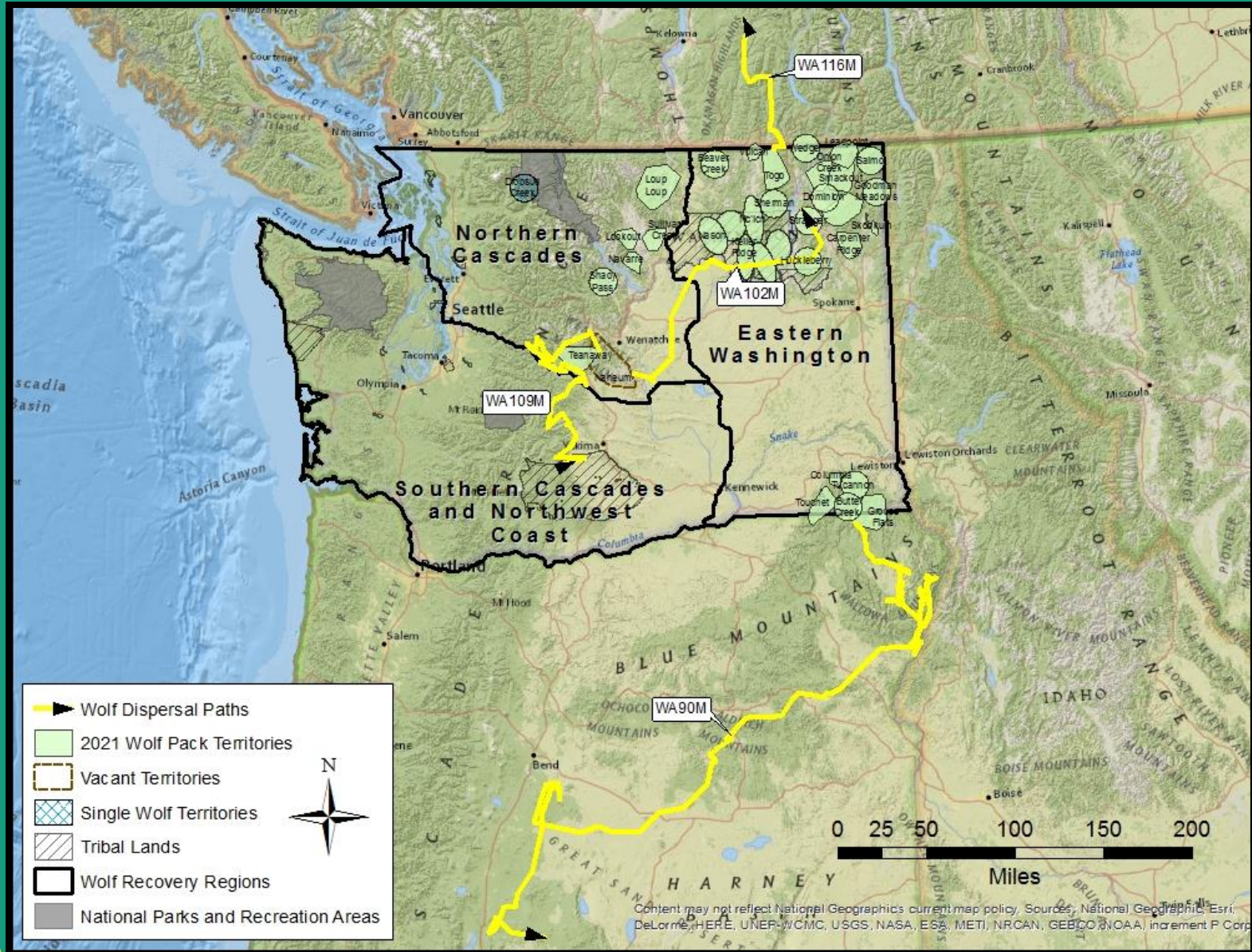
Known Wolf Mortalities by Year



Cause	Legal Tribal Harvest	Vehicle	Human Caused (under investigation)	Depredation Agency Removal
# of Mortalities in 2021	22	4	2	2



Known Wolf Dispersals in 2021

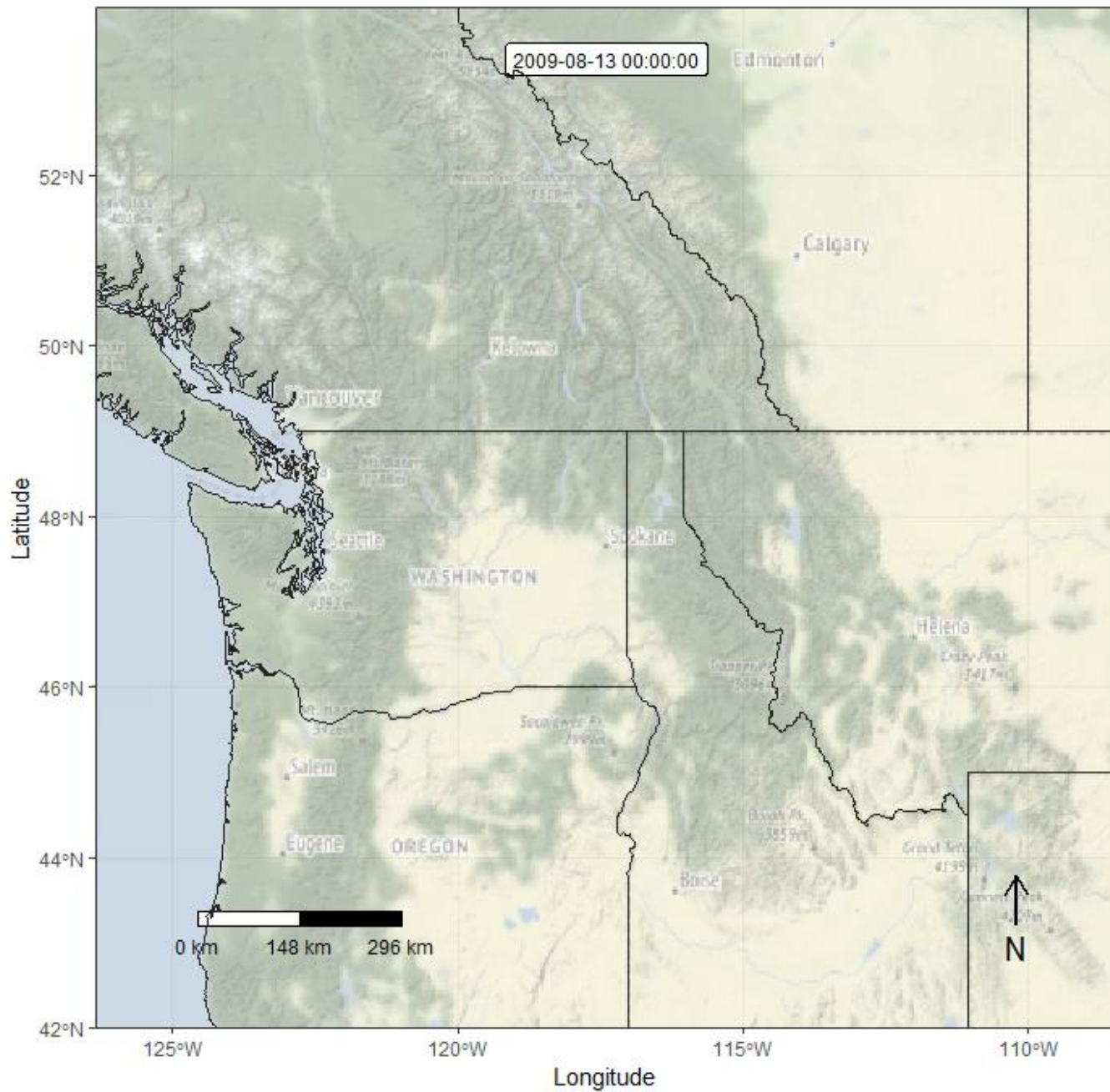




Intraspecific Competition:

- Definition: A type of competition between members of the same species
- Within Pack – Hierarchy
- Pack to Pack Competition (Territoriality)





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%
2021	206	33	19	16%	30	18%
Ave				25%		14%



Wolf – Livestock Interactions

Guiding Documents

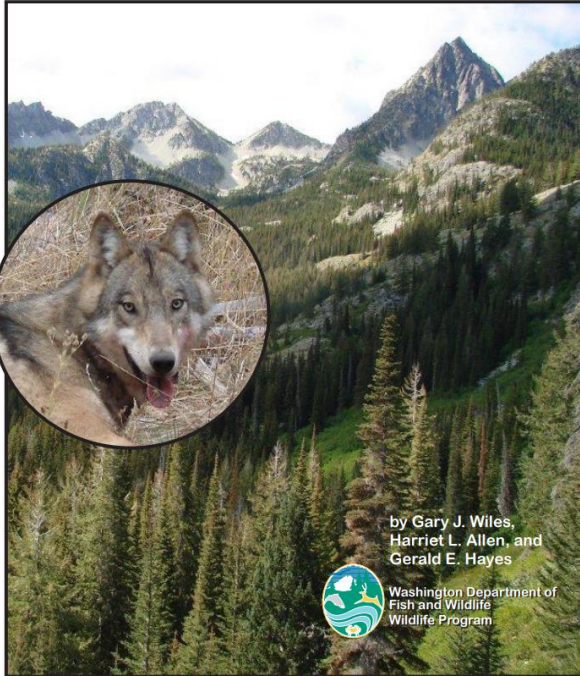
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wolf-livestock interaction protocol
Revision date June 1, 2017

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

STATE OF WASHINGTON

December 2011

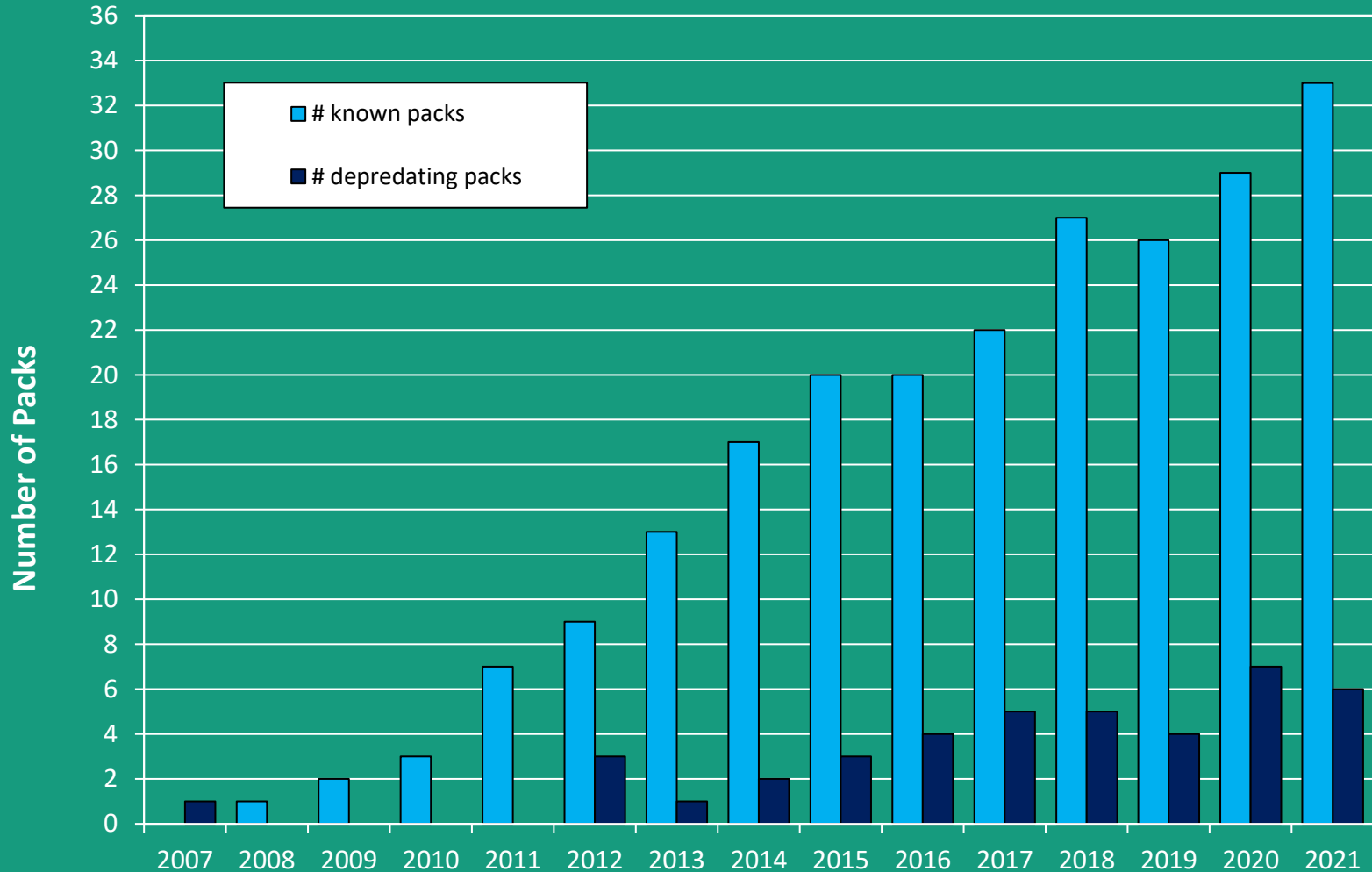


New in 2021

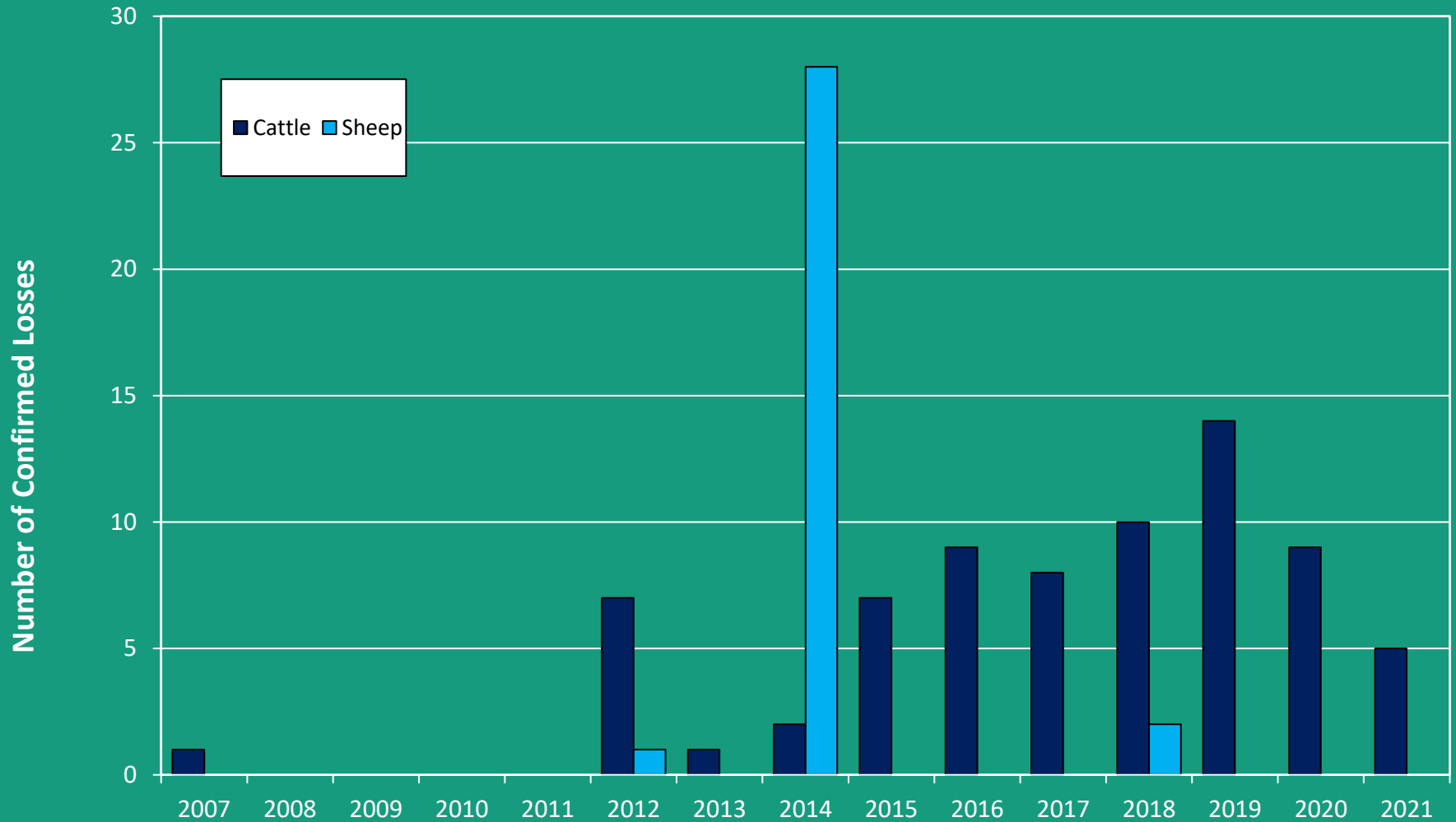
- Creative Solutions
 - VHF – Ear tags for Livestock
 - Newly designed RAG box



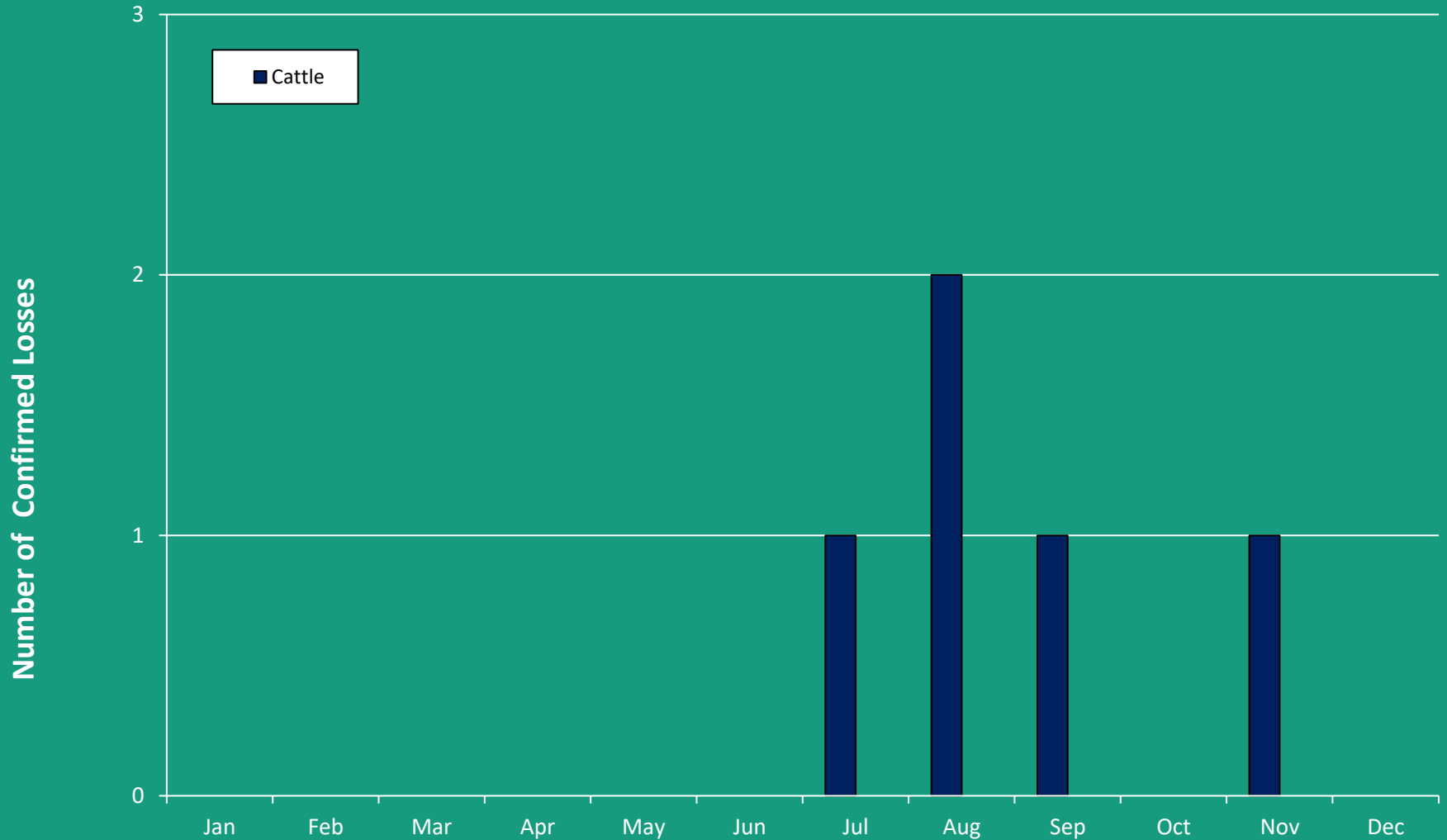
Packs Confirmed Depredating on Livestock



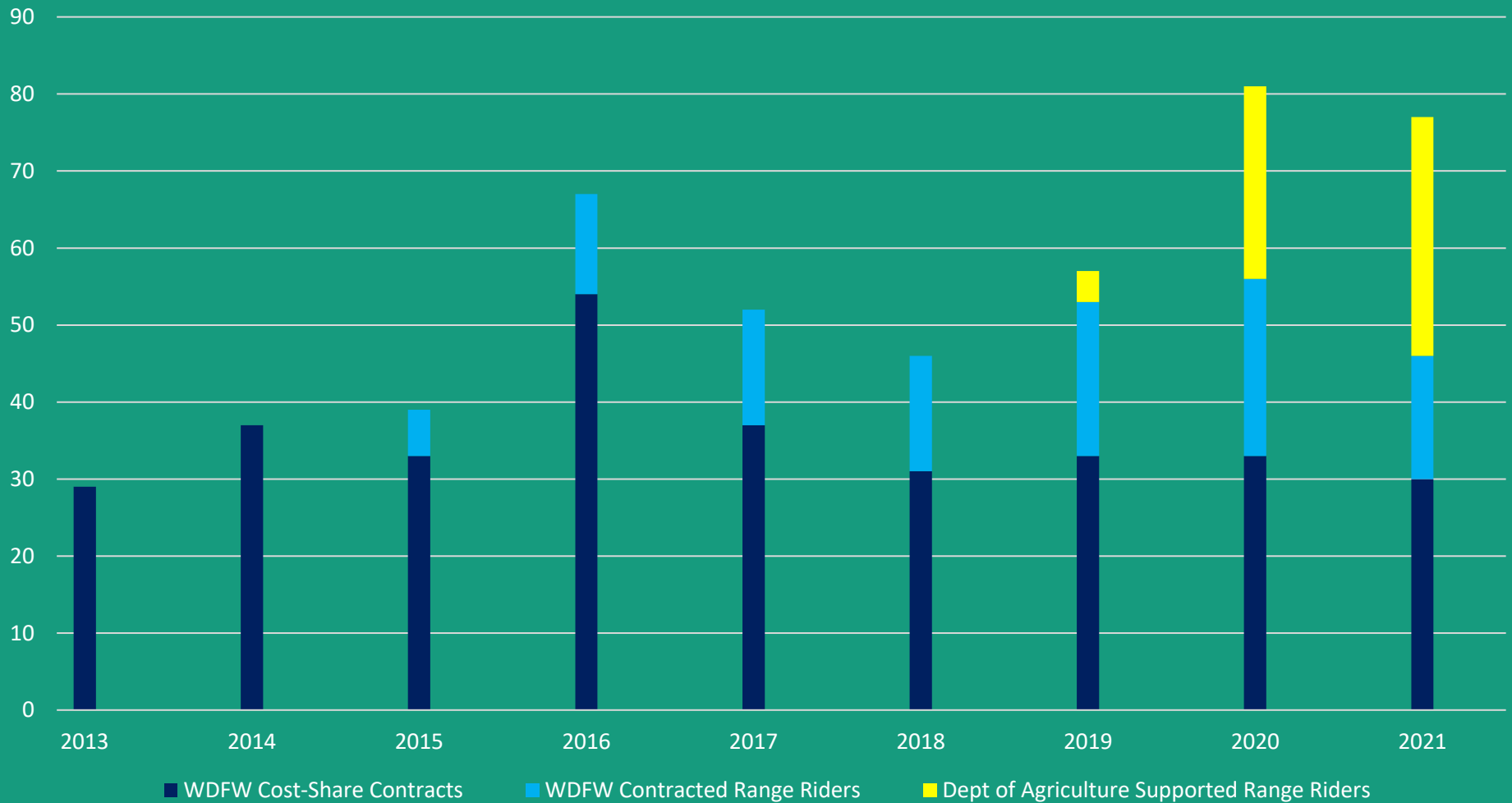
Confirmed Wolf- Caused Livestock Mortality by Year



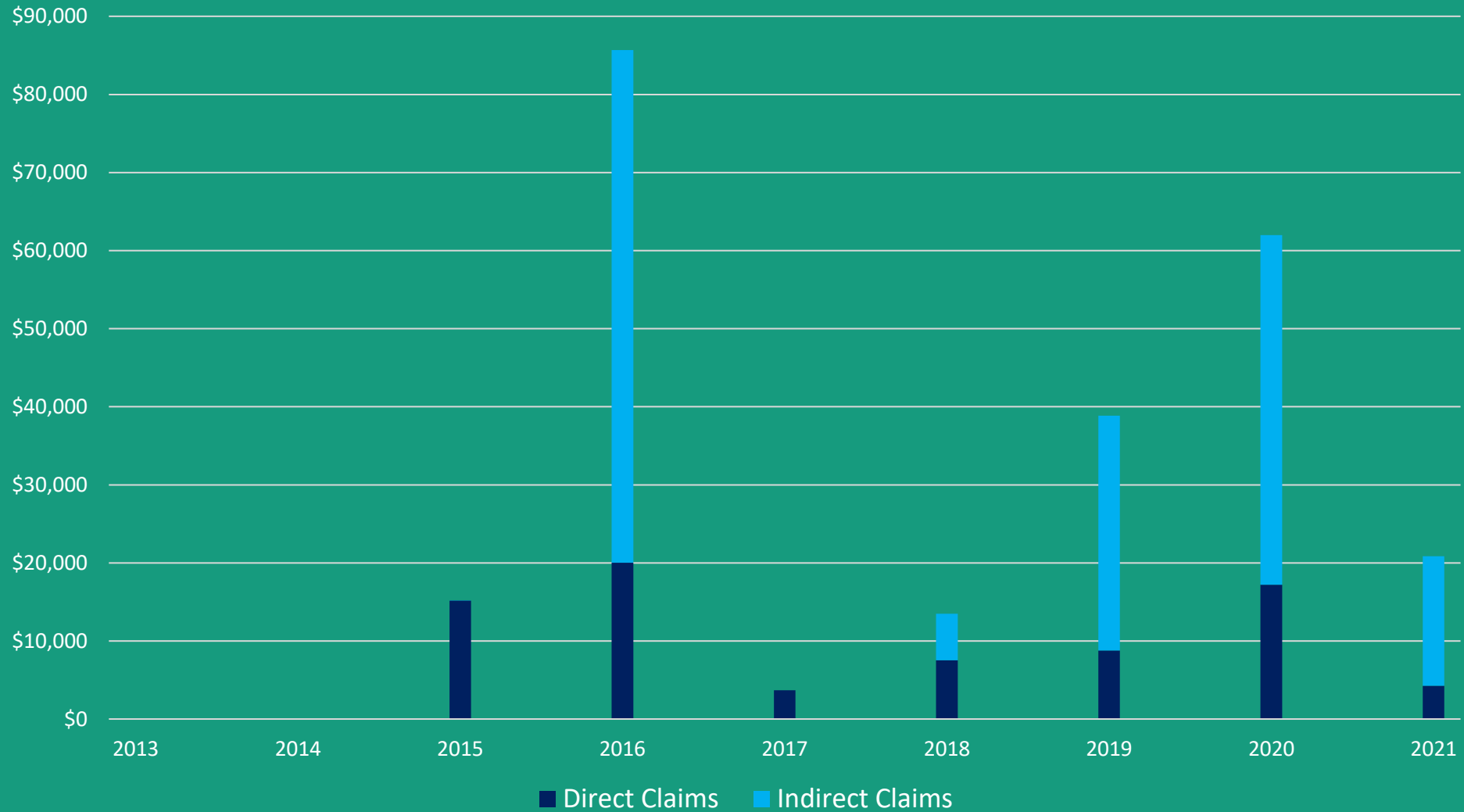
2021 Confirmed Wolf – Caused Livestock Mortality by Month



Number of Range Riders & Producers with WDFW Cost-share Contracts



WDFW Funds allocated to Direct and Indirect Claims for Livestock Loss



Wolf Management Expenditures

(Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021)

Allocation	Use	Cost
Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements – Livestock (DPCAL's)	30 Livestock Producers	\$111,649
Contracted Range Riders	16 Range Riders	\$205,969
Livestock Losses (Indirect and Direct)	4 Livestock Producers	\$20,866
Lethal Removal Operations	Reducing Depredations on Livestock	\$19,957
Wolf Management	Management and Research Activities	\$1,062,952
Total		\$1,421,393



Ongoing Research

- **M. DeVivo & B. Kertson - 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 & L. Prugh (UW) – Mesocarnivore Study**
- **S. Bassing (UW) - Spatiotemporal Patterns of Predator-Prey Interactions**
- **T. Roussin (UW) – Methods for Long-term Monitoring of Wolves**
- **B. Sullender (UW) - Linking seasonal snow processes to wildlife population dynamics**
- **S. Gilbert (UI) – Wildlife and Humans in Shared Landscapes**
- **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**
- **L. Petracca (UW) - A semi-spatial integrated population model to assess the population dynamics of a recolonizing species**



Outreach

Blog Posts:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Aug 12, 2021 · 5 min read

What's in a wolf pack name? A lot of history

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) biologists confirmed the presence of four new wolf packs during the most recent population survey- the Vulcan Pack, the Onion Creek pack, the Navarre pack, and wolves also reestablished in the area formerly occupied by the Skookum pack that disbanded in 2017.



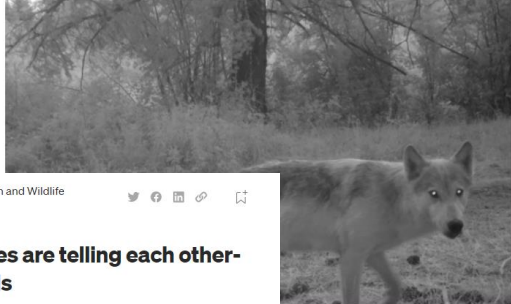
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jul 26, 2021 · 4 min read · Listen

Wolf howls: what wolves are telling each other- and you- through howls



The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jan 11 · 6 min read · Listen

On the move with Washington's wolves



Videos:


bioGraphic

SOLUTIONS | 03.25.2021

How to Count a Wolf

The first step in managing a rare and controversial predator—particularly in a state where it's been absent for decades—is knowing how many you have. That's easier said than done with a species as elusive as this one.

Video by Benjamin Drummond and Sara Joy Steele



THE Predator-Prey PROJECT



13:04

Washington Predator-Prey Project

Public Presentations:

- RMEF
- NCI
- Blue Mtns Land Trust

Publications:

<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?

