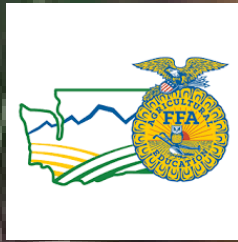


WDFW Commissioners
Friday, March 17, 2023

Reardan FFA Ag Issues
215 E. Spokane Ave.
Reardan, WA 99029
(509) 796-2701



Introduction

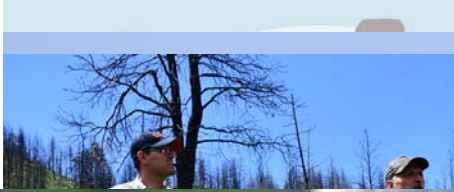


Six [REDACTED] Dead, Who's To Blame?

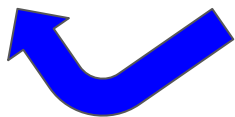
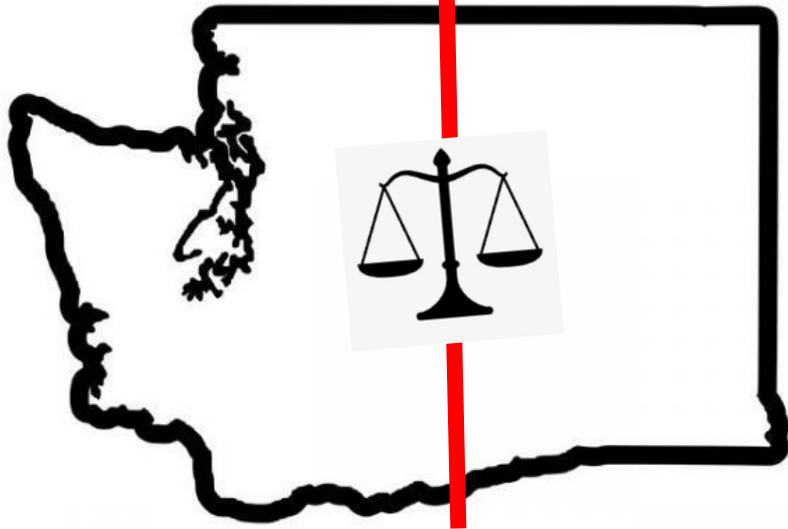
Introduction



Introduction



Introduction



Is Washington's Predator
Management

Right on **TARGET** or is it Missing
the...





“... to preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems, while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.”



Introduction



Stakeholders

Environmentalists

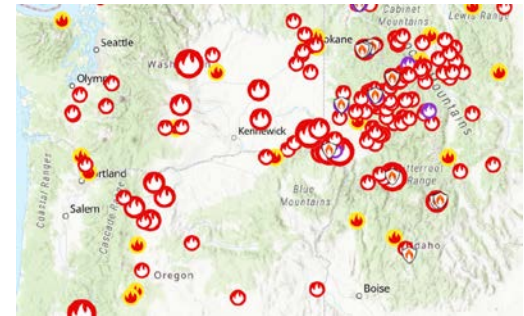
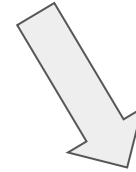
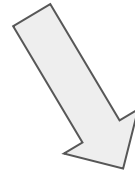
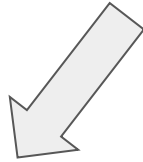
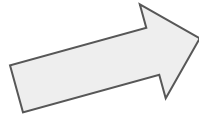
Conservationists

Hunters

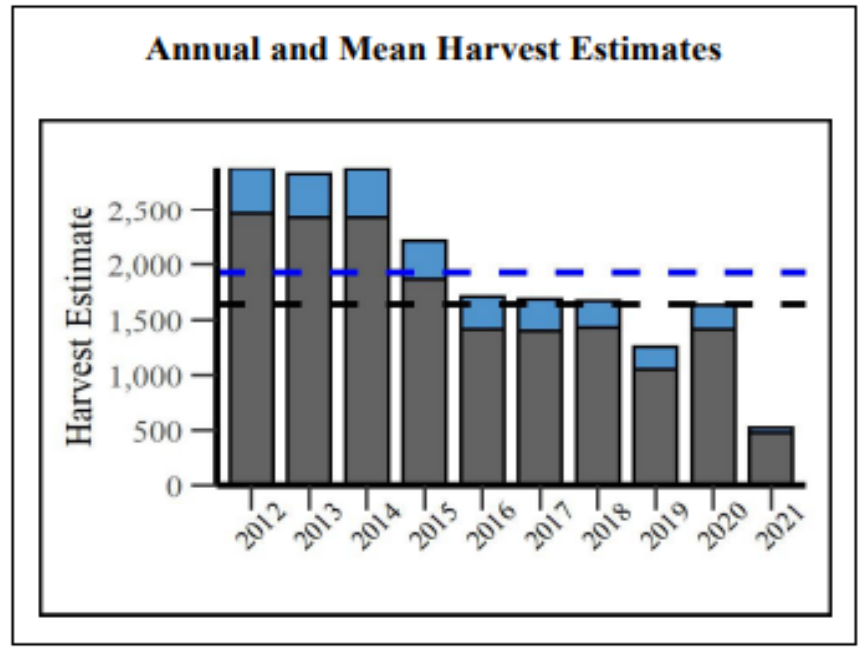
**Livestock
Producers**

**Carnivore
Advocates**

Conflict Between...

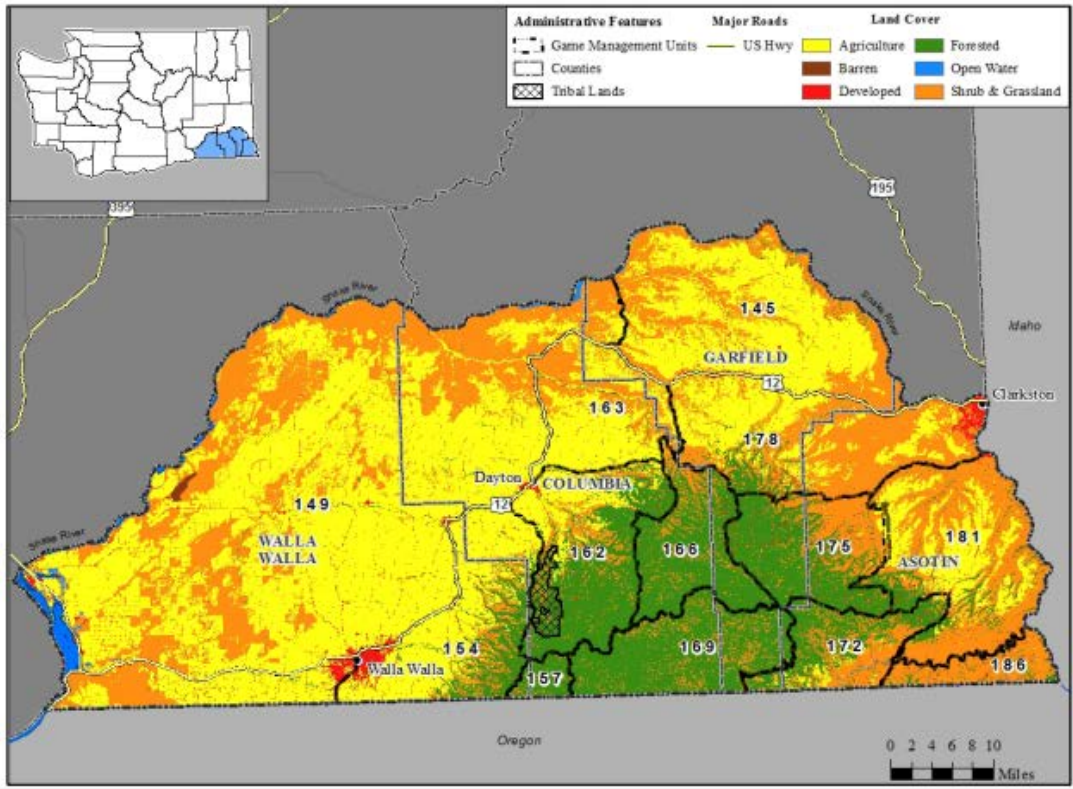


Opponent



Opponent

- 90% elk calf mortality rate
- 30 year low in total elk population



Proponent





Drought

Proponent



Wildfires



Ungulates



2007

- Over 25,000 hunters
- \$41 Million gross revenue

2021

- 17,000 hunters
- \$27 Million gross revenue

Money spent locally cycles through the area 8 times on average

The average hunter spends \$1600 per season



Opponent



Net economic loss over \$14 million in district 1





Opponent



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

College Basketball Preview Zags in the NBA WSU Football Gonzaga Basketball Gonzaga Women's Basketball

SPORTS

Passage Of Initiative 655 Leaves Hunters Up A Tree

Wed., Nov. 13, 1996

Washington's spring black bear hunt won't happen in 2022



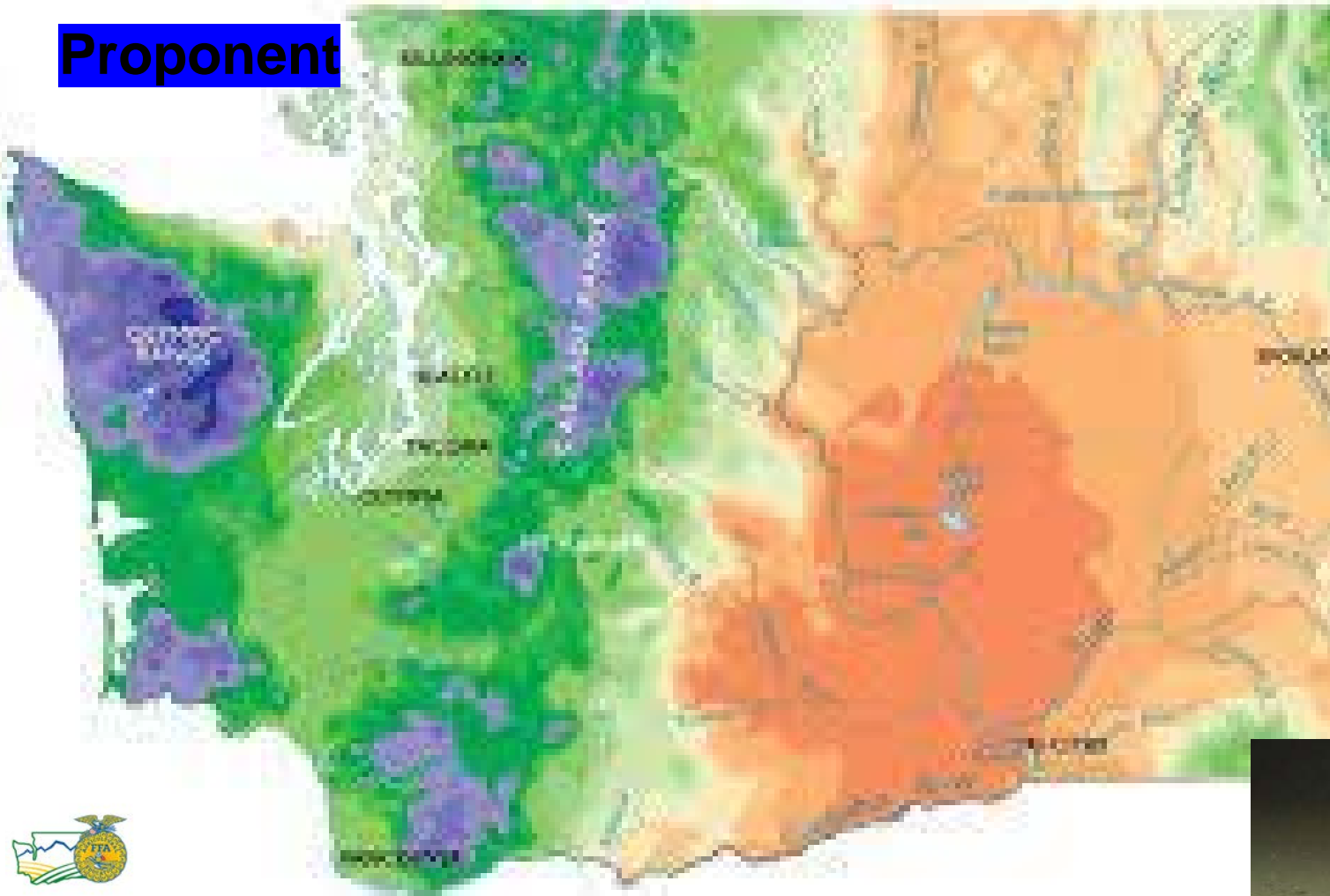
By Courtney Flatt (NW News Network)
March 21, 2022 4:22 p.m.

Hunters won't get a chance to hunt for black bears in Washington this spring. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission **voted 5-4** not to approve the 2022 spring black bear hunt.

The commission **had paused** the controversial spring black bear hunt after a split vote in November.



Proponent



Common Ground



Past 20 years
Salmon = Over 1 billion \$
All other = < 60 million \$

Common

Ground

Growing challenges, shrinking budget

Washington's fish and wildlife face many challenges. For decades, as human population has grown and natural lands have been converted to development, fish and wildlife have come under mounting pressure. Now, they face new challenges ranging from impending climate change to advancing invasive species.

At the same time, with the state facing the worst revenue shortfalls in 80 years, funding for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) operations has been slashed. In the 2009-11 state budget, state General Fund support to WDFW was cut by \$29.1 million—a reduction of more than 27 percent—and a further reduction of \$1.3 million (another 1.7 percent cut) has been proposed in the governor's 2010 supplemental budget.

Shrubsteppe Fire Preparedness, Response, and Restoration

During the 2021 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$2.35 million from the state general fund to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to restore and protect shrubsteppe habitat in Eastern Washington amid the threat of wildfires. These operating funds are to be appropriated each biennium (two-year period). An additional \$1.5 million of capital funds to rebuild wildlife-



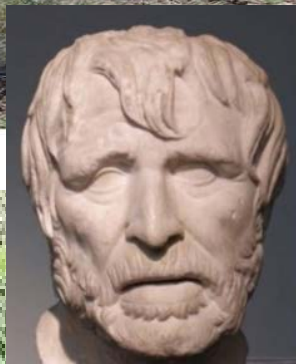
Common Ground



Grazed then Burned
15 years post-fire

Common Ground

Ungrazed then Burned
15 years post-fire



A bad neighbor is a misfortune, as
much as a good one is a great
blessing.

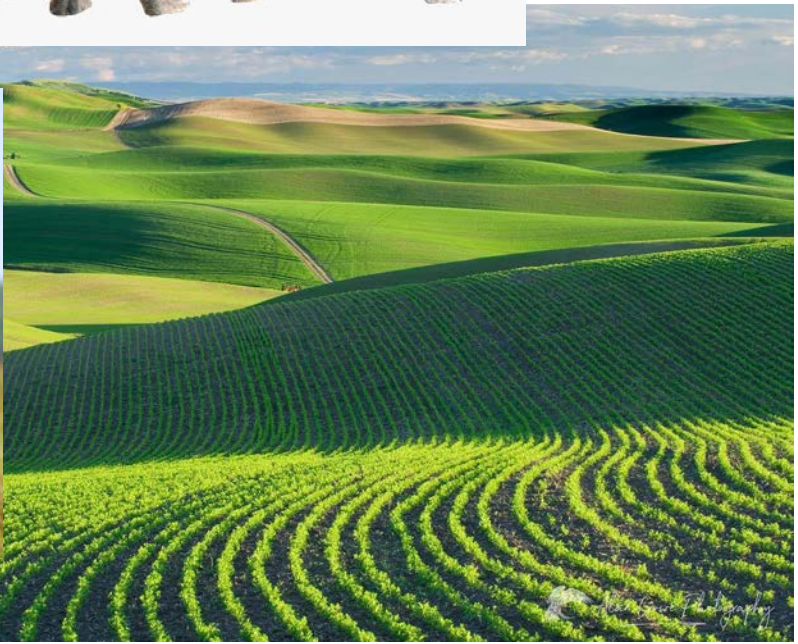
— Hesiod —





Common Ground





Proponent



Wolf Post-recovery Planning



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



**Conservation
Northwest**

WASHINGTON
CATTLEMEN'S



ASSOCIATION

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Post-recovery Wolf Conservation and Management Plan – **DRAFT** alternatives matrix

Proponent

Introduction

This document describes con...

The first matrix...

drafting, th...

alter...

m...

out...

The...

and cl...

For some...

recovery wolf...

cougar and black...

Development c... regions based o... metapopulator... suitability/per... GMU, or ecoty...
Draft of ideas within major topics that form the e...
would be found in a draft EIS; rather, these ideas a...
blended or swapped with alternatives from other...
with public inep... The spectrums of ideas...
agency considers o...
elements sh...
stakeh...
definitions for spec...
matrix rather than predetermined...
cougar and black bear conservation and management...
However, there are several elements and ideas in which wolf conserv...
controversial and require more conversation. The following are such elements:

- 1. Number of regions (pg. 59, 281)
- 2. Number and distribution of successful breeding pairs [or packs] (pg. 64, 71, 280)
- 3. New → Wolf conservation and monitoring (pg. 136)
- 4. New → Tribal/cultural aspects of wolf management

- 5. New → Cross-boundary/interagency/government-to-government coordination
- 6. New → Translocation of wolves from one area of Washington to another (pg. 69, 141, 282)
- 7. New → Hunting of wolves (pg. 70)
- 12. Proactive conflict depredation measures to reduce (pg. 89)





Is Washington's Predator Management
Right on **TARGET** or is it Missing
the...





Opponent Summary


- Ungulate populations
- Upset balance in ecosystems
- Top-Down or Bottom-up policy implementation



Proponent Summary

- More going on than meets the eye
- Sensational, polarizing, visceral
- Abiotic factors at play - wildfire, drought...





Opponent Summary

- Rural communities livelihoods in danger
- Depend on healthy populations of ungulates
- Income
- Culture
- Community



Proponent Summary

- **WDFW has a healthy vision**
- **Sensational, polarizing, visceral**
- **Abiotic factors at play - wildfire, drought...**



Is Washington's Predator
Management

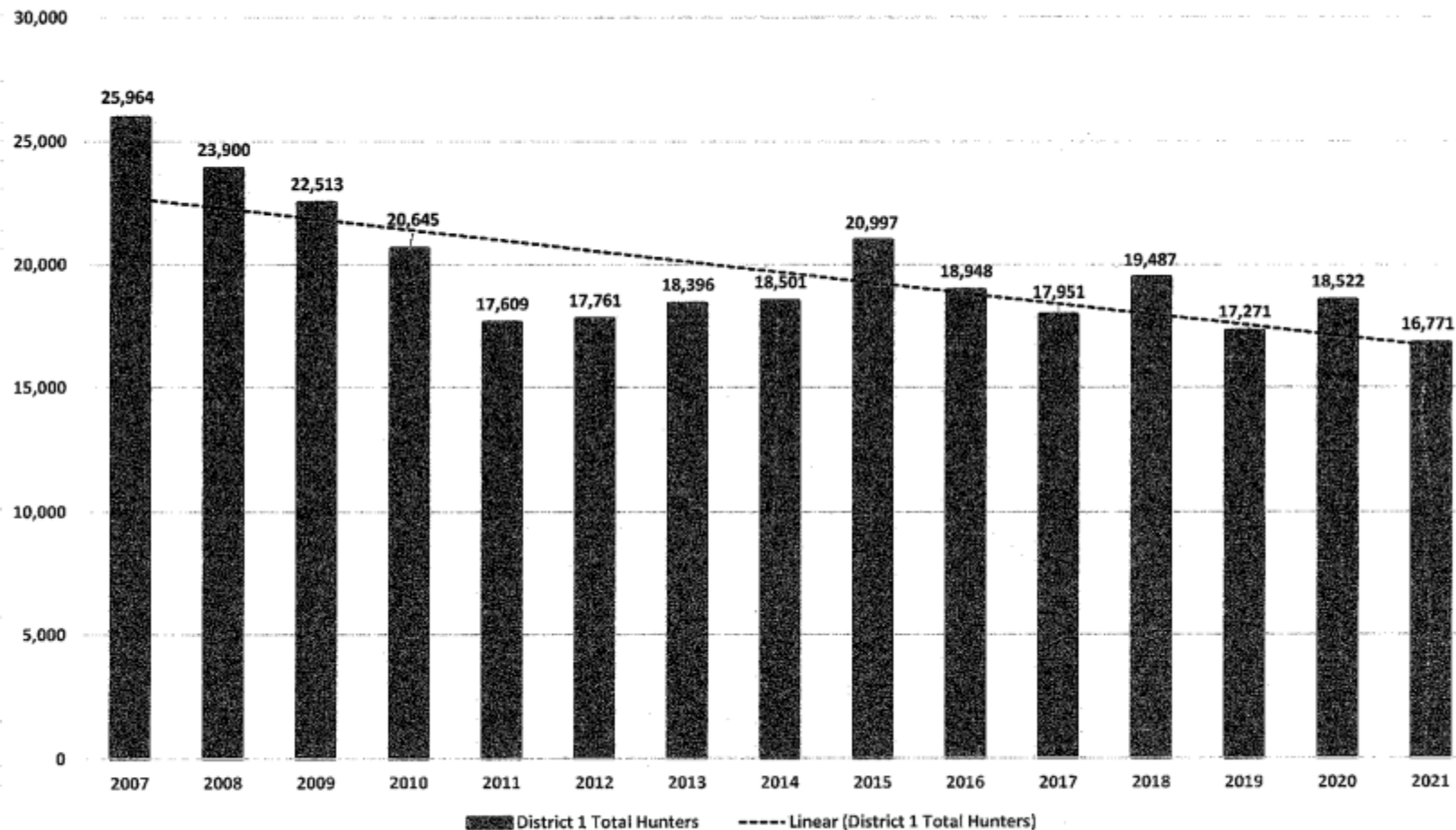
Right on **TARGET** or is it Missing
the...



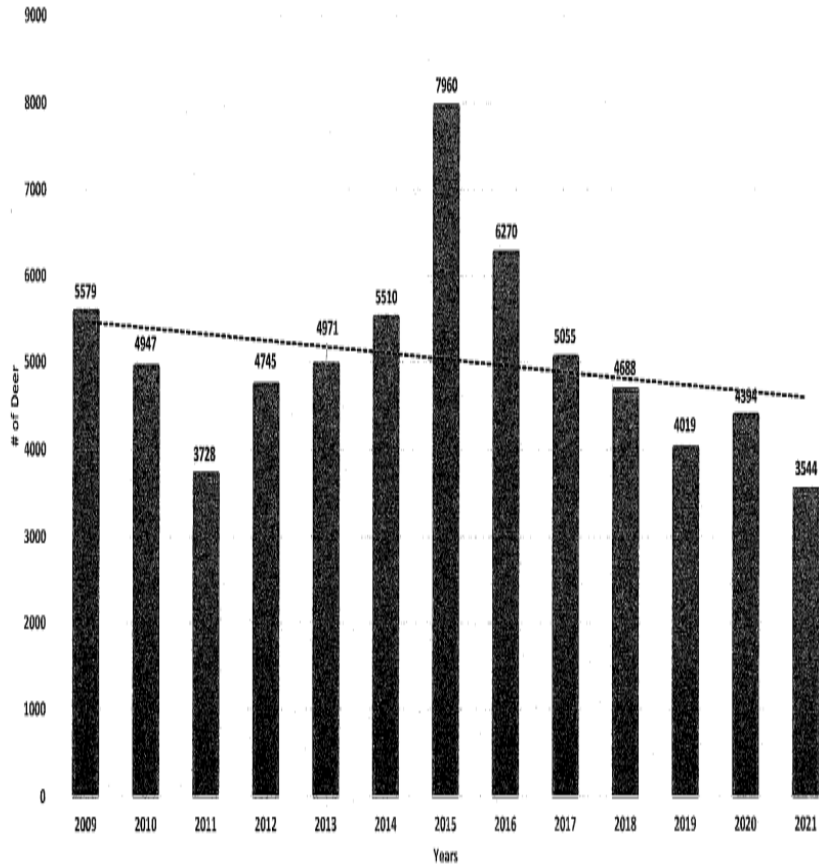
Thank You
Questions?



District 1 - Total Hunters

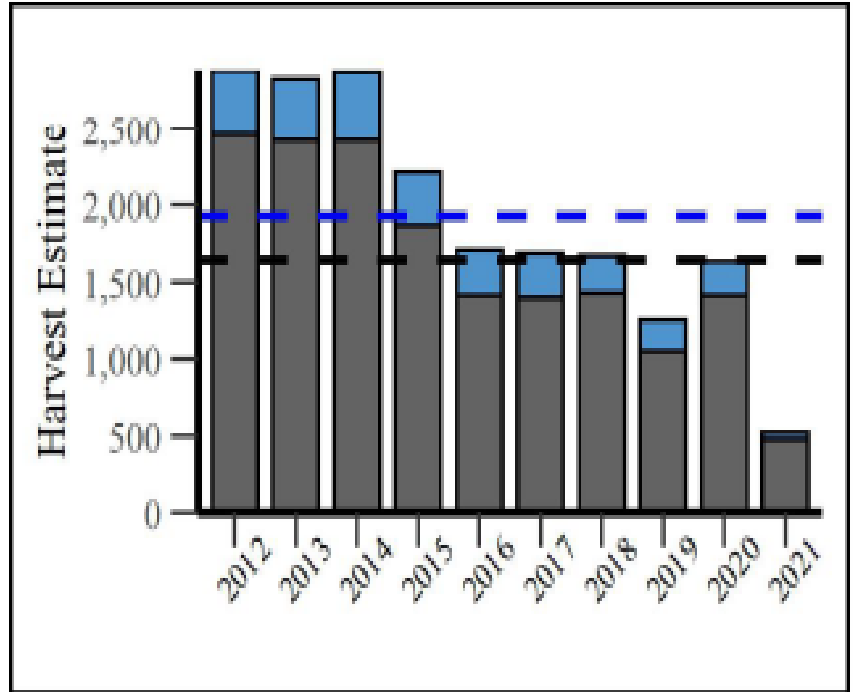


District 1 - Whitetail Harvest



District 1 Whitetail Harvest
 Linear (District 1 Whitetail Harvest)

Annual and Mean Harvest Estimates



District 7

	<u># HUNTERS</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
2007	25,694	\$41,112,000
2021	16,771	\$26,833,600
Revenue loss compared to 2007		(\$14,278,400)
Loss \$1.6 Million/1000 hunters		

Predators Impact

- 275 wolves @ 44 ungulates/year = 12,100 ungulates killed.
- 360 cougars @ 50 ungulates/year = 18,000 ungulates killed.
- **TOTAL** = 30,100 ungulates killed and 80% are deer.
- **TOTAL DEER** = 24,000 ungulates/year
- Plus: Bear
- Coyotes
- Winter
- Road
- Hunter Harvest 3600 2022
- **TOTAL 27,600 UNGULATES KILLED**

Deer Population

- 20,000 current whitetail population
- 60% antlerless
- 12,000 x 1 1/2 fawns/antlerless
- 18,000 fawns
- 20,000 population
- 38,000 total deer
- - 27,600 kills
- 10,100 Ending Population
- **Therefore:** 50% decrease in deer population in 2022

2. What is the best estimate of abundance for each population, and what kind of confidence limits do we have for each estimate?

We are currently in the process of estimating densities in different sites statewide based on research that showed densities to be variable. This research estimated density in 2 areas and was initiated in 2013. We have 1 scientific publication (Welfelt et al. 2019) and one internal document (WDFW 2021, Estimating the statewide black bear population in Washington: an internal cross-region approach) that can be referenced. The estimate using that research would be about 20,000 bears statewide. We do not have confidence intervals around that number since it is an extrapolation from multiple sites.

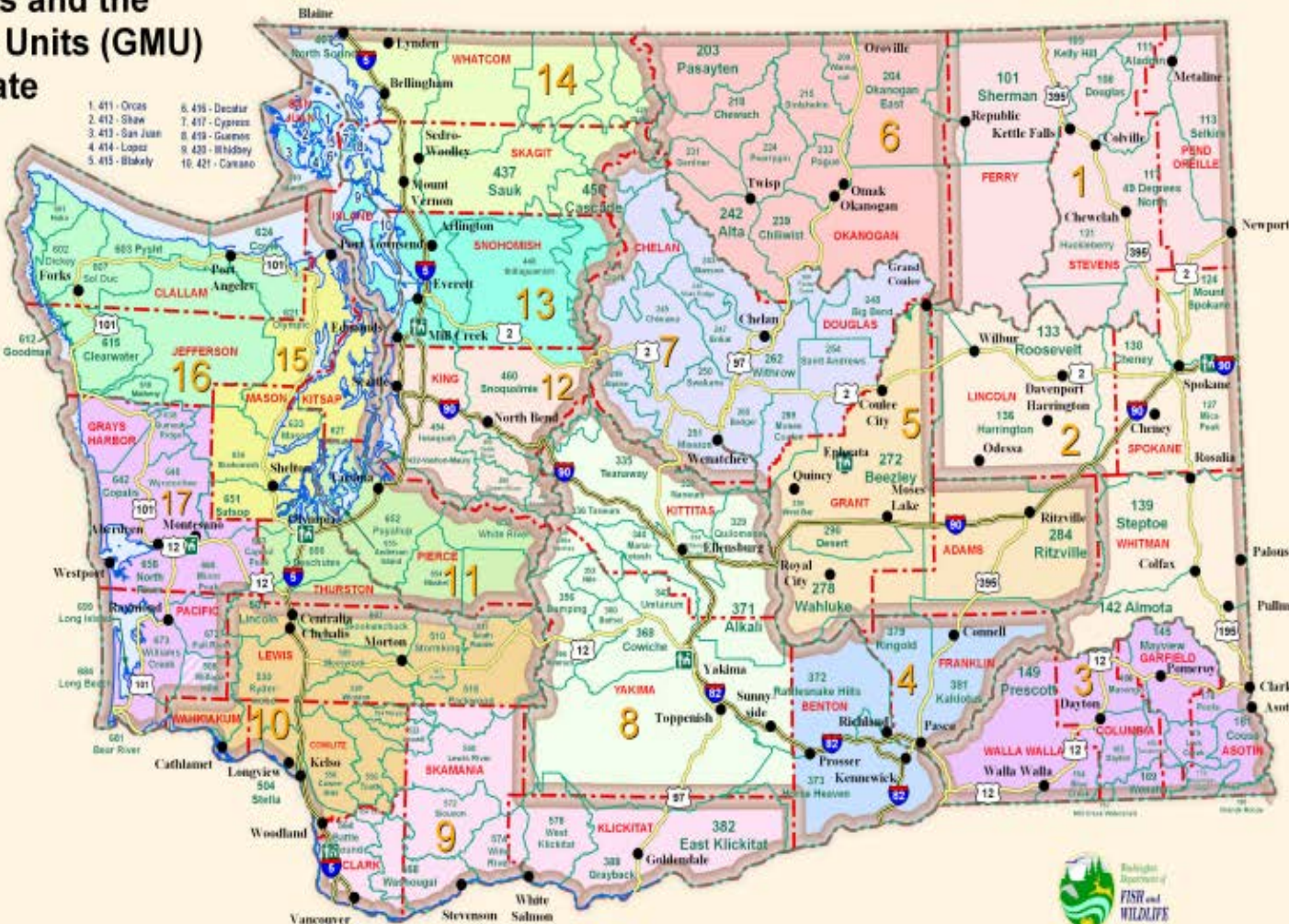
Welfelt, L. S., Beausoleil, R. A., & Wielgus, R. B. (2019). Factors associated with black bear density and implications for management. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 83(7), 1527-1539.

Wildlife Program Districts and the 2019-20 Game Management Units (GMU) in Washington State

WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
District Biologists

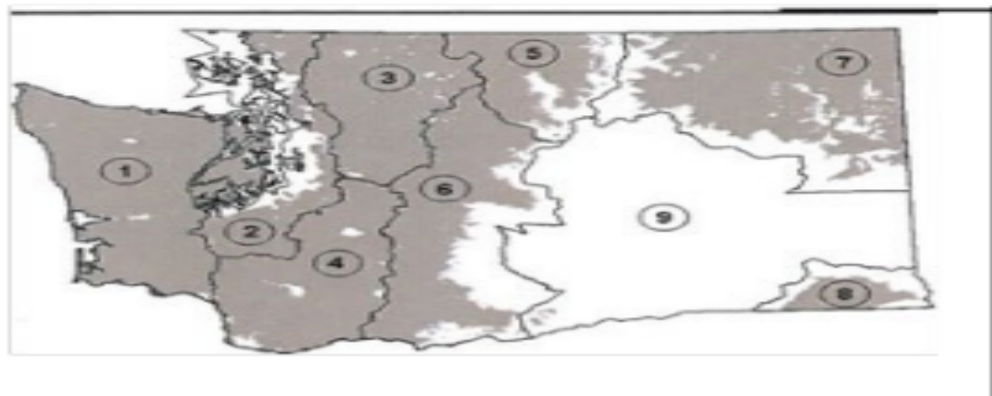
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 411 - Orcas | 6. 436 - Decatur |
| 2. 412 - Shaw | 7. 417 - Cypress |
| 3. 413 - San Juan | 8. 439 - Guernon |
| 4. 414 - Lopez | 9. 430 - Blibbery |
| 5. 415 - Blakely | 10. 421 - Camano |

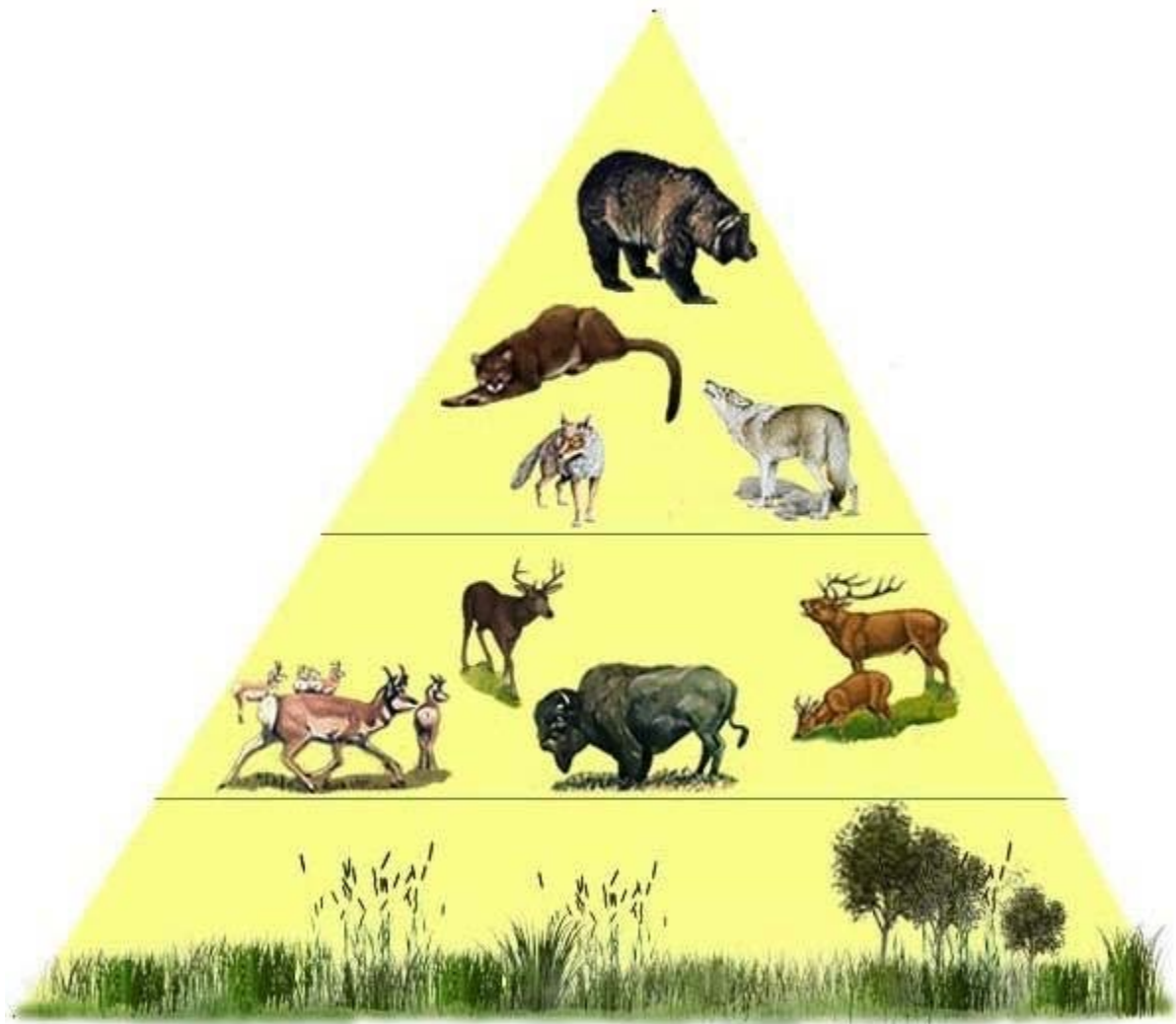
District 1	Region 1	District 10	Region 5
Annemarie Prince (509) 563-5493 teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov		Eric Holman (360) 696-6211 Ext. 6756 teamvancouver@dfw.wa.gov	
District 2	Region 1	Also Responsible for Game Related Issues in GMU 506 in Pacific County (See District 17)	
Michael Atamian (509) 892-1001 teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov		Not Responsible for Game Related Issues in GMU 667 in Lewis County (See District 11)	
District 3	Region 1	District 11	Region 6
Paul Wik (509) 758-3972 teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov		Michelle Tirhi (206) 406-9966 teammontesano@dfw.wa.gov	
District 4	Region 3	Also Responsible for Game Related Issues in GMU 667 in Lewis County (District 11)	
Jason Fidorra (509) 545-2201 toamyakima@dfw.wa.gov		District 12	Region 4
District 5	Region 2	Chris Anderson (425) 775-1311 Ext. 111 teammillcreek@dfw.wa.gov	
Sean Dougherty (509) 754-4624 Ext. 252 teamphrata@dfw.wa.gov		District 13	Region 4
District 6	Region 2	Ruth Milner (360) 466-4345 Ext. 265 teammillcreek@dfw.wa.gov	
Scott Fitkin (509) 996-4373 teamphrata@dfw.wa.gov		District 14	Region 4
District 7	Region 2	Robert Waddell (360) 466-4345 Ext. 280 teammillcreek@dfw.wa.gov	
Emily Jeffreys (509) 663-9764 teamphrata@dfw.wa.gov		District 15	Region 6
District 8	Region 3	Bryan Murphie (360) 280-2251 teammontesano@dfw.wa.gov	
Jeff Bernatowicz (Bernie) (509) 427-0000		District 16	Region 6



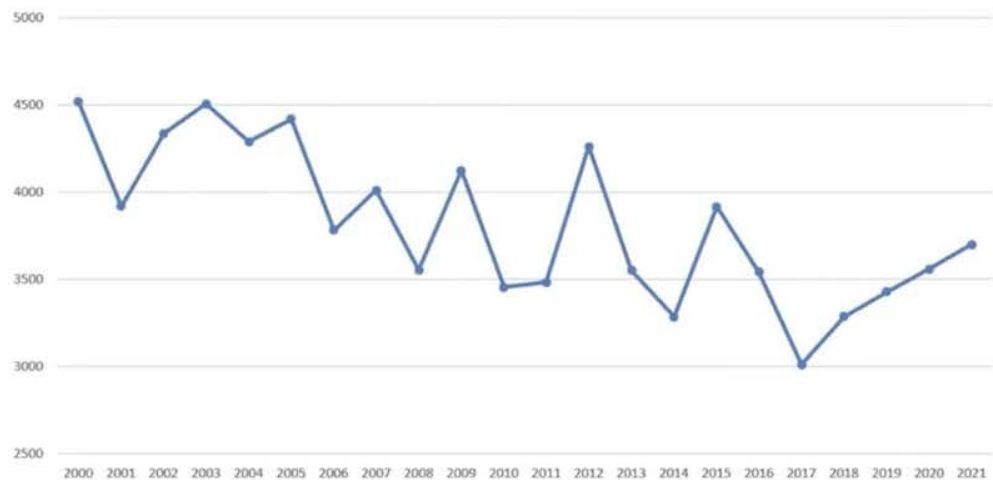
**Spring Bear Special Permit
Sum of all harvest 2011-2020**

Unit	#Harvested	#Male	#Female
BBMU1	108	73	35
BBMU2	3	0	3
BBMU3	91	58	33
BBMU4	59	35	24
BBMU5	0	0	0
BBMU6	0	0	0
BBMU7	517	348	169
BBMU8	241	164	77
BBMU9	0	0	0
Total	1019	678	341

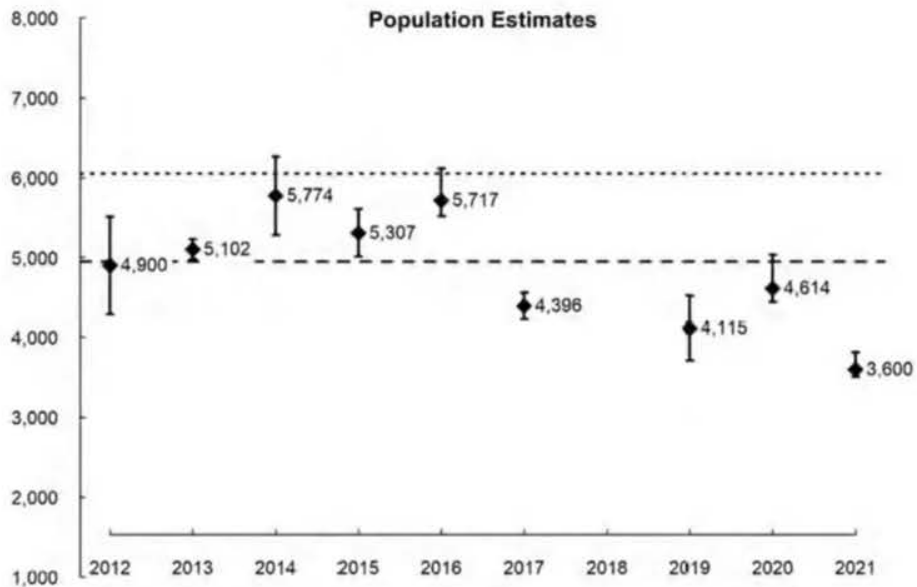




Statewide Bull Elk Harvest Trends



Blue Mountains Elk



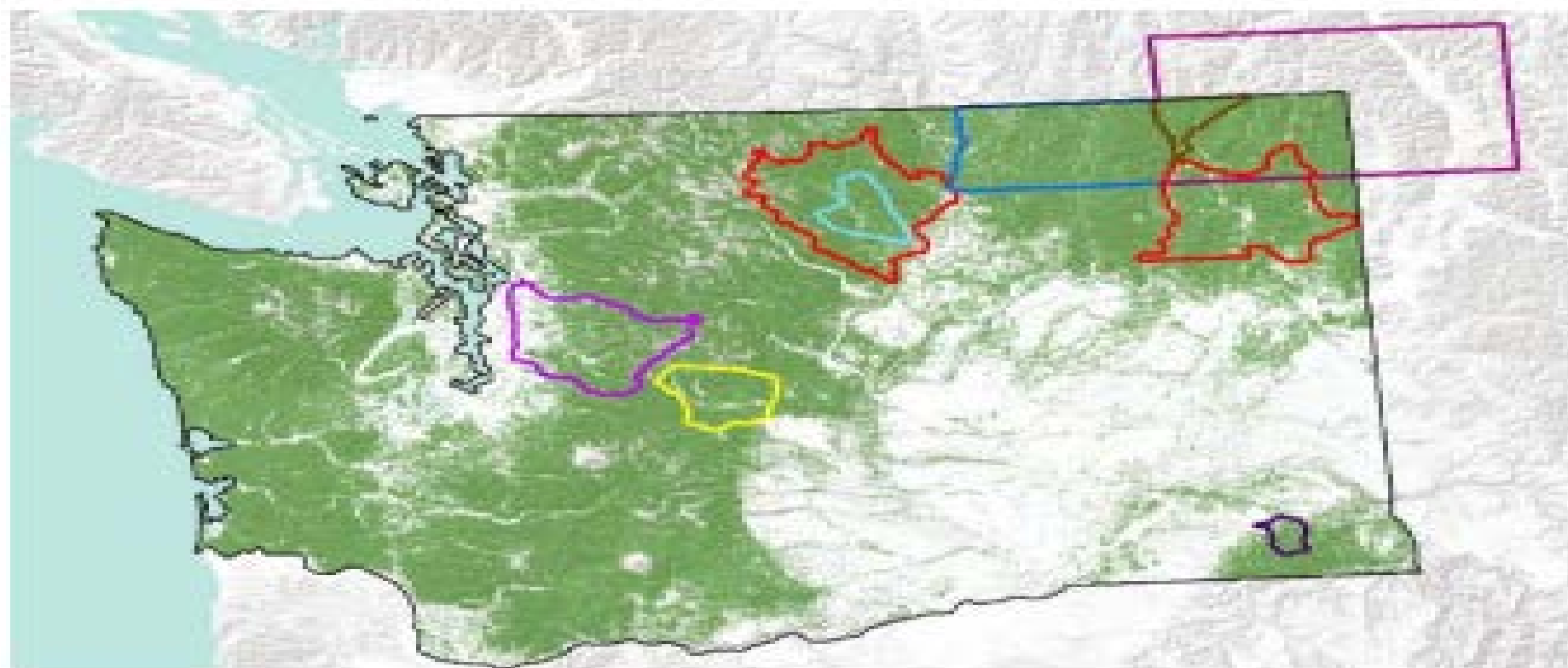


Figure 2. Cougar research areas in Washington, where 39 density estimates were derived, 1998-2021. Areas in red have not yet been completed. Green indicates cougar habitat.

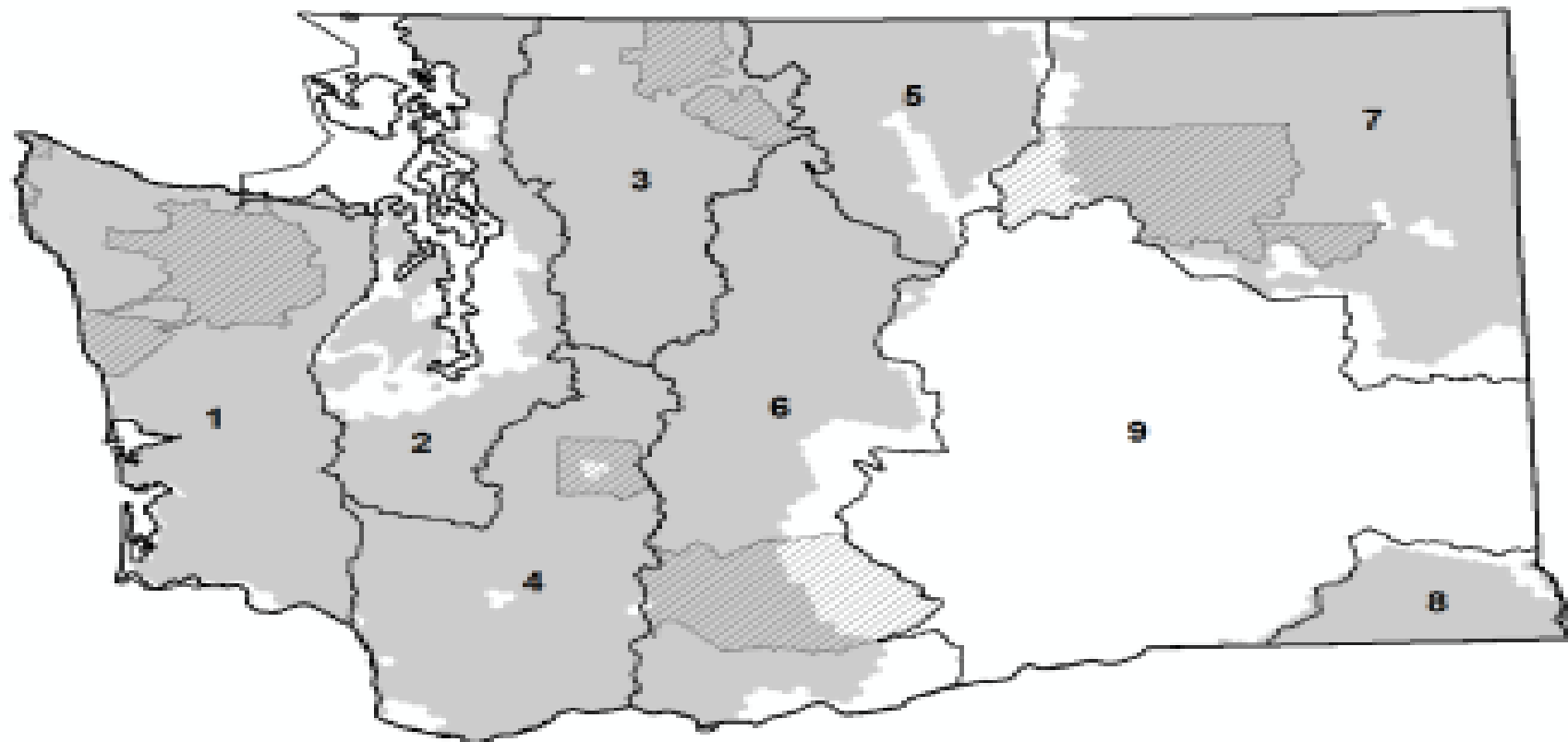


Figure 1. Black bear distribution (in gray) and 9 black bear management units in Washington, 2022. Hashed areas represent National Parks and Tribal land.

