

Washington's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

2012 Implementation
October 5, 2012

Dave Ware | Game Division Manager
Steve Pozzanghera | Regional Director
Donny Martorello PhD | Carnivore Manager



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

2012 Report Overview

- Overview of Washington's Wolf Plan
- 2012 Accomplishments
 - Population Monitoring
 - Conflict Management
 - Outreach Efforts
 - Coordination & Partnerships
 - Reporting
- Wedge Pack issues
- Next Steps



Wolf Plan Goals

- Restore self-sustaining wolf populations
- Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflicts
- Maintain Healthy Prey Base
- Develop Public Understanding and Promote Coexistence



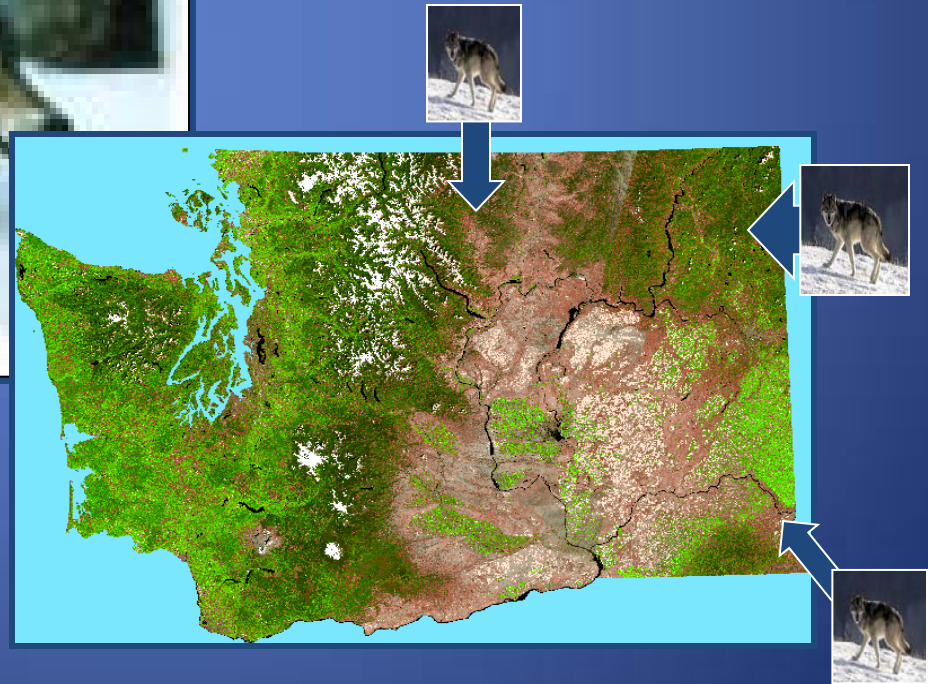
Wolf Plan Objectives

- Monitoring Wolf Populations
- Manage Wolf-Livestock Conflicts
- Outreach
- Coordination & Reporting



Wolves are returning to Washington

Recovery of populations in adjacent states & provinces producing dispersers into WA



First confirmed pack – Lookout -2008

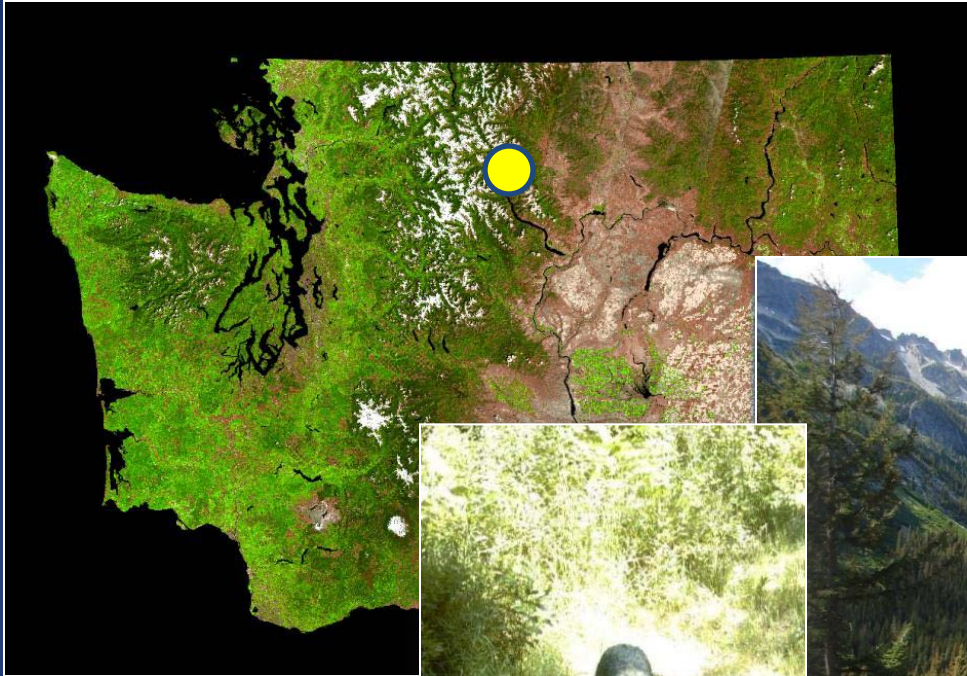
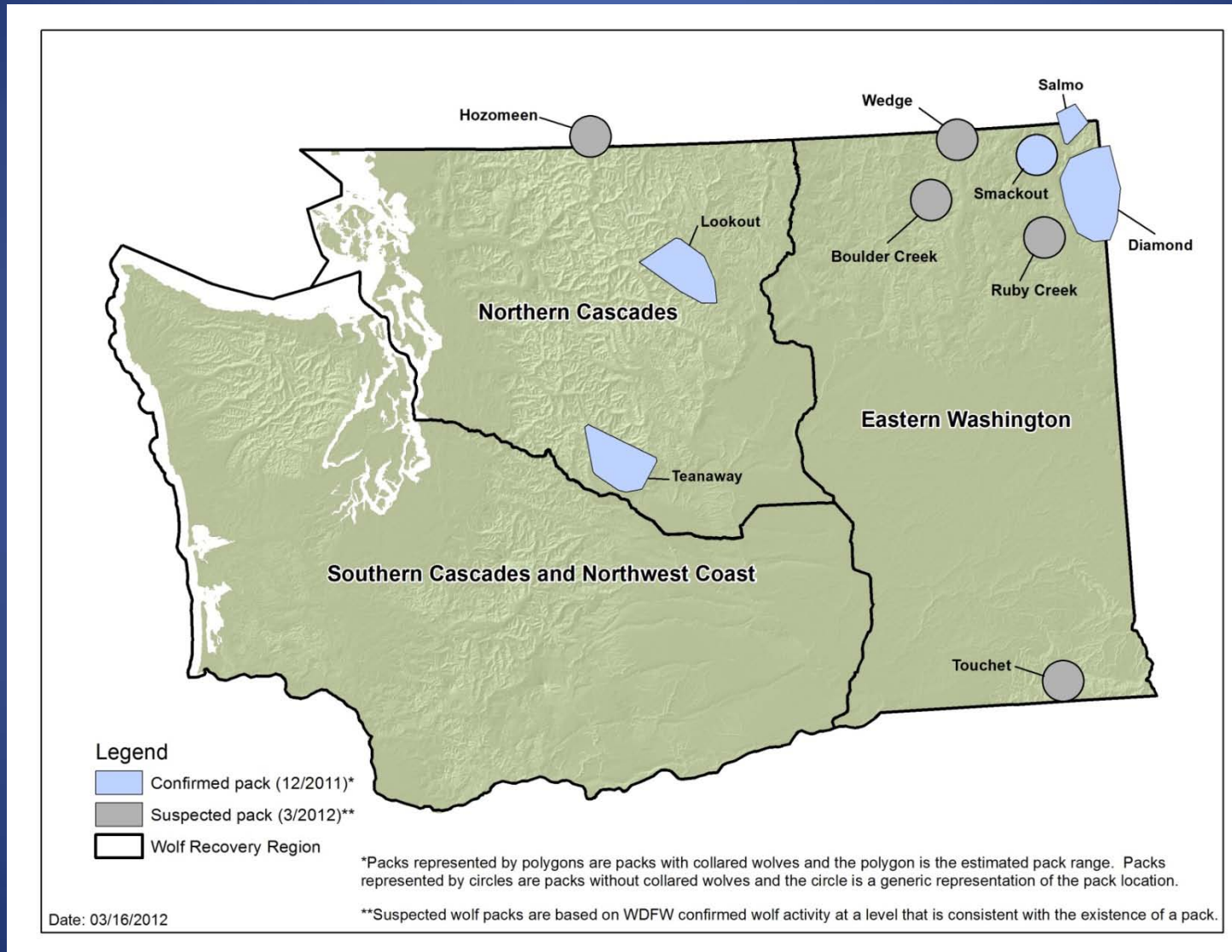


Photo Conservation NW



Photo Conservation NW

Washington Wolf Packs – Mar 2012



Legal Status



Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment (NRM DPS)

- Federal listed 1974
- State listed 1980
- WA was not included in federal plan for NRM DPS – federal delisted in Eastern 1/3 WA in 2011
- Western 2/3 WA status review pending

Legal Status



- Federal listed 1974
- State listed 1980
- WA was not included in federal plan for NRM DPS – federal delisted in Eastern 1/3 WA in 2011
- Western 2/3 WA status review pending

Plan Development Process

- Initiated in 2007
- 17 citizen member Wolf Working Group
- Environmental Impact Statement
- 23 public meetings
- 65,000 comments
- Scientific peer review
- Blind peer review
- F&W Commission adopted in December 2011

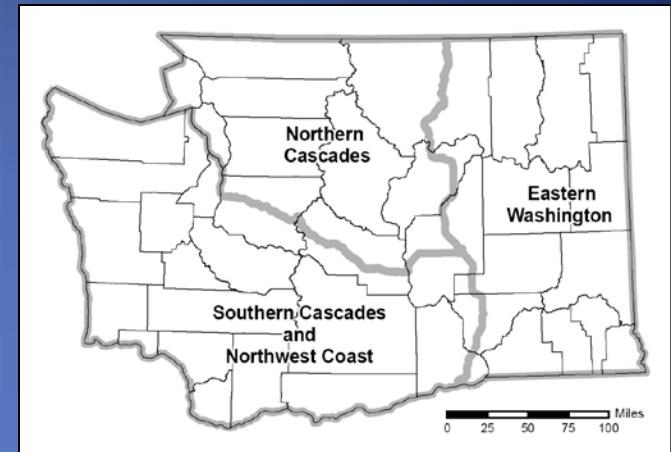
Overview of Plan

- Serves as the state recovery plan (WAC 232-12-297)
- Needs to have scientifically credible standards for a recovered wolf population: numbers, distribution, persistence
- Addresses conflicts - key to recovering and managing wolves – can increase social tolerance
- Plan uses best available science; where uncertainty exists, errs on side of recovery



Recovery Objectives

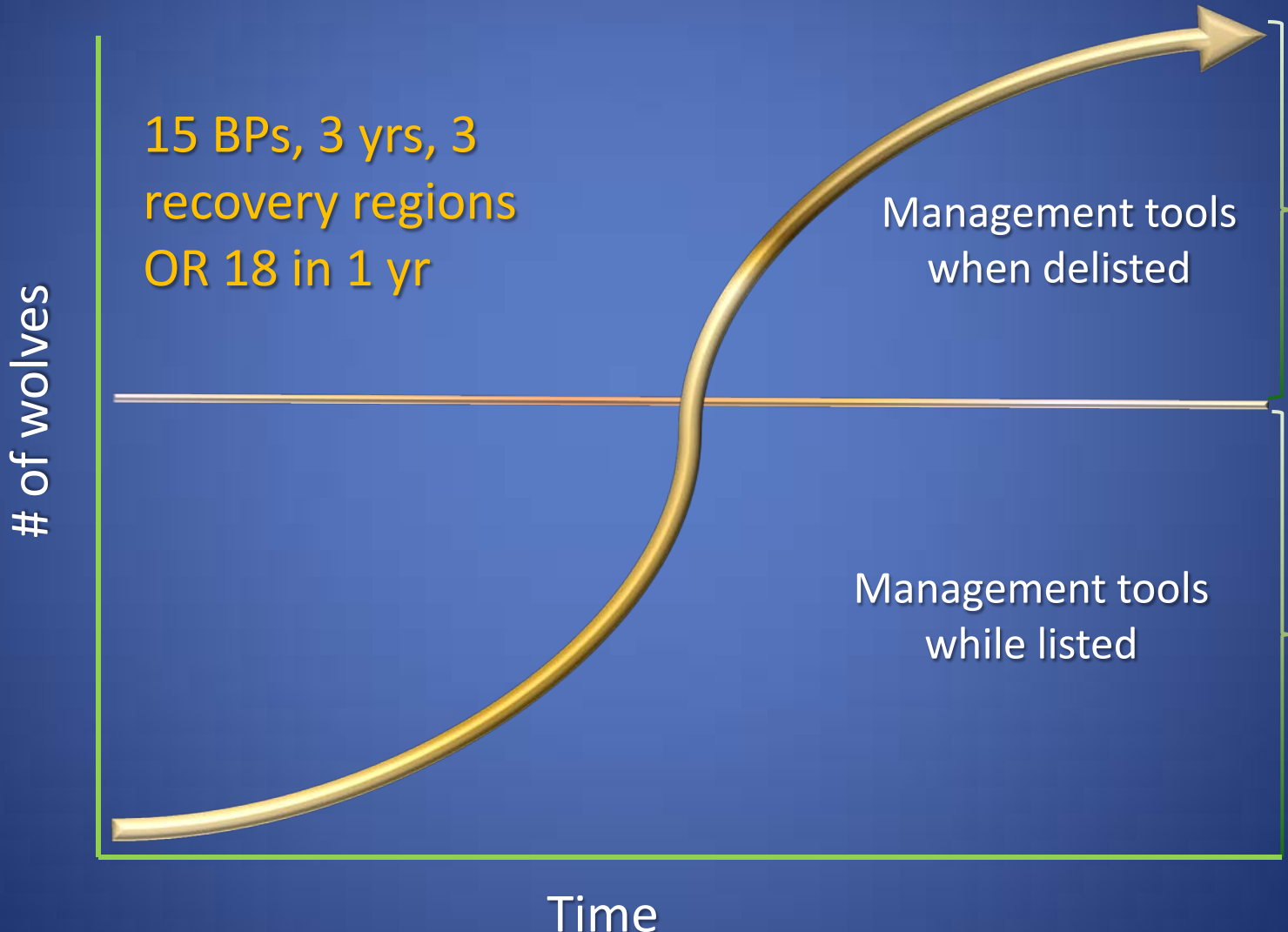
Plan Element	Objective
# Recovery regions	3
# Successful Breeding pairs	15
Threatened (6)	2 E WA 2 N Cascades 2 S Cascades/NW Coast
Sensitive (12)	4 E WA 4 N Cascades 4 S Cascades/NW Coast
Delisted (15)	4 E WA 4 N Cascades 4 S Cascades/NW Coast 3 Anywhere in the state For 3 years OR: 18 (4/4/4/6) in 1 year



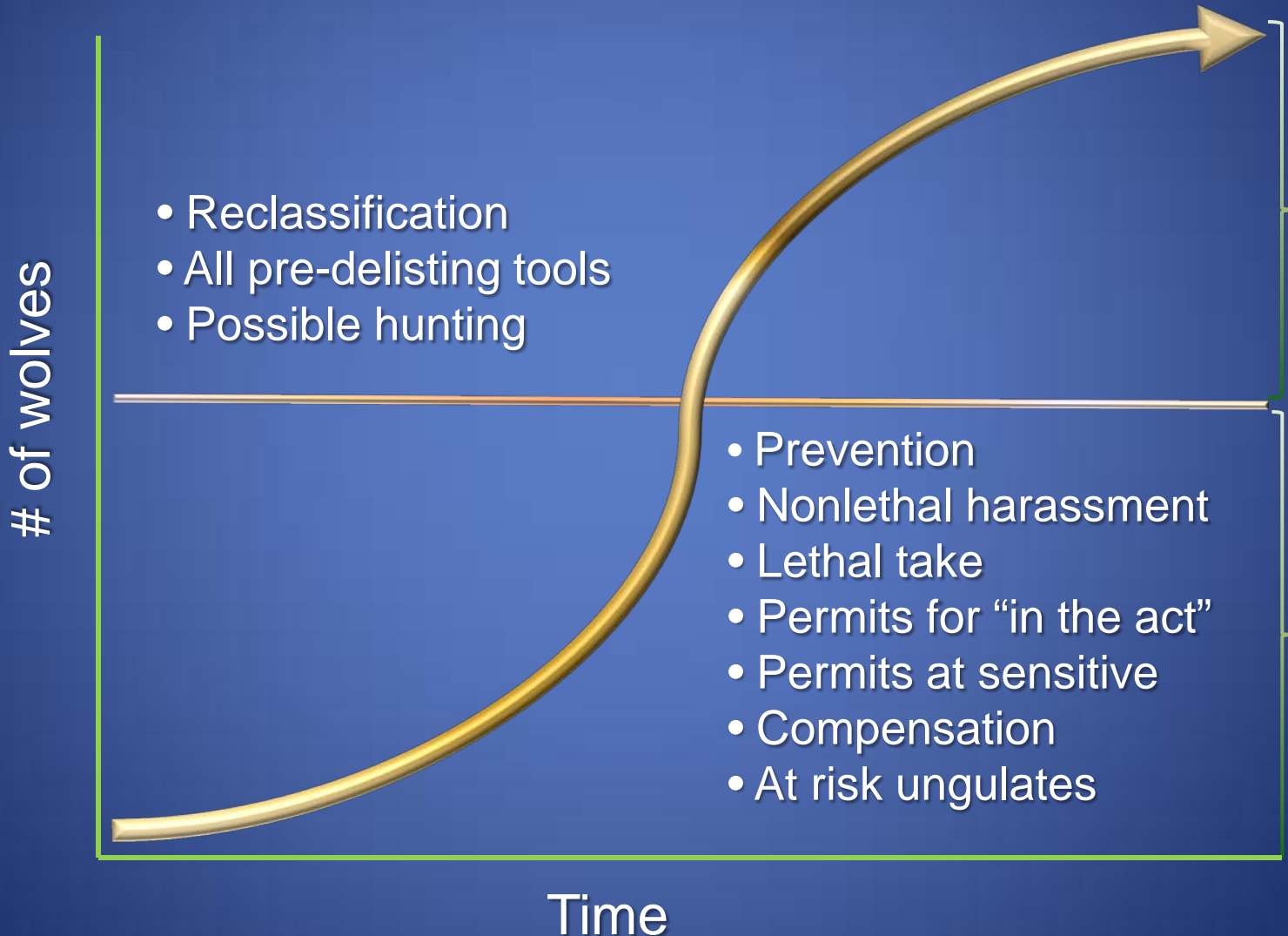
Confusion about “Management”

- Common misperception that wolves will not be “managed” until after delisting
- Plan addresses management during all listing stages
- Tools differ, flexibility increases as population grows and recovers
- Consistent with federal law, where federally listed
- Once wolves are delisted, need to continue appropriate management that will not cause re-listing

Management tools during listing stages and when de-listed

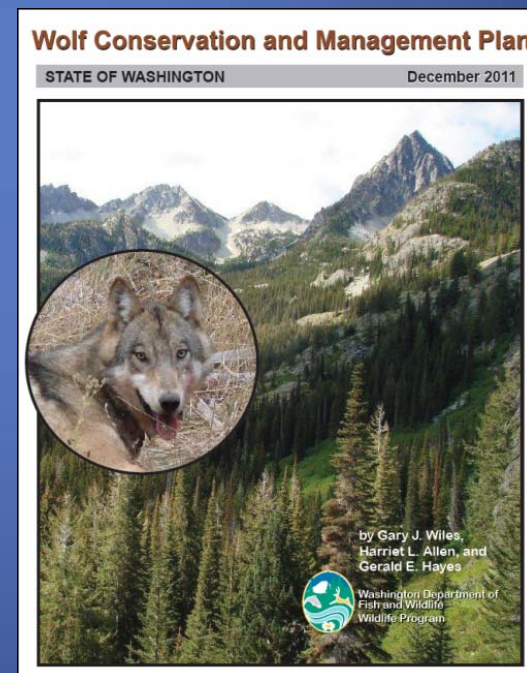


Management tools during listing phases and when de-listed



Persistence Modeling

- Recovery Objectives—were they adequate?
- Management scenarios—will it affect recovery?
 - Removal of 30% of packs within the E WA recovery region did not significantly hinder recovery within the 50 years modeled.



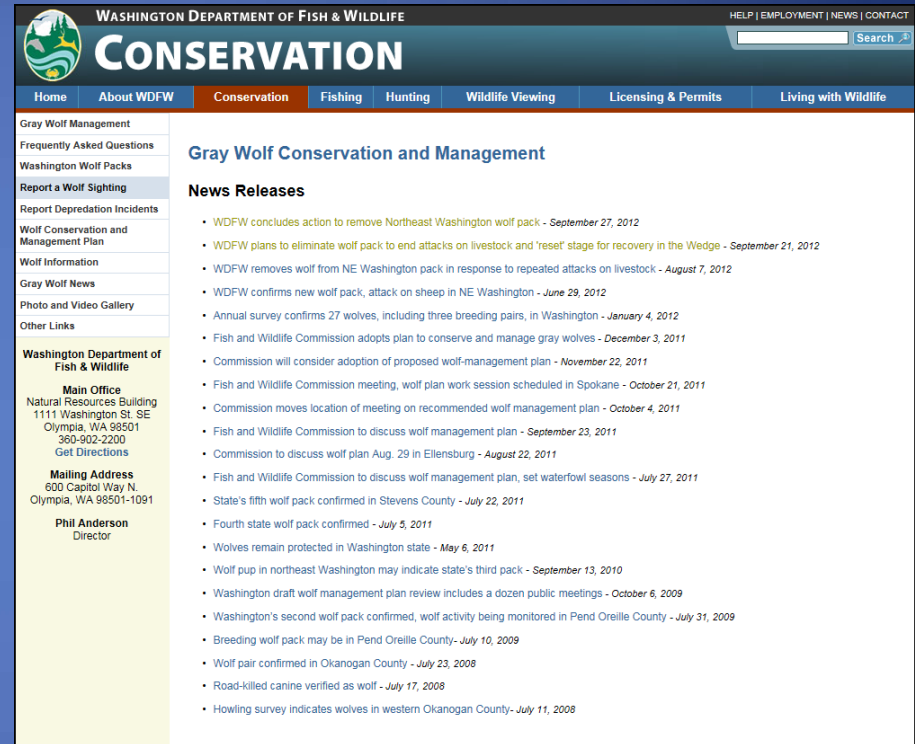
Strategies to Reduce and Address Livestock Conflicts

- Proactive measures
- Non-lethal
- Lethal control
- Compensation



Outreach

- Website Updates and Information
- News Releases
- Social Media
- Radio/TV Interviews
- Printed Materials



The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation website. The header includes the department name, a search bar, and navigation links for Home, About WDFW, Conservation, Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, Licensing & Permits, and Living with Wildlife. The main content area is titled "Gray Wolf Conservation and Management" and features a "News Releases" section with a list of updates. A sidebar on the left provides contact information for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, including the main office address in Olympia, WA, and the name of the Director, Phil Anderson.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
HELP | EMPLOYMENT | NEWS | CONTACT

CONSERVATION

Home About WDFW Conservation Fishing Hunting Wildlife Viewing Licensing & Permits Living with Wildlife

Gray Wolf Management
Frequently Asked Questions
Washington Wolf Packs
Report a Wolf Sighting
Report Depredation Incidents
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Wolf Information
Gray Wolf News
Photo and Video Gallery
Other Links

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

News Releases

- WDFW concludes action to remove Northeast Washington wolf pack - September 27, 2012
- WDFW plans to eliminate wolf pack to end attacks on livestock and 'reset' stage for recovery in the Wedge - September 21, 2012
- WDFW removes wolf from NE Washington pack in response to repeated attacks on livestock - August 7, 2012
- WDFW confirms new wolf pack, attack on sheep in NE Washington - June 29, 2012
- Annual survey confirms 27 wolves, including three breeding pairs, in Washington - January 4, 2012
- Fish and Wildlife Commission adopts plan to conserve and manage gray wolves - December 3, 2011
- Commission will consider adoption of proposed wolf-management plan - November 22, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, wolf plan work session scheduled in Spokane - October 21, 2011
- Commission moves location of meeting on recommended wolf management plan - October 4, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission to discuss wolf management plan - September 23, 2011
- Commission to discuss wolf plan Aug. 29 in Ellensburg - August 22, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission to discuss wolf management plan, set waterfowl seasons - July 27, 2011
- State's fifth wolf pack confirmed in Stevens County - July 22, 2011
- Fourth state wolf pack confirmed - July 9, 2011
- Wolves remain protected in Washington state - May 6, 2011
- Wolf pup in northeast Washington may indicate state's third pack - September 13, 2010
- Washington draft wolf management plan review includes a dozen public meetings - October 6, 2009
- Washington's second wolf pack confirmed, wolf activity being monitored in Pend Oreille County - July 31, 2009
- Breeding wolf pack may be in Pend Oreille County - July 10, 2009
- Wolf pair confirmed in Okanogan County - July 23, 2008
- Road-killed canine verified as wolf - July 17, 2008
- Howling survey indicates wolves in western Okanogan County - July 11, 2008

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Main Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
Get Directions

Mailing Address
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phil Anderson
Director

Coordination, Partnerships, Reporting

- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Tribes
- NGOs
- Organized Stakeholders
- Fish & Wildlife Commission



2012 Report Overview

- Overview of Washington's Wolf Plan
- **2012 Accomplishments**
 - Population Monitoring
 - Conflict Management
 - Outreach Efforts
 - Coordination & Partnerships
 - Reporting
- Wedge Pack issues
- Next Steps



Funding

- 2012 Expenditures for the western states:
 - Idaho - \$760,000 from Federal sources
 - Montana - \$527,000 from Federal sources
 - Wyoming - \$340,000 from Federal sources
 - Wildlife Services - \$825,000 in these three states last year
- Funding needs for Washington were estimated during Plan development at \$400,000 per year

Funding

- Existing funding from Personalized License Plate funds and Federal sources of about \$215,000
- Received Legislative (2012) authority to use additional License Plate funds - \$350,000
- Received additional Federal funding (2012) - \$150,000
- Total = \$715,000

2012 Legislation

- Legislative Proposal
 - Classify wolves as big game which results in a \$4000 added penalty for illegally killing a wolf;
 - Changes the wildlife conflict statutes to make them more consistent with the Wolf Plan;
 - Create a dedicated fund for mitigating conflicts caused by large carnivores;
 - Appropriated funds for compensation;
 - And made it illegal to feed large carnivores

Wolf Monitoring



Definitions



- Pack: *2 or more wolves traveling together*
- Successful Breeding Pair: *male and female raising 2 or more pups until Dec 31*

Social Structure

- Live in packs
- Hunt, feed, travel, and rest together
- Typical pack size is 5-10; up to 37
- Breeding pair, pups, offspring from previous years, immigrants from other packs



Habitat Use



- Highly adaptable; use variety of habitats
- Territorial; 50-1,000 sq mi
- Varies with prey availability
- Great dispersal capability - may travel up to 600 mi

Coursing Predator

- Chase, rather than ambush
- Typically take more vulnerable, less fit prey
- Least amount of energy; lower risk of injury or death



Increasing reports since 2005-2007



- Sightings, tracks, photographs
- North Cascades, NE WA and SE WA



Dedicated Staff



New Staff and Workplans

- Two wolf biologists
- Two technicians
- Contracted services
- Wildlife Services contract (non-lethal only)
- District biological staff
- Enforcement officers

Online Reporting

Data sharing with County Government



WDFW Wolf Observation Reporting Form

Observer Contact Information
** Indicates required fields*
 Mr. Ms. Mrs.
* First Name: * Last Name:
Affiliation:
Mailing Address:
City: State: Zip:
* Phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx
* E-mail Address:
Are you the Observer or the Reporter?
 Observer Reporter
Were Other Observers Present? No Yes
If yes, please provide names and contact information for each observer. Text is limited to 250 characters.

How to recognize a gray wolf

GRAY WOLF Color: light gray to black Dimensions: 2.5 feet tall, 5-6 feet long Broad snout Round ears	 80-120 pounds Paw size: 4" x 5"	COYOTE Color: light gray/brown Dimensions: 1.5 feet tall, 4 feet long Tall pointed ears Narrow snout 20-50 pounds Paw size: 2" x 2.5"	  
---	---	--	---

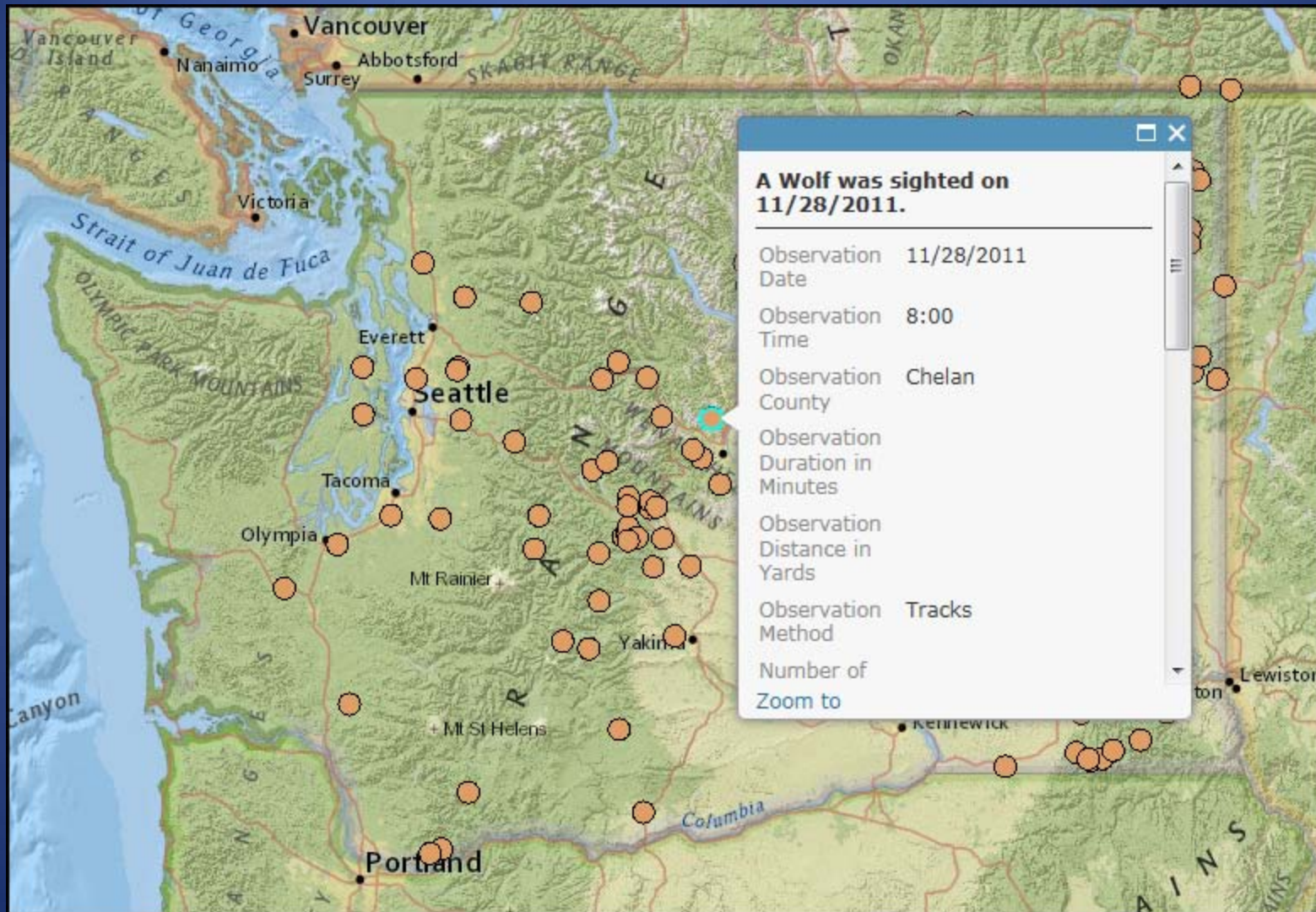
Wolves are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act.
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service The Salt Lake Tribune

Dial 911 to report an emergency
Carnivore Depredation
on Livestock
1-877-933-9847

Observation Details
** Indicates required fields*

Online Reporting

Coming soon...Viewable by Public



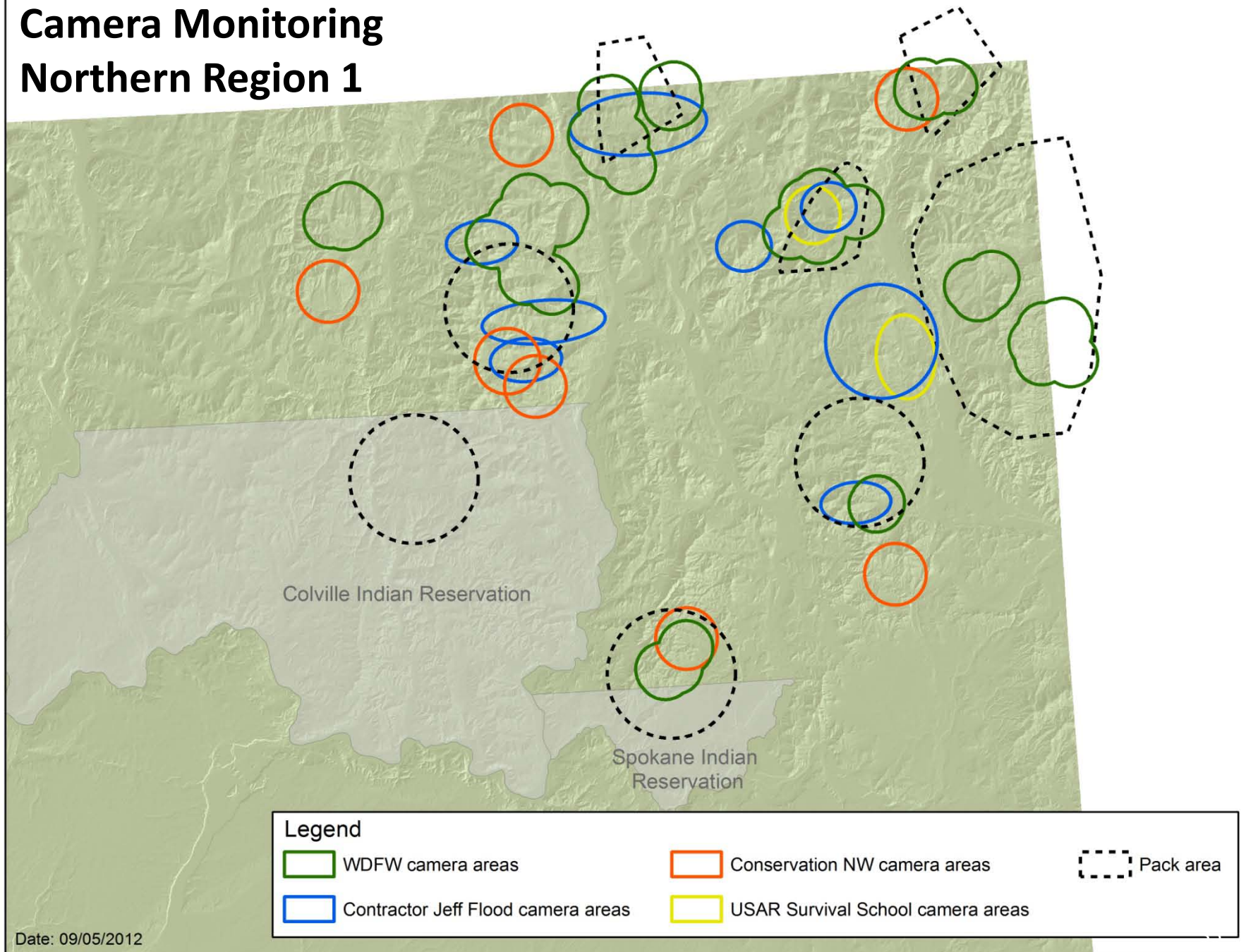
Follow-up surveys



Lookout pack pair

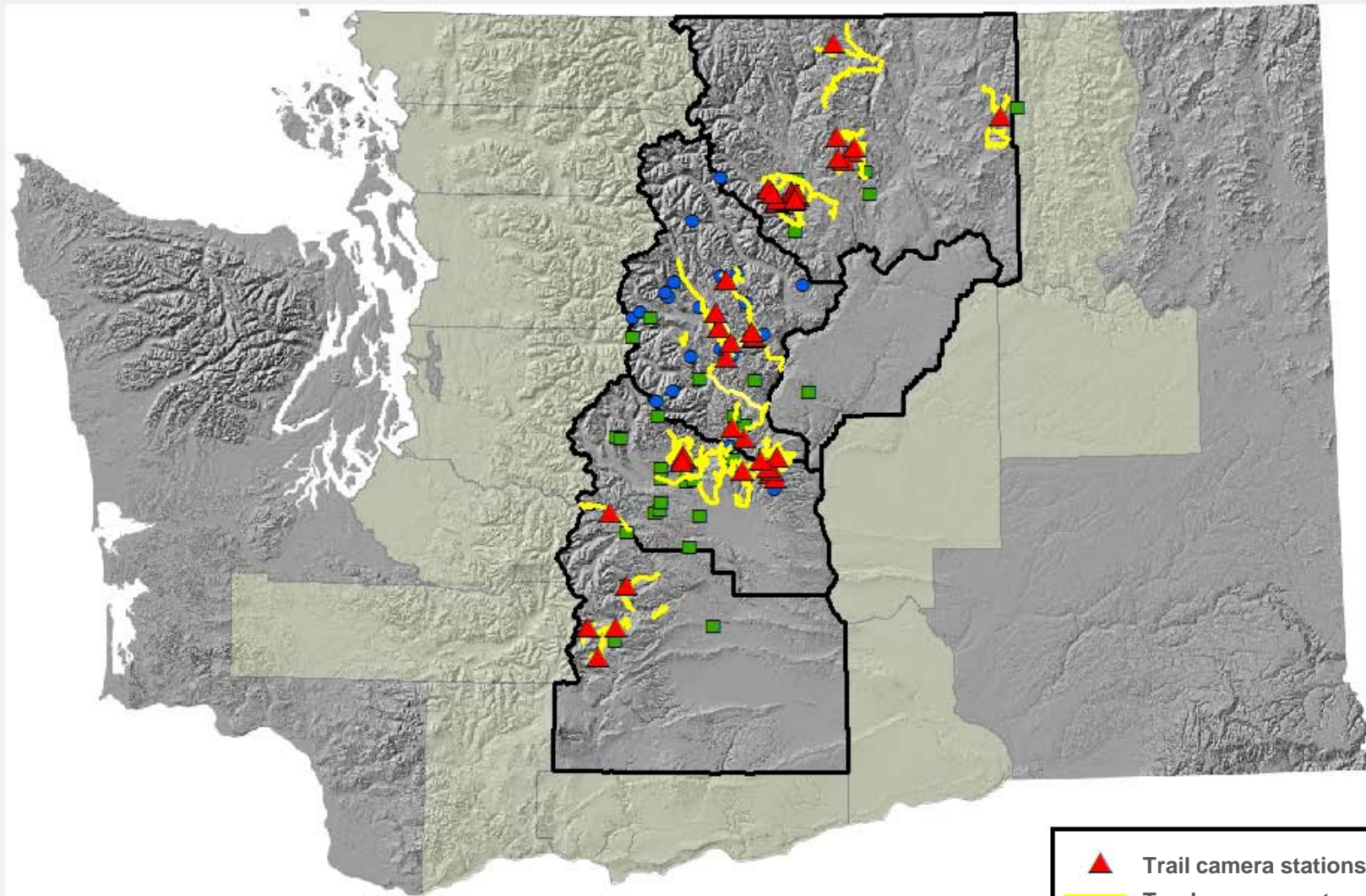


Camera Monitoring Northern Region 1



Date: 09/05/2012

Camera Monitoring – Regions 2 & 3

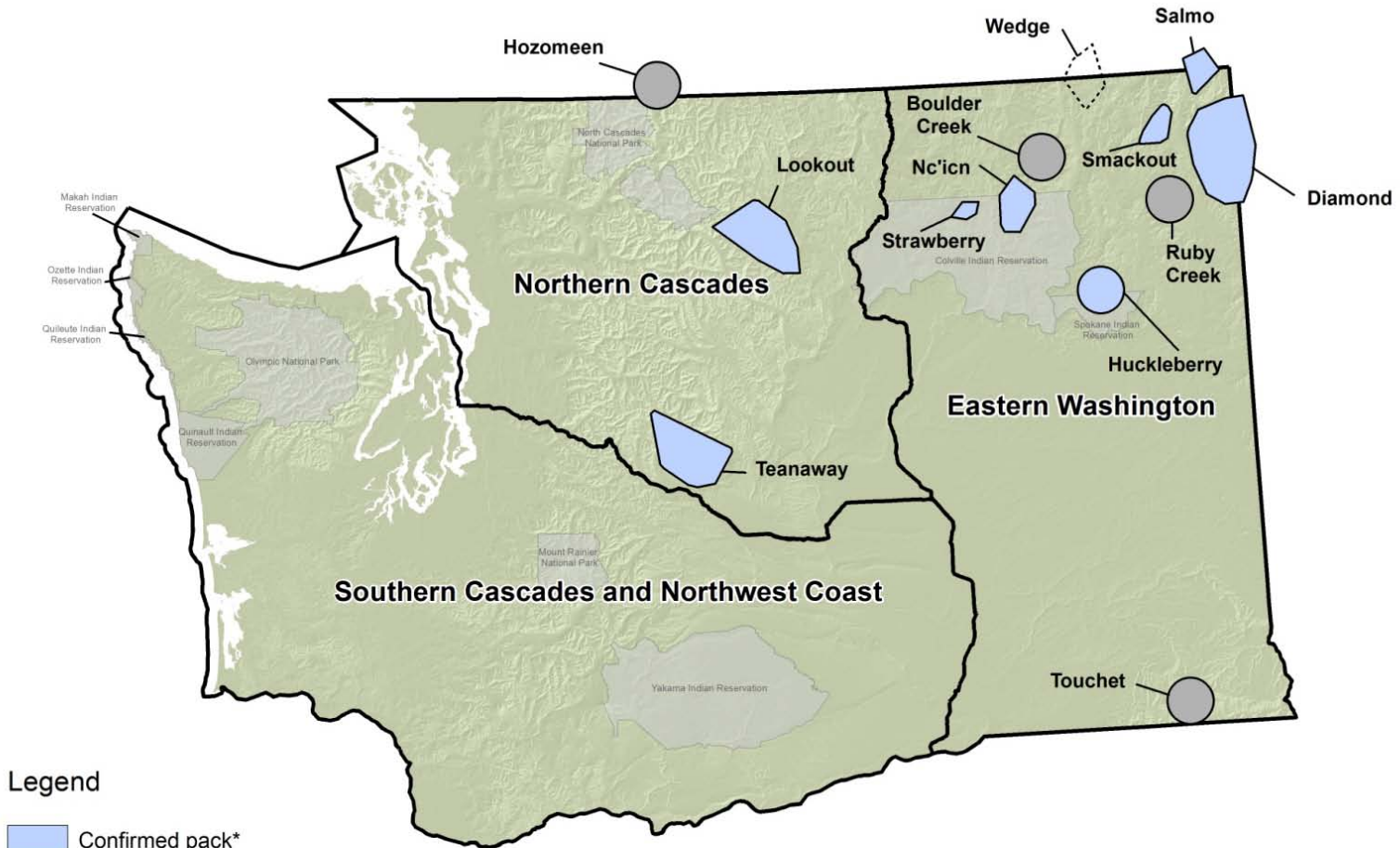


- ▲ Trail camera stations
- Track survey routes
- 2012 Wolf reports
- 2008-2011 Wolf reports

Monitoring Activity

Recovery Region	Pack	Field Activity	Captures	# Collared
Eastern Washington	Boulder	Cameras	0	0
	Diamond	Cameras-Trapped	0	1
	Huckleberry	Cameras-Trapped	0	0
	Nc'icn	Trapped (CCT)	2	2
	Ruby	Cameras	0	0
	Salmo	Trapped	1	1
	Smackout	Cameras-Trapped	2	2
	Strawberry	Trapped (CCT)	1	1
	Touchet	Cameras	0	0
	Wedge	Cameras-Trapped	2	--
Northern Cascades	Lookout	Cameras-Trapped	0	0
	Teanaway	Cameras-Trapped	1	1
	Hozomeen	Cameras-Trapped	0	0
S Cascades & NW Coast	--	--	--	--
	Statewide		9	8

Current Wolf Packs



Legend

- Confirmed pack*
- Suspected pack**
- Pack removed***
- Wolf Recovery Region

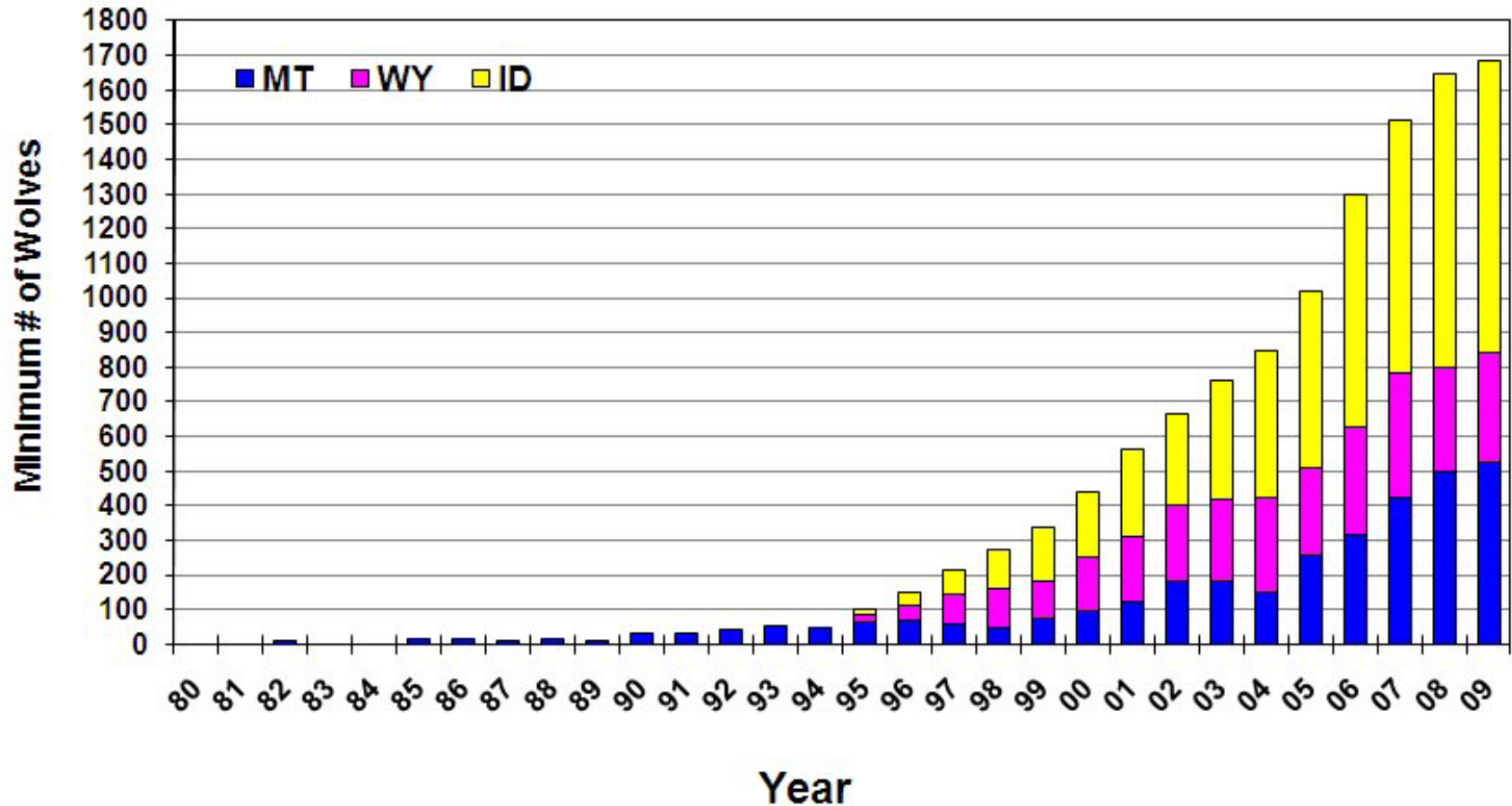
* Packs represented by polygons are packs with collared wolves and the polygon is the estimated pack range. Packs represented by circles are packs without collared wolves and the circle is a generic representation of the pack location.

** Suspected wolf packs are based on WDFW confirmed wolf activity at a level that is consistent with the existence of a pack.

*** Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.

Wolf Population Growth In NRM DPS

Figure 6. Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Population Trends in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming: 1980-2009



Smackout Pack Male WA-018M



Smackout Pack Male WA-017M



Strawberry Pack Female (CCT)

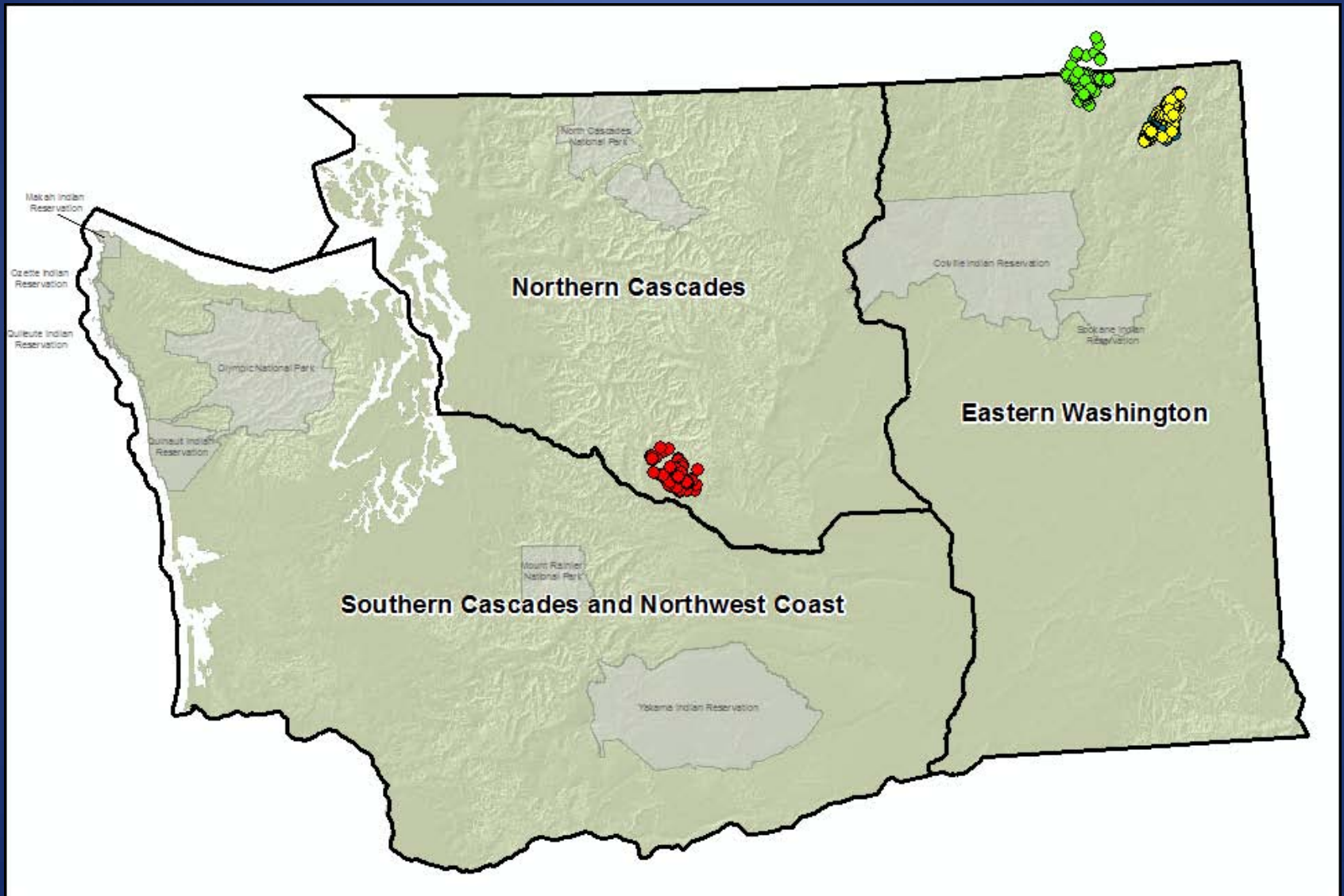


09.02.2012 10:44

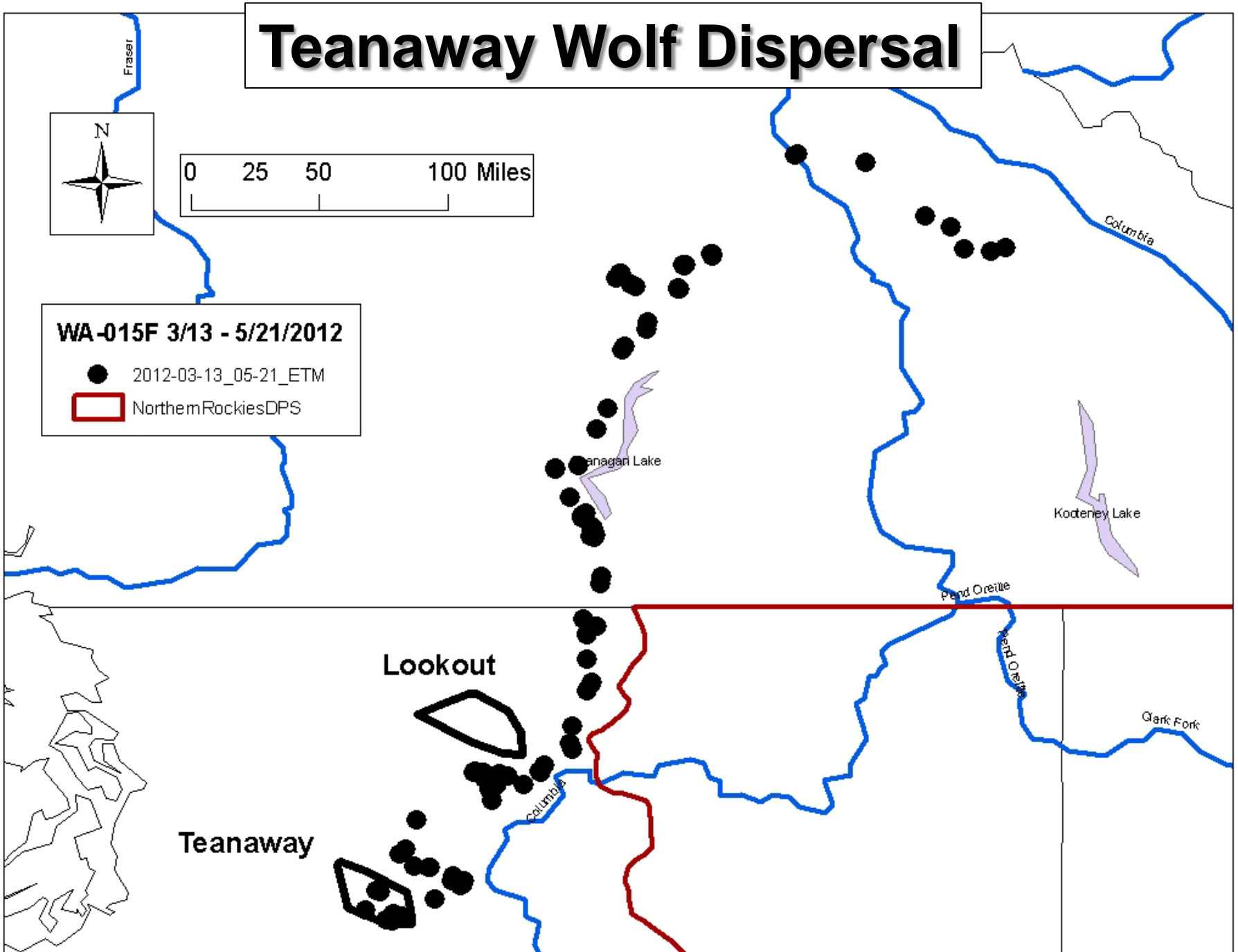
Salmo Pack Female WA-019F



Wolf Location Database



Teanaway Wolf Dispersal



Upcoming Field Activities

- Winter captures
- Surveys to estimate “Successful breeding pair”
- Partnerships on various wolf research investigations



Wolf-Livestock Conflict



Plan Implementation Conflict Management

- Depredation Investigation process
- Staff Training
- New Staff
- Claims process
- Non-lethal Measures
- Depredation Management matrix
- Conflict Rules

Conflict Management

- Wherever wolf populations exist, the greatest management issue is always **the conflicts** they get into with humans
- Because of that, one of the main recovery goals of our wolf plan is managing conflict in order to gain acceptance or tolerance from those most impacted
- An Opinion Survey entitled “Understanding People in Places” conducted in 2011 indicated that:
 - 75% of Wash. citizens support wolf re-colonizing the state
 - 66% support lethal removal of wolves causing livestock losses

Conflict Management

- Non-lethal Measures
- Lethal Measures
- Compensation



Non-lethal Measures

- Wolves don't regularly attack livestock, but most wolf packs that regularly encounter livestock are likely to depredate (p. 73)
- Proactive measures help reduce conflicts...and offer a partial alternative to lethal control...(p.76)
- Proactive deterrents...are usually not considered permanent solutions (p. 77)

Non-lethal Measures

- Husbandry Techniques (p.78)
 - Range riders
 - Sanitation (carcass removal)
 - Remove sick or injured livestock
 - Delay turnout
 - Natural prey is available
 - Calves are larger
 - Avoid wolf dens and rendezvous sites

Non-lethal Measures

- The main goal of range riders is to “reduce” predator-livestock interactions



Non-lethal Measures

- Other goals of range riders include:
 - Detect injured or dead livestock
 - Preserve evidence
 - Improve overall livestock mgmt & range condition
 - Increase operator knowledge about interactions
 - Build relationships

Non-lethal Measures

- Guard animals
- Scare devices
- Hazing
- Fencing (electrified, woven wire)
- Fladry
- Bio-fence
- Relocation



Lethal Measures

- Lethal control may be necessary to resolve repeated wolf-livestock conflicts (p. 80)
- Many wolves have been removed annually in the NRM states as well as in the Great Lakes
 - 1,517 wolves in the NRM (1987 to 2010)
 - 3,145 wolves in the Great Lakes (1978 to 2008)
 - Average annual removal rate (NRM) is over 10 %
- Regardless of this removal rate, wolves have successfully repopulated all of these states and have been delisted

Compensation

- Individual livestock producers can experience significant financial losses due to wolves
- Compensation programs have been devised to build greater acceptance for wolf recovery
- 2010 Compensation levels:
 - Idaho - \$270,267
 - Montana - \$96,097
 - Wyoming - \$82,186



Summary Conflict Management

- The bottom line is that wolves can and will repopulate Washington if we can minimize mortality rates
- Excessive mortality rates can occur due to illegal killing of wolves
- Compensation programs, non-lethal measures, and lethal actions must be balanced to achieve the social tolerance necessary for wolf recovery

Investigation Process



Reporting

- One Front Door
1-877-933-9847
- 911
- Online
- Pamphlets
- Outreach printed materials

The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation website. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, About WDFW, Conservation, Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, Licensing & Permits, and Living with Wildlife. The 'Conservation' section is active, displaying 'Gray Wolf Conservation and Management' information. A sidebar on the left lists various resources like 'Frequently Asked Questions', 'Report a Wolf Sighting', and 'Main Office' contact information. The main content area features a section titled 'How to report suspected livestock depredation incidents' with instructions on what to do if a wolf kill is suspected, including a toll-free reporting hotline at 1-877-933-9847. A yellow callout box highlights the emergency number 911. Below the text is a green pamphlet titled 'Washington's 2012 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations' featuring a photo of a hunter with a large deer and a 'Special Permit Application Deadline: May 18, 2012' banner.

Wolf Depredations in Washington

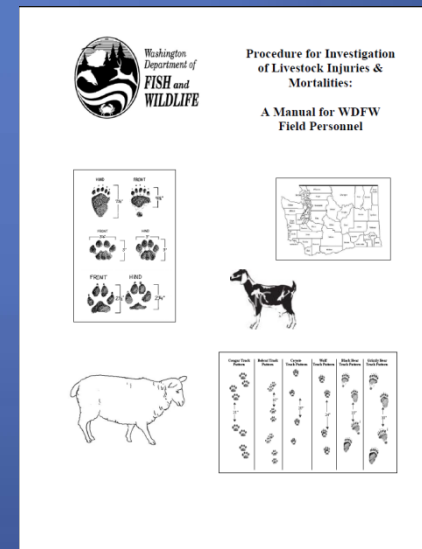
Year	Pack	Injured	Killed	Total Depredations
2007	Wedge	0	1 calf	1
2008	--	0	0	0
2009	--	0	0	0
2010	--	0	0	0
2011	Teanaway	1 dog	0	1
2012	Huckleberry	2 sheep	1 sheep	3
	Lookout	2 calves	1 calf	3
	Wedge	10 calves	6 calves	16
TOTAL		15	9	24

Depredation Investigations

- Specialized training
- Enforcement/Biologist Team
- NEW Depredation manual & form
- Same day response (usually hours)
- Internal review
 - ✓ US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - ✓ USDA Wildlife Services
- External expert review
- Determination by investigation team

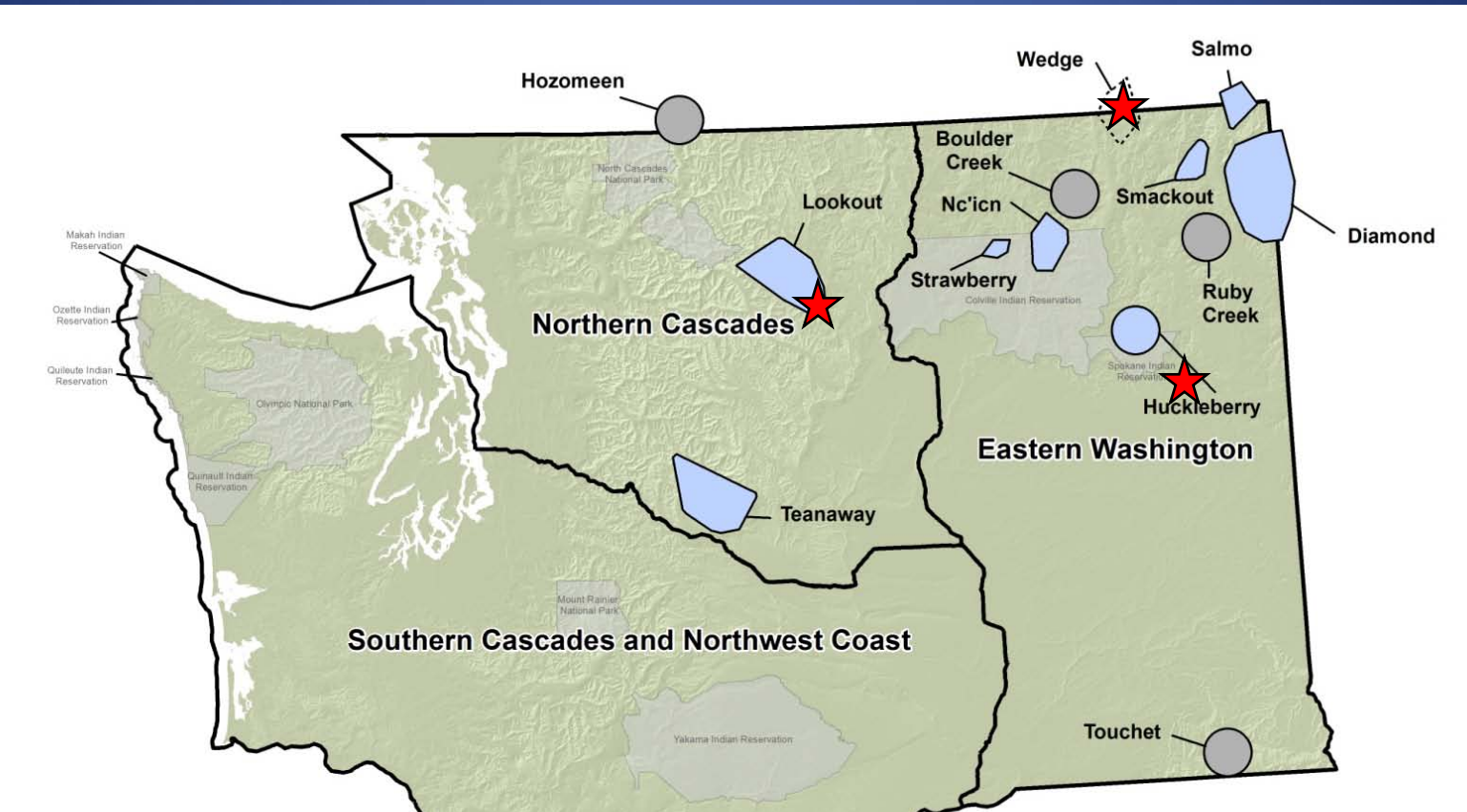


Training by Carter Niemeyer



Depredation manual

Wolf Packs with Depredations on Livestock



Legend

- Confirmed pack*
- Suspected pack**
- Pack removed***
- Wolf Recovery Region

* Packs represented by polygons are packs with collared wolves and the polygon is the estimated pack range. Packs represented by circles are packs without collared wolves and the circle is a generic representation of the pack location.

** Suspected wolf packs are based on WDFW confirmed wolf activity at a level that is consistent with the existence of a pack.

*** Packs may be removed from map due to natural breakup of the pack, lethal control, or no longer detected.

Depredations

(Number of Injured or Killed Livestock)

Pack	Confirmed wolf	Probable wolf	Unknown	Total
Hozomeen	0	0	0	0
Lookout ←	1	0	0	1
Teaway	0	0	0	0
Boulder	0	0	0	0
Diamond	0	0	0	0
Huckleberry ←	3	0	0	3
Nc'icn	-	-	-	-
Ruby	0	0	0	0
Salmo	0	0	0	0
Smackout	0	0	0	0
Touchet	0	0	0	0
Wedge ←	12	4	0	16
Statewide	16	4	0	20

Claims Process

- Used the existing process for deer and elk damage claims to develop one for carnivores
- Completed in April – just in time for the first depredation of the year (Lookout Pack)
- Forms include a checklist of the non-lethal measures taken prior to requesting compensation
- Revising the process based on what we learned and we plan to update the regulations for compensation

Proactive Management Measures

- WDFW and Conservation NW developed a pilot program to fund a range rider with a producer whose operation was within the Smackout pack's territory
- We purchased \$40,000 worth of fladry, electric fencing, screamer rounds, and RAG boxes.
- We used electrified fladry for a calving operation adjacent to the Wedge Pack

Proactive Management Measures

- We solicited other cooperators for non-lethal deterrents through various outreach efforts.
- Provided mileage reimbursement and offer of compensation to a cattle producer who experienced depredation from the Lookout pack.
- Provided compensation to a sheep producer adjacent to the Huckleberry pack.
- Utilized multiple techniques with a producer affected by the Wedge Pack.

Wolf Depredation Management Matrix Scenarios

- Wolf/Pack present near livestock without direct interactions and there is no evidence of physical harm to livestock. – **Educate and encourage nonlethal measures**
- Wolf/Pack seen stalking/chasing livestock, but there is no evidence of physical harm to livestock. – **provide nonlethal assistance and potentially a caught in the act permit**
- Wolf/Pack injures or kills livestock (one incident or document impacts or losses) - – **provide nonlethal assistance and a caught in the act lethal permit**

Wolf Depredation Management Matrix Scenarios

- Wolf/Pack injures or kills livestock (repeated incidents, impacts, or losses) while state listed as endangered or threatened. – caught in the act permit and consider removal of depredating wolves
- Wolf/Pack injures or kills livestock (repeated incidents, impacts, or losses) while state listed as sensitive. – remove depredating wolves or issue a lethal removal permit to landowner

Conflict Rules

- Need to update the wildlife conflict rules to make them consistent with the Plan
- Compensation for non-commercial livestock and guard dog owners
- Create an incentive for livestock operators to get into an agreement with WDFW
 - First in line for compensation payments
 - Address losses such as greater than average calf losses, reduced weight gains, and reduced pregnancy rates
- Define how compensation levels will be determined

Livestock Operator Agreements

- Identifies the non-lethal measures a producer agrees to implement; which qualifies them for compensation and allows for lethal measures when appropriate
- Provides cost share for implementing pro-active measures
- Can include a caught in the act or other lethal removal permit to a landowner as appropriate
- Provides compensation for losses based on producer records including greater than normal calf losses, reduced weight gain, and lower pregnancy rates

Outreach Products

- Website Updates and Information
- News Releases
- Radio/TV Interviews
- Social Media
- Printed Materials

The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation website. The header includes the department name and a search bar. The navigation menu has links for Home, About WDFW, Conservation (highlighted), Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, Licensing & Permits, and Living with Wildlife. The main content area is titled "Gray Wolf Conservation and Management" and features a "News Releases" section with a list of 15 items, each with a date. A sidebar on the left contains links for Gray Wolf Management, Frequently Asked Questions, Washington Wolf Packs, Report a Wolf Sighting, Report Depredation Incidents, Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, Wolf Information, Gray Wolf News, Photo and Video Gallery, Other Links, and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife contact information.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
HELP | EMPLOYMENT | NEWS | CONTACT

CONSERVATION

Home About WDFW **Conservation** Fishing Hunting Wildlife Viewing Licensing & Permits Living with Wildlife

Gray Wolf Management
Frequently Asked Questions
Washington Wolf Packs
Report a Wolf Sighting
Report Depredation Incidents
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Wolf Information
Gray Wolf News
Photo and Video Gallery
Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Main Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
Get Directions
Mailing Address
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Phil Anderson
Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

News Releases

- WDFW concludes action to remove Northeast Washington wolf pack - September 27, 2012
- WDFW plans to eliminate wolf pack to end attacks on livestock and 'reset' stage for recovery in the Wedge - September 21, 2012
- WDFW removes wolf from NE Washington pack in response to repeated attacks on livestock - August 7, 2012
- WDFW confirms new wolf pack, attack on sheep in NE Washington - June 29, 2012
- Annual survey confirms 27 wolves, including three breeding pairs, in Washington - January 4, 2012
- Fish and Wildlife Commission adopts plan to conserve and manage gray wolves - December 3, 2011
- Commission will consider adoption of proposed wolf-management plan - November 22, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, wolf plan work session scheduled in Spokane - October 21, 2011
- Commission moves location of meeting on recommended wolf management plan - October 4, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission to discuss wolf management plan - September 23, 2011
- Commission to discuss wolf plan Aug. 29 in Ellensburg - August 22, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission to discuss wolf management plan, set waterfowl seasons - July 27, 2011
- State's fifth wolf pack confirmed in Stevens County - July 22, 2011
- Fourth state wolf pack confirmed - July 9, 2011
- Wolves remain protected in Washington state - May 6, 2011
- Wolf pup in northeast Washington may indicate state's third pack - September 13, 2010
- Washington draft wolf management plan review includes a dozen public meetings - October 6, 2009
- Washington's second wolf pack confirmed, wolf activity being monitored in Pend Oreille County - July 31, 2009
- Breeding wolf pack may be in Pend Oreille County - July 10, 2009
- Wolf pair confirmed in Okanogan County - July 23, 2008
- Road-killed canine verified as wolf - July 17, 2008
- Howling survey indicates wolves in western Okanogan County - July 11, 2008

Outreach Products Website

- Wolf observation reporting form
- Depredation reports
- Wolf pack map and information
- Wolf FAQ
- Photo and video gallery from field activities

The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation website. The header includes the department name and a search bar. The navigation menu has 'Conservation' highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Gray Wolf Conservation and Management' and contains a 'Frequently Asked Questions About Wolves in Washington' section. The left sidebar lists various links such as 'Gray Wolf Management', 'Report a Wolf Sighting', and 'Photo and Video Gallery'. The main content area includes sections for 'General Information', 'Wolves and Livestock', and 'Wolves and Big Game', each with a list of questions.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION

Home | About WDFW | **Conservation** | Fishing | Hunting | Wildlife Viewing | Licensing & Permits | Living with Wildlife

Gray Wolf Management

Frequently Asked Questions

Washington Wolf Packs

Report a Wolf Sighting

Report Depredation Incidents

Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

Wolf Information

Gray Wolf News

Photo and Video Gallery

Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Main Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
Get Directions

Mailing Address
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phil Anderson
Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

Frequently Asked Questions About Wolves in Washington

General Information

- Were wolves re-introduced to Washington?
- How many wolf packs are in Washington?
- How many wolves are in a pack?
- How large is one pack's territory?
- What is the life history (life cycle) of the gray wolf?
- Why do wolves howl?
- I THINK I saw a wolf, but how do I know for sure?
- I KNOW I saw a wolf, so where do I report it?
 - Do wolves attack people?
 - Do wolves attack dogs?
 - Do wolves have tapeworms that can spread to other animals and people?
 - How are we managing wolves in Washington?
 - What role does the federal government have in Washington's wolf plan?
 - Aren't the wolves that were re-introduced into Yellowstone non-native or different from earlier wolves?

Wolves and Livestock

- How do we keep wolves from eating livestock?
- What is done when wolves kill or injure livestock?
- What land use restrictions come with wolves?

Wolves and Big Game

- What do wolves eat?
- Won't wolves eat too many elk and deer?
- Why don't I see as many elk or deer in areas with wolves?
- How can big game hunters be successful with wolves around?
- How is WDFW helping big game hunters affected by wolves?
- Will Washington have a hunting season on wolves?

Outreach Products

News Releases & Media Contacts

- 5 News Releases
- NPR
- CBC
- North Cascades Broadcasting Network
- Northwest Sportsmen Magazine
- KING 5

The screenshot displays the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) website. The header includes the WDFW logo, the text "WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE", and "CONSERVATION". Navigation links for Home, About WDFW, Conservation, Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, Licensing & Permits, and Living with Wildlife are visible. The main content area is titled "Gray Wolf Conservation and Management" and features a "News Releases" section with a list of 17 bullet points detailing wolf management actions and sightings from 2008 to 2012. A sidebar on the left contains a table of contents for the page, including links to Gray Wolf Management, Frequently Asked Questions, Washington Wolf Packs, Report a Wolf Sighting, Report Depredation Incidents, Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, Wolf Information, Gray Wolf News, Photo and Video Gallery, and Other Links. Below the sidebar, contact information for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife is provided, including the Main Office address (1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501), Mailing Address (600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501-1091), and Phil Anderson, Director.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE
HELP | EMPLOYMENT | NEWS | CONTACT

CONSERVATION

Home About WDFW Conservation Fishing Hunting Wildlife Viewing Licensing & Permits Living with Wildlife

Gray Wolf Management
Frequently Asked Questions
Washington Wolf Packs
Report a Wolf Sighting
Report Depredation Incidents
Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
Wolf Information
Gray Wolf News
Photo and Video Gallery
Other Links

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Main Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2200
Get Directions

Mailing Address
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phil Anderson
Director

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management

News Releases

- WDFW concludes action to remove Northeast Washington wolf pack - September 27, 2012
- WDFW plans to eliminate wolf pack to end attacks on livestock and 'reset' stage for recovery in the Wedge - September 21, 2012
- WDFW removes wolf from NE Washington pack in response to repeated attacks on livestock - August 7, 2012
- WDFW confirms new wolf pack, attack on sheep in NE Washington - June 29, 2012
- Annual survey confirms 27 wolves, including three breeding pairs, in Washington - January 4, 2012
- Fish and Wildlife Commission adopts plan to conserve and manage gray wolves - December 3, 2011
- Commission will consider adoption of proposed wolf-management plan - November 22, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, wolf plan work session scheduled in Spokane - October 21, 2011
- Commission moves location of meeting on recommended wolf management plan - October 4, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission to discuss wolf management plan - September 23, 2011
- Commission to discuss wolf plan Aug. 29 in Ellensburg - August 22, 2011
- Fish and Wildlife Commission to discuss wolf management plan, set waterfowl seasons - July 27, 2011
- State's fifth wolf pack confirmed in Stevens County - July 22, 2011
- Fourth state wolf pack confirmed - July 5, 2011
- Wolves remain protected in Washington state - May 6, 2011
- Wolf pup in northeast Washington may indicate state's third pack - September 13, 2010
- Washington draft wolf management plan review includes a dozen public meetings - October 6, 2009
- Washington's second wolf pack confirmed, wolf activity being monitored in Pend Oreille County - July 31, 2009
- Breeding wolf pack may be in Pend Oreille County- July 10, 2009
- Wolf pair confirmed in Okanogan County - July 23, 2008
- Road-killed canine verified as wolf - July 17, 2008
- Howling survey indicates wolves in western Okanogan County- July 11, 2008

Outreach Products

Social Media

- Facebook
- Twitter
- You Tube

The screenshot shows the Twitter profile for Washington State DFW (@WDFW). The profile header includes a profile picture of a fish in water, the name "Washington State DFW", the handle "@WDFW", and a bio: "The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is dedicated to preserving, protecting and perpetuating the state's fish and wildlife resources." It also lists the location "Olympia, WA USA" and the website "http://wdfw.wa.gov". A "Follow" button is visible, along with statistics: 1,018 tweets, 8 following, and 4,225 followers.

Below the header, there is a "Follow Washington State DFW" section with a sign-up form containing fields for "Full name", "Email", and "Password", and a yellow "Sign up" button.

To the left of the tweets is a navigation menu with options: "Tweets", "Following", "Followers", "Favorites", and "Lists", each with a right-pointing arrow.

At the bottom left, there is a footer with copyright information: "© 2012 Twitter About Help Terms Privacy Blog Status Apps Resources Jobs Advertisers Businesses Media Developers Directory".

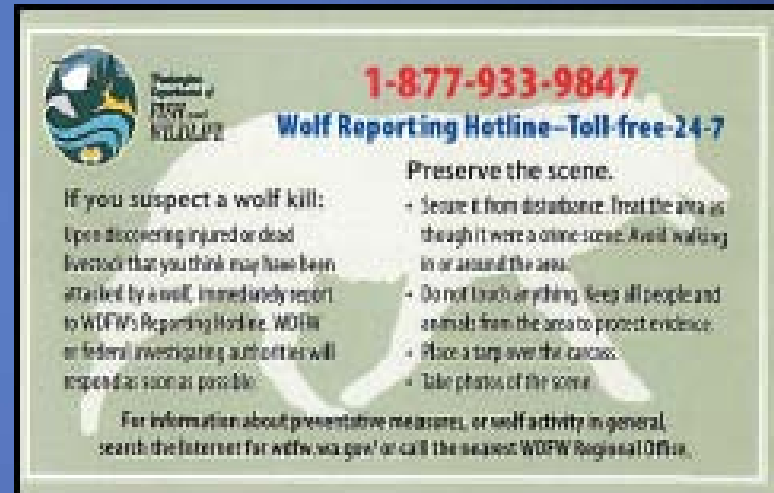
The main content area displays three tweets from @WDFW:

- Tweet 1:** "Washington State DFW @WDFW 23h WDFW is accepting letters of interest through Oct. 31 for membership on the Master Hunter Advisory Group - wdfw.wa.gov/news/oct0412a/ #WDFW Expand"
- Tweet 2:** "Washington State DFW @WDFW 3 Oct Fishing Rule Change: Sturgeon fishery to remain closed to retention below Bonneville Dam - fortress.wa.gov/dfw/rules/efi... #WDFW #Fishing #Sturgeon Expand"
- Tweet 3:** "Washington State DFW @WDFW 3 Oct WDFW is seeking nominations through Nov. 15 for membership on the Steelhead/Cutthroat Policy Advisory Group - wdfw.wa.gov/news/oct0312b/ #WDFW Expand"
- Tweet 4:** "Washington State DFW @WDFW 3 Oct Fish and Wildlife Commission changes Oct 5-6 meeting location to provide more seating - wdfw.wa.gov/news/oct0312a/ #WDFW #WAFWC Expand"

Outreach Products

Printed Materials

- Livestock conflict brochure
- Magnets
- General wolf information brochure (GBOP contract)



Coordination and Reporting Products

- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Tribes
- NGOs
- Organized Stakeholders
- Fish & Wildlife Commission



Coordination and Reporting Products

Federal

- USFWS
 - Annual report
 - Formal response to status review
 - Participation in depredation reviews
 - Coordination on available funds
- USFS
 - Livestock allotments/permitees
 - Carcass removal
 - Monitoring

Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2011 Annual Report

A cooperative effort by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service



Photo: WDFW, Paul Frame

This report presents information on the status, distribution, and management of wolves in the State of Washington, from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

This report may be copied and distributed as needed.

Suggested Citation: Frame, P.F. and H. L. Allen. 2012. Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Annual Report 2011. Pages WA-1 to WA-11 // U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery 2011 Annual Report. USFWS, Ecological Services, 585 Shepard Way, Helena, Montana, 59601.

Coordination and Reporting Products

State

- Washington Association of Conservation Districts
 - Coordination with NRCS
 - Participation at annual meeting
- Department of Transportation
 - Carcass removal

Coordination and Reporting Products

Tribes

- Coordination on trapping efforts
- Data sharing
- Monitoring information



Coordination and Reporting Products

County Government

- Depredation investigation
- Sharing sighting data
- Carcass removal

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

WDFW Wolf Observation Reporting Form

Observer Contact Information
* Indicates required fields

Mr. Ms. Mrs.
* First Name: _____ * Last Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

* Phone: _____ XXX-XXX-XXXX

* E-mail Address: _____

Are you the Observer or the Reporter?
 Observer Reporter

Were Other Observers Present? No Yes
If yes, please provide names and contact information for each observer. Text is limited to 250 characters.

How to recognize a gray wolf

GRAY WOLF	COYOTE
Color: light gray to black	Color: light gray/brown
Dimensions: 2.5 feet tall, 5-6 feet long	Dimensions: 1.5 feet tall, 4 feet long
Broad snout	Narrow snout
Round ears	Tall pointed ears

80-120 pounds
Paw size: 4" x 5"

20-50 pounds
Paw size: 2" x 2.5"

Wolves are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act. Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The-S&L-File-Tribune

Dial 911 to report an emergency

Carnivore Depredation on Livestock
1-877-933-9847

Observation Details
* Indicates required fields

Coordination and Reporting Products

NGOs & Organized Stakeholders

- Review WDFW:
 - Outreach materials
 - Policy documents
 - Regulation proposals
 - Legislative proposals
- Routine communication and information sharing

Coordination and Reporting Products

Fish and Wildlife Commission

- Wolf weekly reports
- Weekly conference calls
- Update at all meetings
- Wildlife committee updates

2012 Report Overview

- Overview of Washington's Wolf Plan
- 2012 Accomplishments
 - Population Monitoring
 - Conflict Management
 - Outreach Efforts
 - Coordination & Partnerships
 - Reporting
- **Wedge Pack issues**
- Next Steps



Wedge Case Study





Chronology of Events

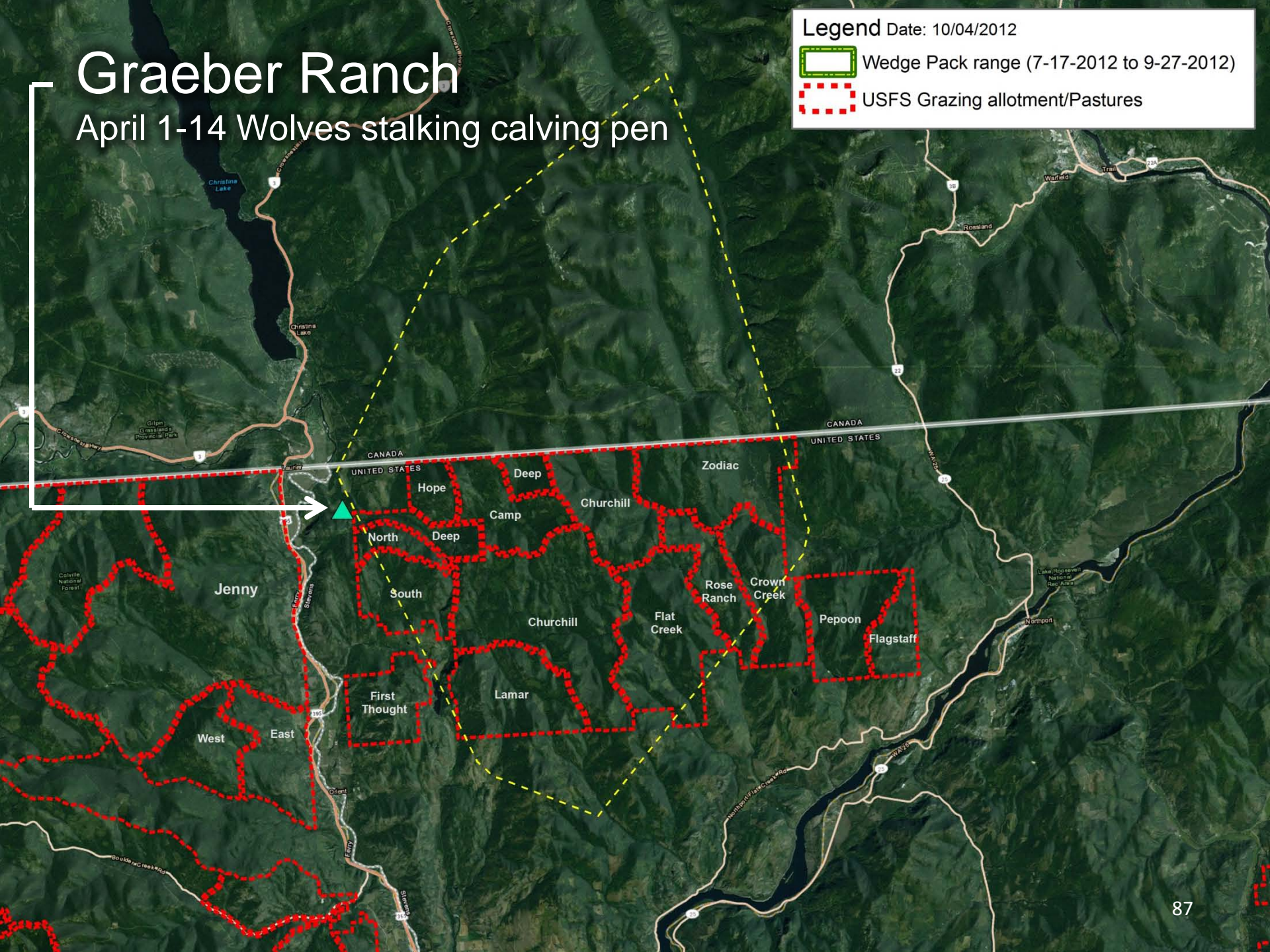
1. April 1-14, 2012 – Wolves stalked calving operation on Graeber Ranch
 - Fladry installed
 - “Caught in the act” kill permit issued

Graeber Ranch

April 1-14 Wolves stalking calving pen

Legend Date: 10/04/2012

-  Wedge Pack range (7-17-2012 to 9-27-2012)
-  USFS Grazing allotment/Pastures



Chronology of Events

2. July 11, 2012 – Confirmed wolf depredation (injuries) on one cow and one calf
 - Calving off-site
 - Released cow/calf pairs later in year so calves are larger
 - Increased to 5 the number of cowboys tending to cattle daily
 - Diamond M quickly removed injured cattle to prevent additional attacks by wolves

Comprehensive Investigation

- Enforcement-Biologist Team
- Sheriff Office assistance
- Site treated as crime scene
- Skin carcass
- Photographs
- Document sign (tracks, scat, etc)
- Internal review
- Determination by investigation team



Chronology of Events

3. July 12, 2012 – Confirmed wolf depredation (kill) on one calf

4. July 14, 2012 – Probable wolf depredation (injuries) on two calves
 - Implemented hazing
 - Issued “Caught in the act” kill permit to Diamond M





Chronology of Events

5. August 2, 2012 – Probable wolf depredation (injuries) on one calf
 - Non-lethal efforts not successful
 - Discussion on first step of incremental removal

6. August 7-9, 2012 – Lethal removal of 2 wolves
 - Ground marksmen
 - Removed 1 non-breeding female on August 7

Chronology of Events

7. August 14, 2012 – Confirmed wolf depredation (injuries) on one calf
 - Implemented external expert review

8. August 16, 2012 – Confirmed wolf depredation (kill) on one calf
 - External expert review
 - Discussion on second step of incremental removal

Chronology of Events

9. August 18 to September 5, 2012 – Lethal removal of up to 4 wolves

- Ground marksmen
- Trapping
- No wolves removed

Chronology of Events



10. September 5, 2012 – Confirmed wolf depredation (kill) on two calves
11. September 10, 2012 - Probable wolf depredation (injury) on one calf
12. September 12, 2012 - Confirmed wolf depredation (kill) on one calf
13. September 14, 2012 - Confirmed wolf depredation (injury) on one calf
14. September 16, 2012 – Confirmed wolf depredation (kill) on one calf

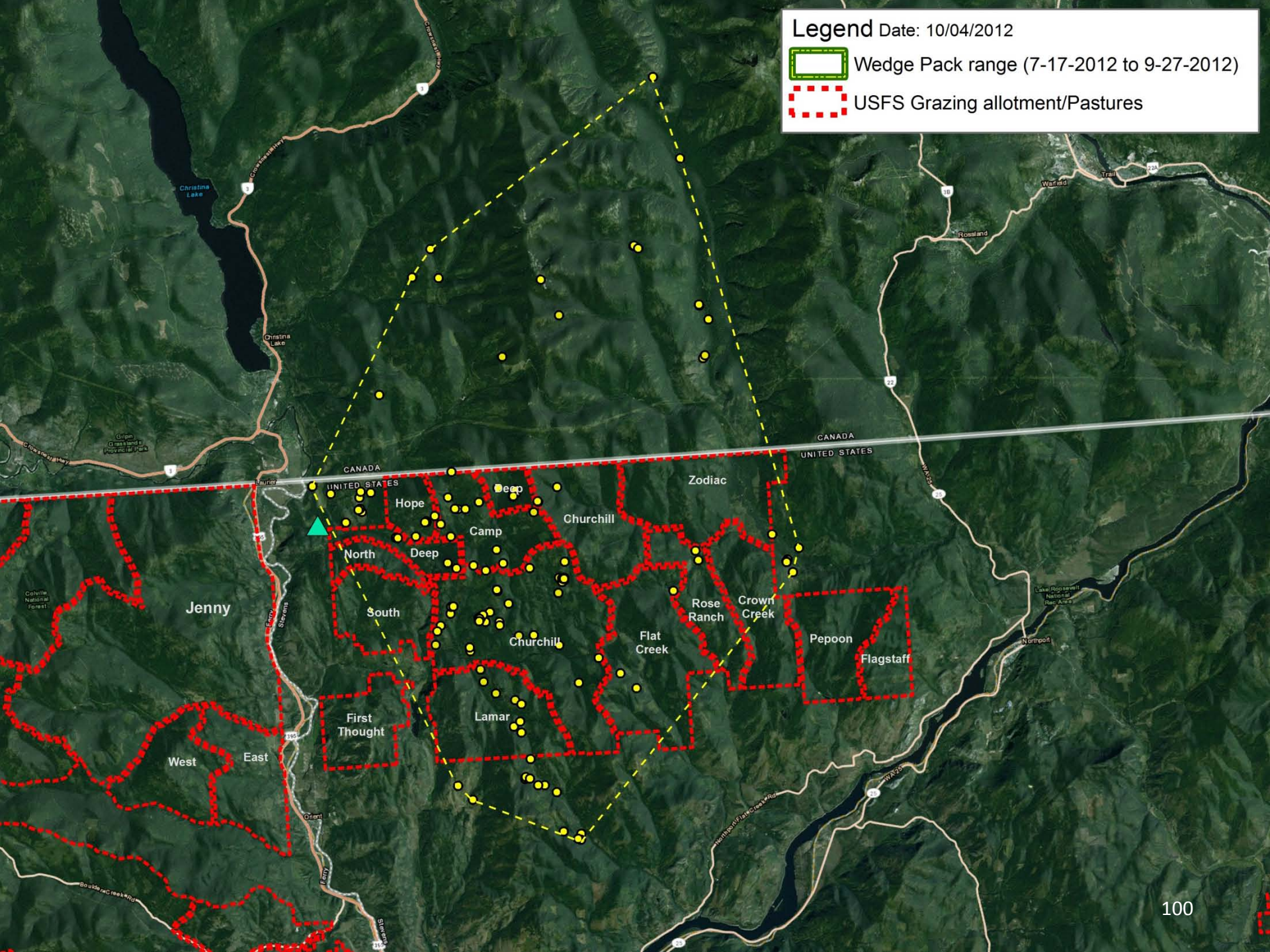




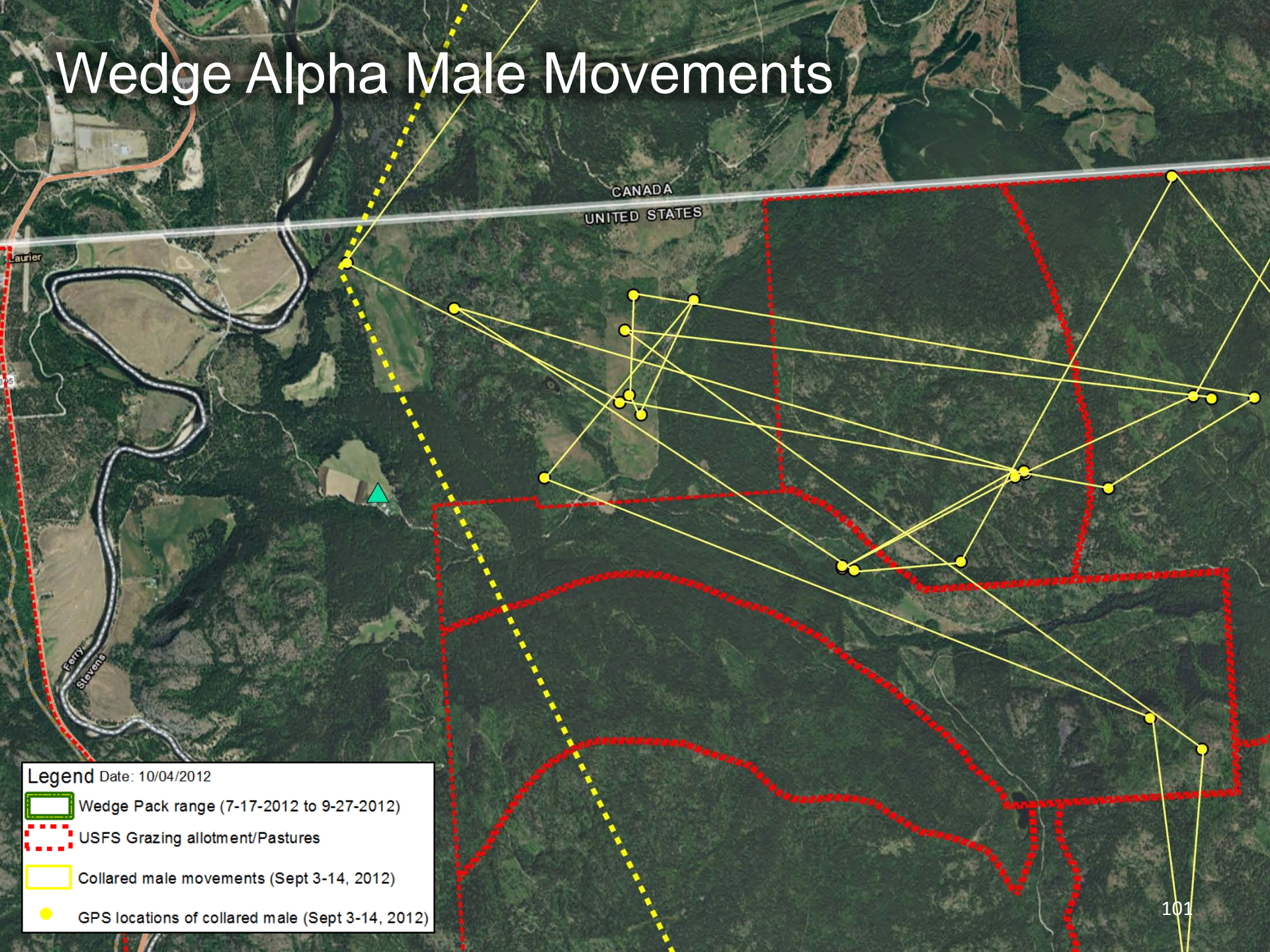
Calf remains found in Diamond M Ranch private pasture

Legend Date: 10/04/2012





-  Wedge Pack range (7-17-2012 to 9-27-2012)
-  USFS Grazing allotment/Pastures



Wedge Alpha Male Movements



Legend Date: 10/04/2012

-  Wedge Pack range (7-17-2012 to 9-27-2012)
-  USFS Grazing allotment/Pastures
-  Collared male movements (Sept 3-14, 2012)
-  GPS locations of collared male (Sept 3-14, 2012)

Summary of Wolf Depredations

# Wolf Investigations	Date	# of Livestock attacked	Depredation type	Classification
1	07-11-2012	2	Injuries	Confirmed
2	07-12-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
3	07-14-2012	2	Injuries	Probable
4	08-02-2012	1	Injuries	Probable
5	08-14-2012	1	Injuries	Confirmed
6	08-16-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
7	09-05-2012	2	Kill	Confirmed
8	09-10-2012	1	Injuries	Probable
9	09-12-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
10	09-14-2012	1	Injuries	Confirmed
11	09-16-2012	1	Kill	Confirmed
12	09-21-2012	2	Injuries	Confirmed
TOTAL		16	6 killed/10 injured	

Chronology of Events

15. September 16-20, 2012 – Discussions about third step of incremental removal

- Internal discussions
- Review of depredation history
- Assessment of movement patterns
- Discussions with external experts
- Assessment:
 - Wolves appear to have switched to cattle as primary prey
 - Depredation and movement behaviors established

Chronology of Events

16. September 20, 2012 – Implement pack removal

- Ground marksmen & trapping
- Increased staffing
- Around the clock effort

17. September 21, 2012 – Confirmed wolf depredation (injury) on two calves

Chronology of Events

18. September 21, 2012 – Internal discussion on use of helicopter to remove pack

- Lack of success using ground crews
- Four week effort with ground crews
- Costs and staff time involved

19. September 25-27, 2012:

- Removed 6 wolves, including alpha pair
- Pack structure and most, if not all, of its members removed

2012 Report Overview

- Overview of Washington's Wolf Plan
- 2012 Accomplishments
 - Population Monitoring
 - Conflict Management
 - Outreach Efforts
 - Coordination & Partnerships
 - Reporting
- Wedge Pack issues
- **Next Steps**



Next Steps

Where do we go from Here?

- No one wants to repeat the Wedge pack situation
- Legislative proposal to increase funding for non-lethal measures
 - Additional staff to address conflict
- Develop greater cooperation with producers and conservation partners with developing agreements

Next Steps

Where do we go from Here?

- Get radio transmitters on more wolf packs to monitor population expansion and help producers avoid conflicts
- Improve outreach efforts to increase tolerance for wolves from those most directly impacted
- Convene stakeholders group
 - Lethal removal criteria
 - Investigation process
- Ungulate monitoring

How to Increase Effectiveness of Non-lethal Tools

- Landowner agreements
- Expand range rider program
- Earlier implementation of tools and more aggressive
- Increased level of sharing of collar wolf location data
- Potential compensation of indirect effects of wolves on livestock
- Work with Federal landowners for adaptive grazing plans
- Implement new tools (Bio-fence, collars for livestock, etc)

How to Increase Effectiveness of First Step of Incremental Lethal Take

- Implementation of lethal take at earlier step if non-lethal tools being unsuccessful
- If lethal take is warranted, do it quickly
- Reduce food requirements of packs with history of wolf-livestock interactions (i.e., manage pack size)

