

# Agenda Item # 17

## Wolf Conservation and Management 2018 Annual Wolf Report



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*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# Summary

- Wolf Plan Recovery Objectives
- Wolf Recolonization in Washington
- Listing Status
- Population Monitoring
- Population Trends
- Livestock – Wolf Interactions
- Research Updates



# Wolf Plan Objectives

- Restore self-sustaining wolf populations
- Maintain healthy ungulate populations
- Manage wolf – livestock conflicts
- Develop public understanding and promote coexistence



# Wolves are returning to Washington

Dispersers from adjacent states and provinces, as well as resident WA packs, are naturally recolonizing the state



# Listing Status

## Federal Status:



- Eastern 1/3 Washington
  - Included in NRM DPS: 2007
  - Delisted in 2011
- No federal wolf recovery requirements
  - WA status not figured into NRM delisting
- Proposed Rule to Delist–  
15 March 2019



# Listing Status



## State Status:

- Endangered species statewide
- Wolf Conservation and Management Plan: 2011
  - 3 recovery areas
  - Delisting requirements
- Federal, state, tribal management

# Definitions



- Pack
  - Two or more wolves traveling together in a defined territory
- Successful breeding pair
  - Male and female raising two or more pups until Dec 31



# Monitoring the Populations



- Follow-up surveys
  - Cameras
  - Tracks and other sign



- Reports from the Public
  - Sighting Reports
  - Depredations

- Attempt captures
  - Aerial captures - winter
    - Radio collared packs
  - Ground Captures - summer



# Capture and Monitoring 2018 Calendar Year

- Captured 9 wolves - From 8 different packs
- Monitored 20 wolves from 15 packs
  - Currently monitoring 18 collared wolves (14% of minimum number of known wolves) from 11 packs (41% of known packs) in Washington





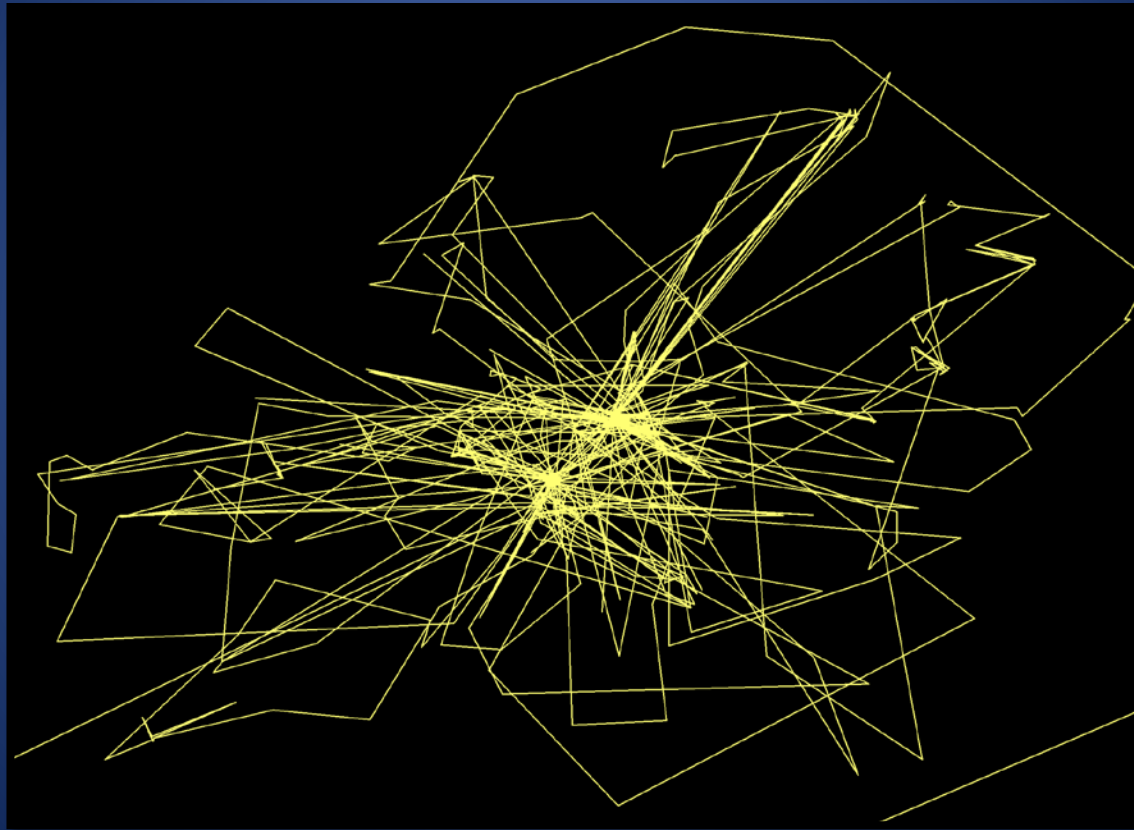
# Washington's Known Wolf Packs

## As of December 31, 2018





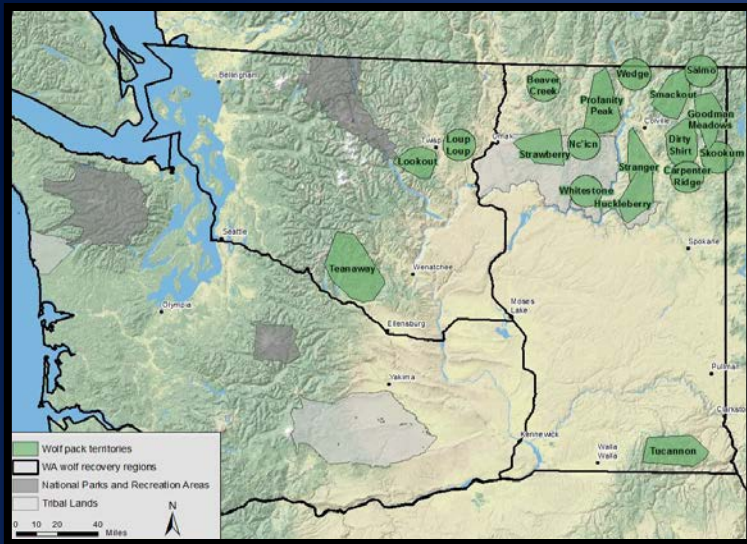
# Territoriality – Wolf Movements



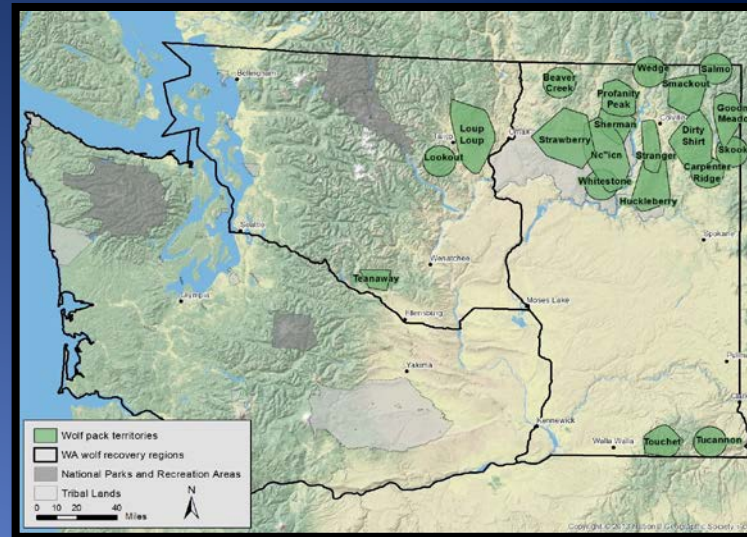
*Photo: University of Washington (Sarah Bassing)*



# Wolf Packs – Last 4 Years



2015



2016



2017



2018



# Eastern Washington Recovery Area

Confirmed Pack	Successful Breeding Pair	Minimum Count	Known Mortality	Known Dispersal	Livestock Depredations
Beaver Creek	Yes	4			
Butte Creek	No	2			
Carpenter Ridge	Yes	11			
Dirtyshirt	No	3			
Five Sisters	No	0			
Frosty (CCT)	Yes	6	1		
Grouse Flats	Yes	8			2 (+1-Injured)
Goodman Meadows	Yes	4			
Huckleberry	Yes	6	3		
Leadpoint	No	2			
Nason (CCT)	Yes	6	1		
Nc'icn (CCT)	Yes	4	1		
OPT	Yes	4	2		3 (+13-Injured)
Salmo	No	3			
Sherman	No	2			
Smackout	No	2	2		4 (+1-Injured)
Stranger	Yes	4			
Strawberry (CCT)	Yes	7			
Togo	No	2	1		2 (+4-Injured)
Touchet	Yes	4		2	
Tucannon	No	2			
Wedge	No	3			
Whitestone (CCT)	No	3			
Misc/Lone Wolves		12			
<b>Recovery Area Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11 (+19 Injured)</b>

# North Cascades Recovery Area

Confirmed Pack	Successful Breeding Pair	Minimum Count	Known Mortality	Known Dispersal	Livestock Depredations
Chiliwist	No	1			
Lookout	Yes	5			
Loup Loup	Yes	5			
Teaway	Yes	5			1 (+3 Injured)
Diobsud Creek	No	2			
Nanuem	No	2	1		
Misc/Lone Wolves		2			
<b>Recovery Area Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 (+3 Injured)</b>





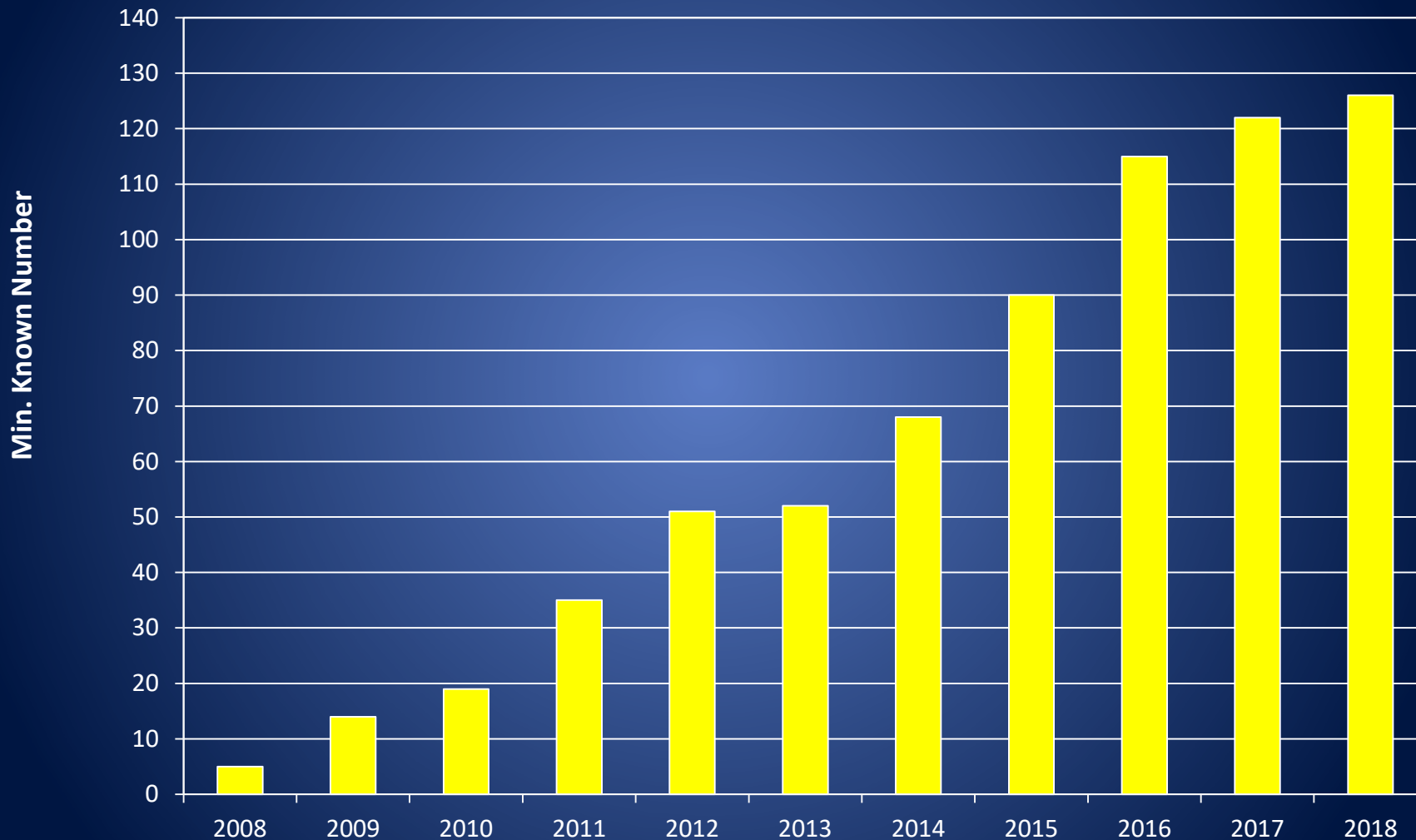
# Wolf Population Status

Recovery Region	Successful Breeding Pair	Minimum Count	Known Mortality	Known Dispersal	Livestock Depredations
Eastern	12	103	11	2	11
N. Cascades	3	23	1	0	1
S. Cascades/Coastal	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15	126	12	2	12

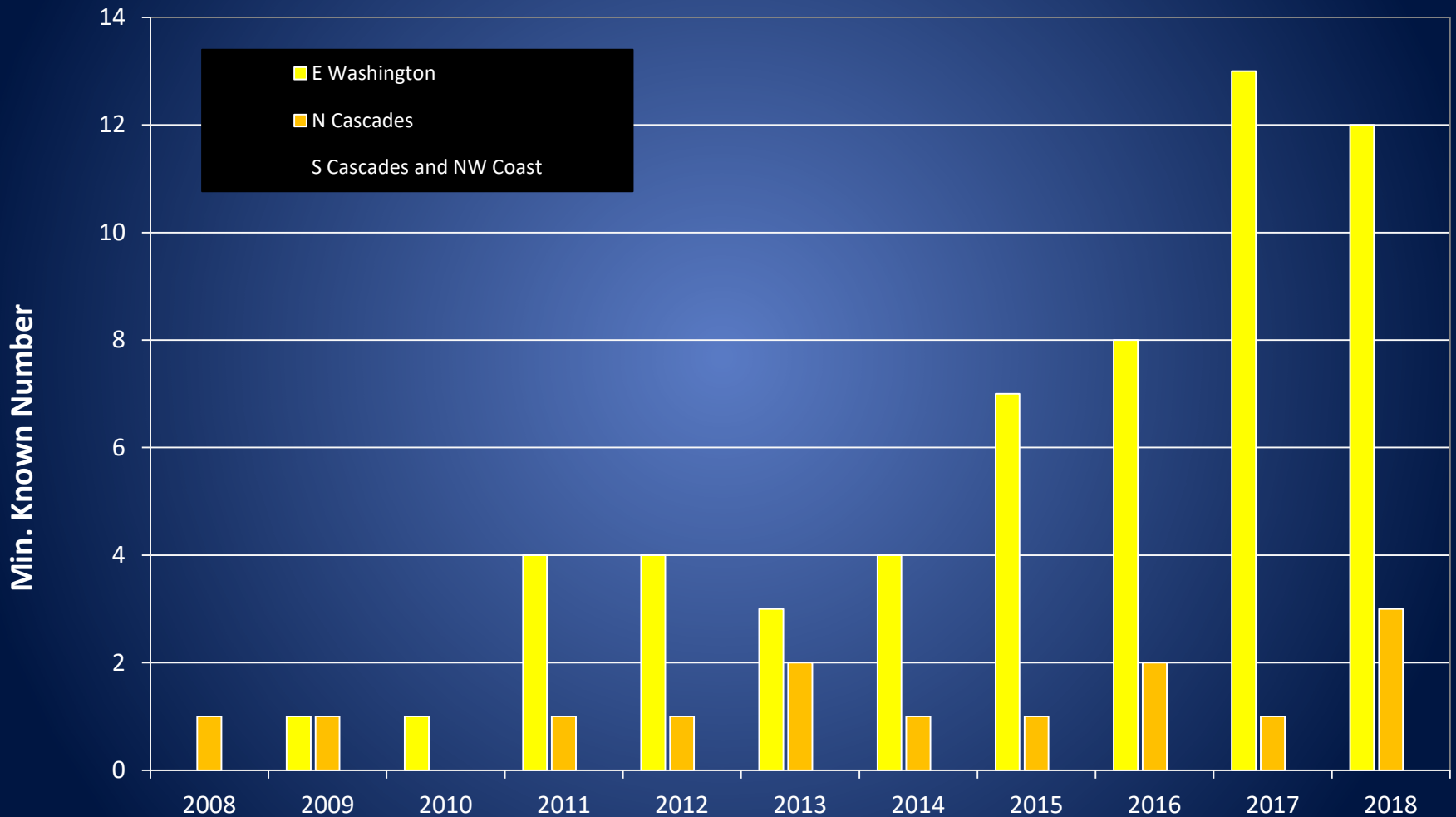


*Photo: Spokane Tribal Wildlife Program (Savanah Walker)  
April 5-6, 2019 WDFW Commission Meeting Presentation*

# Trend in Minimum Number of Wolves

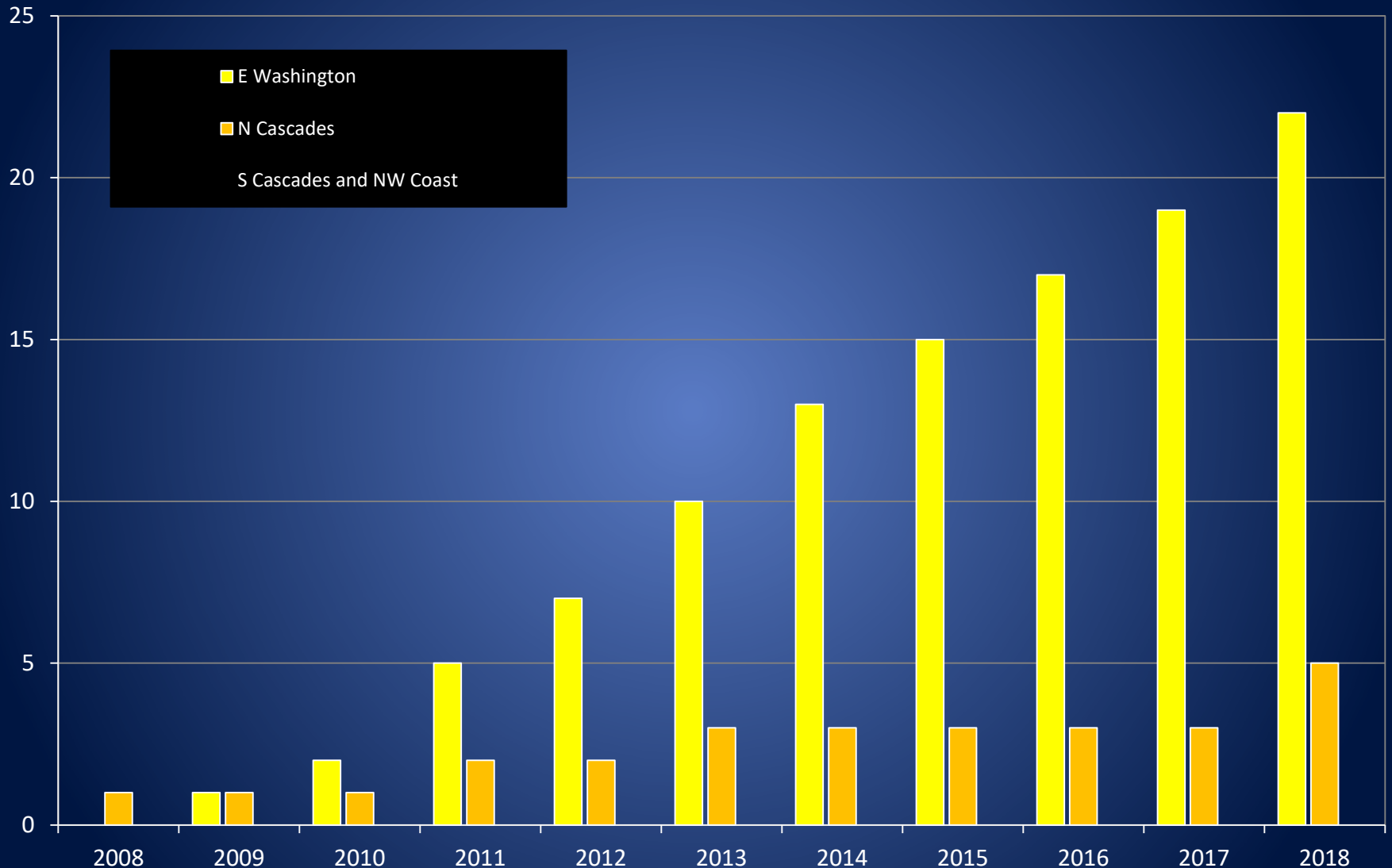


# Trend in Number of Successful Breeding Pair

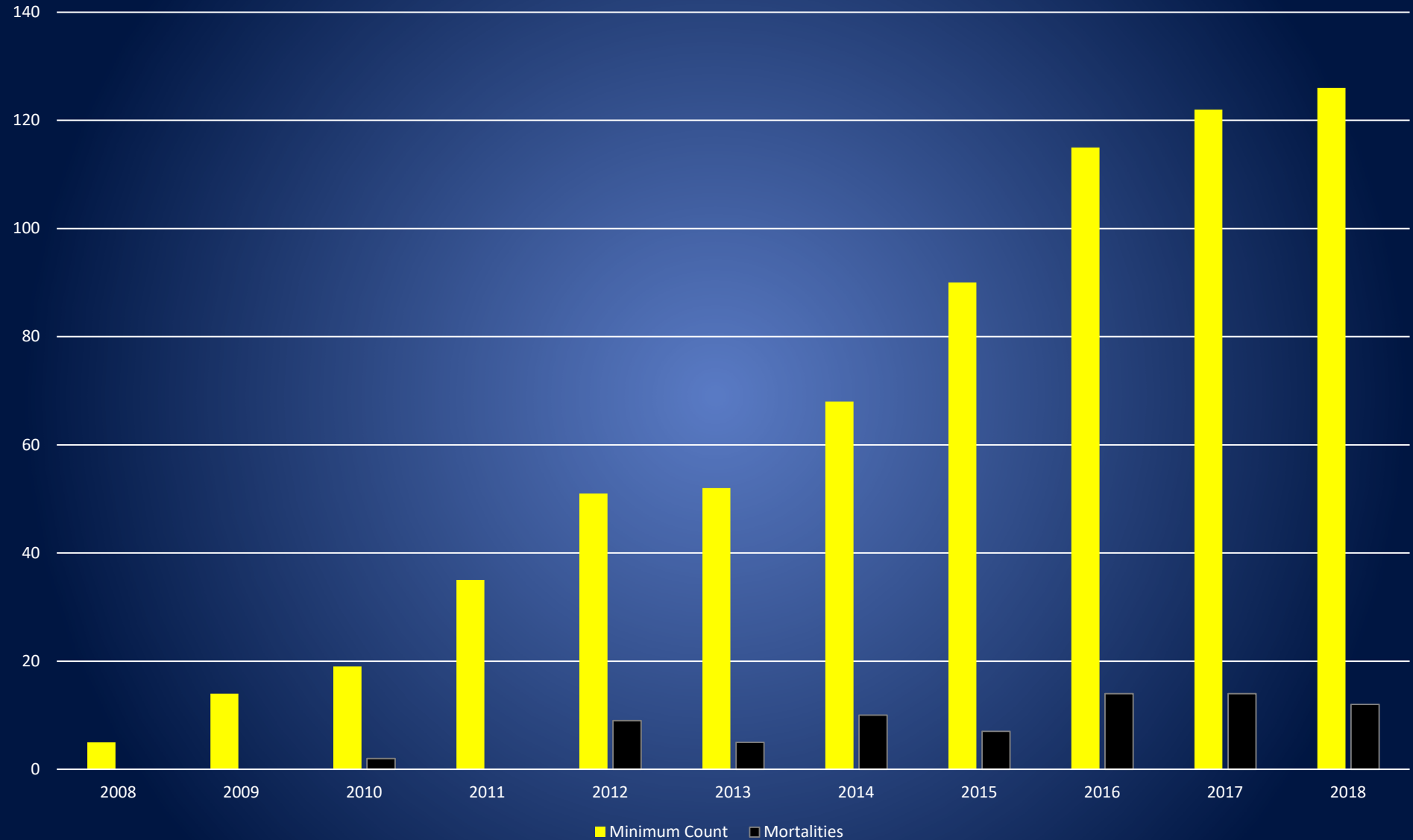




# Trend in Number of Wolf Packs

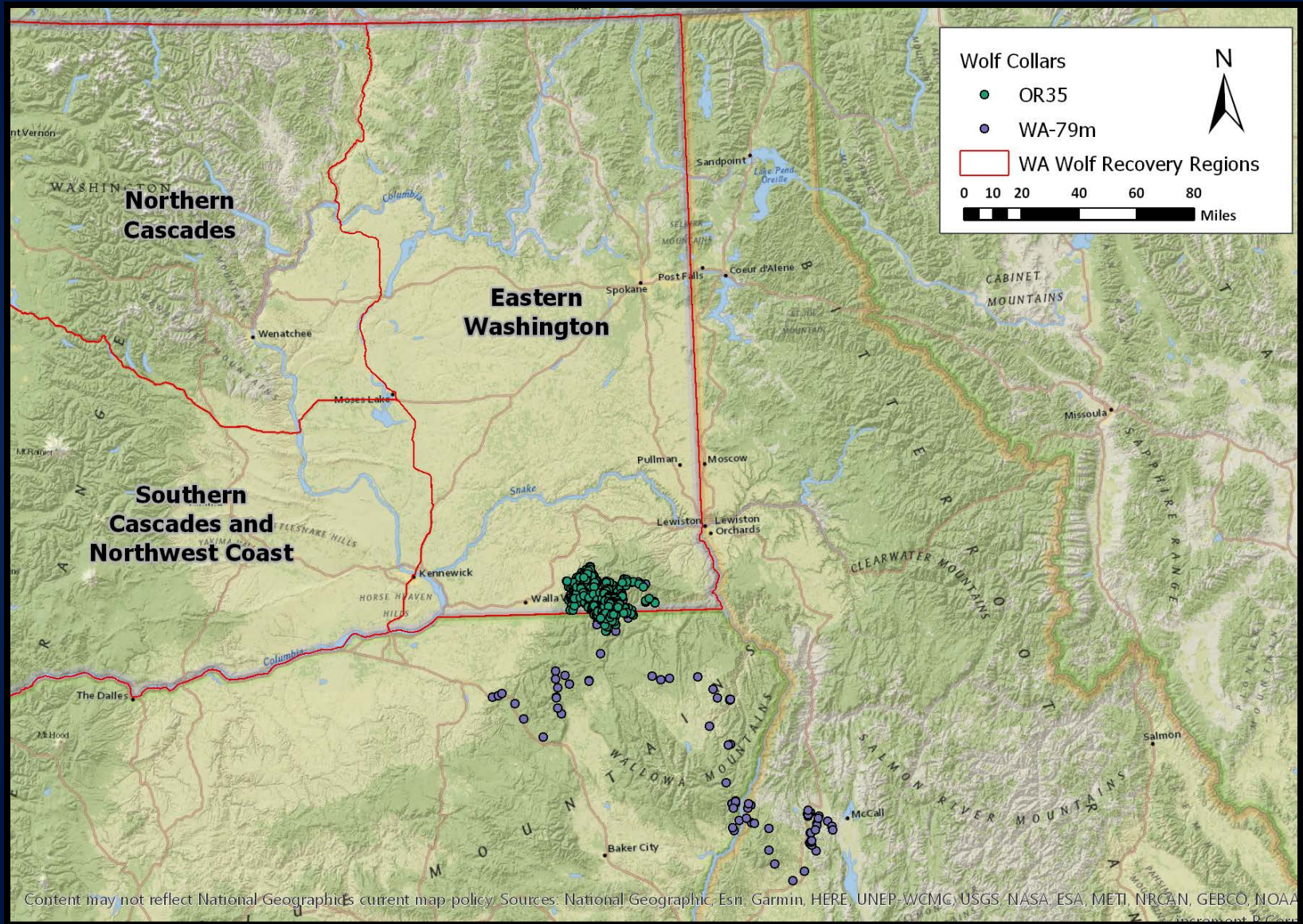


# Known Wolf Mortalities





# 2018 Known Wolf Dispersal



# Washington Wolf Population Summary

Year	Min Count	Known No. of Packs	SBP	Growth Rate	Known Wolf 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%
Ave				28%		13%



# Conflict Management

# Wolf – Livestock Interactions

- Wildlife Conflict Specialists
  - Coordination w/ producers
  - DPCA-Ls
  - Contract Range Riders
  - Deterrence measures
- Lethal Removal
- Compensation





# Contracted Range Riders



# Cost – Share Contracts

## Promoting Deterrence Measures

- Sanitation
- Sick and injured livestock
- Calving and lambing areas
- Turnout
- Range Riders and shepherders
- Fencing
- Fladry
- Foxlights
- Other techniques

# Wolf – Livestock Interaction Protocol

## WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wolf-livestock interaction protocol  
Revision date June 1, 2017

This protocol was jointly developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW or Department) and its Wolf Advisory Group to guide the Department's efforts to reduce conflicts between wolves and livestock. The Wolf Advisory Group has expressed a strong value to reducing the likelihood of the loss of both wolves and livestock from adverse interactions. The protocol prescribes a variety of proactive measures livestock producers can take to reduce the probability of wolf-livestock conflicts and establishes a framework for WDFW's response when conflicts between wolves and livestock do occur.

The protocol draws on a diversity of perspectives expressed by people throughout the state for protecting wildlife populations as a public resource and livestock. These values include achieving a sustained recovered wolf population, supporting rural ways of life, and maintaining livestock production as part of the state's cultural and economic heritage. This protocol also serves to increase the transparency and accountability of the Department's activities and management actions related to wolves.

### Section 1. Background and purpose of protocol

Gray wolves are listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 in the western two-thirds of Washington, but are federally delisted in the eastern-third of the state (Fig. 1). Under Washington State rule, gray wolves as endangered statewide. Under the Federal listing status, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the lead agency for managing wolves in the western two-thirds of Washington, and WDFW has full management authority for wolves in the eastern third.

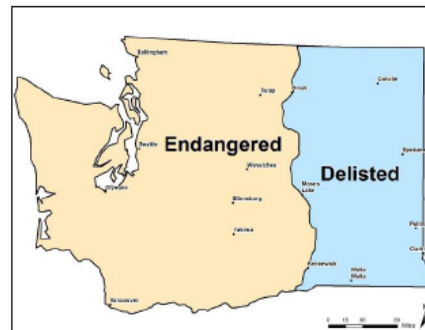
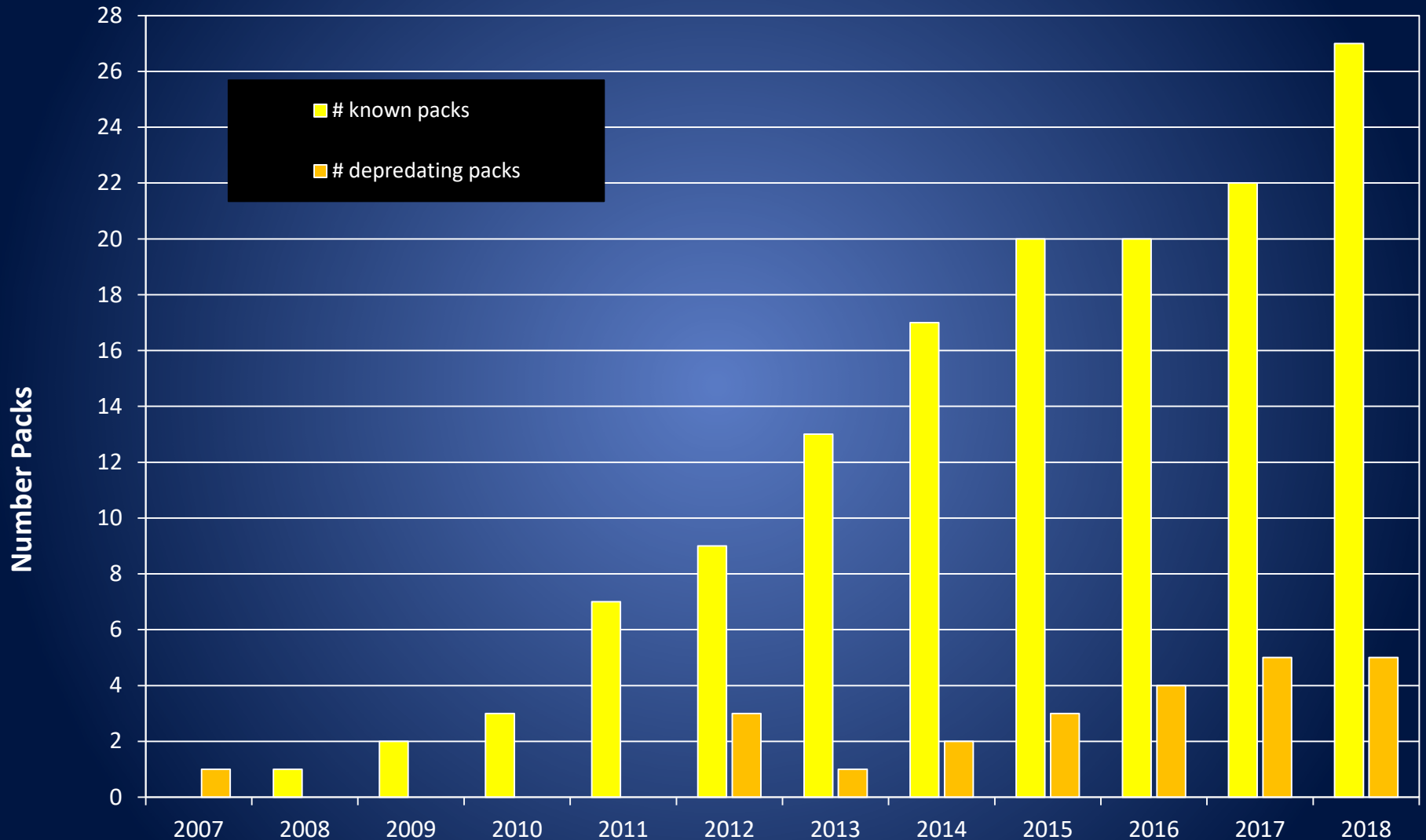


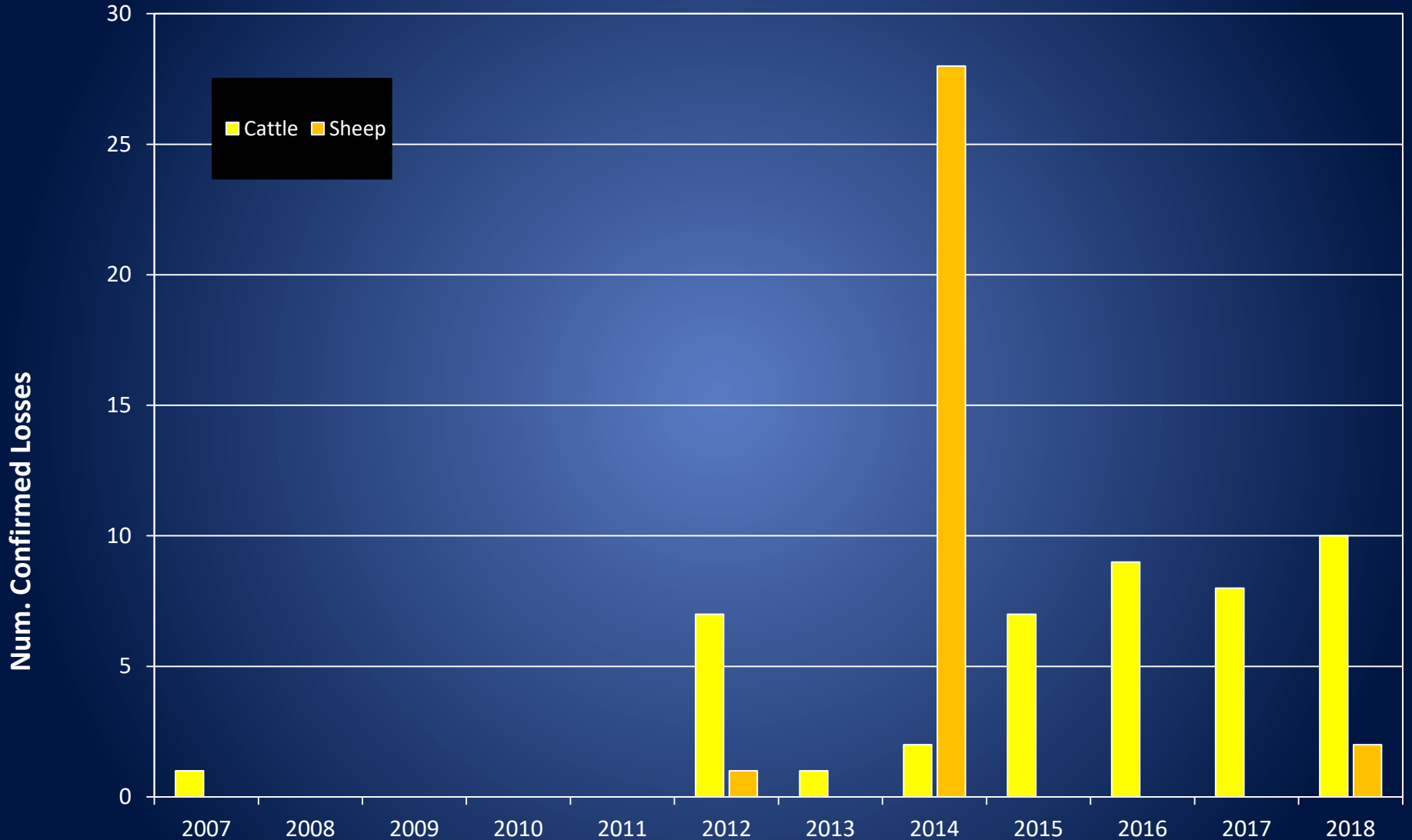
Figure 1. Federal classification of gray wolves in Washington State, 2017.



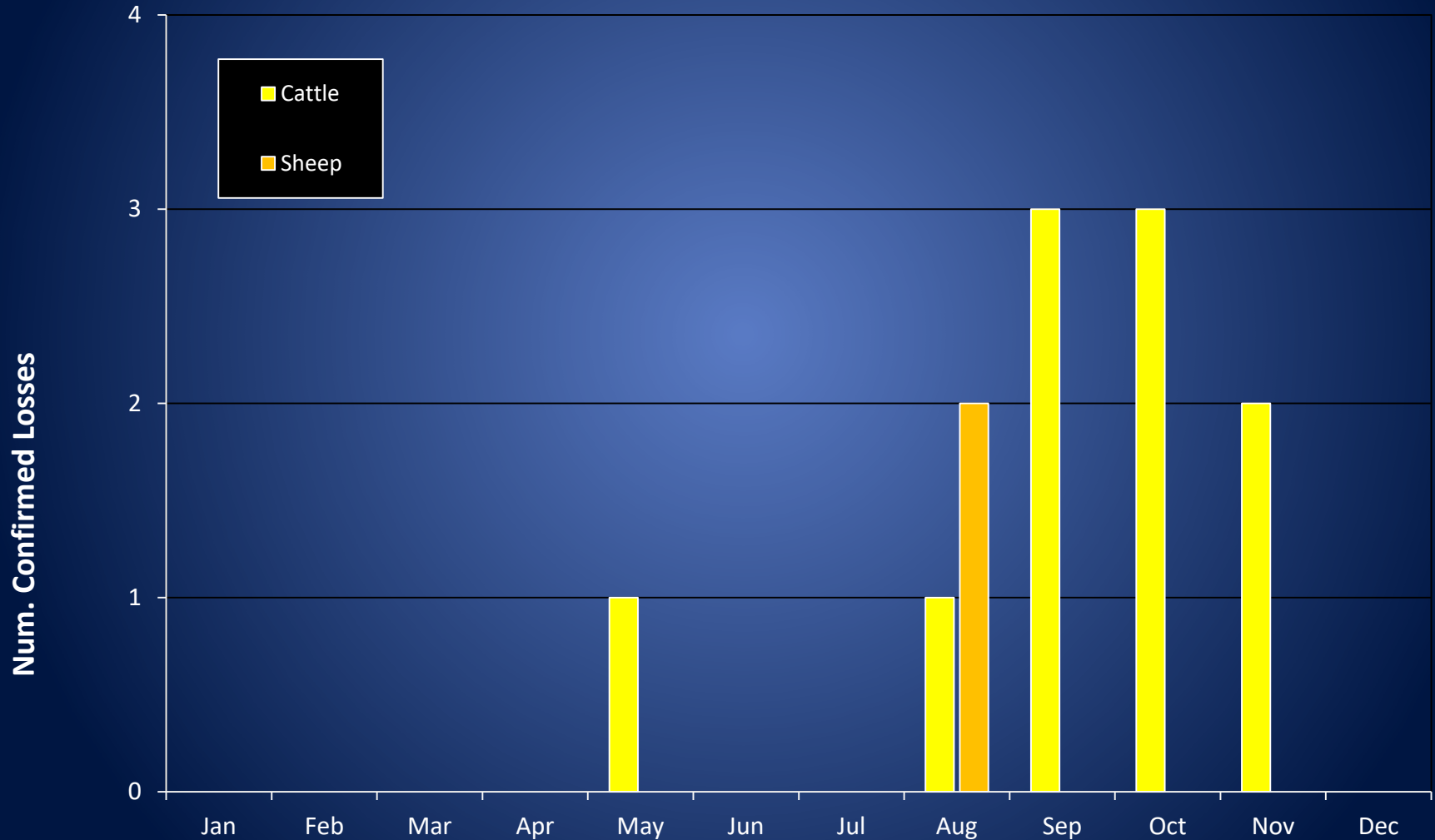
# Packs Depredating on Livestock



# Wolf Depredations in Washington



# 2018 Wolf-Caused Livestock Loss and Injury By Month





# Research

- **Completed Projects:**
  - A. Valerio (WSU) - Stress-Mediated and Habitat-Mediated Risk Effects of Wolves on Free-Ranging Cattle in Washington
- **Ongoing Projects:**
  - **WDFW - Predator/Prey Project**
  - T. Ganz (UW) - Ungulate – Predator Dynamics in Northern WA
  - L. Satterfield (UW) - Interactions between wolves & cougars in eastern Washington State
  - L. Prugh (UW) - Interactions among large & small carnivores in WA
  - S. Bassing (UW) - Spatiotemporal dynamics of predator-prey interactions as wolves recolonize Washington
  - T. Roussin (UW) – Methods for long-term monitoring of wolf populations
  - S. Wasser (UW) - Monitoring impacts of wolf recovery in WA State
  - S. Warren (UM) - Influence of gray wolves on interspecies movement patterns in the Central Cascades

# Wolf Management Expenditures

## Fiscal Year 18

(July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

Allocation	Use	Cost
Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements – Livestock – (DPCAL's)	Livestock Producers	\$257,421
Contracted Range Riders	Range riders	\$241,010
Livestock Losses (Direct and Indirect)	Livestock Producers	\$13,486
Wolf Management	Management and Research Activities	\$705, 409
Total		\$1,217,326

59% - Personalized Plates, 5% Endangered species license plates, 15% Federal General Fund, 3% Unrestricted State Wildlife Funds, 1% Wildlife compensation for Livestock Damage Funds, 16% Supplemental DPCA-L general funds, and 1% Wolf Livestock Conflict Account.

# Wolf Advisory Group



- Met four times in 2018
- Guidance on wolf management
  - Expectations on preventative measures and potential agency management actions
- Restructure of WDFW participation
- Began discussing how wolf management might change after delisting
- Recruitment for vacancies is ongoing



# Outreach

- **Updating WDFW Website**
- **Wolf Advisory Group**



## Daily Interactions:

- with the public (phone calls, emails, personal communications), local radio, newspaper, and television outlets

## Formal Presentations:

- school groups, universities, wildlife symposiums, state and federal management agencies, livestock associations, conservation groups, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, local interest groups, hunter education instructors, and professional conferences

# Wolf Translocation

## Supplemental EIS SEPA process

- Directed by Legislature to conduct SEPA
- Translocation will be evaluated as a tool to meet 2011 plan objectives
- Notice provided to federal and tribal managers
- Public scoping will be announced 5/1/19
- Will hold public scoping open houses statewide



Photo: Julia B. Smith

# Periodic Status Review

## Comparison to Recovery Plan Objectives

Status Change Objectives	Breeding Pair Criteria				
	Eastern WA	N. Cascades	S. Cascades & NW Coast	Anywhere	Required Timeframe
<b>Threatened</b> (6 pairs/3 years)	12/2	3/2	0/2	N/A	>3 yrs.
<b>Sensitive</b> (12 pairs/3 years)	12/4	3/4	0/4	N/A	>3 yrs.
<b>Delist</b> (15 pairs/3 years)	12/4	3/4	0/4	(8/3)	>3 yrs.
<b>Delist</b> (18 pairs)	12/4	3/4	0/4	(8/6)	N/A



# Periodic Status Review

## Evaluation of Status by WAC

### Listing criteria

3.3 Species may be listed as endangered, threatened, or sensitive only when populations are in danger of failing, declining, or are vulnerable, due to factors including but not restricted to limited numbers, disease, predation, exploitation, or habitat loss or change, pursuant to section 7.1.

### Delisting criteria

4.1 The commission shall delist a wildlife species from endangered, threatened, or sensitive solely on the basis of the biological status of the species being considered, based on the preponderance of scientific data available.

4.2 A species may be delisted from endangered, threatened, or sensitive only when populations **are no longer in danger of failing, declining, are no longer vulnerable**, pursuant to section 3.3, or meet recovery plan goals, and when it no longer meets the definitions in sections 2.4, 2.5, or 2.6.

# Definitions

**Endangered:** "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:** "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:** "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.

# Questions?