

Oregon Wolf Conservation & Management

March 25, 2013



Russ Morgan
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Overview

- **Wolf Plan**
- **Monitoring**
- **Population Status**
- **Depredation**



Oregon Wolf Plan

- Original plan adopted in 2005
- Large public involvement process
- Re-evaluation every 5 years

Guiding Principles for Wolf Plan Development

- Based on conservation
- No re-introduction of wolves
- Provide relief for livestock producers
- Address impacts to deer and elk
- Flexibility in management while providing needed protections

Oregon Population Objectives

- Phase 1 Objective – 4 Breeding Pairs (Delist)
- Phase 2 Objective – 5-6 Breeding Pairs
- Phase 3 Objective – 7 Breeding Pairs



Monitoring Wolves in Oregon

- 10 radio-collared wolves
- GPS technology
- Collar failures and dispersals

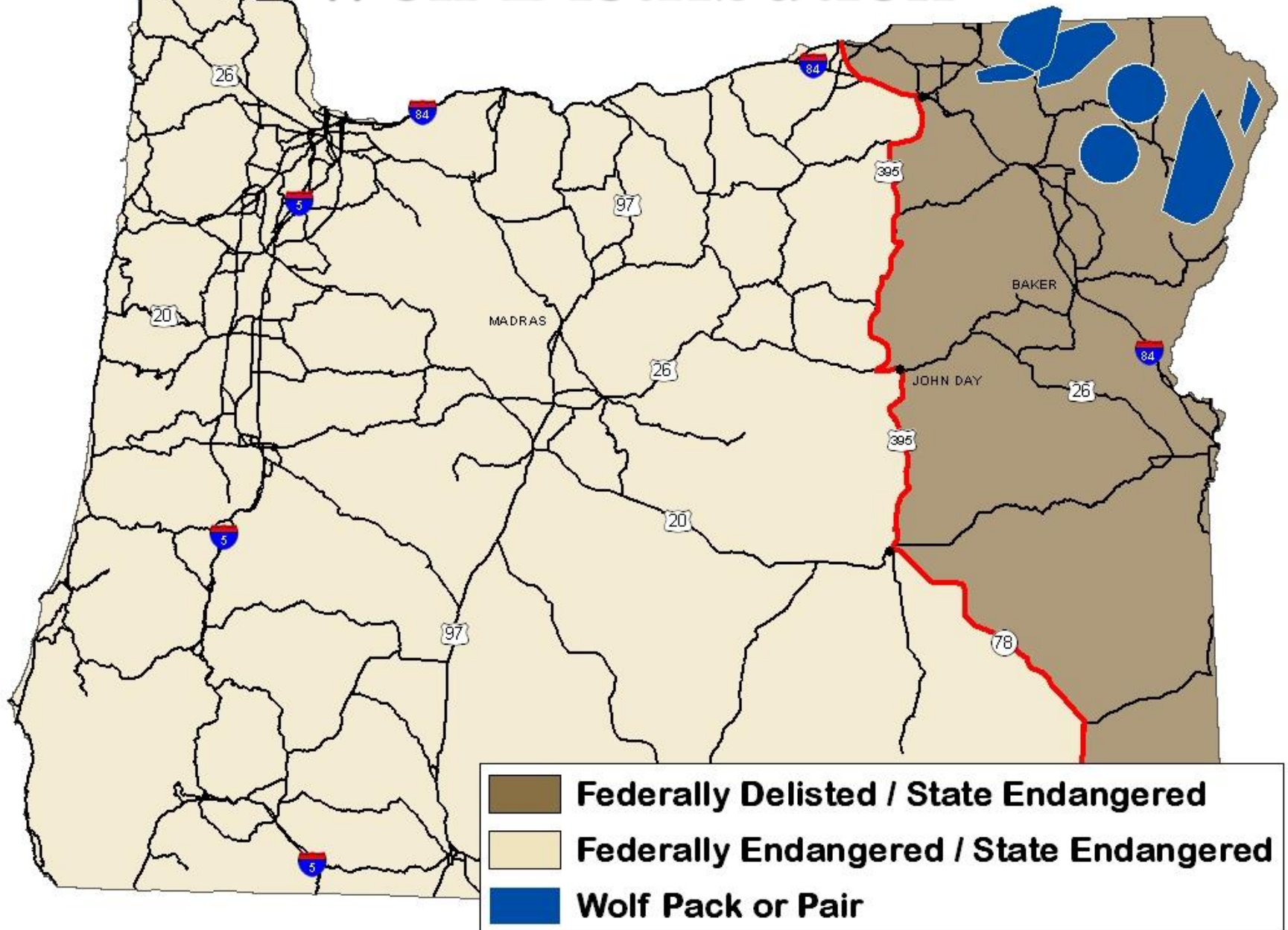


2012 Wolf Population

- 6 known packs in northeastern Oregon
- 6 breeding pairs
- December wolf count: 46 wolves



Wolf Distribution




Livestock Depredation

- 36 Investigations
- 8 Confirmed incidents
- Baker, Umatilla, and
Wallowa Counties



Producer Assistance

- 
- A photograph of a snowy field under a cloudy sky. In the foreground, a line of red flags is strung across the snow. In the middle ground, a herd of dark-colored cattle is gathered near some bare bushes. A fence line runs across the background, with mountains visible in the distance.
- Non-lethal measures
 - Caught in act permits
 - Notification system

Lethal Control of Wolves

- 4 wolves killed in response to depredation
- No wolves removed during current litigation



In Summary

- Oregon's wolves are increasing
- Wolf Plan is being implemented
- Wolf management is challenging



Questions?



BACKUP SLIDES

Oregon Wolves, 2012

Pack/Area	Adults	Pups	Unknown Age	Total
Imnaha Pack	2	6		8
Minam Pack	2	2	1	5
Snake River Pack	3	3	1	7
Umatilla River Pack	2	2		4
Walla Walla Pack	4	2		6
Wenaha Pack	4	7		11
Sled Springs Pair	2			2
Individuals	3			3
				46 TOTAL

Funding

- This biennium Oregon will fund wolf management through a variety of sources
 - Federal Funds (State Wildlife Grant, Pitman-Robinson, and USFWS Grants)
 - State Matching Funds (Non-game Checkoff, Lottery, License)
- Total wolf program = \$586,447

Oregon ESA Delisting Criteria

- Species not in danger of extinction or becoming endangered in any significant portion of its range
- Natural reproductive potential not in danger of failure
- Most populations not undergoing imminent or active deterioration of range or primary habitat
- Over-utilization of species or habitat not occurring
- Regulations provide adequate protection of species and habitat

Large Wolves?

- This is one of two Oregon wolves captured weighing > 100 lbs
- Both photos are of the same adult wolf (OR4)

91 lbs – May 2011



115 lbs - March 2012



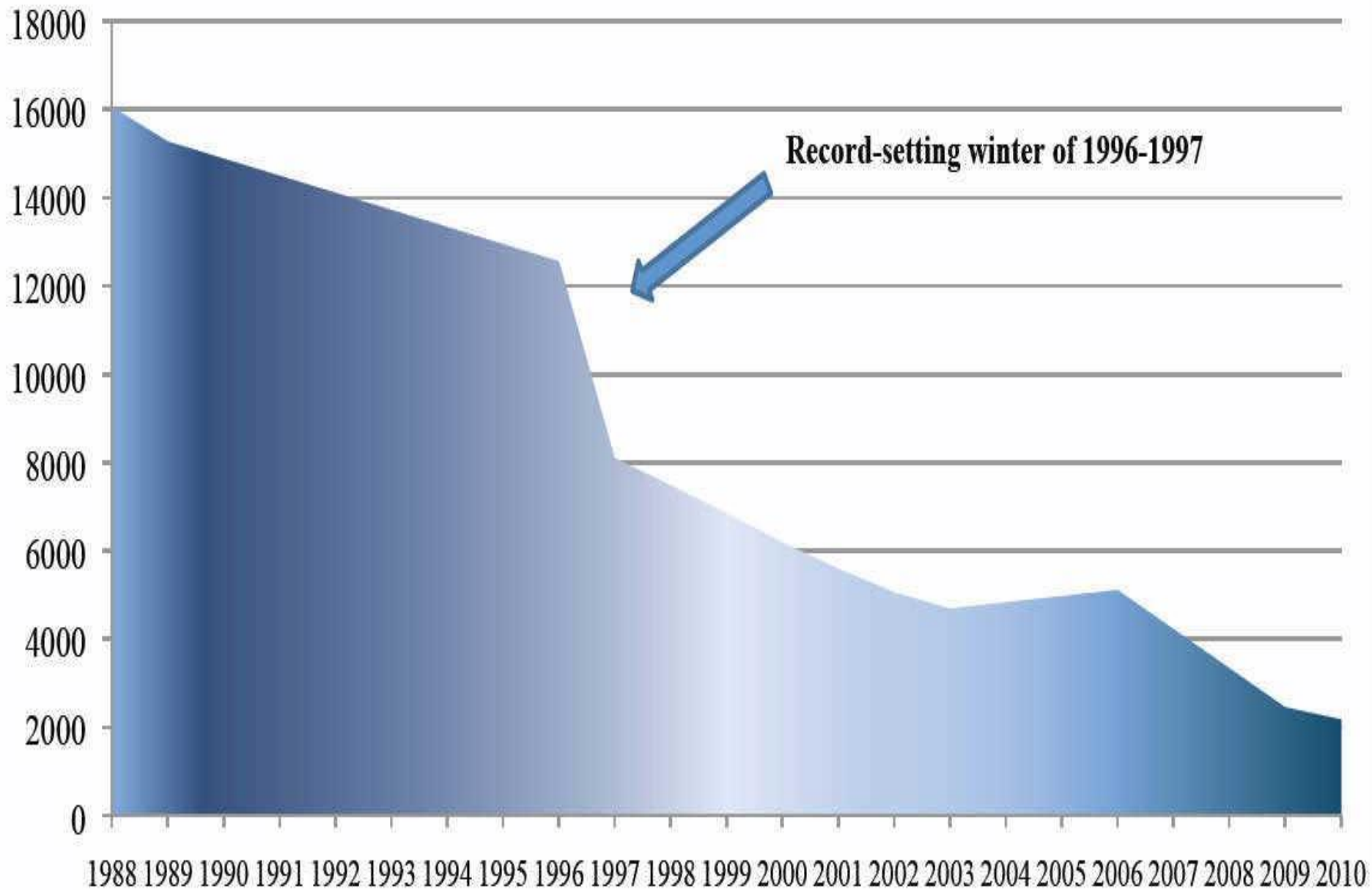
Weights of Captured Wolves (lbs)

Idaho	Mean	Range	<i>n</i>
Adult male	100	75-135	98
Adult Female	82	50-101	71
Sub Male	85	65-113	56
Sub Female	73	50-92	82
Oregon	Mean	Range	<i>n</i>
Ad/Sub Male	95	87-115	11
Ad/Sub Female	75	70-85	4

Impacts to Big Game? – Yes, No, Maybe

- Elk are primary wolf prey in NRM
- A “one size fits all” approach does not exist when assessing impacts of wolves on elk
- As expected, many conclusions about impacts of wolf predation have changed as populations have increased
- At a larger scale wolf predation alone has not been shown to cause declines of prey populations, but it can keep a local population depressed

Lolo Zone Elk Population



Wolf Taxonomy

- Wolves were native to Oregon
- Taxonomists continue to study historical distribution of wolves – thus, taxonomic classifications may continue to change
- Based on a very limited actual measured samples, some say that the original wolves may have been slightly smaller
- Many species with such great range show size variations, but on a gradient and not a sharp line.

Echinococcus

- *Echinococcus granulosus* is a tapeworm common to many species of dogs, coyotes, foxes, and wolves. It is endemic and is a natural part of the wolf's ecology
- It requires two hosts to complete its life cycle. Ungulates (deer, domestic cattle, domestic sheep, elk, and moose) and Canids (wolves, coyotes, dogs, foxes)
- Larval tapeworms can form hydatid cysts in ungulates
- Though there are some human cases documented, humans are not a natural host of the parasite and public health significance and risk is low.
- However, care should be taken when handling dog or wolf feces

Echinococcus

- Echinococcus has been identified in Idaho and Oregon wolves. This is not unexpected since the parasite is a part of the ecology of the wolf.
- The health effects of Echinococcus granulosus to wildlife and livestock is also low
- You can see more information at the ODFW wolf website