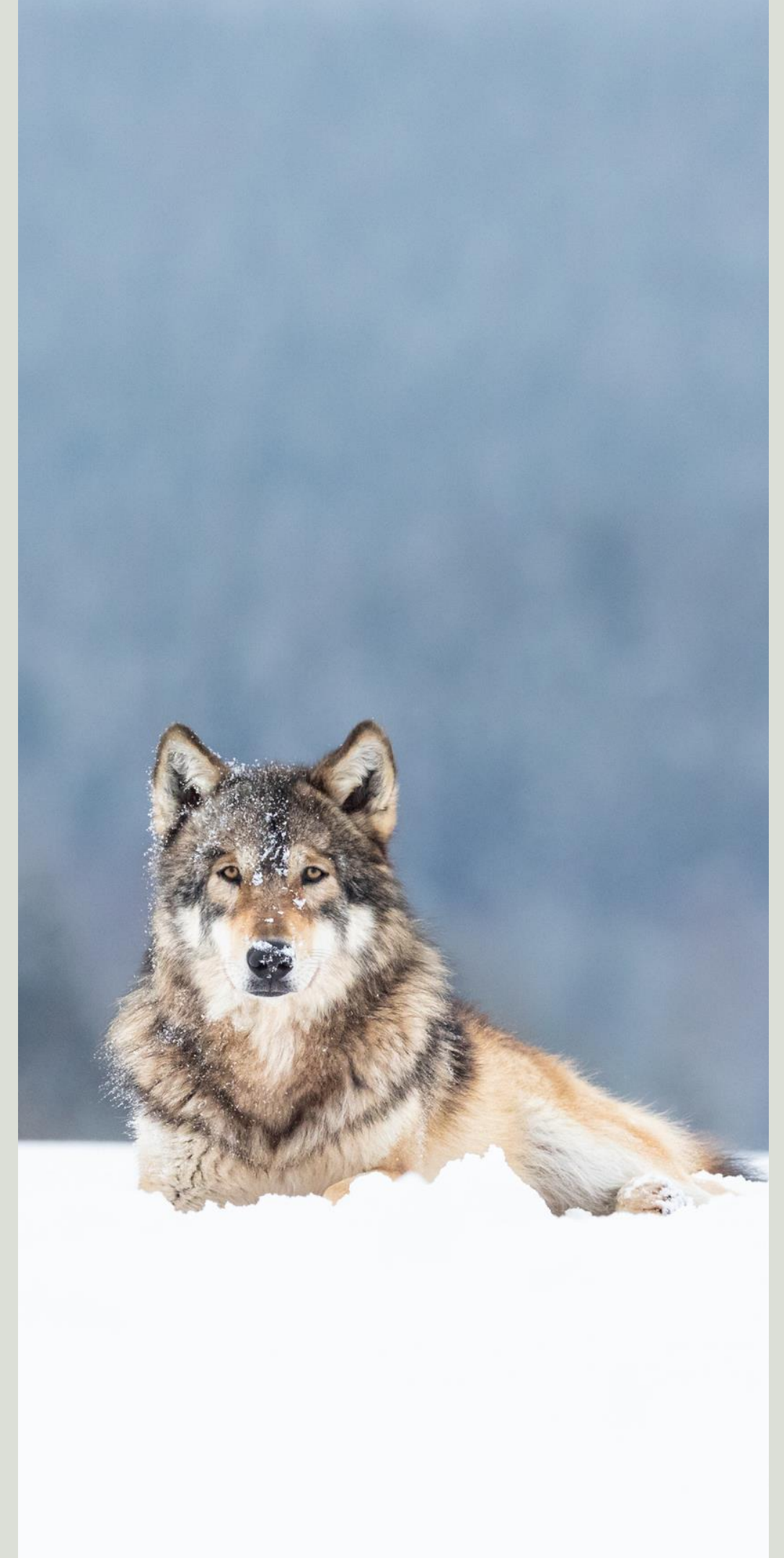


Oregon's wolves: a recovery story in peril

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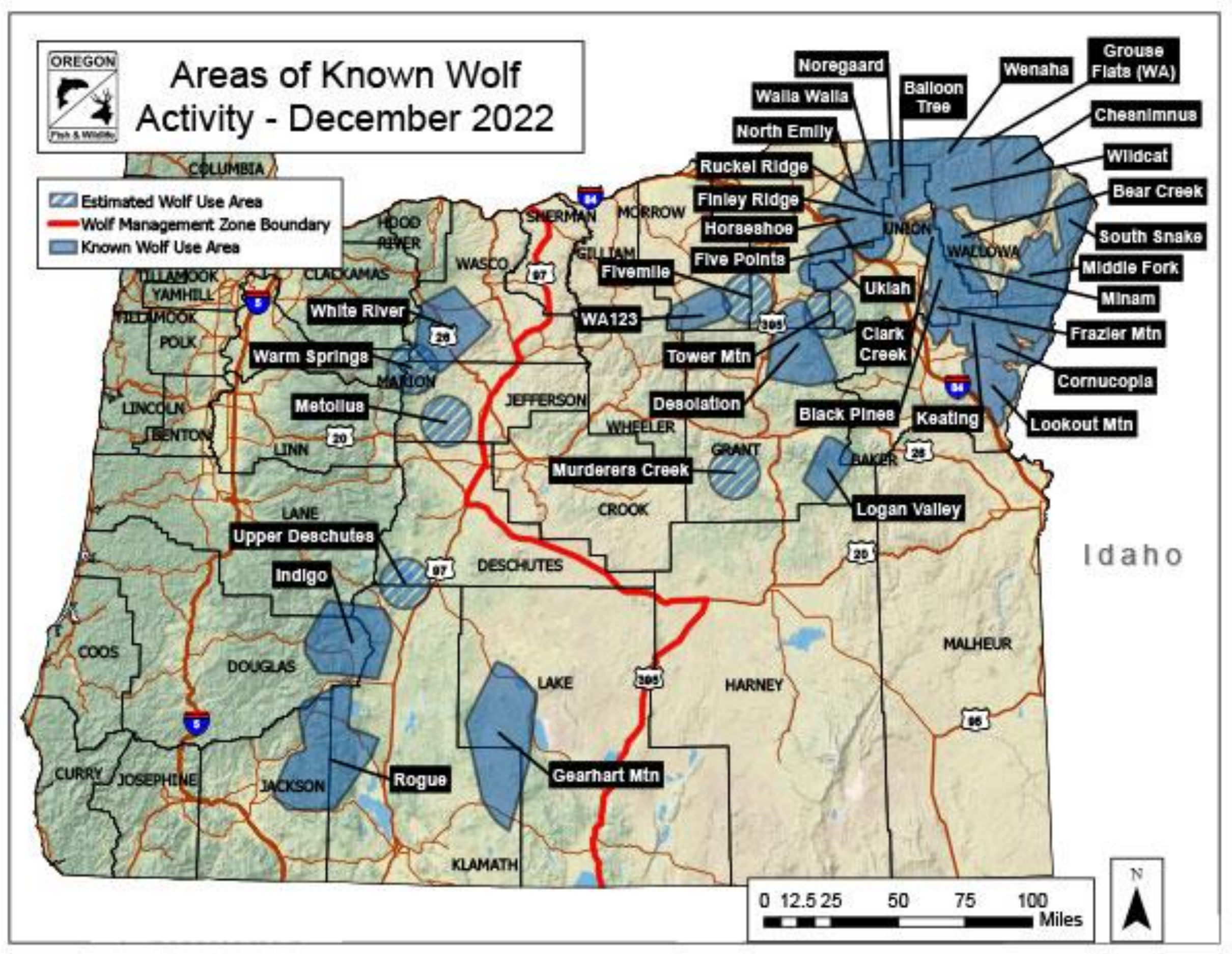


History of Oregon's wolves

- 1947 – Last known wolf killed in OR
- 1973 – Endangered Species Act passage
- 1999 – First wolf returns to OR
- 2005 – Oregon Wolf Plan adopted
- 2008 – First wolf pack established
- 2011 – Compensation Fund established
- 2011 – OR-7 first wolf in western Oregon



Oregon Wolf Population Distribution



ODFW will release the 2023 Wolf Report in mid-late April 2024, 2022 is the most current data

Oregon Wolf Plan phases:

Phase I: *Conservation Phase*: four breeding pairs of wolves for three consecutive years

- The West Zone remains in Phase I

Phase II: *Transition Phase*: wolf population has achieved the conservation objective for a zone but is not in Phase III

- East Zone was in Phase II from 2015-2017

Phase III: *Management phase*: at least seven breeding pairs for three consecutive years

- The East Zone entered Phase III in March of 2017

Oregon's wolf population and pack count trajectory

- Population growth stagnant since 2020
- Pack count decreased since 2020
- 2022 min. population of 178 wolves
 - ID: est. 1,337, MT: est. 1,087, WA: 216

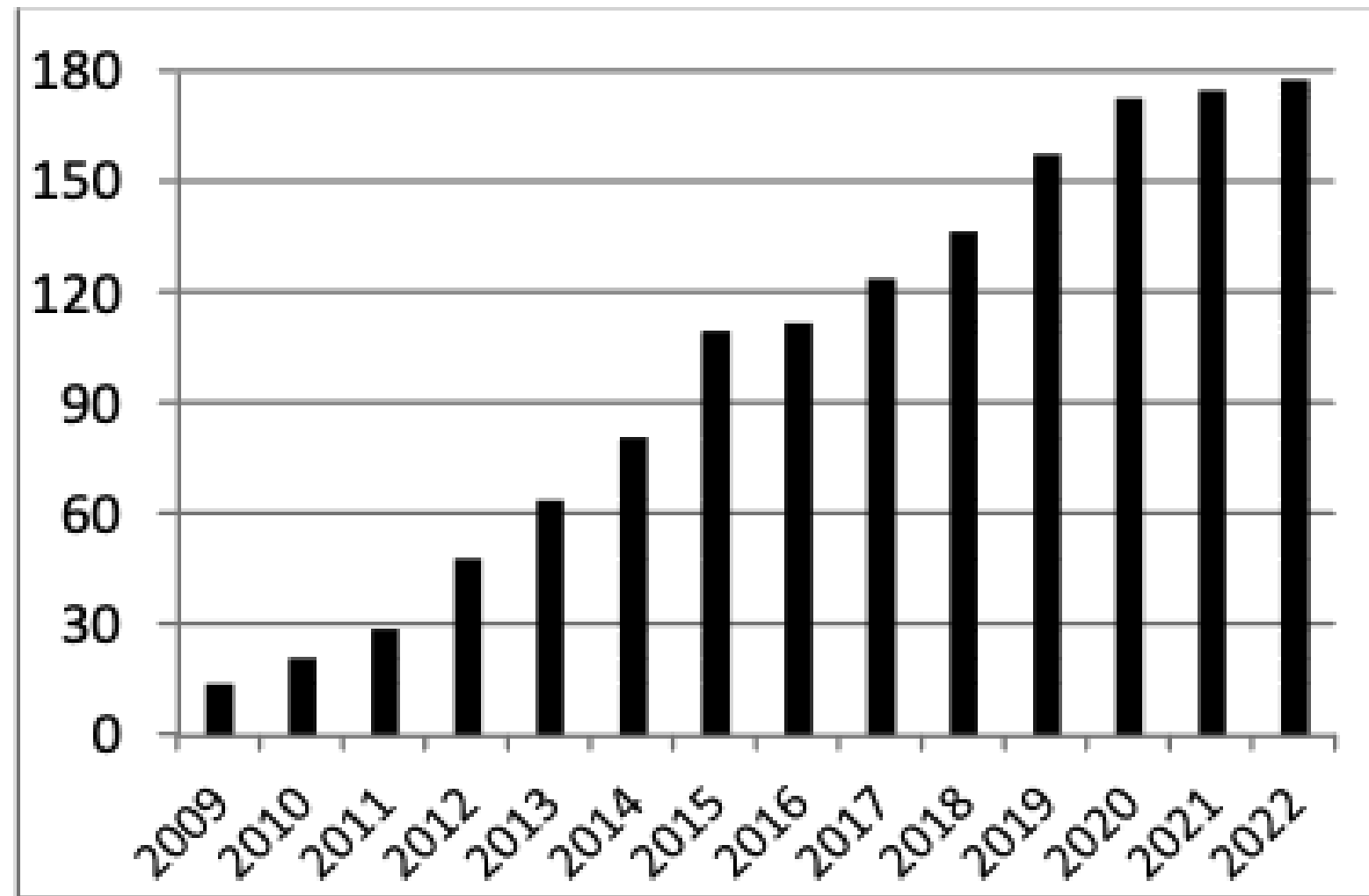


Figure 2. Minimum wolf count in Oregon (2009-2022).

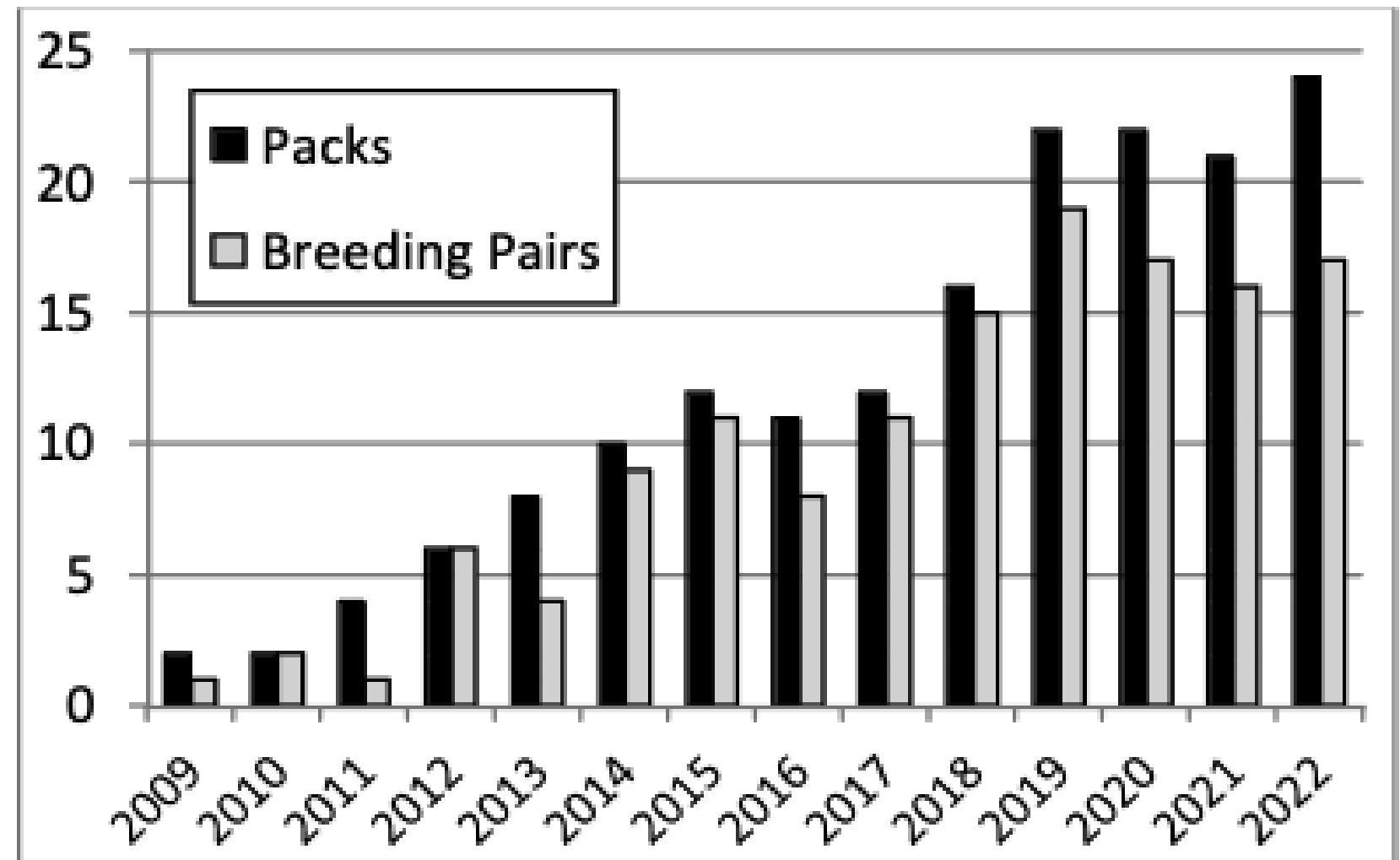


Figure 3. Number of packs and breeding pairs in Oregon (2009-2022).

Wolf-livestock conflict facts

- ❖ Wolves cause a tiny fraction of livestock death in Oregon
 - ODFW confirmed 93 livestock deaths or injury by wolves in 2023 (including 1 guardian dog and 1 herding dog), a **22% increase** over 2022 (76 confirmed deaths or injuries)
 - ODFW or its agents killed 16 wolves, a **166% increase** over 2022 (6 in 2022)
 - Oregon was home to 1,240,000 cows and calves and 140,000 sheep and lambs in 2023
 - Thus, 0.000067% of Oregon's sheep and cows were killed by wolves in 2023
 - Of 78,000 cow and sheep deaths in 2022, 76 were caused by wolves, 0.00119%
 - In 2015 non-predator causes accounted for almost 98 percent of all deaths in adult cattle and almost 89 percent of all calf deaths.
 - Coyotes accounted for the highest percentage of calf deaths due to predators (53.1 percent), followed by unknown predator causes (12.4 percent) and vultures (10.3 percent).

**** all statistics are ODFW or US Department of Agriculture**

ODFW authorized wolf killing far outpaces predation increases

- Thirty wolves were killed by ODFW of authorized agents in response to livestock predations between September 2009 and December 2022.
- In 2021 the min. population was 173 wolves, with 26 total mortalities, 21 of which were human caused (including 8 poisonings), and **8 agency killings**
- In 2022 min wolf population was 175 wolves, 20 known mortalities, 17 human caused, **6 agency killings** and 1 caught in the act
- ODFW authorized **16 killings** in 2023, twice that of 2021, more than double from 2022, with an increase in the population in those years of just 5 wolves.
- In 2023 Oregon's minimum wolf population was 178 wolves, with at least **30 known human-caused mortalities**: 16 agency authorized killings, 12 poached, 1 killed by a hunter, 1 hit by a car

Oregon's Wolf Recovery Requires Focus on Conservation

From 2009-2018, known human-caused mortality rates (authorized and unauthorized) did not exceed 10% annually of minimum counts.

In 2023 that figure has doubled:

30 of 178 dead = 16.85%

40 of 178 lost = 22.47% (taking into account 10 wolves lost to Oregon's population when transferred to Colorado to aid in that state's wolf recovery)

In 2015, ODFW evaluated the effects of increased human-caused mortality on the state's wolf population at that time using an individual-based population model. Results indicated that a total human-caused mortality rate (including authorized and unauthorized take) of 15% would still result in an increasing population on average, but a total human-caused mortality rate of 20% would cause the wolf population to decline on average. – ODFW Wolf Plan at page 20.

ODFW's over 100% increase in authorized wolf killing combined with a serious poaching problem is a serious threat to wolf recovery.

ODFW's dedicated annual budget for implementing the Wolf Plan is just \$1.3 million:

- \$715,086 in General Funds (5 field positions)
 - \$47,468 in License Funds
 - \$432,105 in Federal Funds
 - \$96,566 in Lottery Funds
- = \$1.3 million

ODFW publicly acknowledges capacity challenges impact effective Plan implementation

Solutions include:

- Increase funding to ODFW to target the 6 counties that account for 90% of all predations and concentrate resources on the 10 producers experiencing recurrent predation over last 13 years

- Non-lethal mechanism implementation standardization
- Physical verification of appropriate use of non-lethals and lack of attractants

- Shared information, workshops, trainings on new tools, etc.

