

# Oregon Wolves, Cougars, & Sea Lions



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee- December 12, 2018

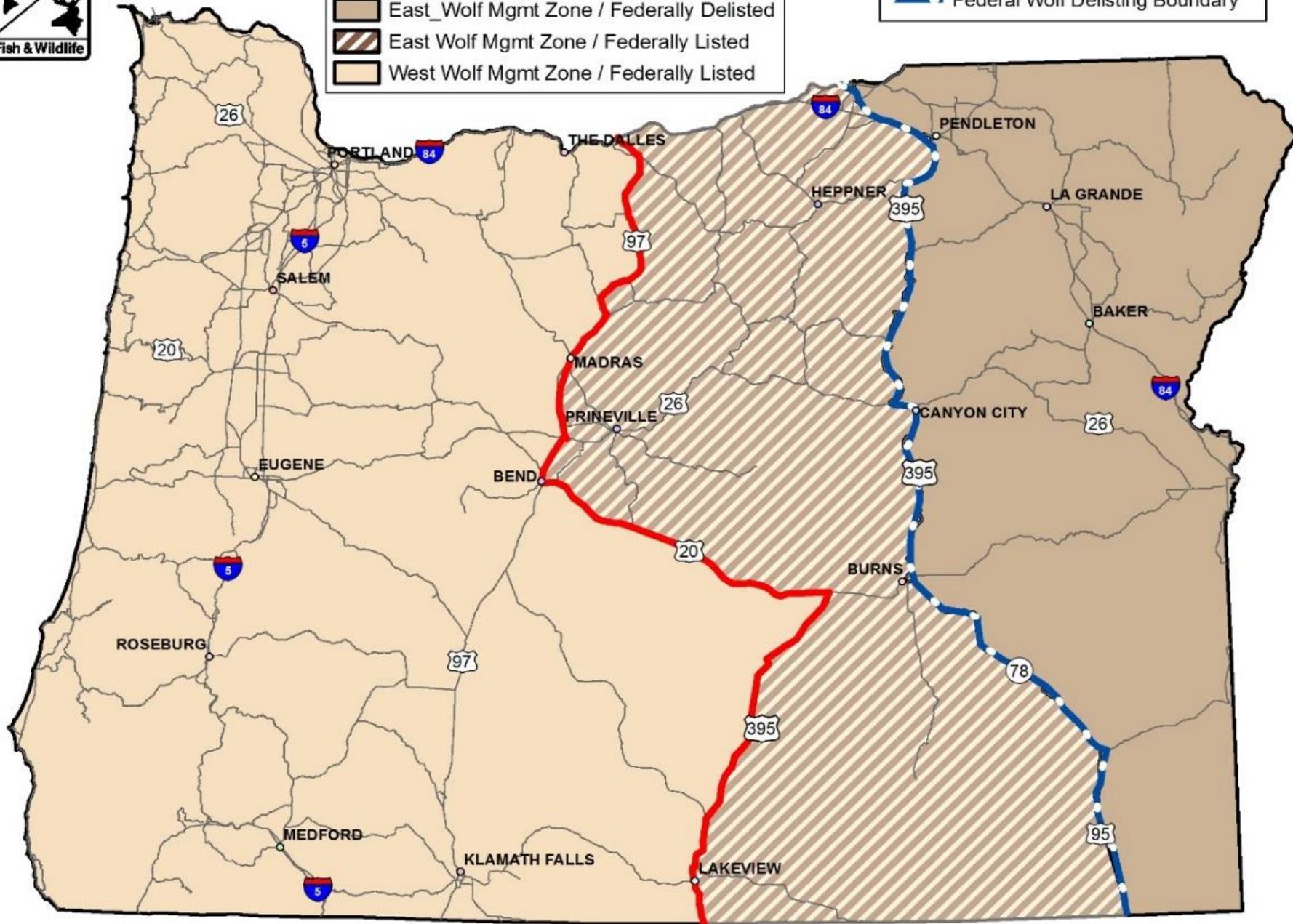




# Wolf Management Zones in Oregon

- East\_Wolf Mgmt Zone / Federally Delisted
- East Wolf Mgmt Zone / Federally Listed
- West Wolf Mgmt Zone / Federally Listed

- Wolf Management Zone Boundary
- Federal Wolf Delisting Boundary

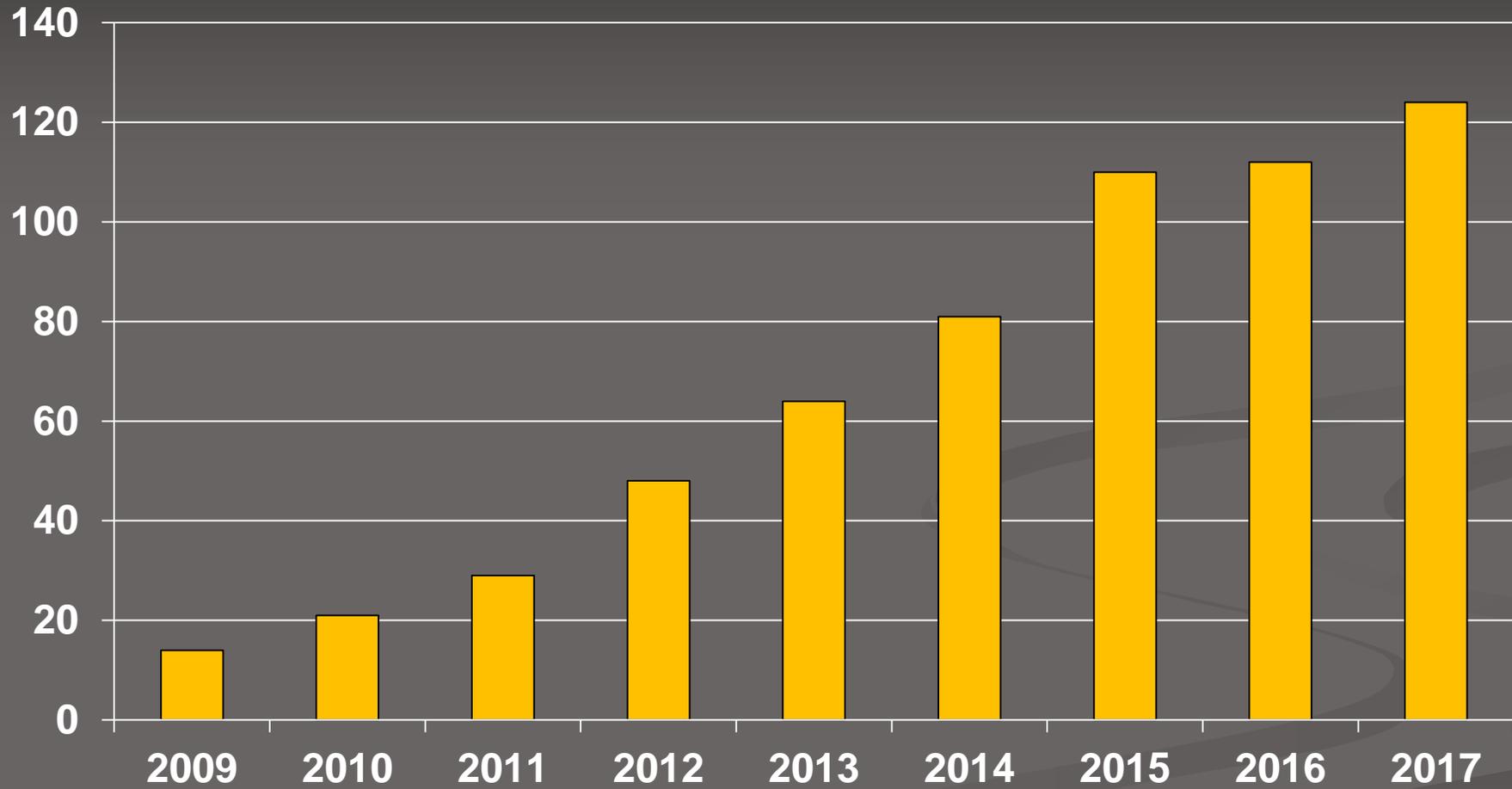


# Minimum Known Wolf Numbers



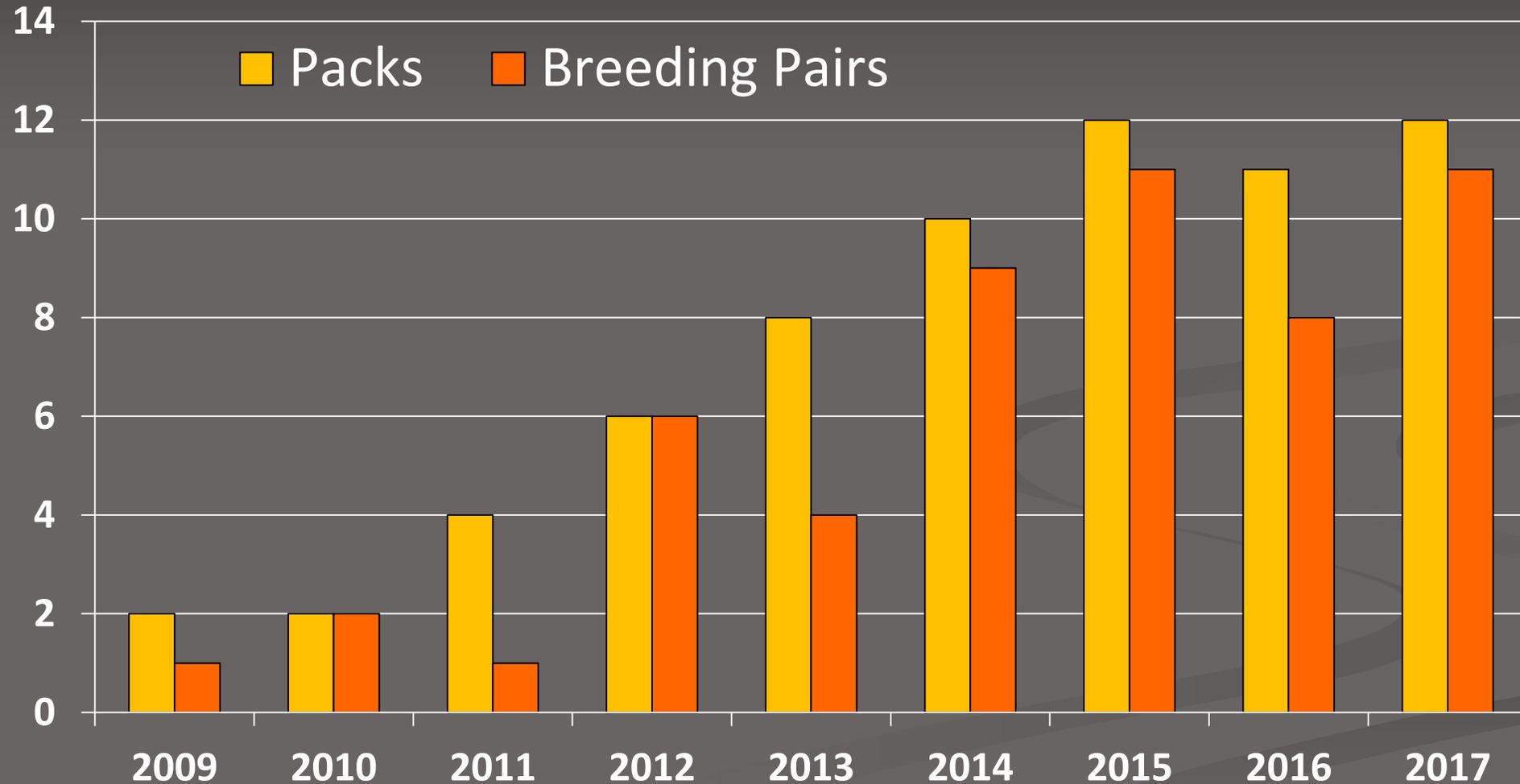
- **124 Wolves**
- **12 Packs**
- **11 Breeding pairs**

# Minimum Wolf Numbers



Minimum wolf count based on direct evidence

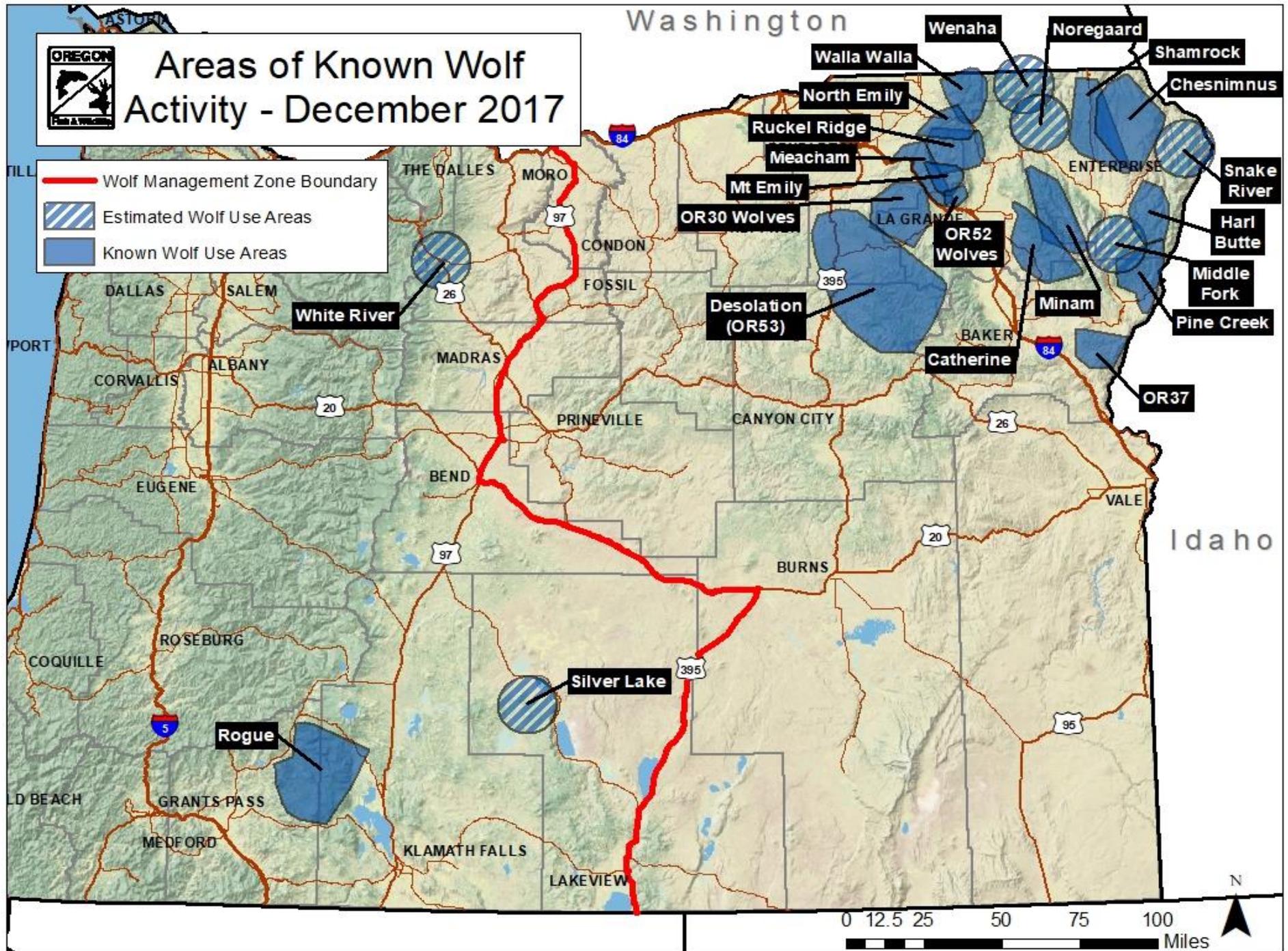
# Minimum Wolf Numbers





# Areas of Known Wolf Activity - December 2017

- Wolf Management Zone Boundary
- Estimated Wolf Use Areas
- Known Wolf Use Areas



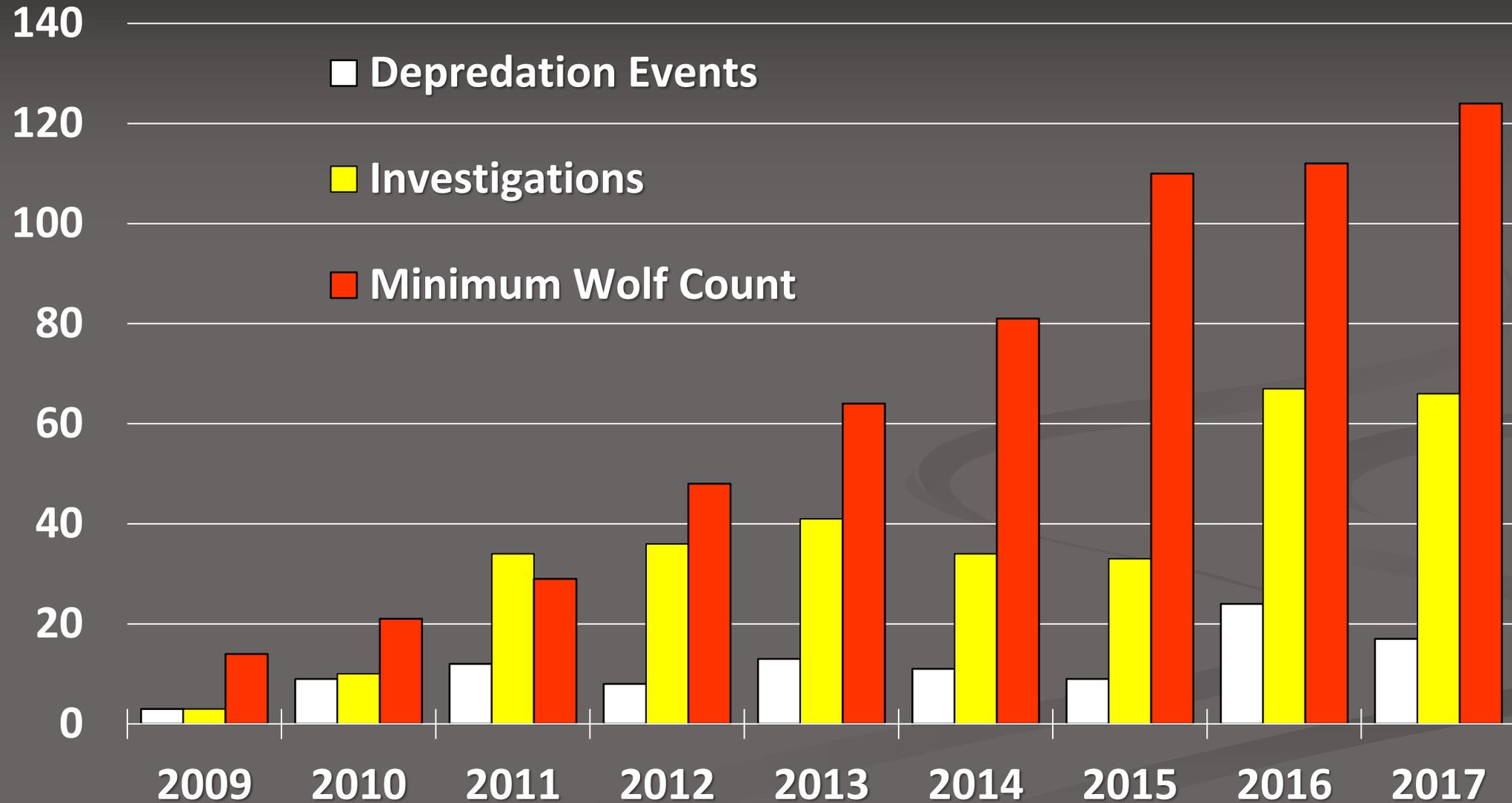
# Monitoring

## 13 Known Mortalities in 2017

- 1 Disease
- 5 Lethal Removal
- 4 Illegal Kills
- 3 Other Human Causes



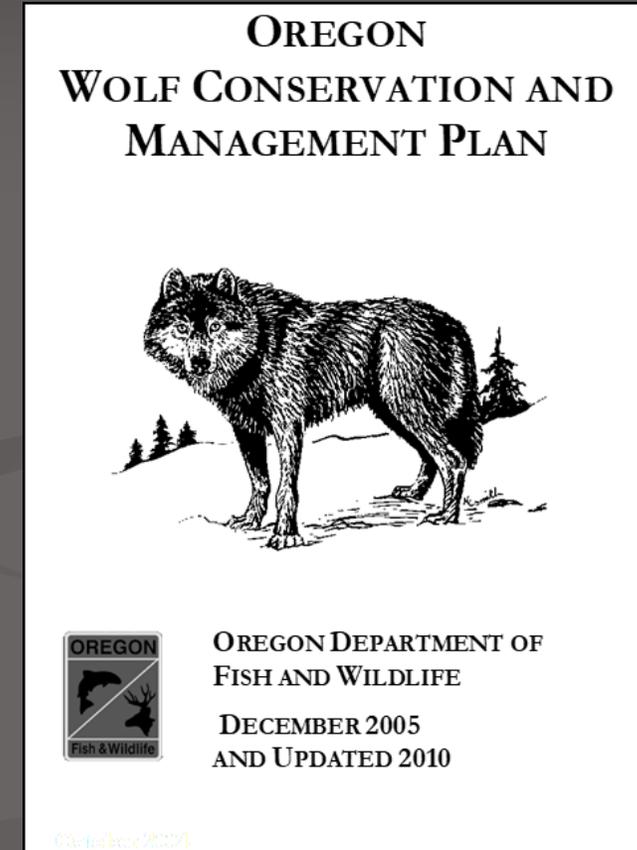
# Livestock Depredation



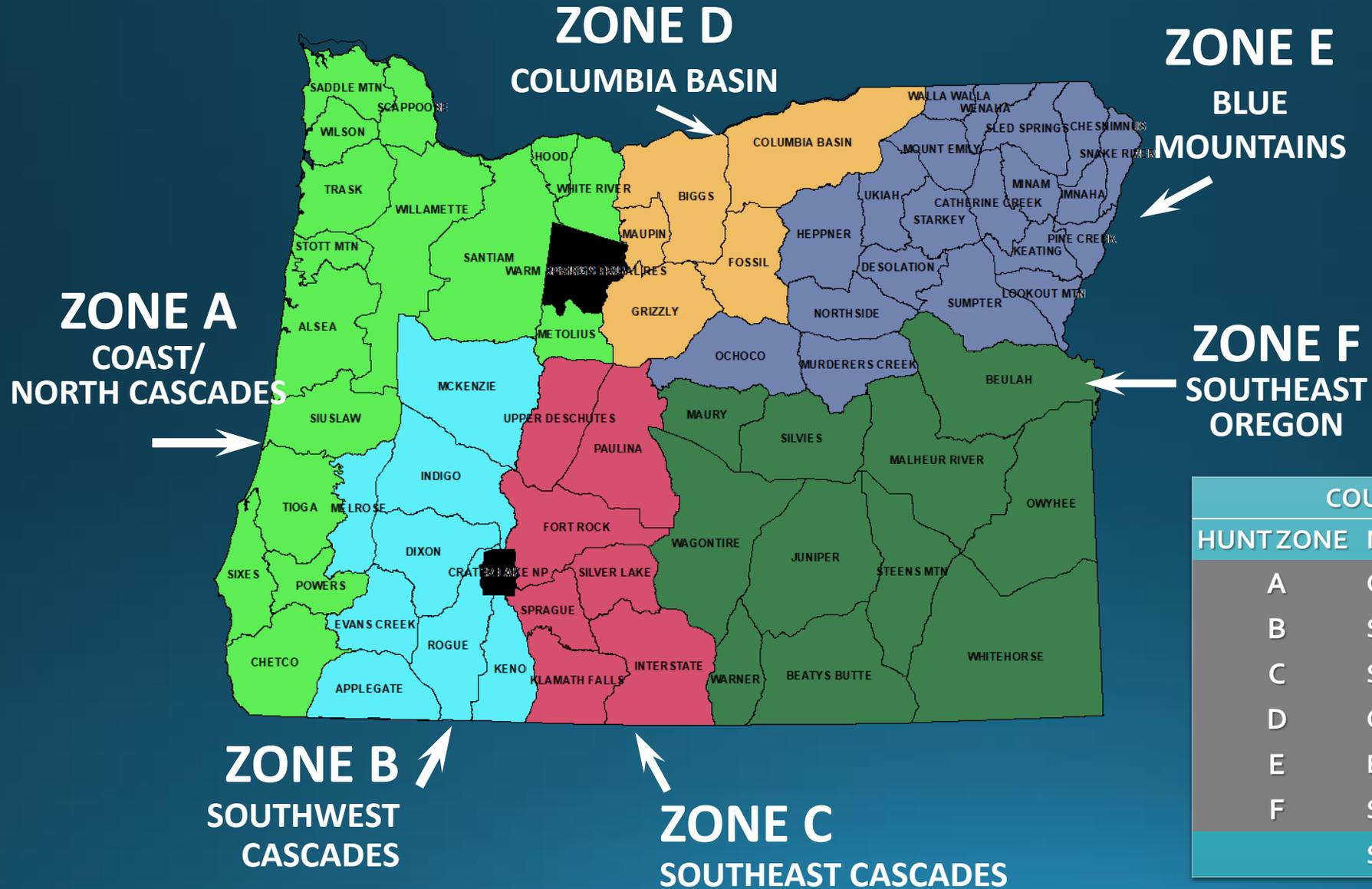
# Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan



- Current Wolf Plan
  - First adopted in 2005
  - Updates in 2010 and 2013
- Update of Wolf Plan
  - Initiated in 2016
  - Draft Plans presented in 2017
  - Facilitated meetings in 2018



# Cougar Management Zones

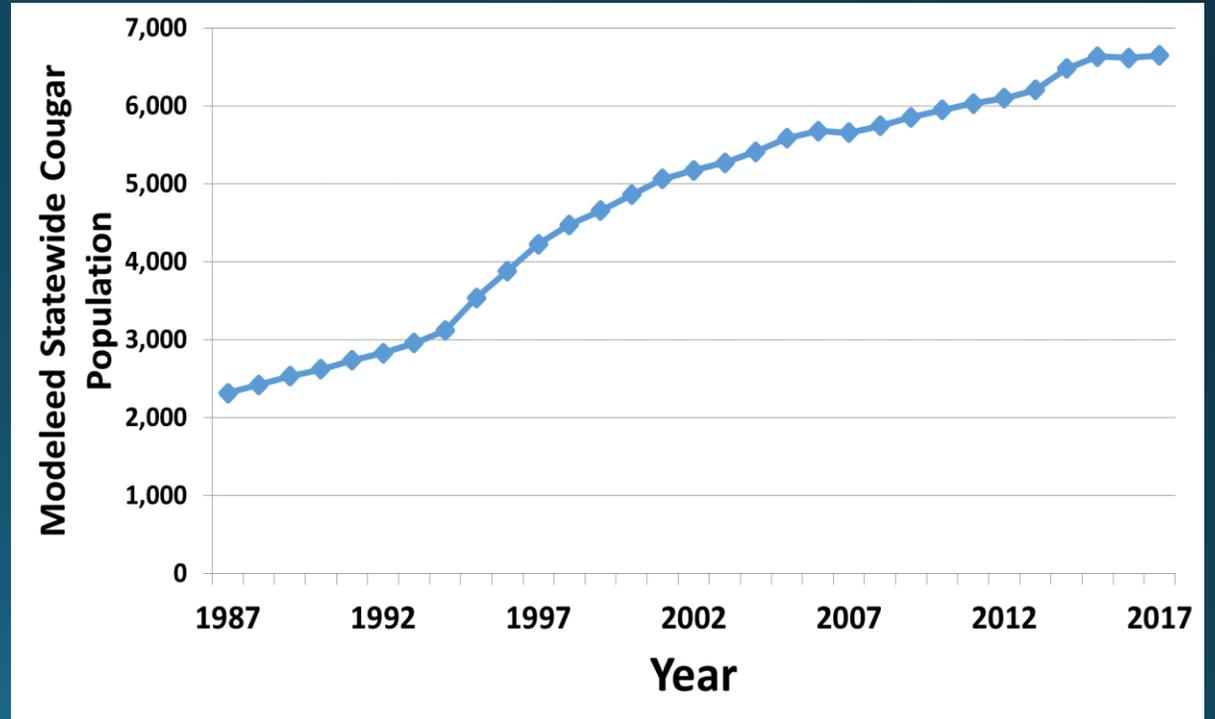
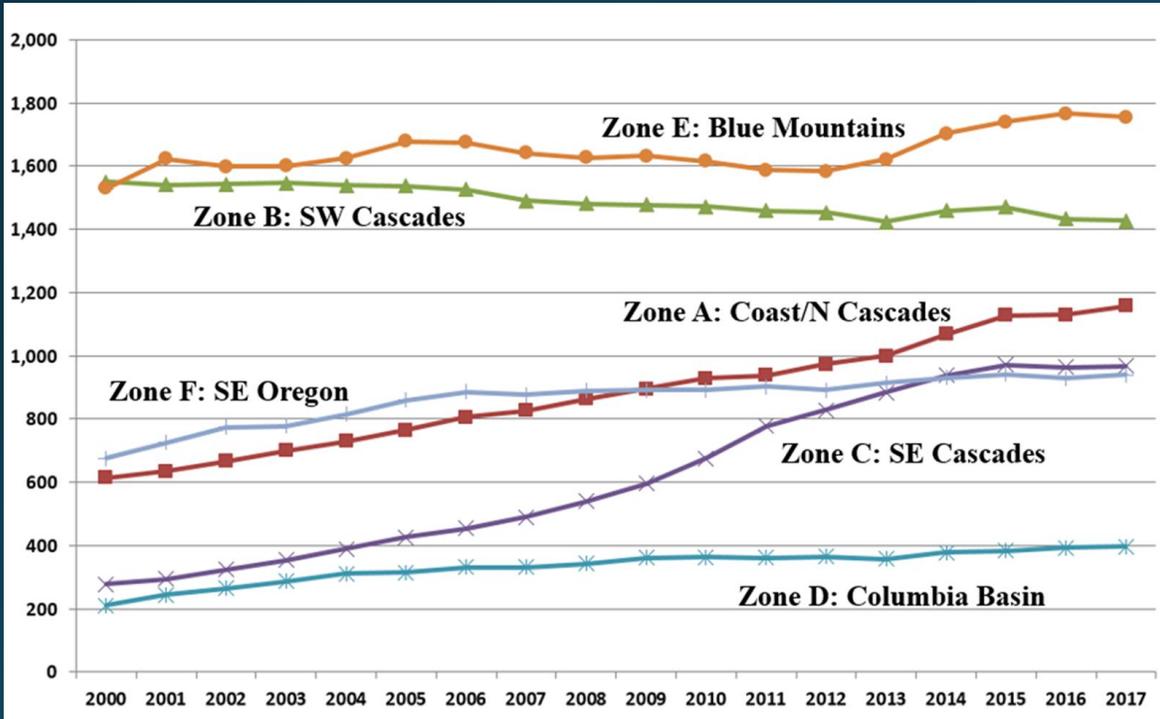


COUGAR QUOTA ZONES		
HUNT ZONE	NAME	QUOTA
A	Coast/North Cascade	180
B	Southwest Cascades	200
C	Southeast Cascades	80
D	Columbia Basin	100
E	Blue Mountains	270
F	Southeast Oregon	140
STATEWIDE TOTAL		970

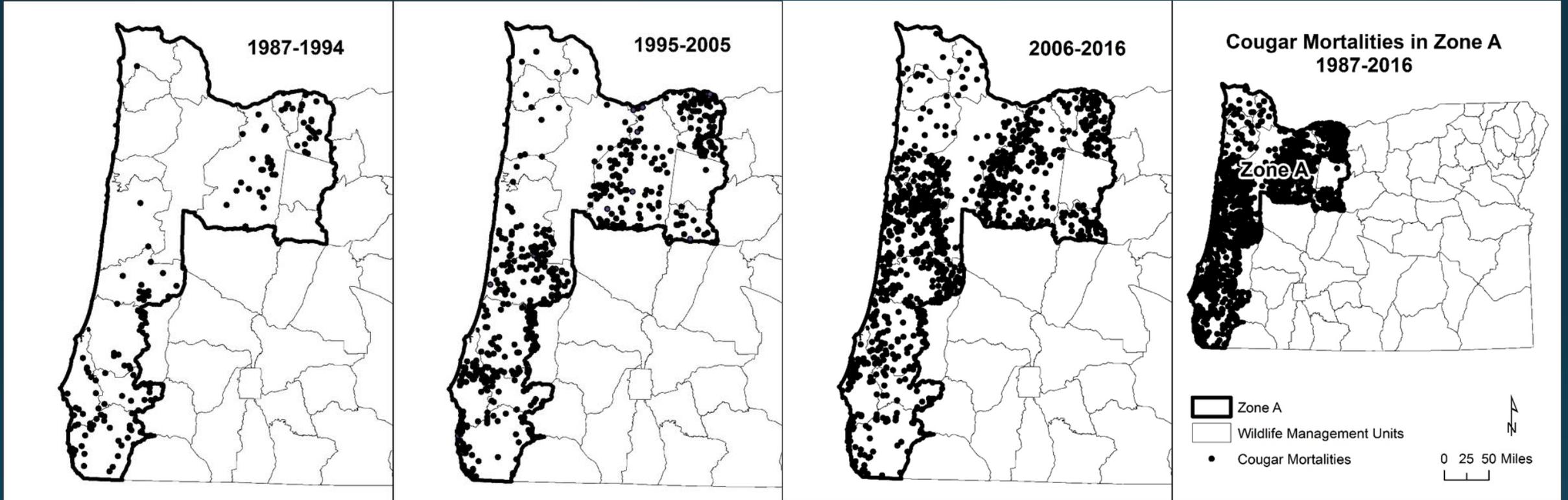
# Cougar Population Monitoring



Statewide Population Estimate of 6,643 in 2017



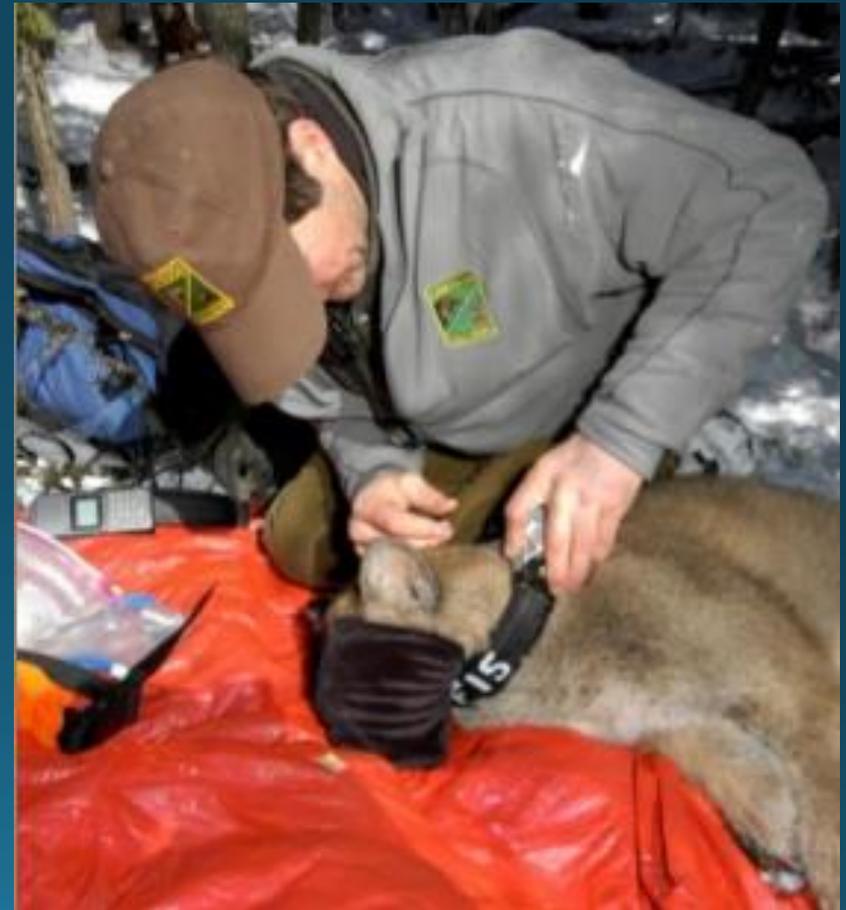
# Zone A Abundance, Distribution



# OREGON COUGAR RESEARCH



- Movement and Dispersal
  - Average males dispersal- 51 miles
  - Average female dispersal- 22 miles
- Home Ranges
  - Male home ranges- 64-200 mi<sup>2</sup>
  - Female home ranges- 15-70 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Densities
  - 4-12 cougars per 100 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Annual Survival
  - Kittens 0.66-0.79
  - Adult Males 0.57-0.82
  - Adult Females 0.85-0.86





# OREGON COUGAR RESEARCH

- Cougar survival rates and density in Oregon among highest in the West.
- Hunting without dogs results in low harvest and high survival.
- Limited hunting of cougars with hounds reduces survival rates of males, not females.
- Anderson and Lindzey (2005) found cougar populations begin to decline when adult (3+) females comprised at least 25% of the harvest.
- Cougar populations in Oregon capable of rapid increase when below prey limited carrying capacity.
- Cougar populations capable of rapid recovery rates.
- Effective reduction at local scale needs intensive lethal control due to immigration.

# Oregon Cougar Mortality by Year from All Sources

YEAR	Hunt	Livestock Damage	Human/Pet Safety	Roadkill	Admin	Other	Total
1987	129	8	2	1		2	142
1988	136	13	3	5		5	162
1989	116	15	1	7		6	145
1990	201	29	3	10		8	251
1991	124	22	4	4		8	162
1992	184	17	3	6		16	226
1993	162	20	7	15		6	210
1994	199	29	11	9		11	259
1995	22	41	22	7		5	97
1996	43	64	34	13		12	166
1997	61	82	20	9		9	181
1998	111	93	20	8		9	241
1999	169	91	39	13		12	324
2000	188	120	27	10		7	352
2001	220	98	27	12		9	366
2002	232	110	26	20		15	403
2003	248	111	28	16		9	412
2004	265	95	28	15		20	423
2005	224	125	28	12		18	407
2006	289	106	26	12		20	453
2007	309	114	21	19	52	22	537
2008	272	109	23	19	34	35	492
2009	274	110	31	15	21	22	473
2010	240	99	25	14	79	25	482
2011	241	139	23	12	71	20	506
2012	253	130	46	17	56	28	530
2013	292	148	24	9	36	22	531
2014	209	124	27	16		9	385
2015	233	133	23	24		20	433
2016	267	151	18	19	71	18	544
<b>Total</b>	<b>5913</b>	<b>2546</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>10295</b>



# Cougar Management Objectives

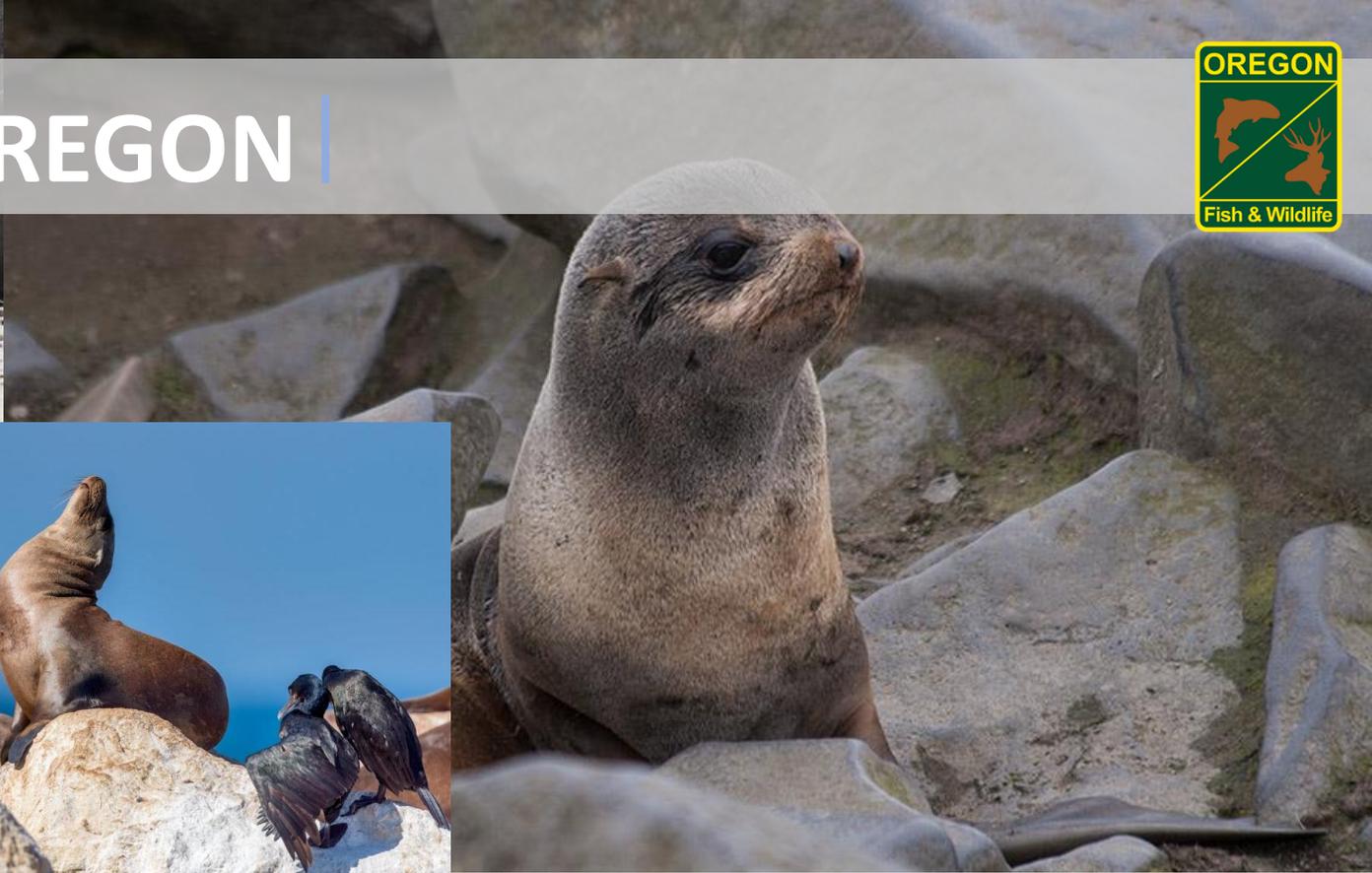
**Objective 1:** Manage for a cougar population not below 3,000 cougars statewide.

**Objective 2:** Manage cougar-human safety/pet conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities.

**Objective 3:** Manage cougar-livestock conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities.

**Objective 4:** Manage cougar populations in a manner compatible and consistent with management objectives for other game mammals.

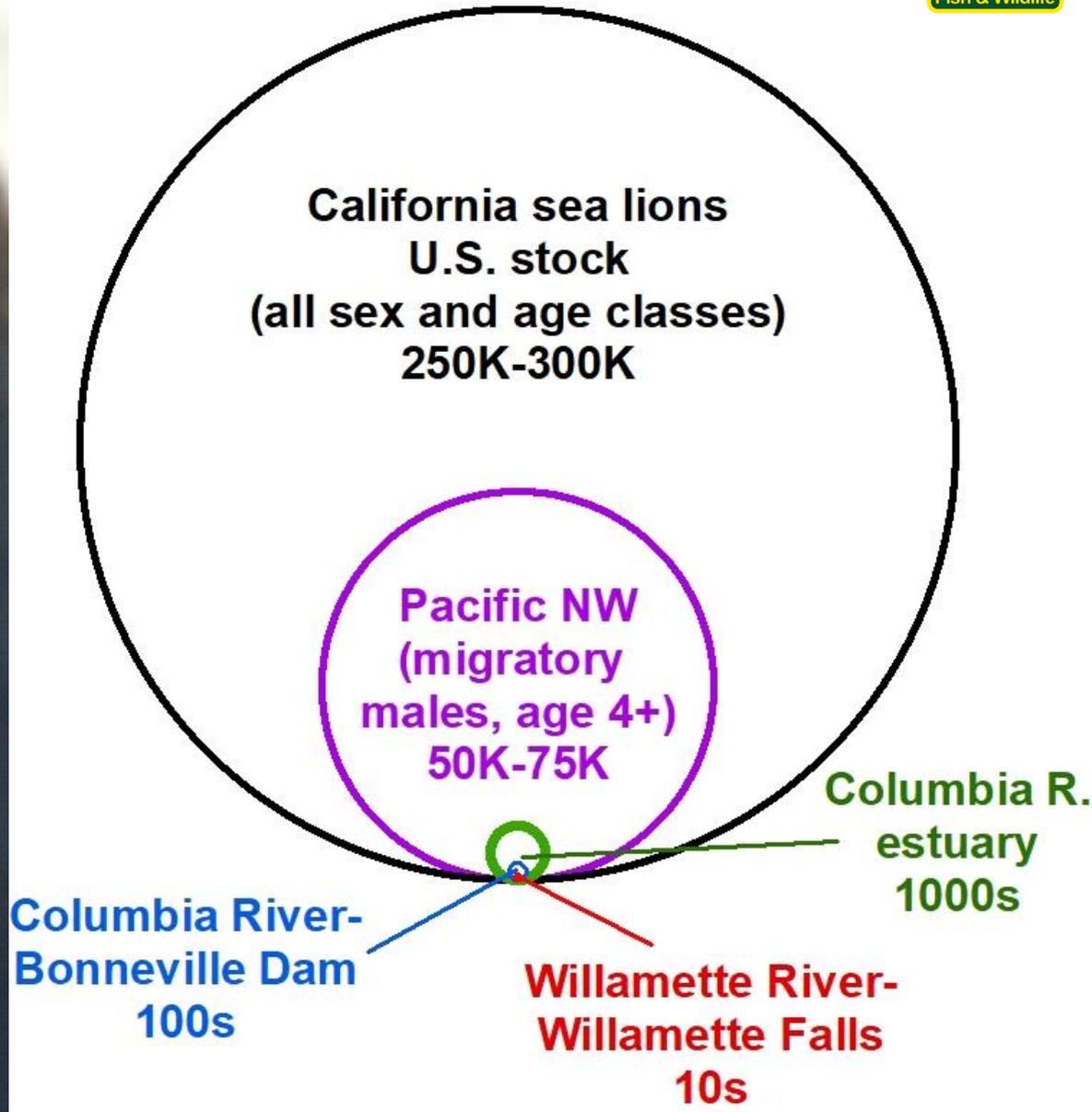
# COASTAL PINNIPEDS IN OREGON |



**A SUCCESS STORY...WITH UNFORSEEN CONSEQUENCES**



# COLUMBIA RIVER | "RIVER LIONS"





Willamette River  
Edging toward extinction

Columbia River  
Unsustainable losses

Winter Steelhead



**4**

Populations

Spring Chinook



**34**

Populations

Sea lions



**40+**

@ Willamette Falls

Sea lions



**~200**

@ Bonneville Dam

Fish



**25%**

Eaten

Up to



**43%**

Fish Eaten

Probability



**89%**

of Extinction

Probability



**?**

of Extinction

# CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Lethal removal at **Bonneville Dam**  
since 2008 – Inter-agency

Non-Lethal efforts at Willamette  
Falls 2010-2013, 2018

Lethal removal at **Willamette Falls**  
beginning winter 2018 (Letter of  
Authorization issued Nov. 2018)



# MMPA | FEDERAL LEGISLATION



## Applies lessons learned over 30 years reconciling the MMPA and ESA

- Place-based 'Safe Zones' for salmon (Columbia River, Tributaries)
- Adds potential to protect sturgeon

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S. 3119**

### AN ACT

To allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

(U.S. Senate → Passed to U.S. House of Representatives December 7, 2018)



# Questions?

