

Elk Damage

Grande Ronde Valley

Union County, Oregon

2018 -2019

Elk in the Grande Ronde Valley

- Arrival of elk preceded snowfall



December 13, 2018

Majestic Animals







Majestic Animals

that are causing economic damage

Stack Damage











Field Damage





















March 20,2019
Occupation and Damage Continues

Many facets of the Problem

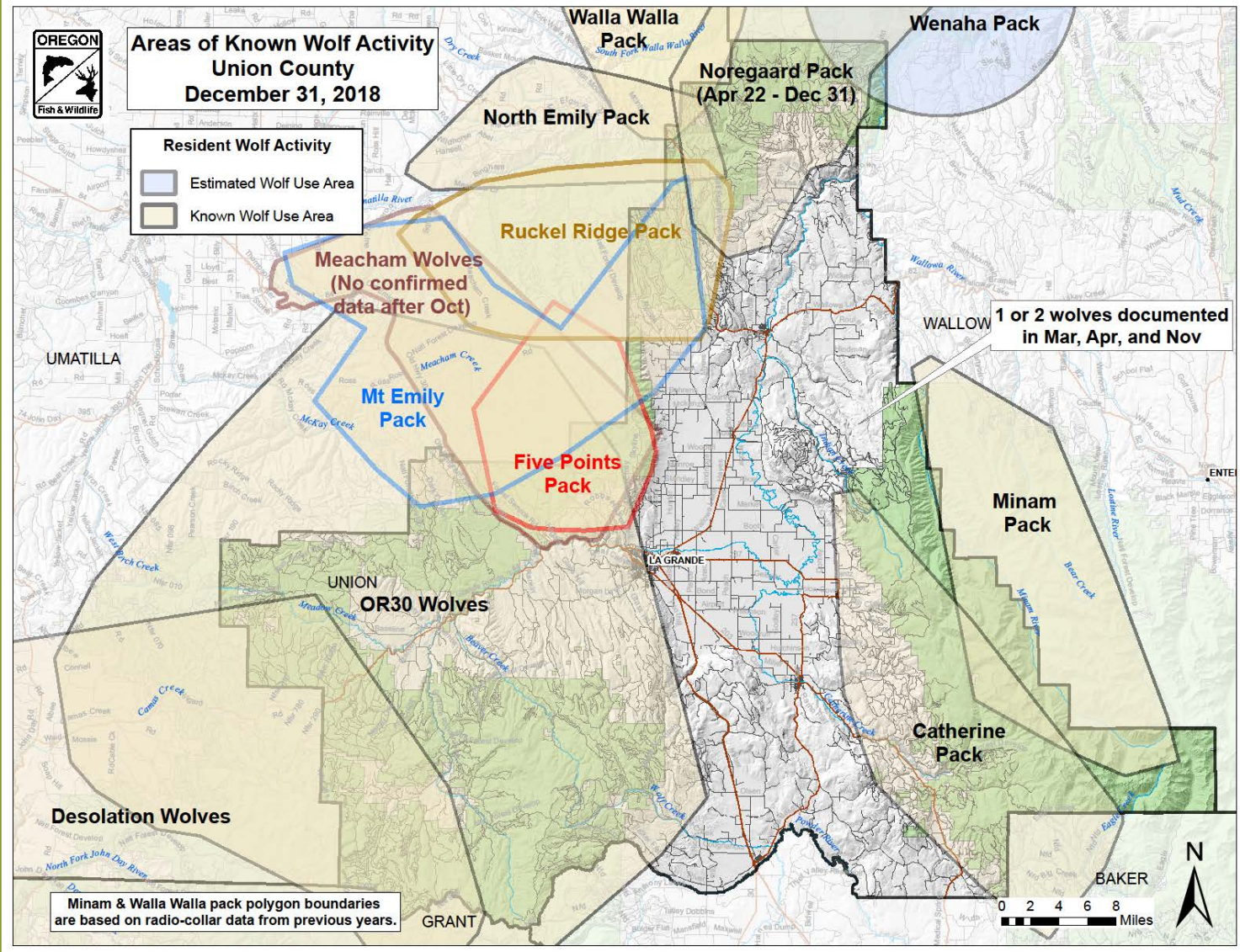
- **Resident herds (year round in Valley floor)**
 - *These herds have found places on private property where they find refuge – then trespass on neighbors private property (often at night) and damage crops*
- **Change in cropping practices**
 - *Fescue seed fields are fertilized and watered in the fall and have significant regrowth*
- **Harsh winter in recent past - 2015/2016**
 - *Elk learned the qualities of that Valley floor that winter*
- **Unprecedented concentrations**
 - *Farmers, longtime residents as well as ODFW Staff have not seen concentrations as we are presently experiencing*
- **Predators**
 - *Please see ODFW known wolf pack map*



Areas of Known Wolf Activity Union County December 31, 2018

Resident Wolf Activity

- Estimated Wolf Use Area (light blue outline)
- Known Wolf Use Area (black outline)



Minam & Walla Walla pack polygon boundaries are based on radio-collar data from previous years.



Potential Solutions

- Passage of HB3227
 - Passage of SB303
 - Removal of herds from residing on Valley floor year-round
 - Night-Time Shooting (*This is not Hunting, but a management tool.*)
 - Pressure herds to stay in forest/wildlands
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- Extend hunting seasons as a management tool
 - Establish additional forage crops in Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area
 - Establish *LIMITED* (emergency) feeding stations. *Suggestions-*
RMEF White Barn, Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, MERA