

Oregon Wolves

A Conservation Success

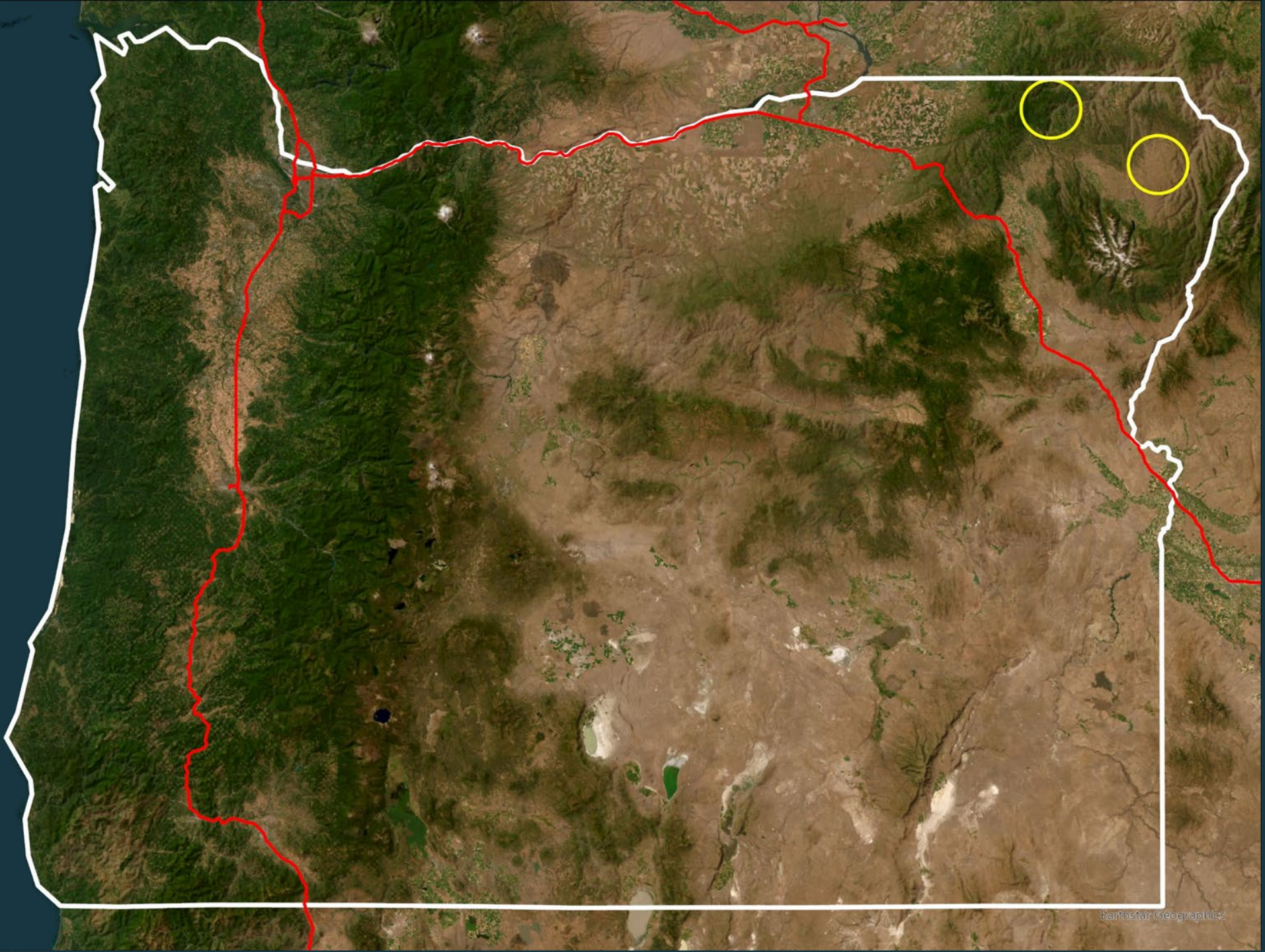
Roblyn Brown
ODFW Wolf Coordinator



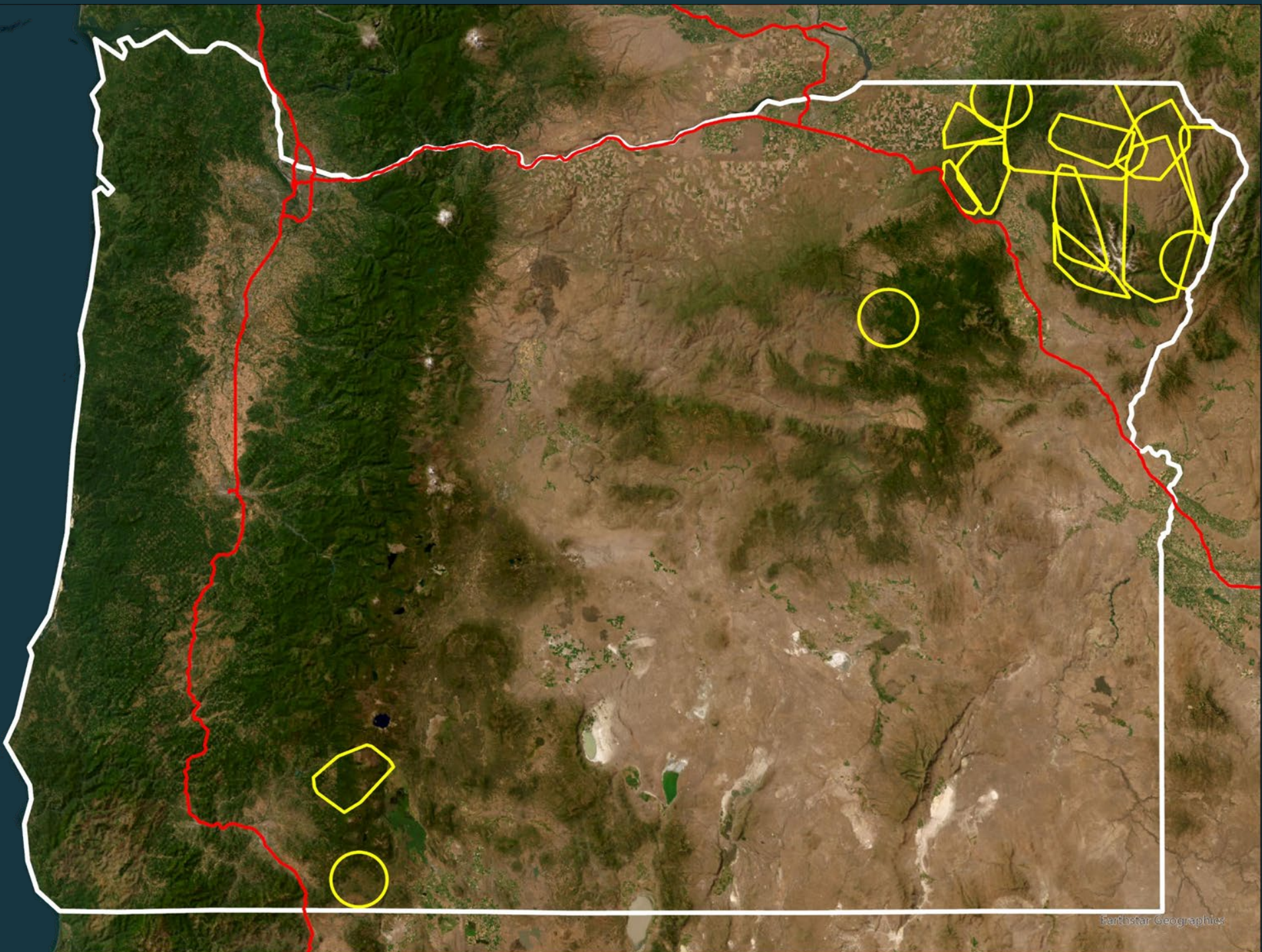
Prior to 1999, wolves
were absent from
Oregon for over half a
century



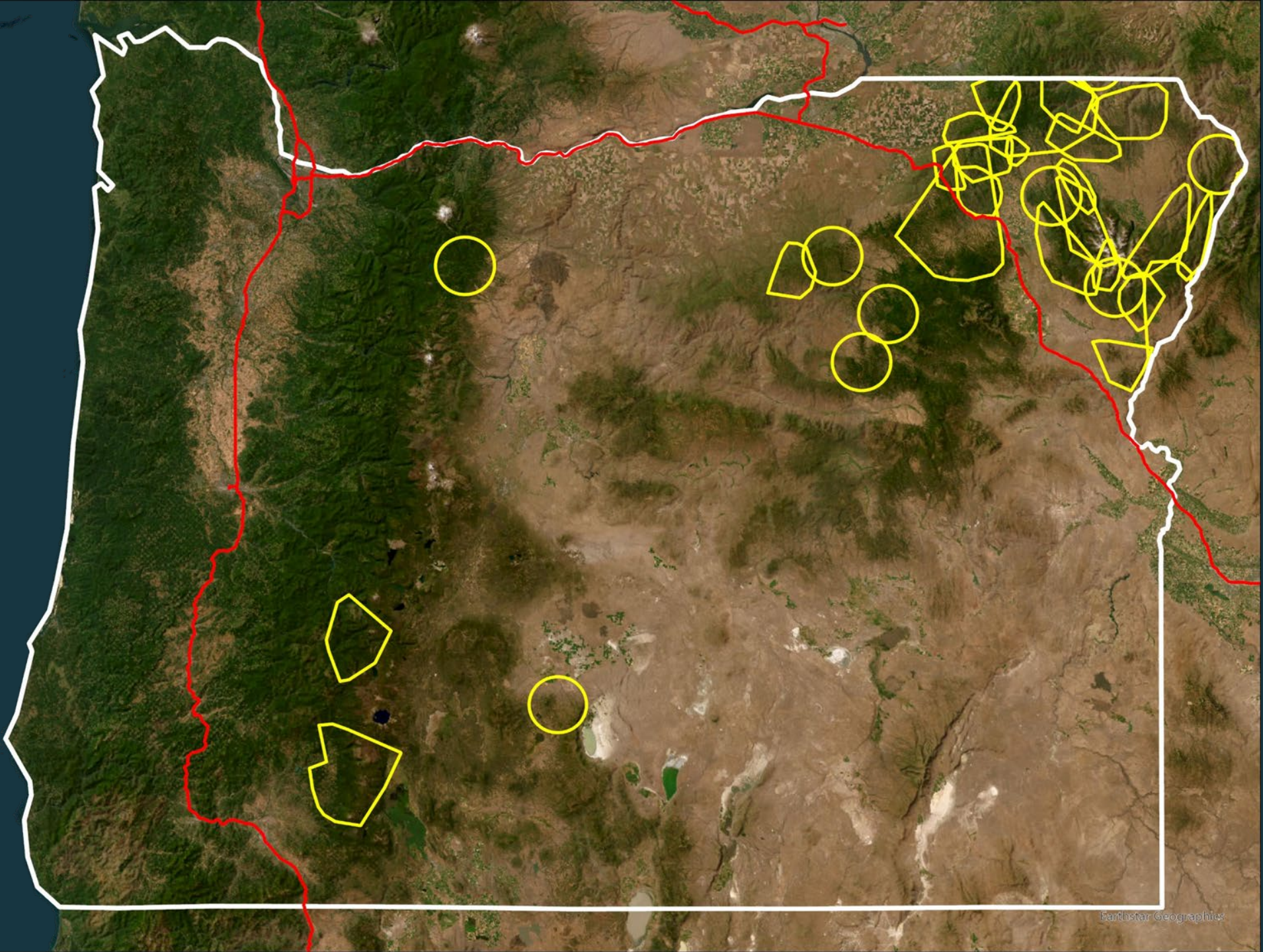
2009



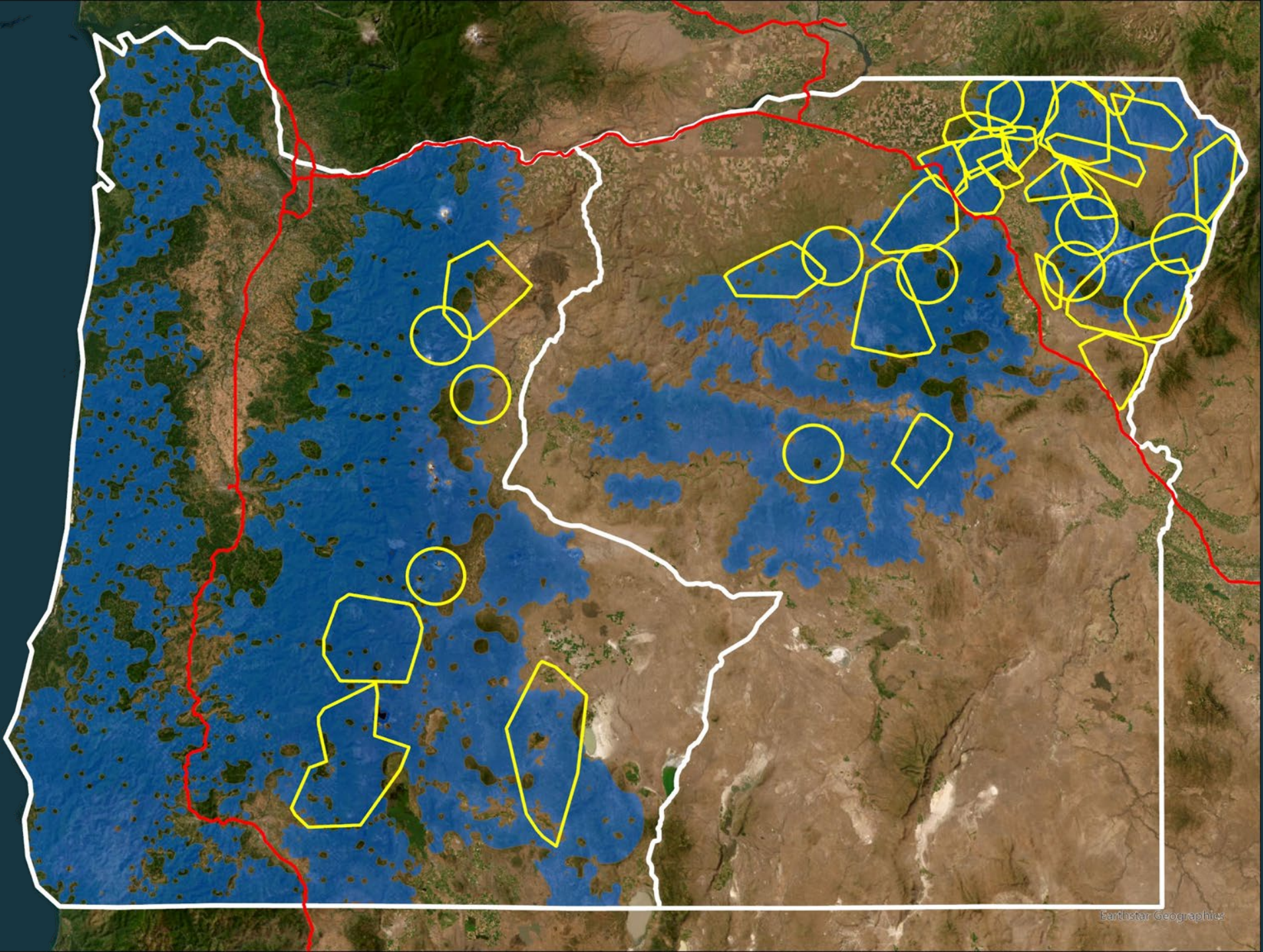
2014



2019

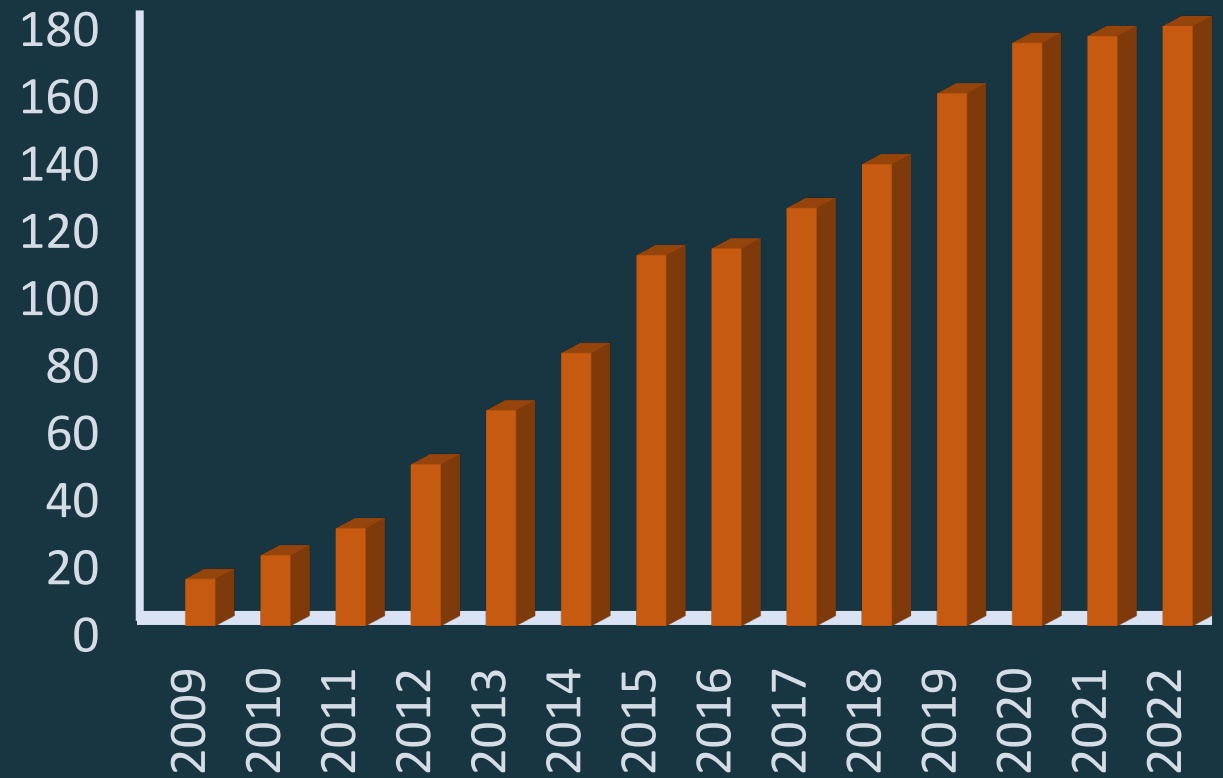


2022





Wolf abundance is increasing in Oregon





Oregon's wolves have high survival



Percent

87

Adult survival

Analysis from 2009 - 2023

Oregon's role in continental scale conservation





How did we get here?

Plan History and Review

Derek Broman

ODFW Game Program Manager

Brian Wolfer

ODFW Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator



Oregon Wolf Plan History

- **2005**- First Wolf Conservation and Management Plan
- **2010**- Plan five-year review and update
 - *2011- Federal delisting in eastern 1/3 of Oregon*
 - *2013- Phase I amended*
 - *2015- Commission delisted gray wolf under State ESA*
- **2016**- Plan five-year review and update initiated
- **2019**- Plan update adopted

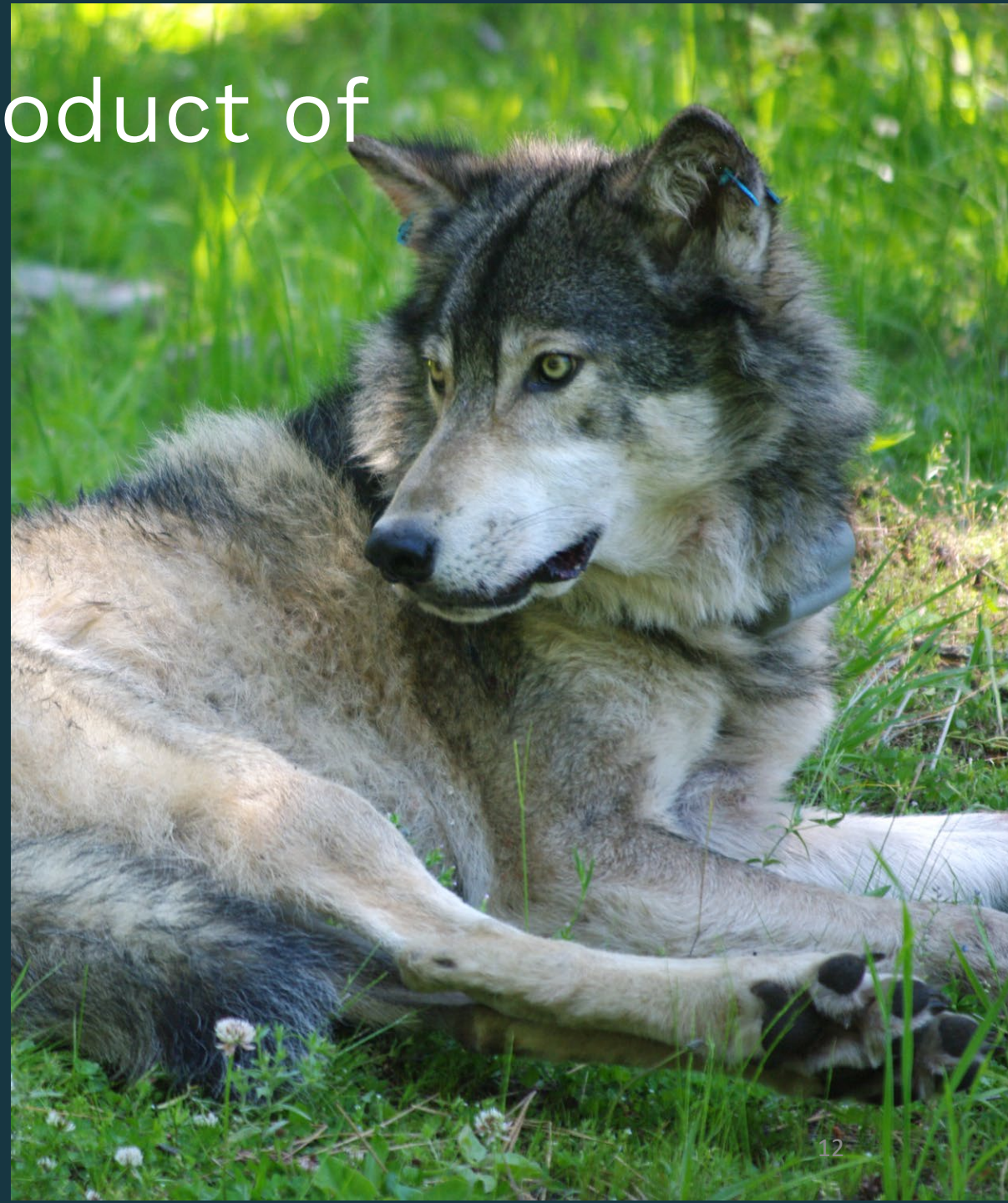
The Current Plan is a product of extensive development

3+ Years in Development

5,000+ Staff Hours

10+ Commission meetings

17,000+ Public comments



2016

4 Commission Meetings

1 with Panelists

1 with Public Testimony

2 Meetings with Interested Parties

2018

Facilitator hired and
participant interviews

Five Facilitated meetings

1 Commission meeting

2017

2 Commission Meetings

1 with Panelists

2 Draft Releases

1 Meeting with Interested Parties

1 Commission Work Session

1-on-1 Commissioner Meetings

2019

Final Facilitator Report

Federal/State Coordination
Strategy

**Draft Plan & Commission
conference call**

Commission Adoption₁₃ (June)

Oregon Wolf Plan Goal



To ensure the conservation of gray wolves as required by Oregon law while protecting the social and economic interests of all Oregonians.

Plan Guiding Principles



Maintain Conservation Focus



Address ODFW capacity limitations



Maintain flexibility to address conflict

What Is In The Plan?

- Phases and Objectives
- Modeling and Monitoring
- Conservation Threats
- Controlled Take
- Conflict Management
- Workload Challenges
- Wolves and Ungulates
- Communications
- Research





ODFW Wolf Plan

Five-year review

“To the extent practicable, at least once every five years the department shall review the Plan and make recommendations to the Commission for any changes to the Plan.”

A photograph of a wolf-like dog, possibly a husky or malamute, lying in a field of green grass. The dog has dark grey and black fur with white markings on its chest and paws. It has a blue tag on its left ear. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Department Review and Info Gathering

- Are Plan objectives being met?
Are they relevant for next five years?
- Considered what we learned
Does the science support future decisions?
- Has management adapted as needed?
Are there barriers to adaptive management?

Other Perspectives

- Review team outreach to individuals
 - Better understand how plan is viewed from various perspectives
 - Intended to be informal
 - Reflected in draft report



Review Draft Findings

Implementation Successes

- Large expansion of wolf range
- Numerous conservation threats downgraded
- Zones and phases still relevant



Potential Updates

- Housekeeping, Oregon-specific or newer data, clarification of terms
- Increased guidance on collaring priorities and roles for monitoring
- Clarification on resources and effective strategies for minimizing livestock conflict



Adaptive Management

- Priority to reduce human-caused mortality and wolf-livestock conflict
- Address workload issues, including use of collaborations and partnerships
- Additional tools identified in the Plan available as needs and opportunities arise

Additional Outreach

- Agency leadership meeting with groups
 - Listen and discuss
 - Focus on group's perspective
 - Most issues revolved around implementation
- Discussions not incorporated into draft report
 - Substantial overlap with what review team heard



Next Steps?

- There was alignment between our review findings and group discussions
- Would plan changes add meaningful value?

Wolf Plan Implementation in NE Oregon

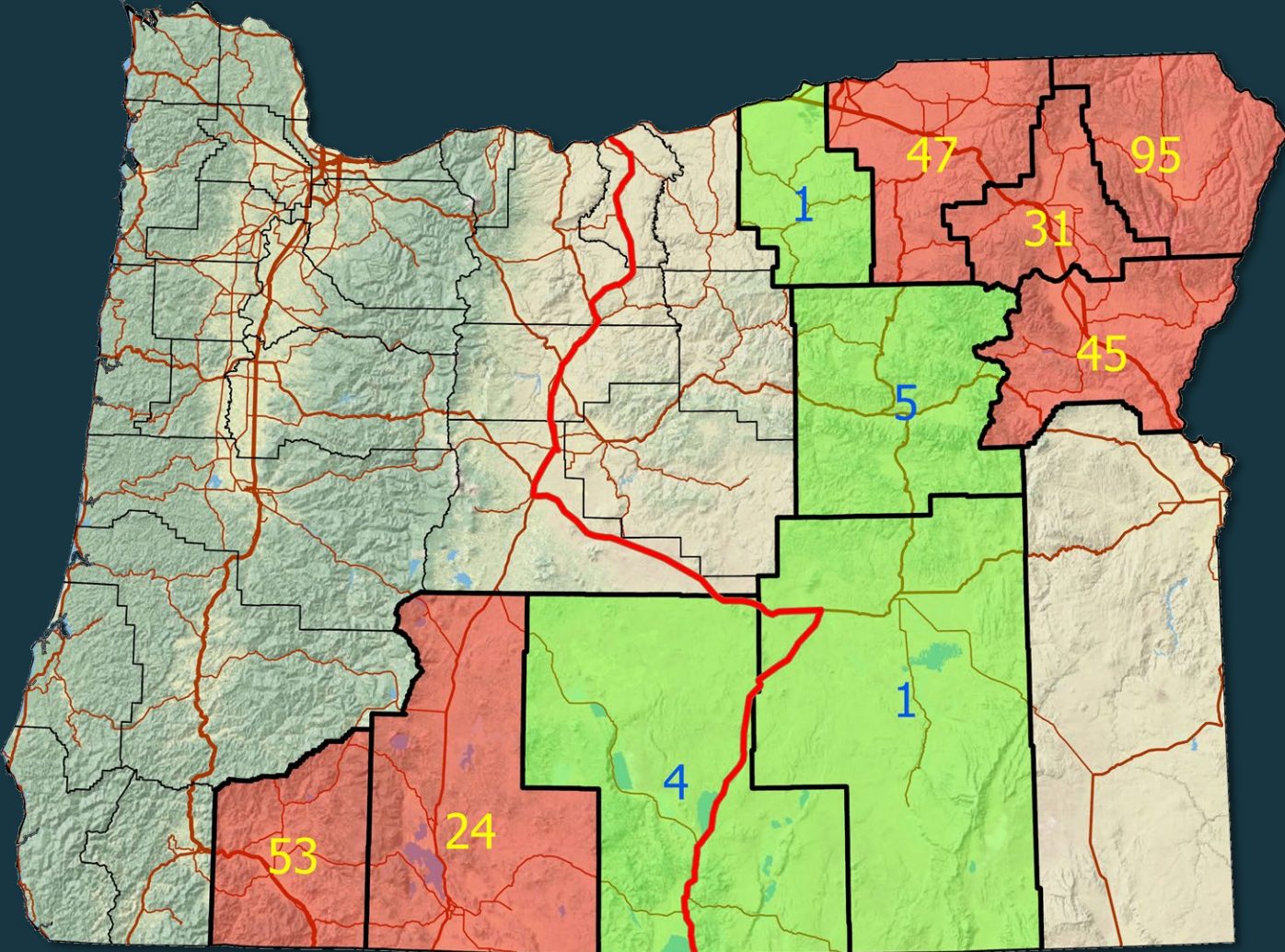
Managing wolf-livestock conflict is critical to ensure long-term conservation of wolves

Holly Tuers Lance
NE Oregon Regional Wolf Biologist

Conflict is concentrated in certain areas

90%

of all confirmed depredations over 13 years occurred in 6 counties (2009-2022)



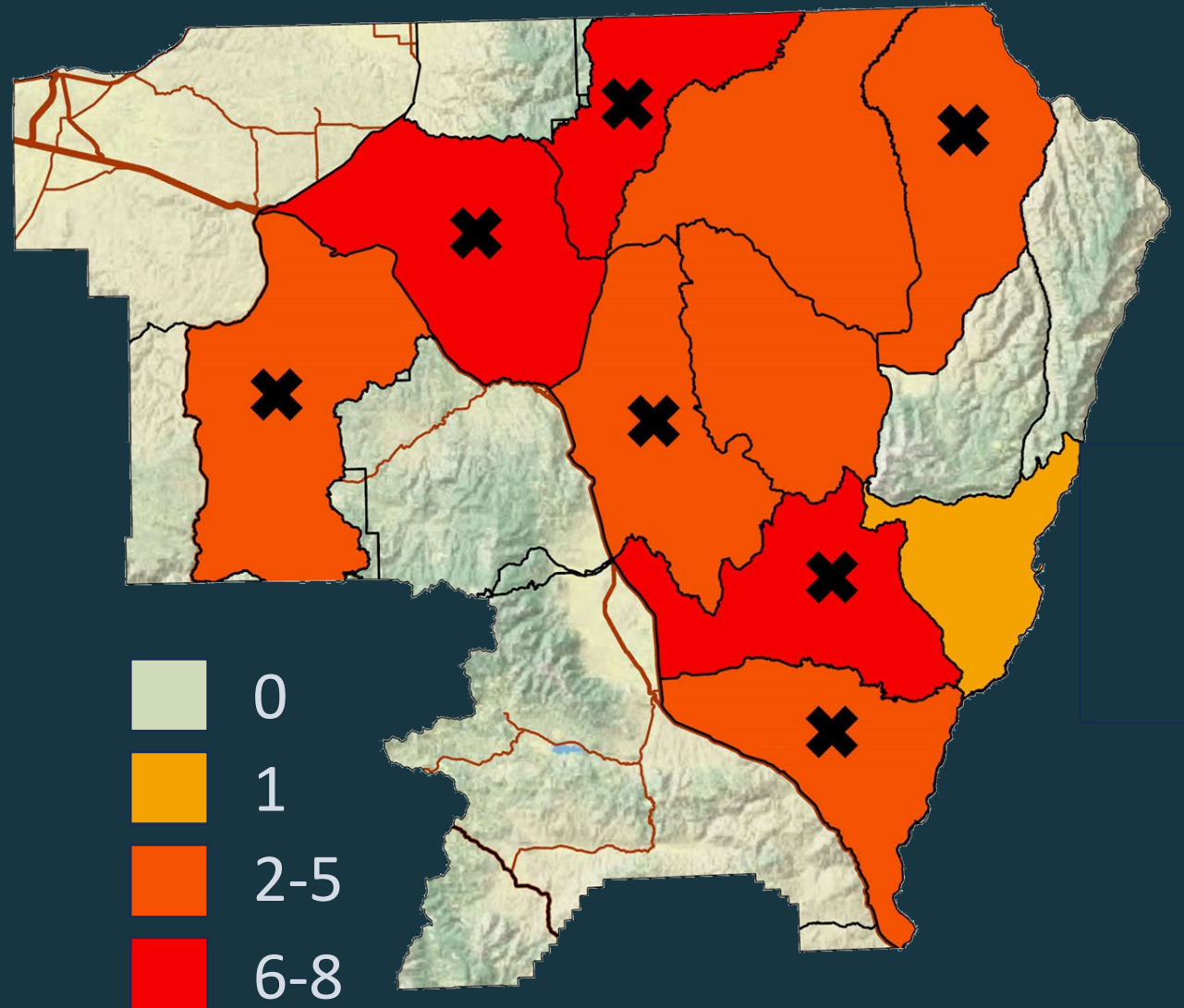
Some producers are more affected than others

32

Producers known to have experienced depredation (2022)

8

Producers experienced ~1/2 of all known depredations (2022)



Why is this?



Overlap with livestock



Wild prey availability & vulnerability



Habit, learned behavior



Producer actions



This is an opportunity to *focus*

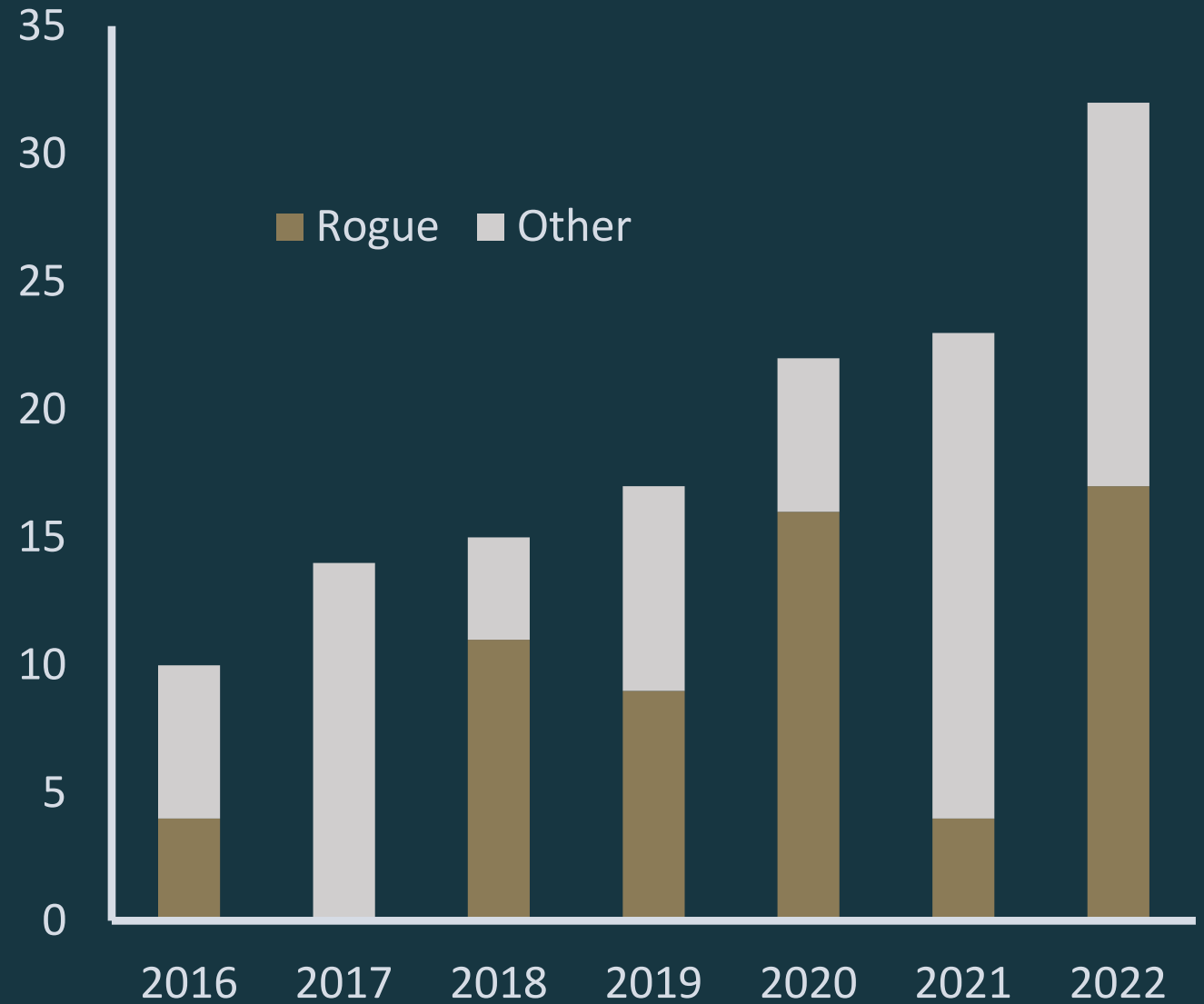


Conflict minimization always starts with deterrence



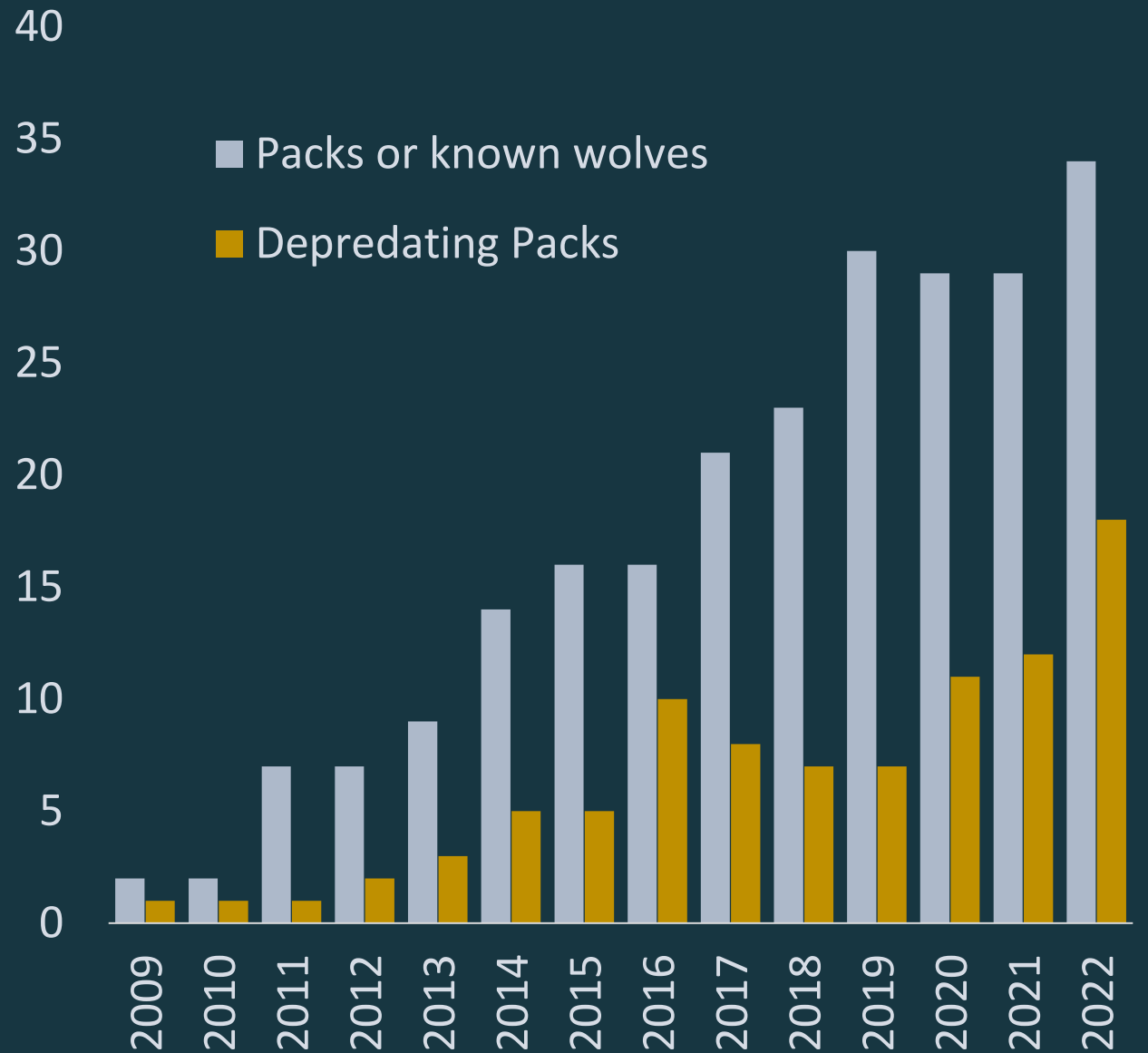
If deterrence fails, lethal removal may be needed to reduce conflict

In the West WMZ,
depredations
continue to rise
despite extensive
use of deterrence



62% of wolf packs aren't known to depredate

Not all wolves are involved in depredation



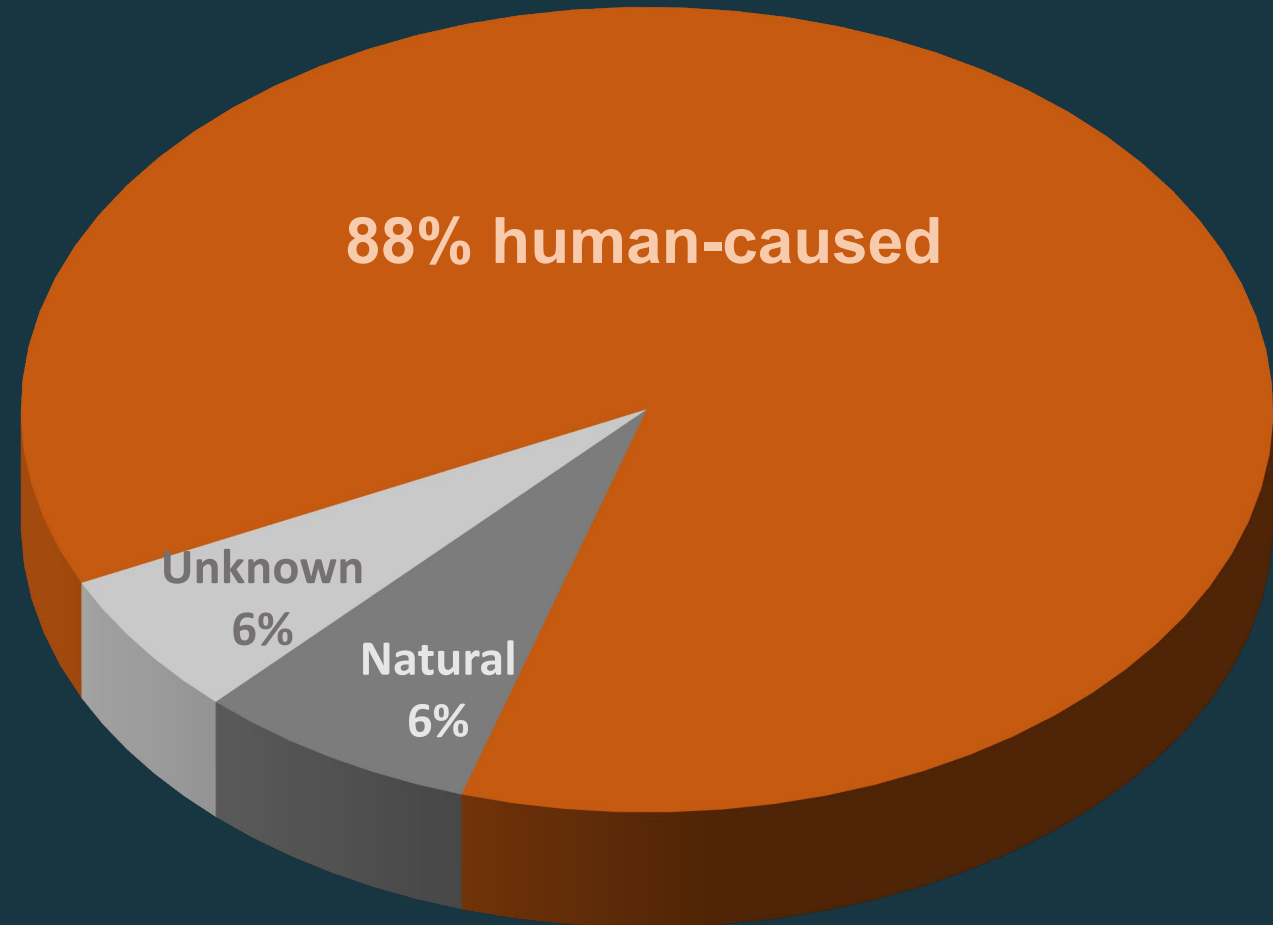


Illegal Take

Roblyn Brown
ODFW Wolf Coordinator

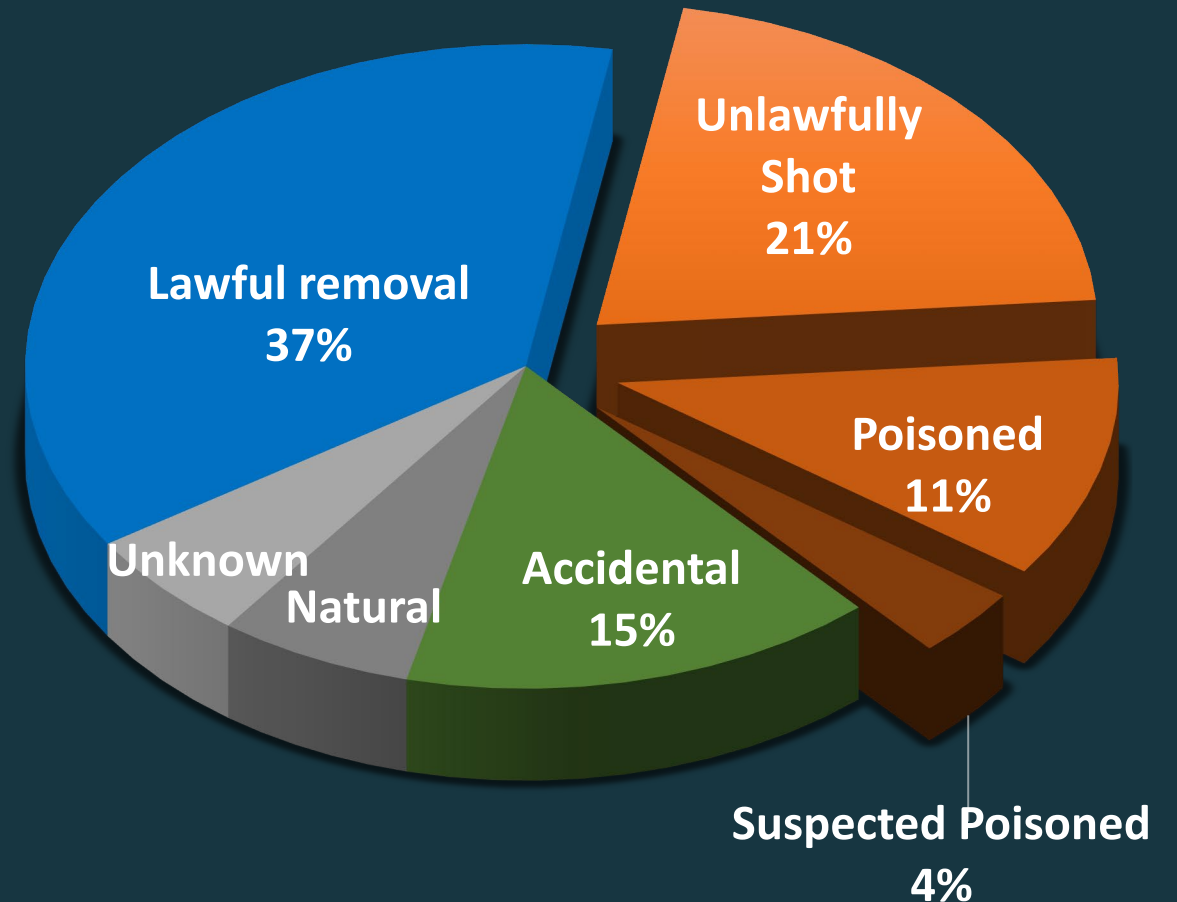


The majority of known wolf mortalities are caused by humans



Over 1/3 of known mortality is caused by illegal take

16 Wolves Poisoned
30 Wolves shot
5 Strongly Suspected Poisoned



A photograph of a wolf standing in a grassy field. The wolf is facing right and looking towards the right edge of the frame. It has grey and white fur and is wearing a black collar. The background consists of green grass and some fallen branches. The right side of the image is overlaid with a dark blue gradient, which contains the text.

wolf mortality in context

Illegal take is unacceptable and **is a conservation threat** that we need to be concerned about. Fortunately, at this time it is not impacting long term viability.