

# WOLVES IN OREGON

## Wolf Plan Revision: Sportsmen's Concerns



Presented by Jim Akenson, OHA Conservation Director

# OHA POSITION

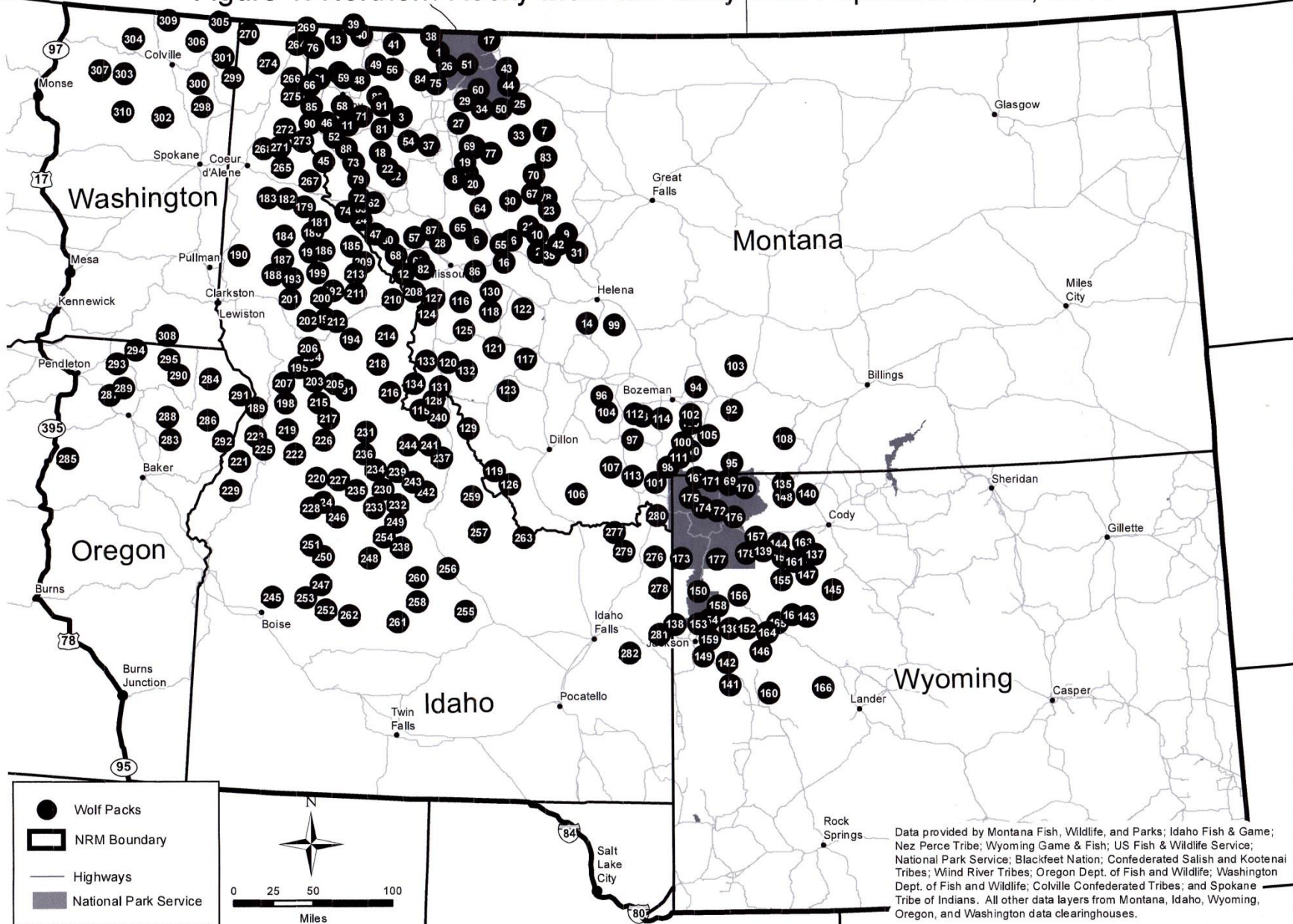


“It is time to delist wolves in Oregon. They have met and exceeded the scientific criteria identified in the Oregon Wolf Management Plan. Oregon sportsmen, as voiced by OHA, want to see the Plan followed”

## Current Wolf Plan and Next Wolf Plan

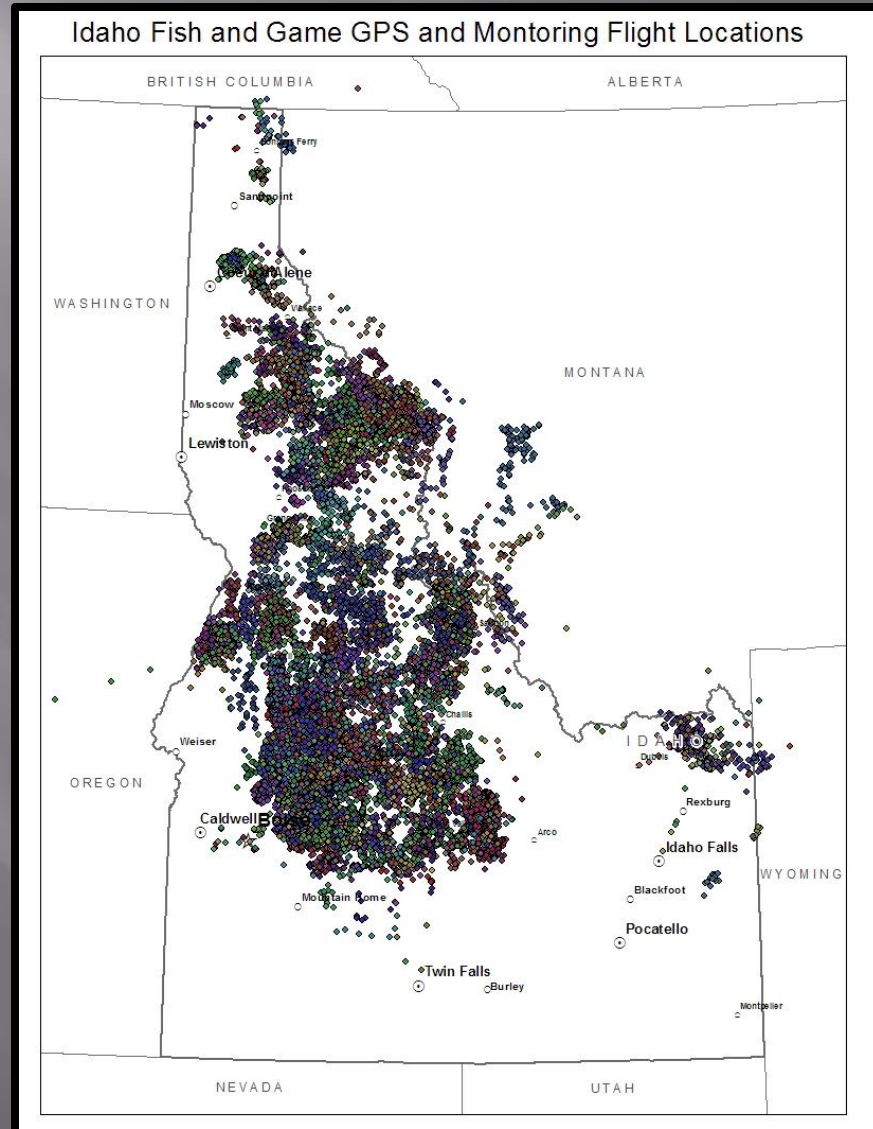
*BOTH – Have and will outline specific and cautious conservation measures for this species in Oregon, and will carry on the three-phased approach to management...with strict population criteria as we progress from one phase to the next.*

Figure 1: Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Population Area, 2014



Data provided by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Idaho Fish & Game; Nez Perce Tribe; Wyoming Game & Fish; US Fish & Wildlife Service; National Park Service; Blackfeet Nation; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; Wind River Tribes; Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Colville Confederated Tribes; and Spokane Tribe of Indians. All other data layers from Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington data clearinghouses.

# Learning from our neighbors



Incredible dispersal - >350 miles



# Idaho Wolf Research > 10 years



# Plan Considerations: Approaching Phase III

- ▣ **Assumption: monitoring actual numbers will become increasingly difficult.** Collaring objectives should be stated in Plan – such as half (50%) of packs with one collar deployed moving through Phase II.
- ▣ **Consideration for ungulate prey species will be an important objective moving into Phase III**
- ▣ **“Extremely unlikely ( $\leq 0.01$  probability) that wolves in Oregon will be at risk of extirpation over next 50 years”**  
Yet, **OHA supports the protective measures outlined for Phases I & II of the Plan.**
  - **(Especially considering dispersal from the NRM meta-population).**



# Specific Plan Items to Address:

- ▣ Pg. 34. “As wolves become established in the state, wolf managers will be collecting data on wolf movements, pack home ranges, and other population parameters. This information, coupled with data regarding wolf conflicts, could be used to set maximum numbers in the future”
- ▣ This statement needs clear language with established wolf target #'s per area (WMU's) and an action plan for implementation in the revision

# Specific Plan Items, Continued:

- ▣ Pg. 51 “Emphasis may be put on lethal control (of wolves) to ensure protections of livestock.
- ▣ In areas where chronic wolf problems are occurring, wolf managers may seek assistance from private citizens through special permits for controlling take to resolve conflict”
- ▣ The revised plan needs to consider and establish criteria on both localized livestock damage occurrence and wolf population – to determine if controlled hunting can serve as a management tool in Phase III.

# Strategies: Wolf – Ungulate Interactions

- ▣ “Active management will be initiated in areas where ungulate species have been transplanted to supplement or expand their historic range.
- ▣ “Active management of wolves may be initiated in important winter ranges and feeding sites.”
- ▣ The plan revision needs to address these issues and expand the action oriented language.

# Conclusions:

## Plan Revision and Phase II – III

- ▣ The wolf population is robust: with 36% increase last year – now minimum of 110.
- ▣ For comparison: Idaho - 114 ('98) to 289 ('02) to 764 ('07). 856 ('09) Limited hunting/trapping ('10)...down to 777 in 2010 and 770 est. for 2014.
- ▣ OHA wants to see the next plan be respectful of the species existence, yet protective of our opportunities to hunt big game, protect our property, rural life-style, and local economy. This will ultimately entail *wolf number management!*

# Probable or Confirmed?

Todd Nash

OCA Wolf Committee Chair

Enterprise, OR

# Evidence

## May 13, 2015

- ▣ Wolf collar download showed OR33 within a small polygon next to ranch house
  - Message came at 6:30
  - Todd called Porters at 6:45
  - Porters investigated and found dying calf at 7:00
- ▣ Carcass was new --- owner saw it take its last breath
- ▣ Porters returned call at 7:00
- ▣ Discussed whether it “is even worth calling in”
  - Todd supported calling (should be an easy call)

# Evidence Continued

- ▣ At investigation with ODFW
  - Sherriff/Wildlife service/OCA wolf chair/rancher present
- ▣ 275 lb calf was killed
- ▣ Wolf tracks and scat found within 30 yards
- ▣ Skid mark where cows had been run
- ▣ Teeth marks with trauma
  - Both Wolf and Coyote
  - No classic coyote kill marks such as under throat
  - Were classic wolf bites in fore arm, flank and hind quarters.

# Eric Porter May 13, 2015

## Probable/not confirmed





# Veterinarian—injuries consistent with very large Canine attack

- ▣ August 2015
- ▣ 1 black wolf sited
  - Numerous times
- ▣ 2 dogs injured
- ▣ 2 dogs missing
- ▣ 1 dog permanent injury

Probable not confirmed



# Questions?

