



# Resources & Environment

Agency Update  
February 2025

Jim Fredericks, Director



# CWD

- Caused by an accumulation of misfolded proteins call “Prions”
- Prion diseases are infectious, untreatable, and fatal
- Deer, elk, and moose are susceptible in Idaho
- No known human cases

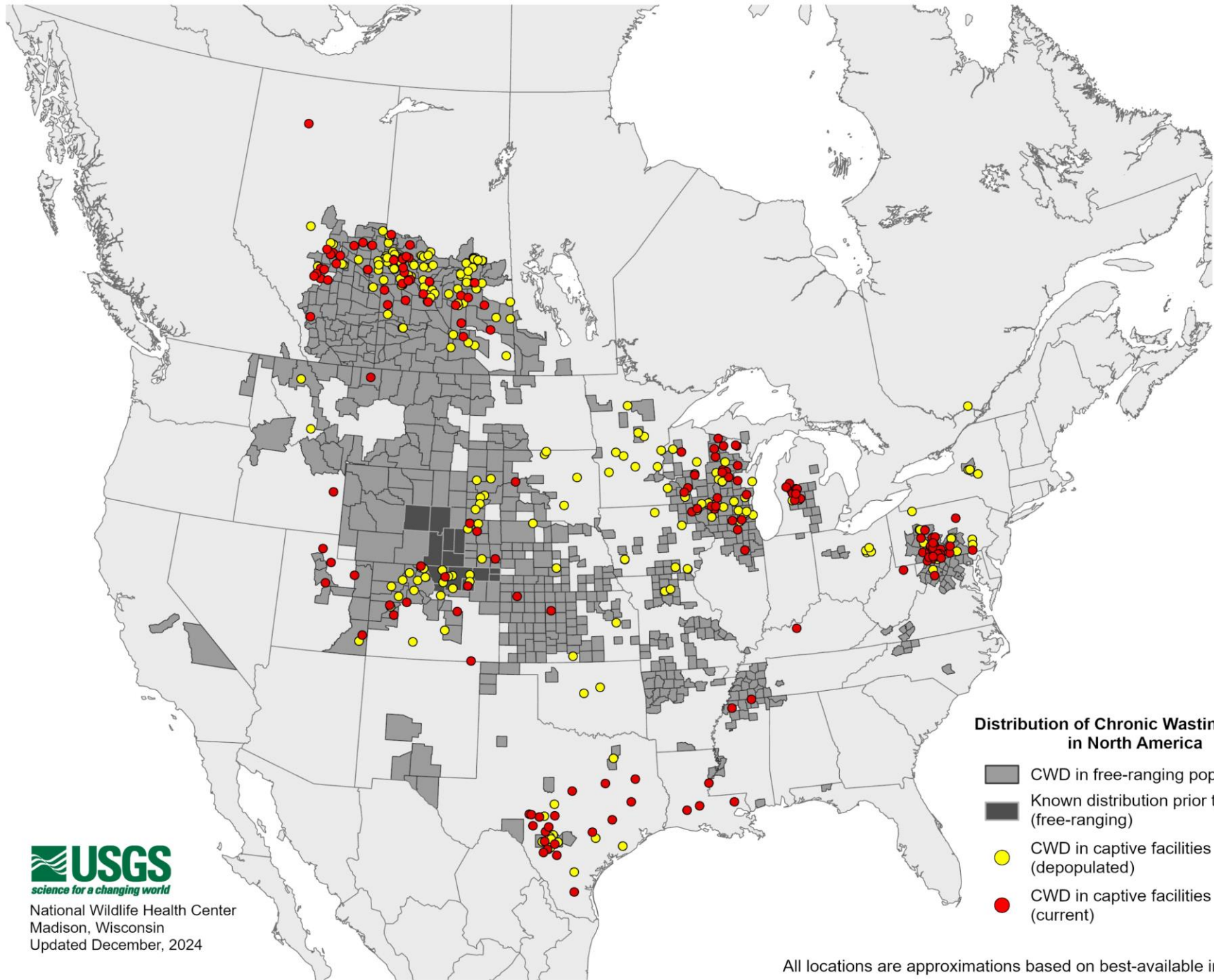


A photograph of a young deer with small, velvet-covered antlers standing in a grassy field. The deer is facing left and is partially obscured by a wire fence in the foreground. The background consists of green grass and trees.

# CWD

- Prion diseases are slow to develop (1-5 years)
- Animals shed prions before appearing sick
- Prions remain in the environment for years
- Prions require cremation temperatures or caustic chemicals to destroy





**Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease  
in North America**

- CWD in free-ranging populations
- Known distribution prior to 2000 (free-ranging)
- CWD in captive facilities (depopulated)
- CWD in captive facilities (current)



National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Updated December, 2024

All locations are approximations based on best-available information

# When CWD prevalence is high...

- Higher number of visibly sick animals
- Population declines (when prevalence is over 20%)
- Significant loss of harvested meat
- Decreased hunting participation



# CWD Management

## *Goal:*

- Minimize prevalence in infected areas
- Slow spread to new areas

## *How?*

- Hunter behavior
- Manage for fewer animals
- Manage for younger animals



# CWD Management

*Most hunters don't want fewer animals and younger bucks, however...*

## Unmanaged disease

- Likely results in fewer animals anyway
- High portion of animals infected/sick
- Rapid spread

**vs.**

## Successfully managed disease

- Fewer animals
- 95%+ of animals healthy
- Slow spread



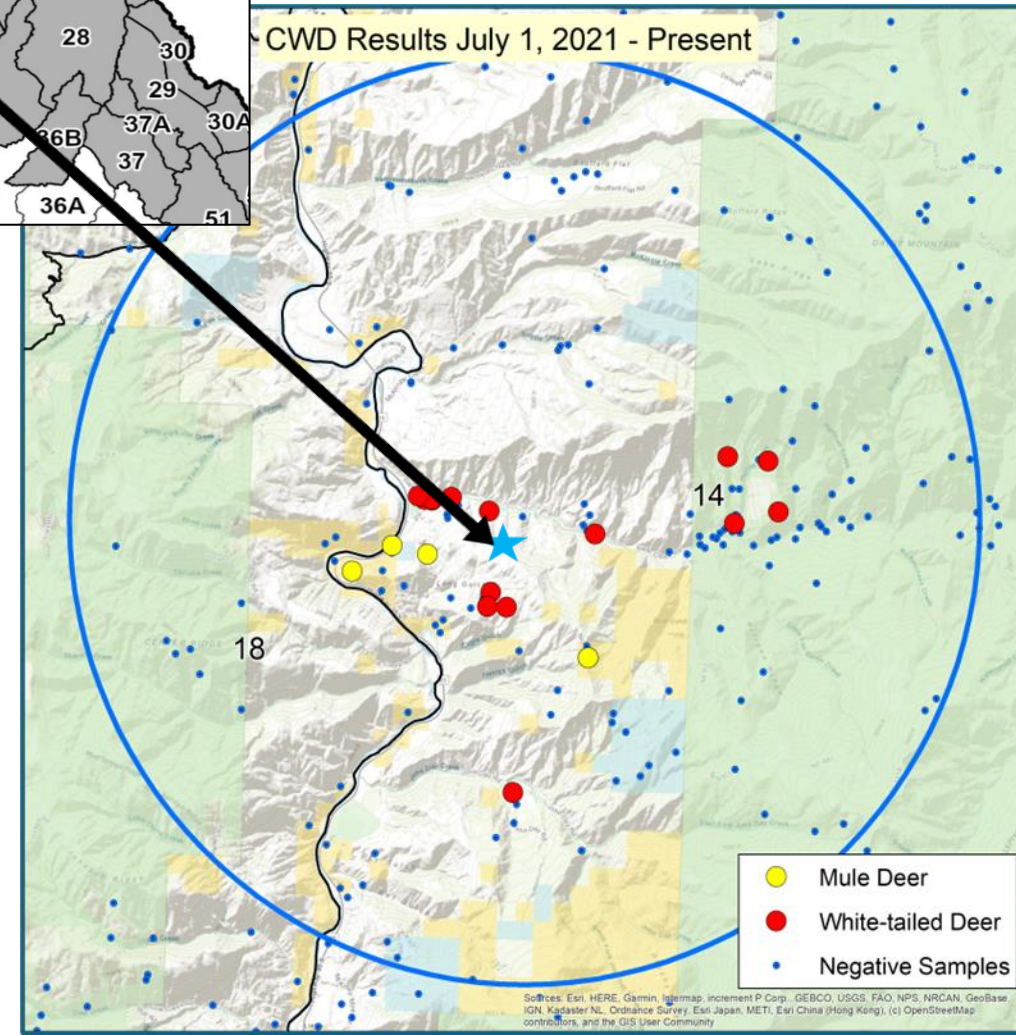
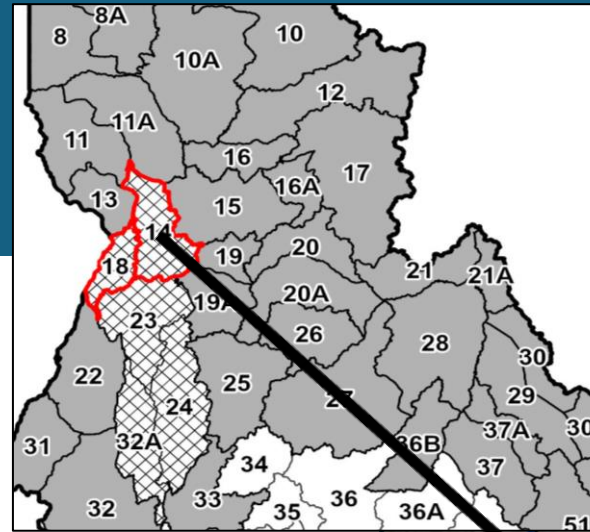
# CWD in Idaho

## November 2021

- GMU 14 – Slate Creek

## Actions

- Surveillance hunts
- CWD Management Zone - 14/15
- Increased hunting opportunity
- Landowner kill authorizations
- Focal area control actions
- Modify CWD Management Zone
- Mandatory testing of deer



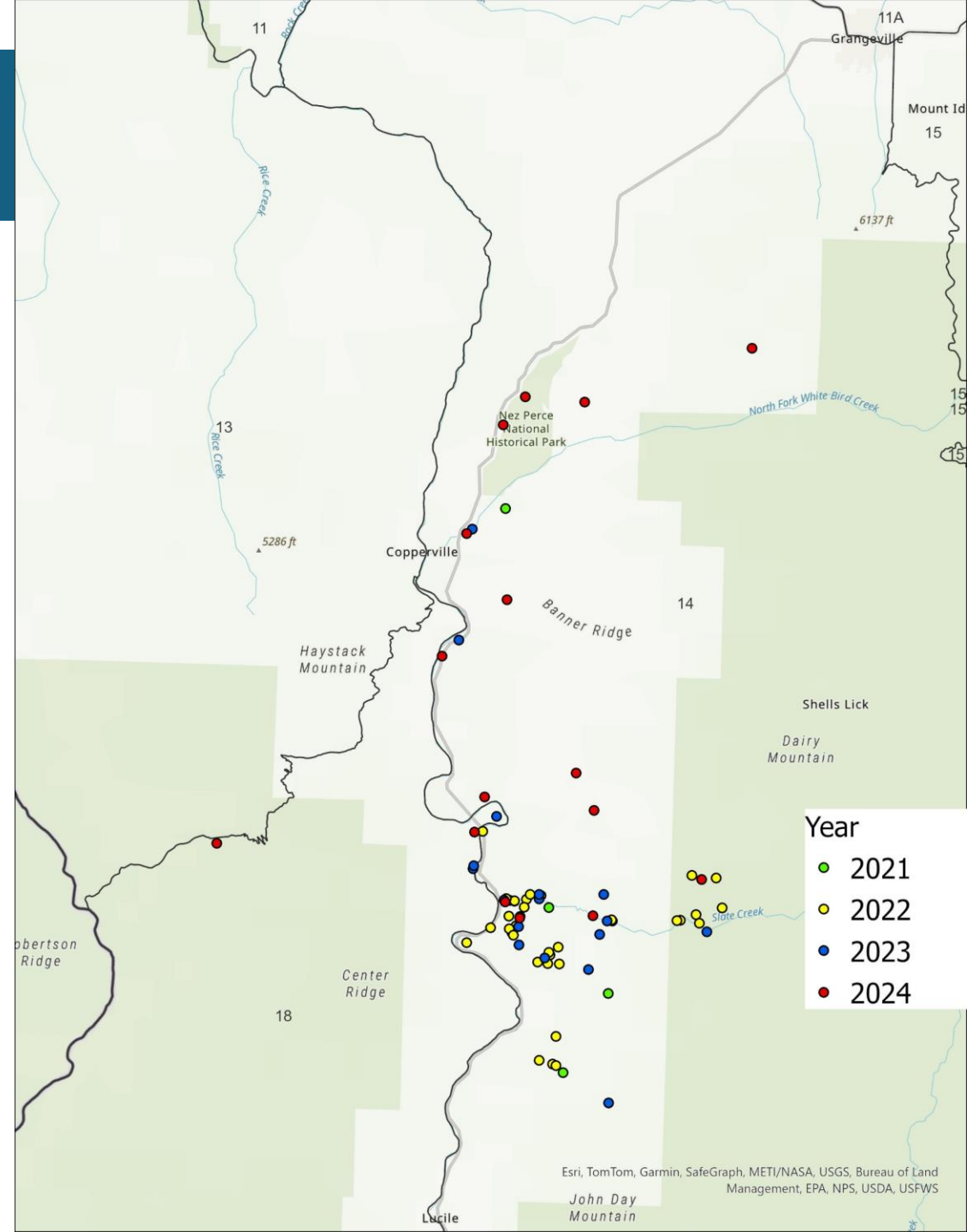


# CWD in Idaho

## GMU 14 CWD Prevalence

GMU 14 CWD Prevalence		
White-tailed Deer	2021	2.0%
	2022	3.4%
	2023	1.4%
	2024	2.5%
Mule Deer	2021	1.8%
	2022	1.2%
	2023	None*
	2024	0.5%

\*95% sure prevalence <2%



# CWD in Idaho

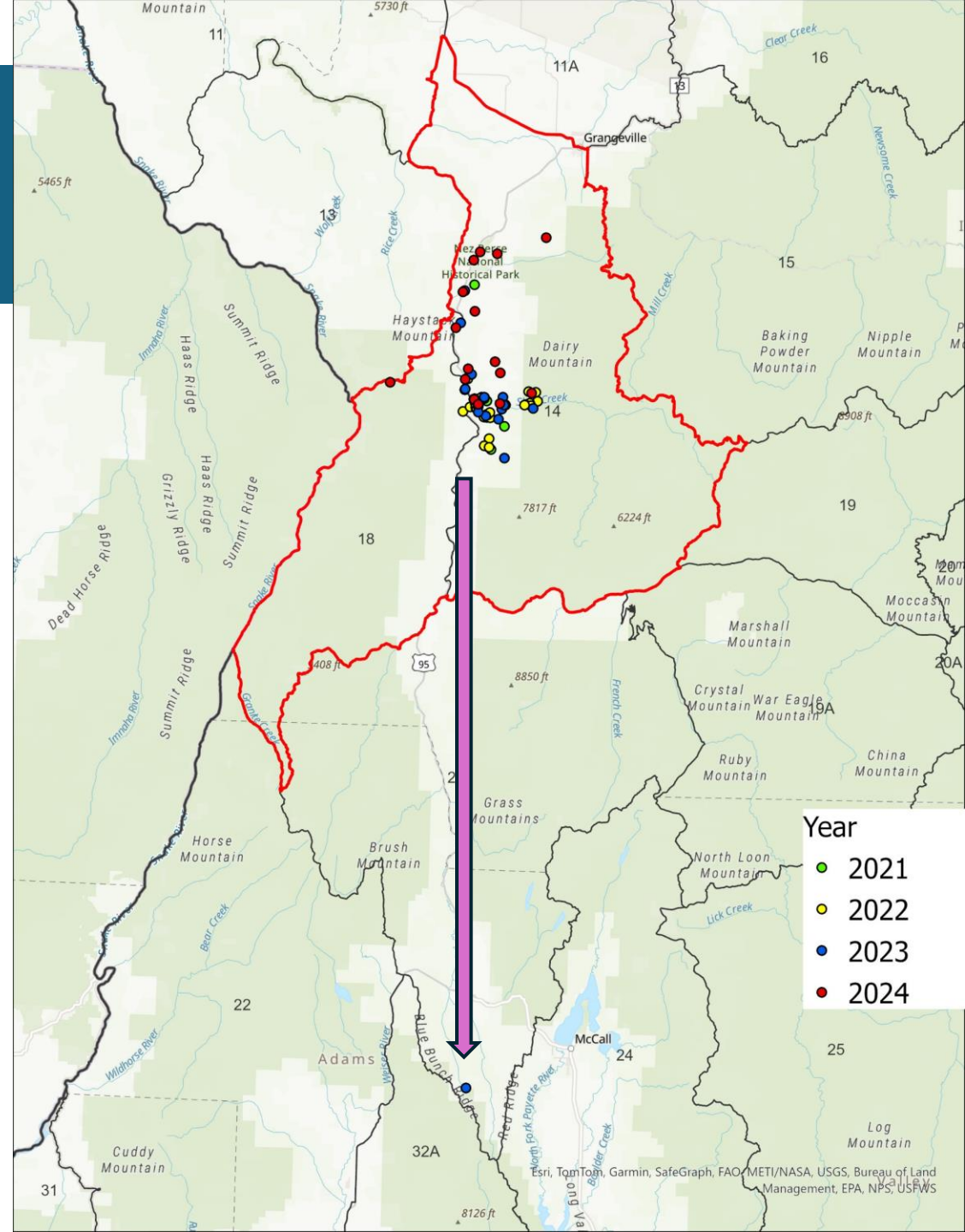
## October 2023

- Mule deer near GMU 23/32A border
- ~50 mi south of Slate Creek

## Actions

- Mandatory testing of deer in GMUs 23, 24, 32A in 2024 hunting season

***895 Samples, No additional positives to date***





# CWD in Idaho

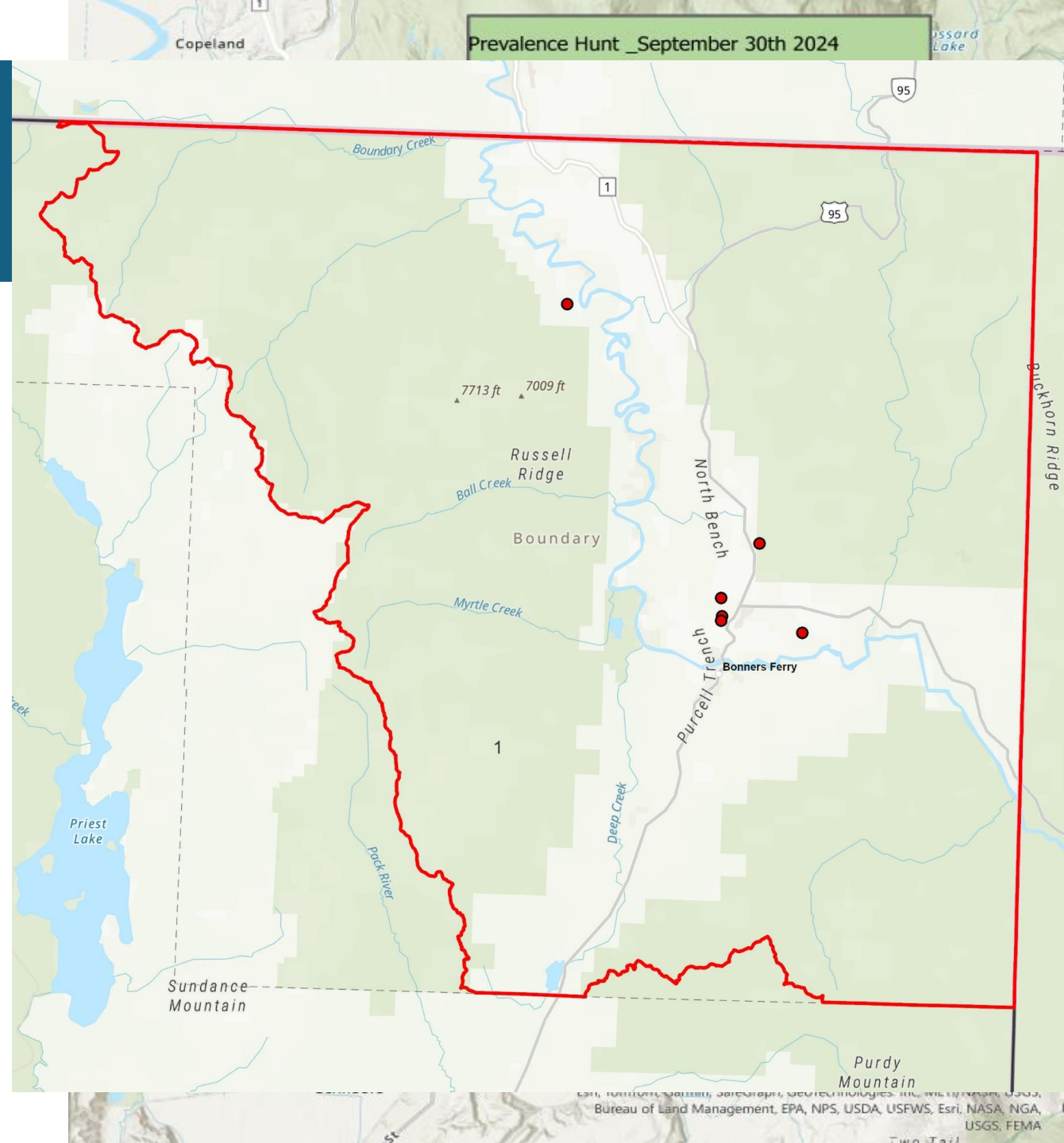
## August 2024

- GMU 1 - north of Bonners Ferry

## Actions

- Surveillance hunt
- Landowner kill authorizations
- CWD Management Zone
  - GMU 1 in Boundary Co. east of Selkirk Crest
- Mandatory testing of deer

***2024 Prevalence = 0.3%***

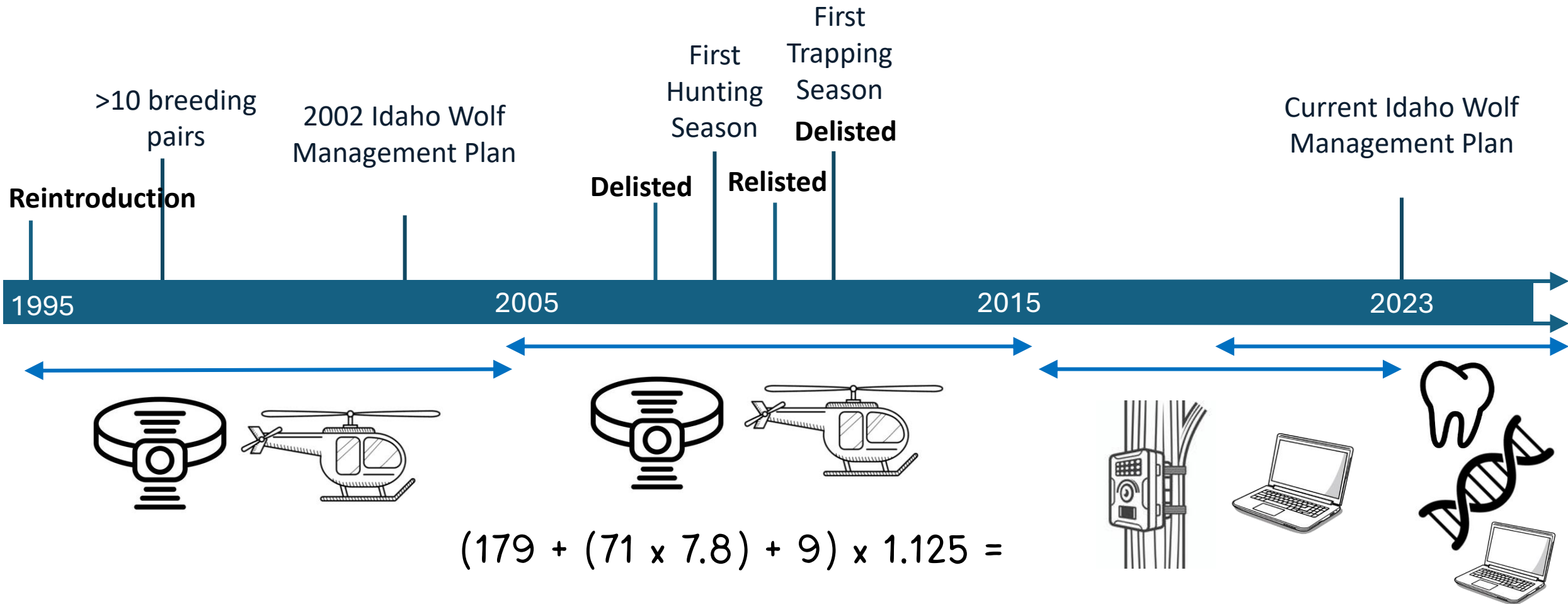




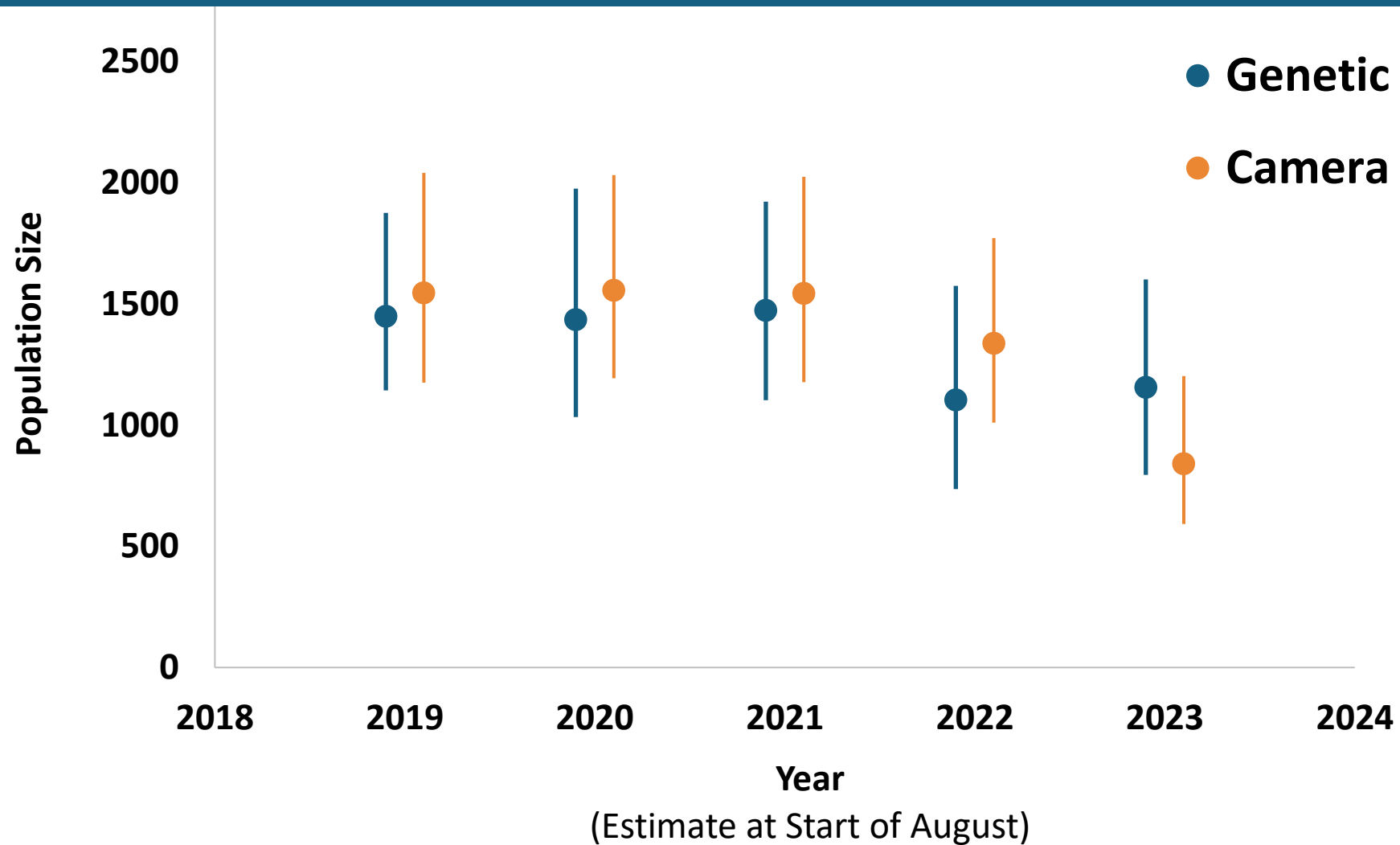
Wolves



# Population Monitoring History



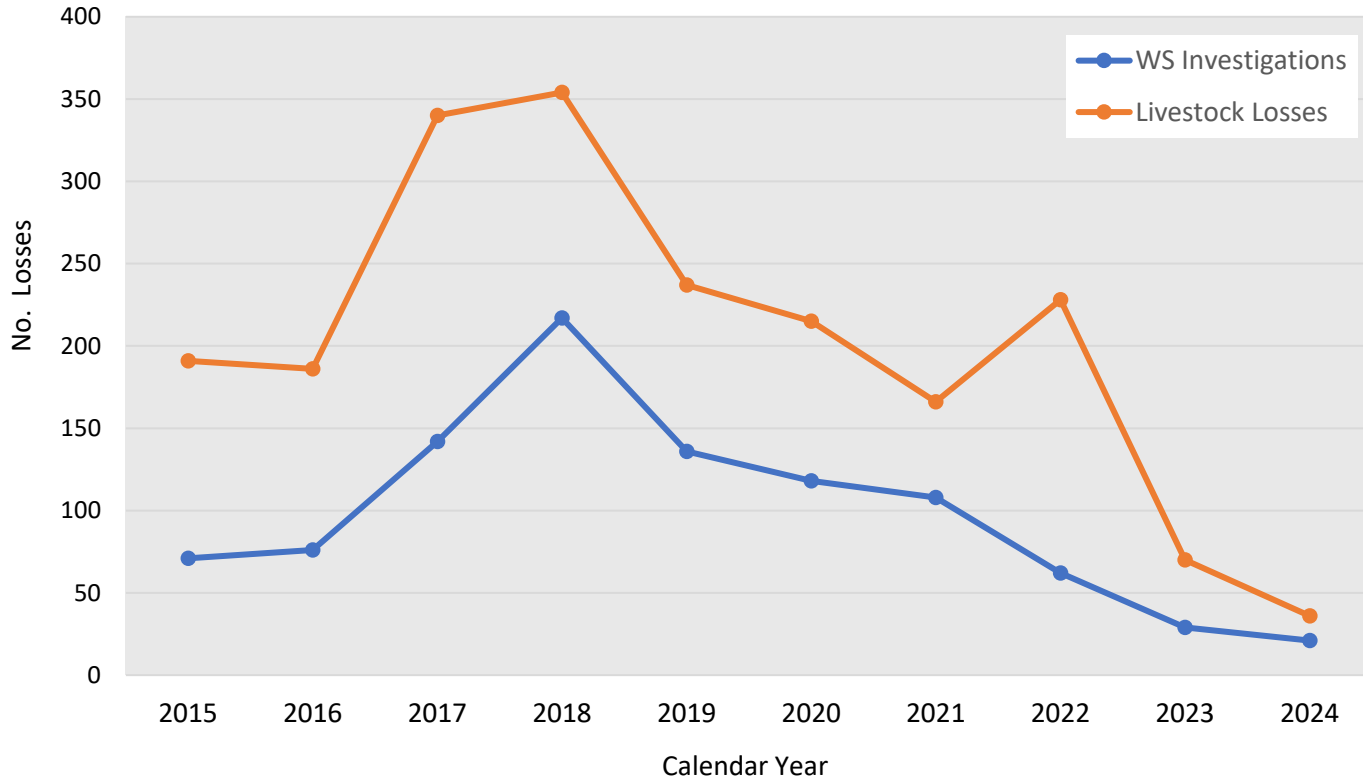
# Population Estimate – 2019-2023





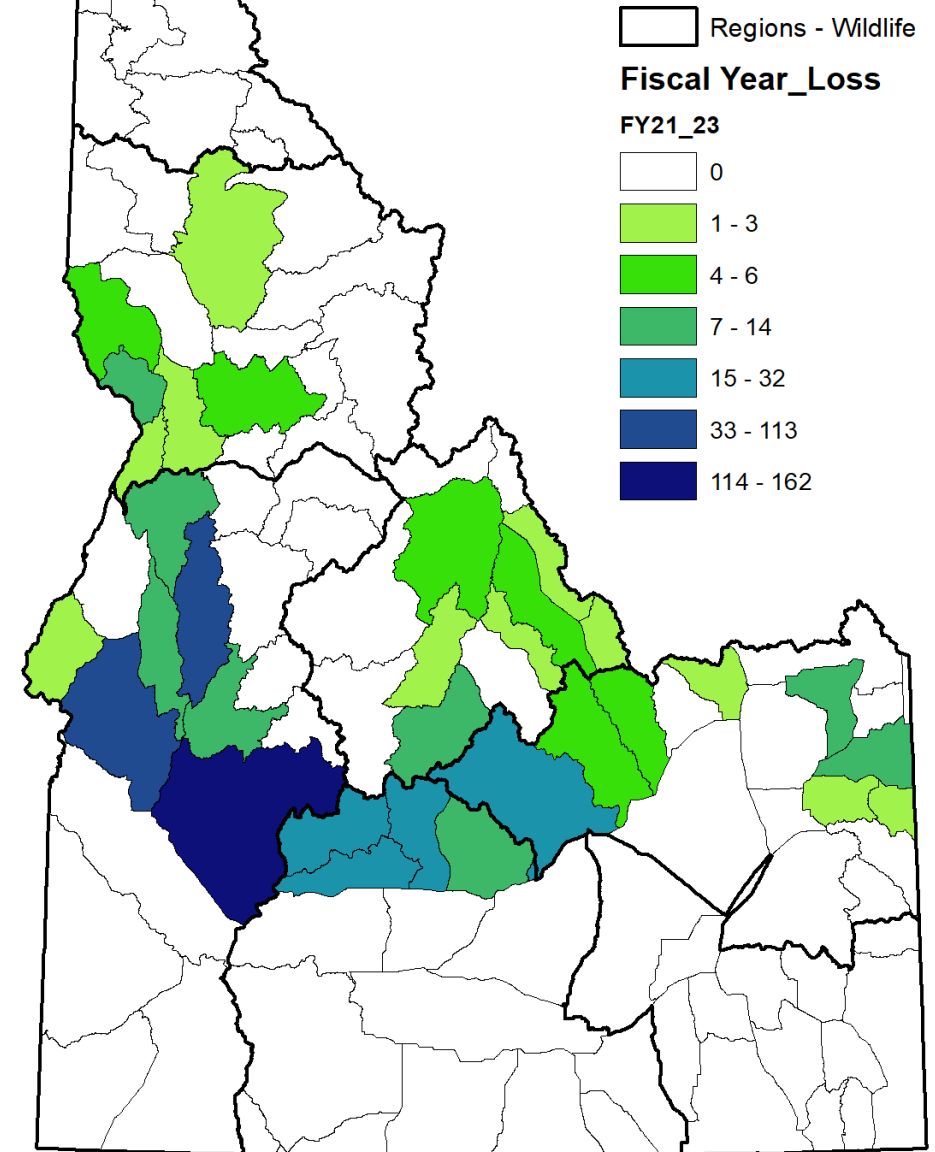
# Depredations

### Wolf-Caused Livestock Depredations (Confirmed and Probable)



## Documented Wolf-Caused Livestock Losses\* FY2021 - 2023

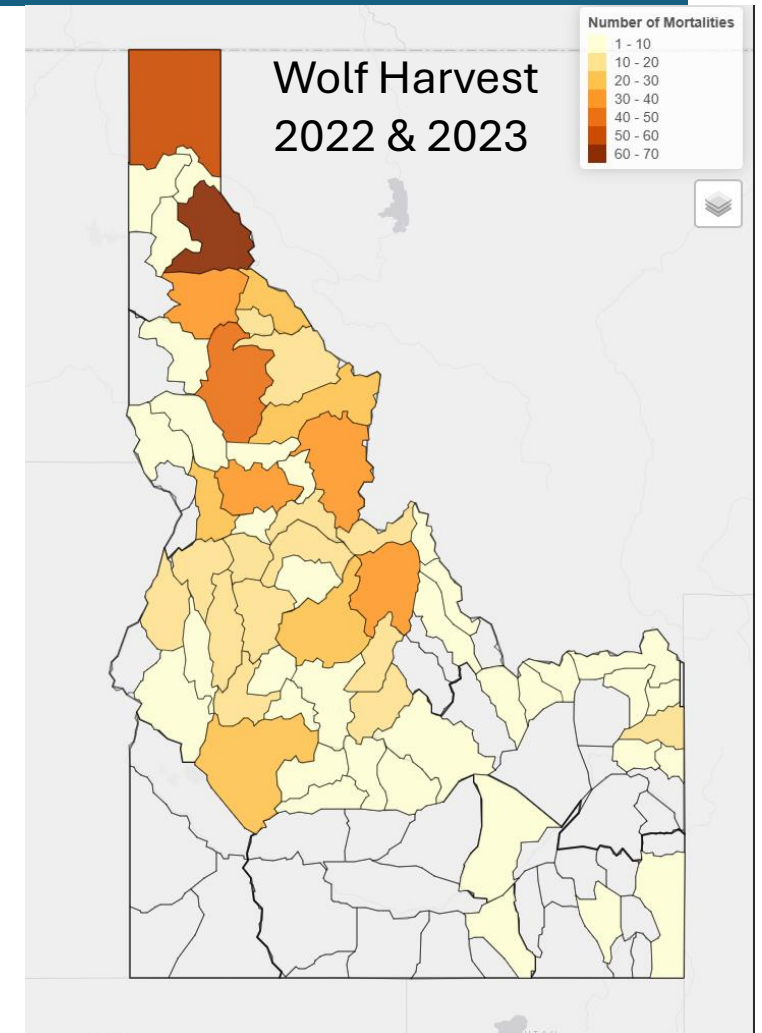
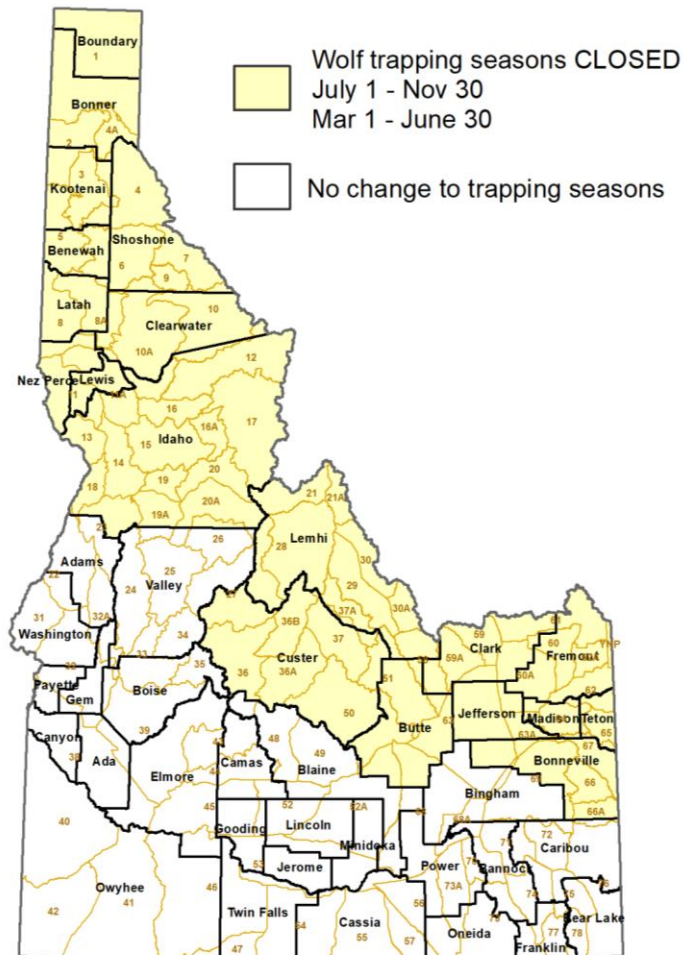
(\*Confirmed and Probable)



# Recent Legal Challenges

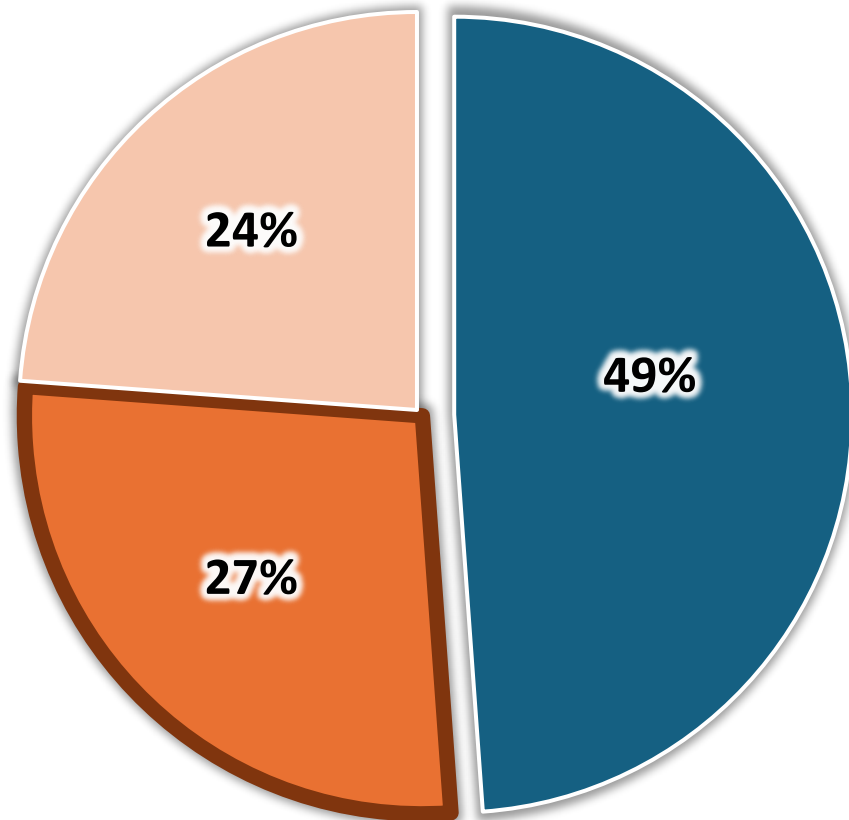
## Wolf Trapping Injunction

- 19 Idaho counties
- “Grizzly bear habitat”
- Motion for Reconsideration was denied
- State planning to appeal



# Federal Injunction on wolf trapping

Wolf Harvest 2019 - 2023



- Hunting harvest
- Trapping harvest affected by injunction
- Trapping harvest not affected by injunction

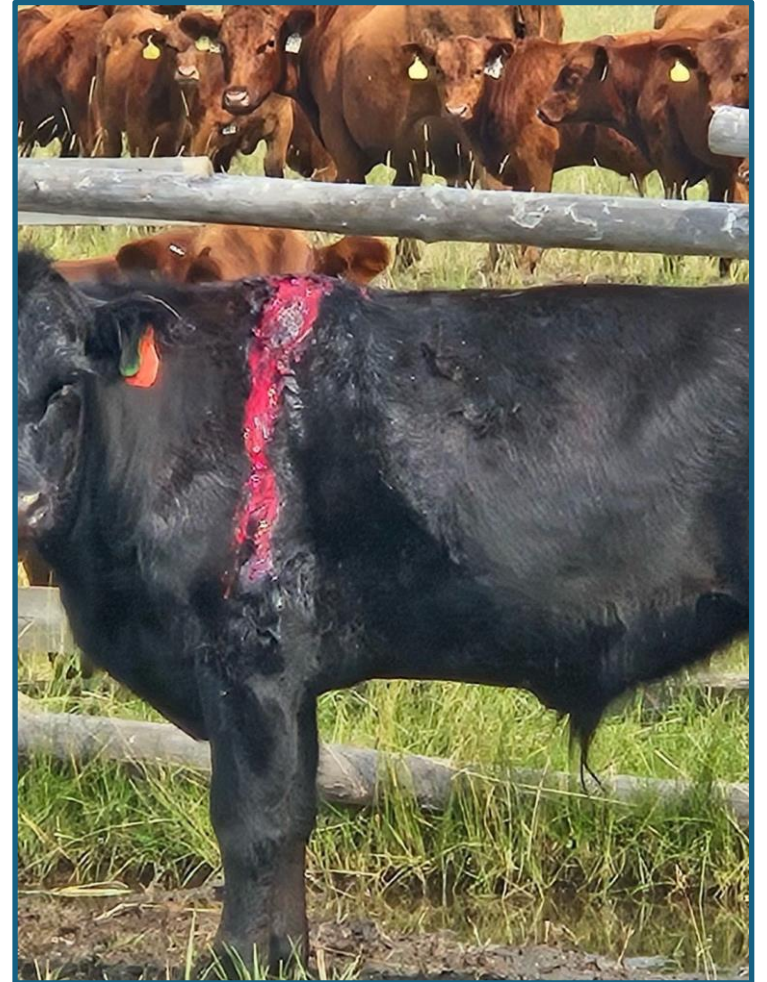




Grizzly Bears

# Grizzly Bear Conflicts – Eastern Idaho

- Unprecedented number of depredations on cattle
  - USDA WS – 43 investigations, 25 confirmed
  - 4 Adult males lethally removed
  - 1 Adult female captured, collared, relocated
- HB592
  - \$225,000 additional funding to support livestock producers dealing w/ depredations
    - \$150,000 for validated depredation losses
    - \$75,000 to conflict prevention



# Grizzly Bear Conflicts – Eastern Idaho

- 3 grizzly bears killed in self-defense
- 1 grizzly bear death is under investigation
- 1 grizzly bear death from natural causes
- 5 human safety threats
- 2 cases of grizzly bears damaging structures
- 9 cases of grizzly bears in unsecured garbage
- Outreach, Education, Prevention
  - 25 events; 7,000 people
  - Education in neighborhoods and campgrounds
  - Remove/restrict attractants (carcasses, apples)





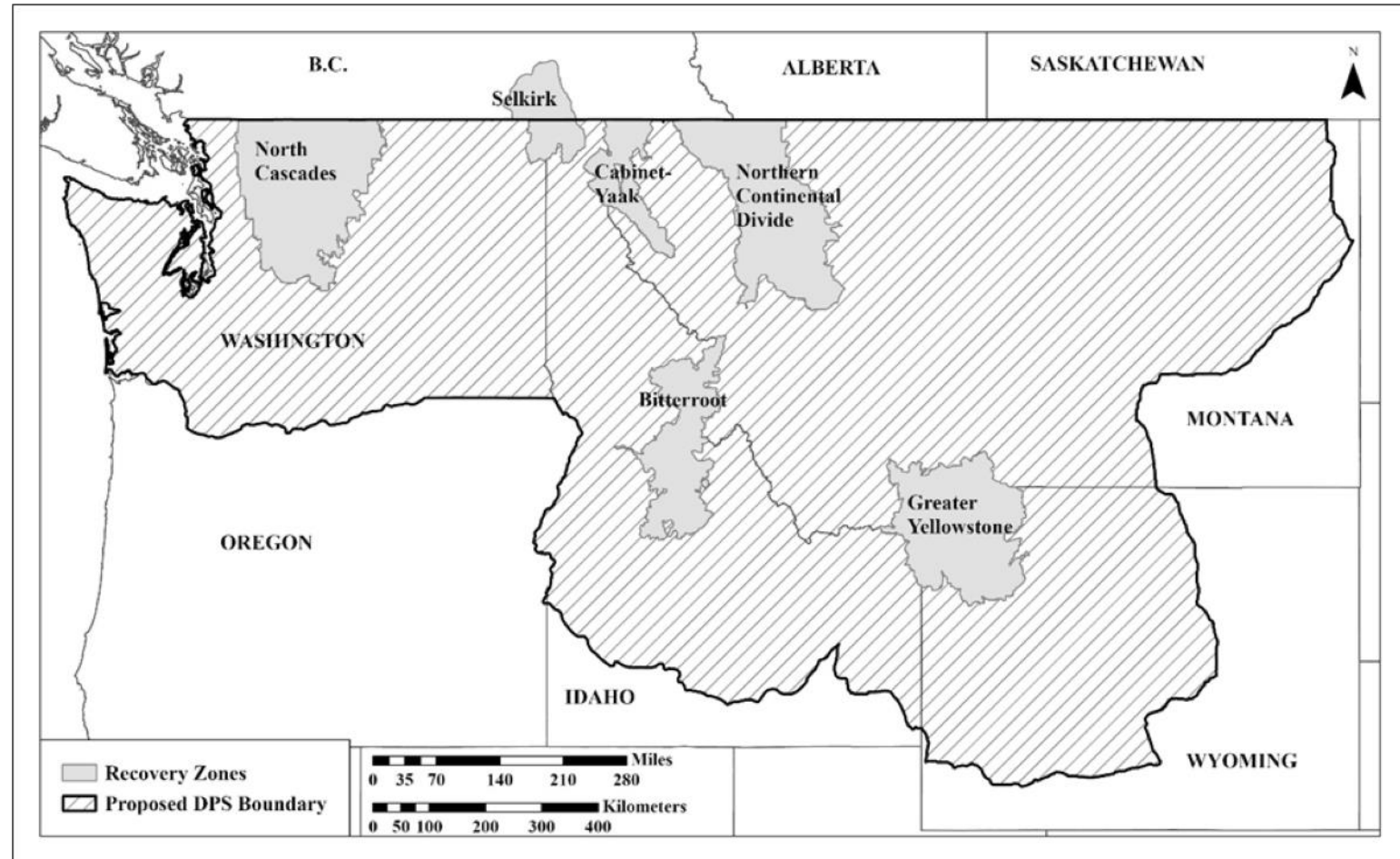
# Grizzly Bear Conflicts -- Panhandle

- 5 depredations
  - 2 beehives
  - 2 grain bins
  - Chicken coop, chickens
  - Electric fencing provided
- Mistaken Identity shooting in June
- Natural mortality of radio-collared female
- New full-time biologist focused on conflict management and monitoring
- 43 public education events; 4,500 people

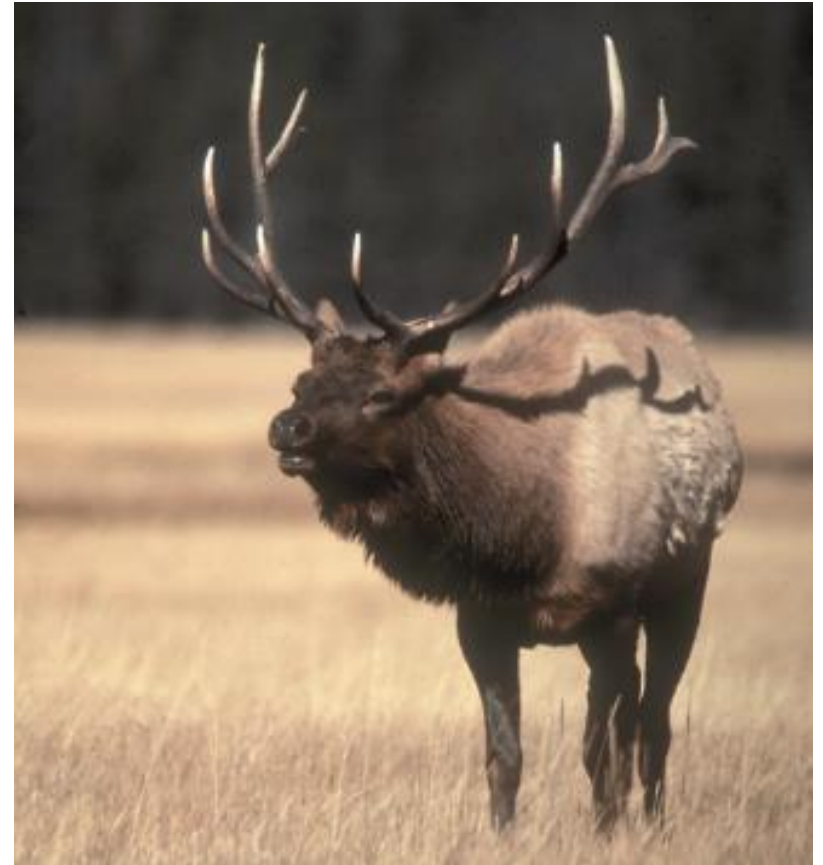


# USFWS Proposed Rule

- Proposes single DPS
- Seemingly requires natural connectivity between recovery zones
- Comment period through March 17
- Proposes expanded 4d take flexibility







**Questions?**