



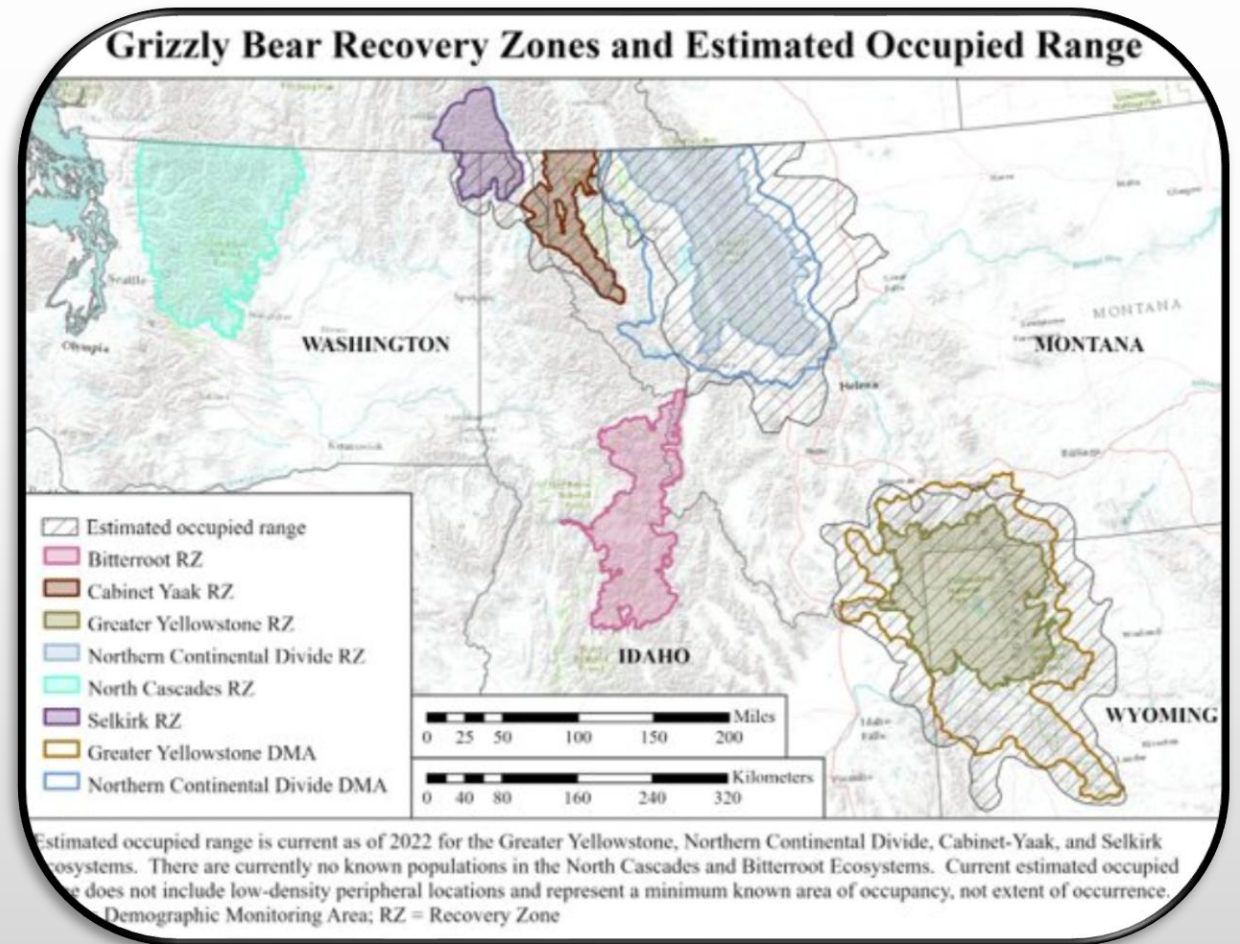
Grizzly Bear and Wolf Management

Jim Fredericks

Director

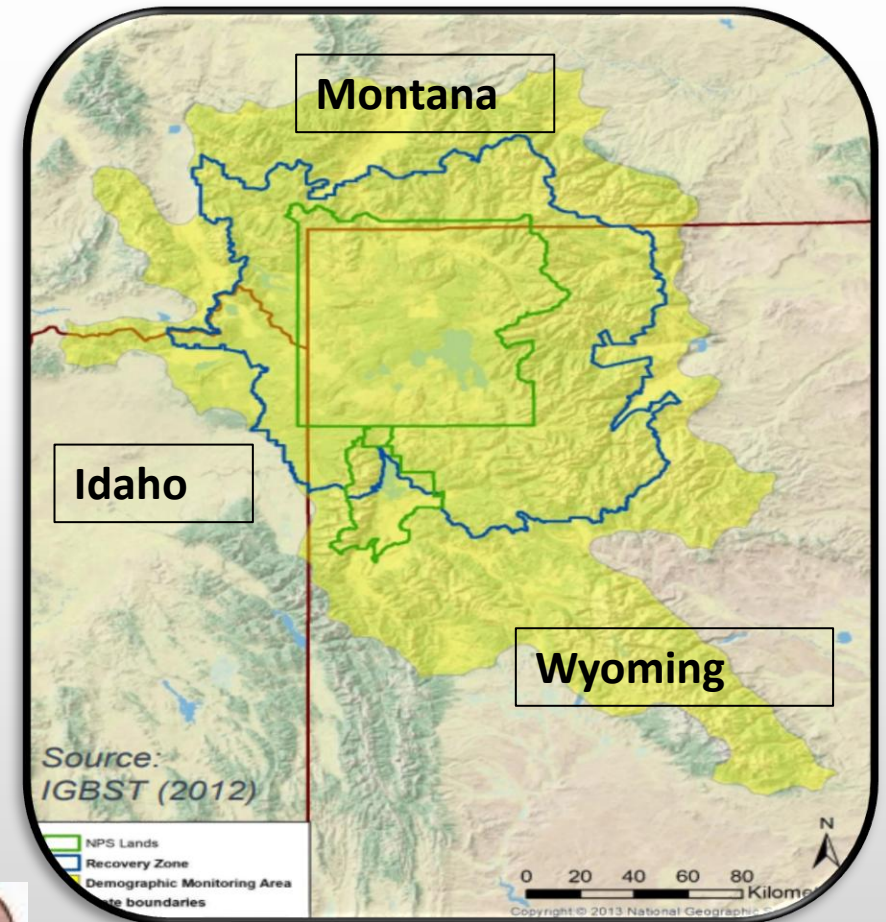
Grizzly Bear Management

- 3 occupied recovery areas in Idaho
 - Eastern Idaho
 - Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
 - Panhandle
 - Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystems



Monitoring – Eastern Idaho

- Idaho collaborates on interagency monitoring efforts
- Collects data for an integrated population model used to estimate abundance ($N = 1,055$ [2025])



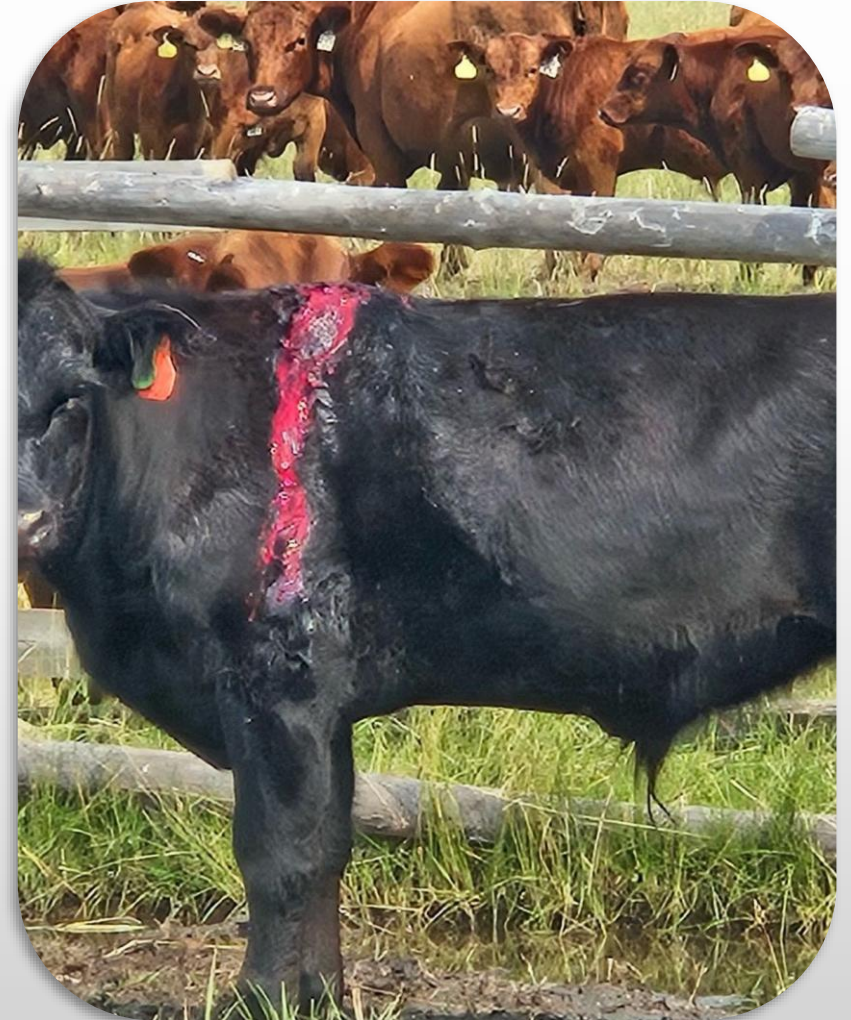
Data Collection – Eastern Idaho

- Identify females with cubs via...
 - Trail cameras
 - Confirmed, opportunistic observations
- Collar bears for survival estimation
- Reports mortalities and cause-of-death



Depredations – Eastern Idaho

- USDA Wildlife Services
 - 31 total investigations
 - 24 confirmed, probable, or possible
 - 6 cattle, 29 sheep lost
- Euthanized 1 bear
- OSMEC Depredation Claims
 - 2025 – 12 claims, 31 sheep, 19 cattle, \$59K
 - 2026 – no claims to date
 - Most submitted end of year



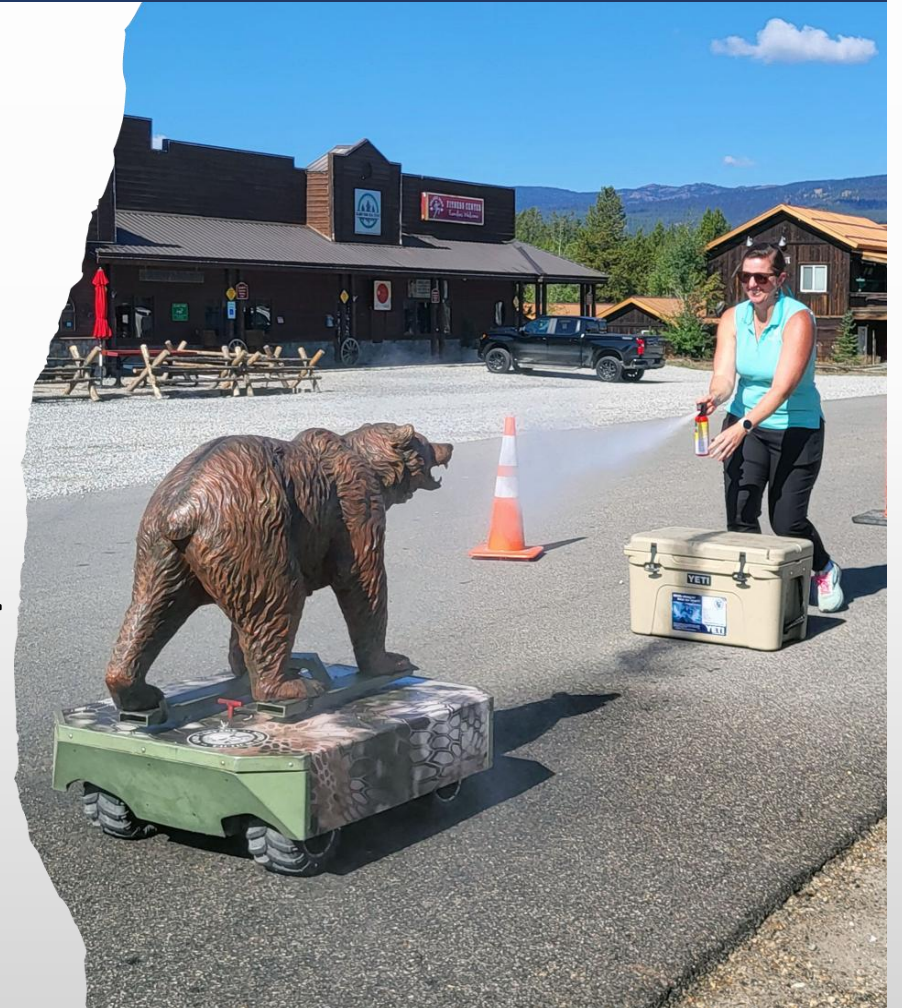
Conflicts – Eastern Idaho

- 6 reported human-bear encounters
 - 1 human injury
 - 5 hunter interactions
- 4 bears killed in self defense
 - All related to the hunter interactions
- No other reported conflicts



Outreach – Eastern Idaho

- Bear education trailer
 - 18 events; >2,000 people
- 300 cans of bear spray distributed in Island Park
- Door to door contacts to disseminate bear aware information
- 46 roadkill carcasses removed in Island Park



Monitoring – Panhandle

- DNA collection
 - Maintain barbwire corrals and rub trees
 - Collect hair samples for population monitoring
- Capture work
 - 2-person crew maintains foot snare and culvert traps
 - 2 bears captured and collared
 - Used for survival analysis



Depredations/Conflicts – Panhandle

- No depredations in 2026 (YTD)
- 4 reported bear-human conflicts
 - 1 bluff charge
 - 2 related to chicken coops
 - 1 unsecured trash



Outreach – Panhandle

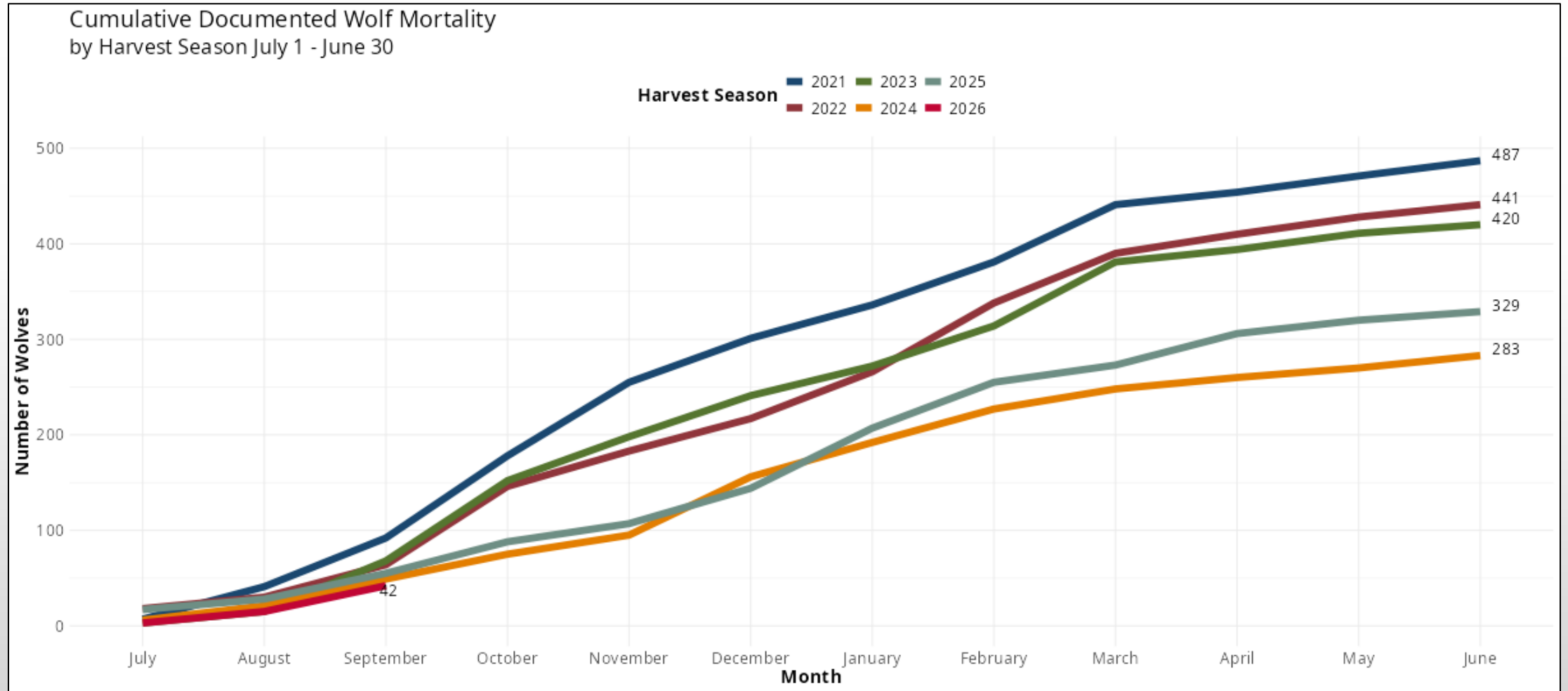
- 38 public education events; 3,461 people
 - Focus on recreating safely, bear identification,
 - 260 cans of free bear spray distributed
 - New bear spray loaner program at Priest Lake SP
 - Cider press, 2 public events
- Livestock carcass pickup program – 40 carcasses to date
- Electric fencing cost-share projects for orchards



Wolf Management



Wolf Mortality Trends



Harvest: Hunting vs Trapping

HUNTING

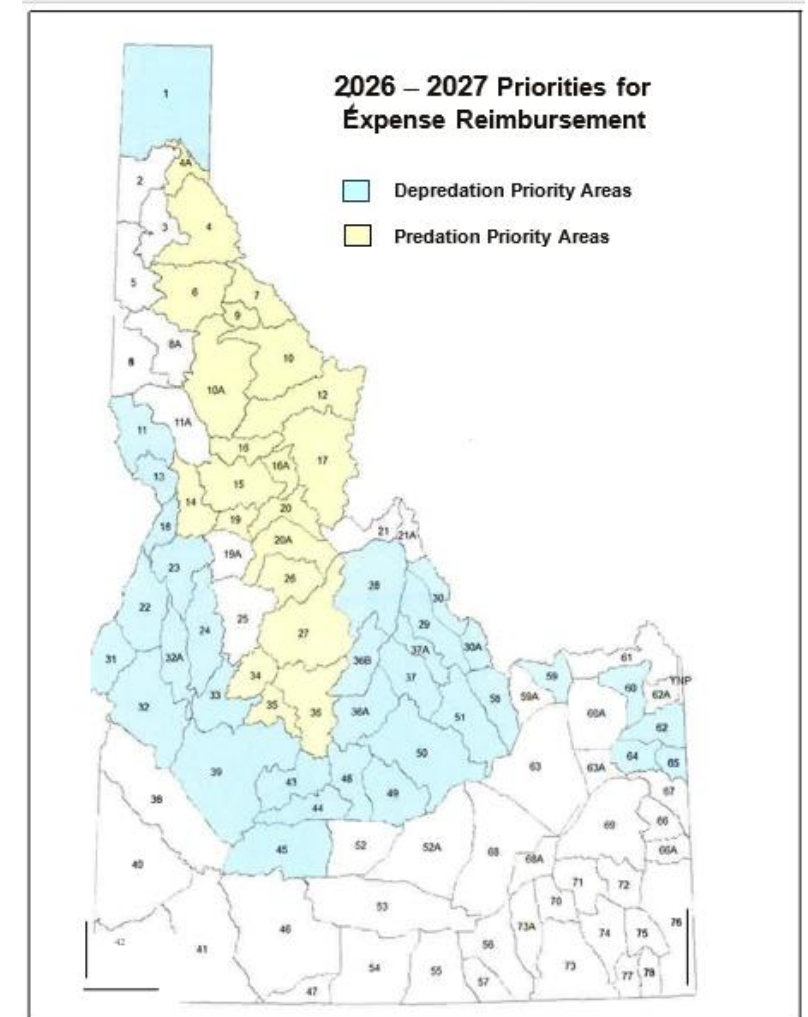
- Incidental/opportunistic harvest (>50,000 tags)
- Correspond with fall big game seasons
- ~40-50% of total harvest
- Has become more important post federal injunction

TRAPPING

- Smaller user group (~200)
- 37- 42% of total harvest, with majority occurring in the fall
- Trapping related harvest has decreased since injunction
- Variable winter conditions influences harvest

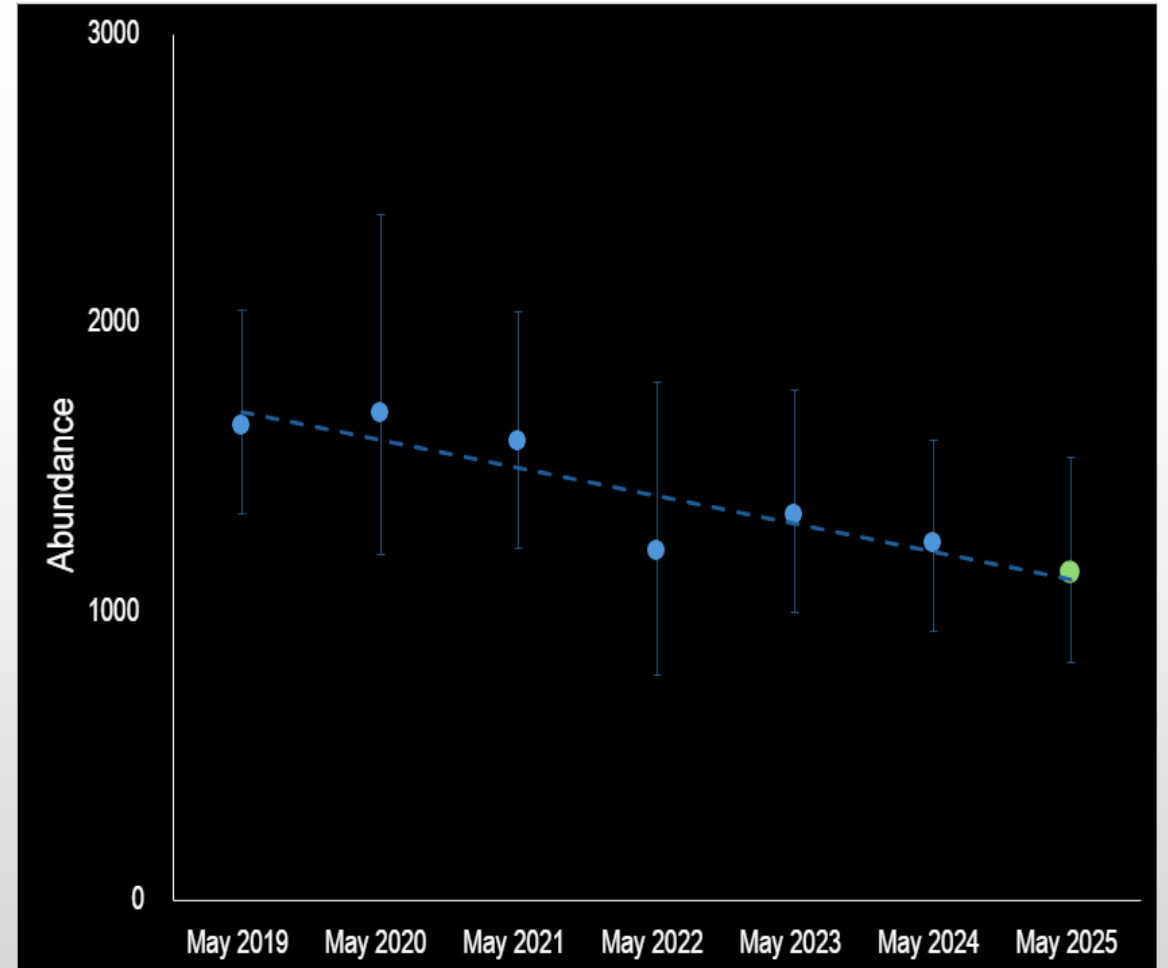
Harvest Reimbursement Program

- Sustained high harvest rates required to reach management objectives
- Through Wolf Depredation Control Board, IDFG allocates \$200k to Foundation for Wildlife Management
- Cooperative agreement
 - Structured as reimbursement program
 - \$1k first wolf hunted
 - \$2k to all other wolves in priority areas



2025 Wolf Population Estimates

- Wolf Population Estimate (ABC)
 - Genetic approach
 - 1 year time lag
- **2025 estimate = 1,129**
- 2019–2025
 - Maintain a downward trend
 - ~30% avg. annual harvest
- Compared with past harvest, the injunction impacted harvest goals by 25 - 40%

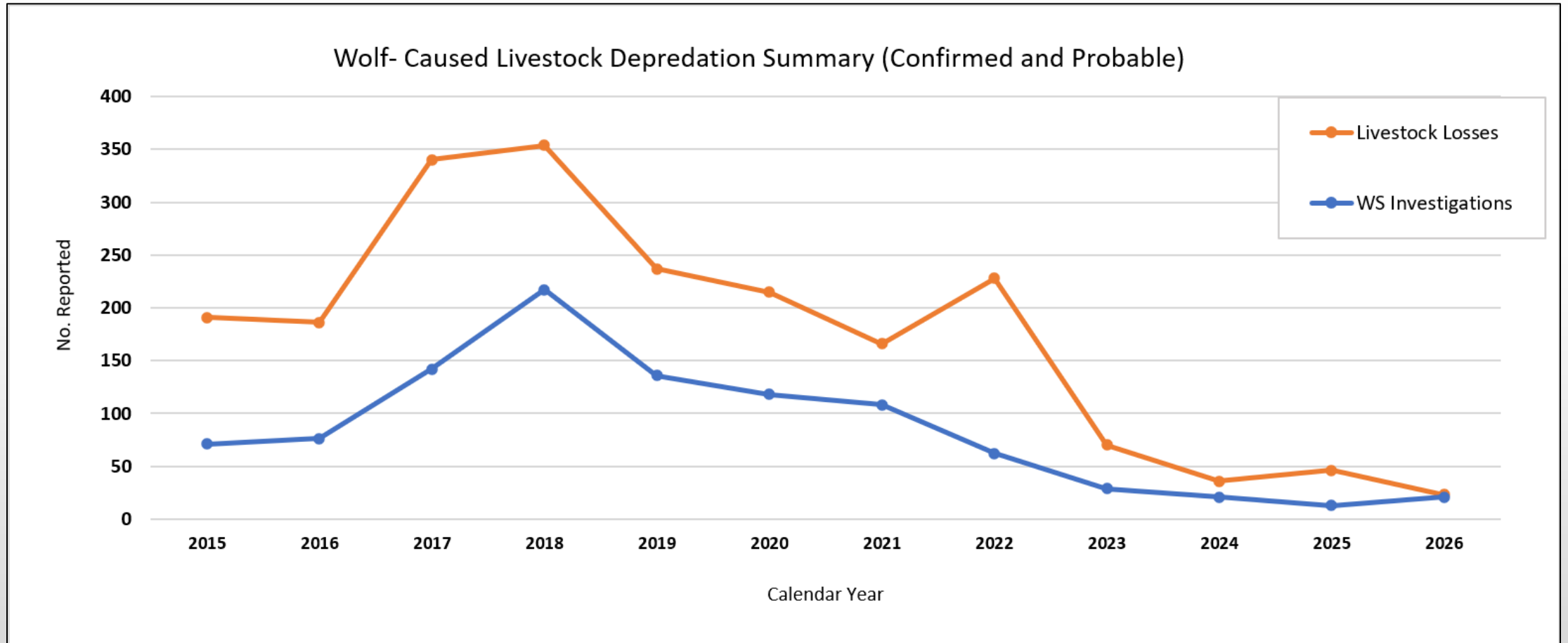


Wolf Depredations

- USDA Wildlife Services (2026 YTD)
 - 64 total investigations
 - 38 confirmed, probable, or possible
 - 30 cattle, 8 sheep, 2 dog

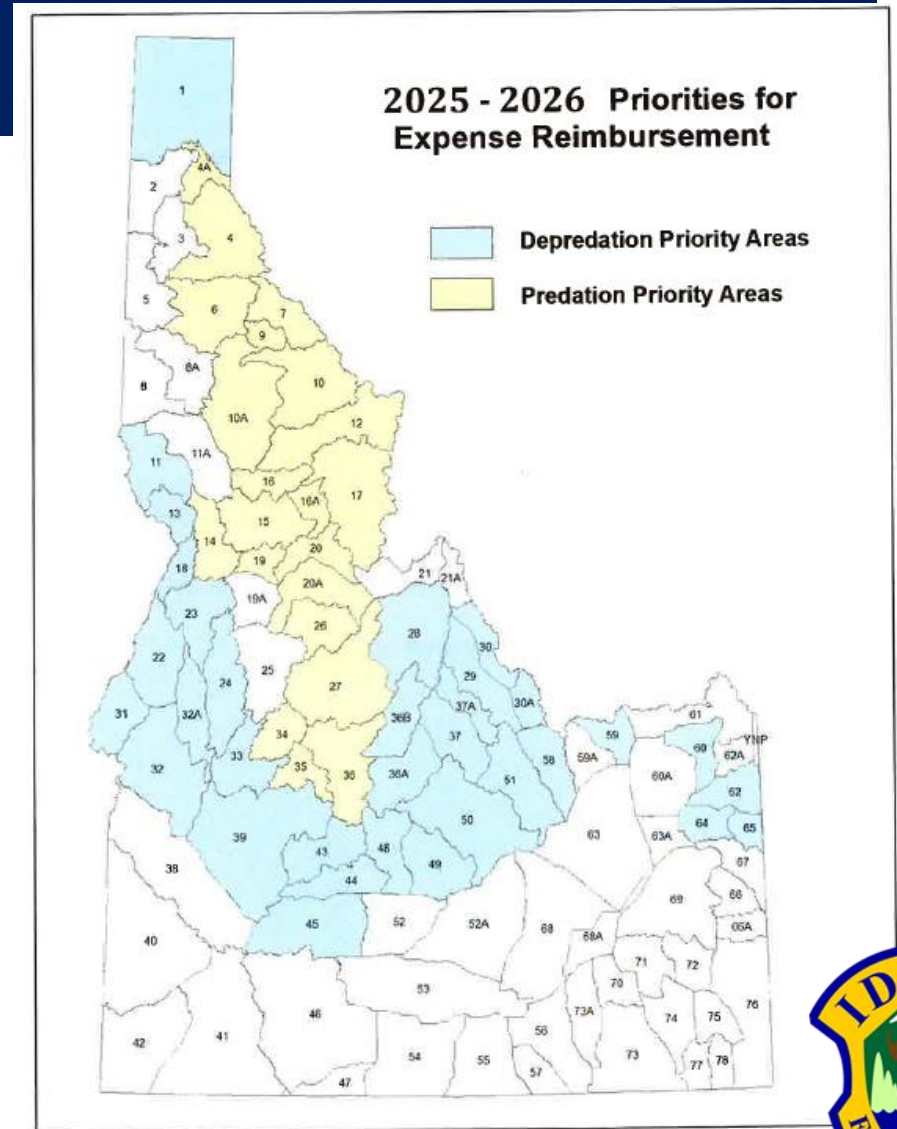


Wolf Depredations



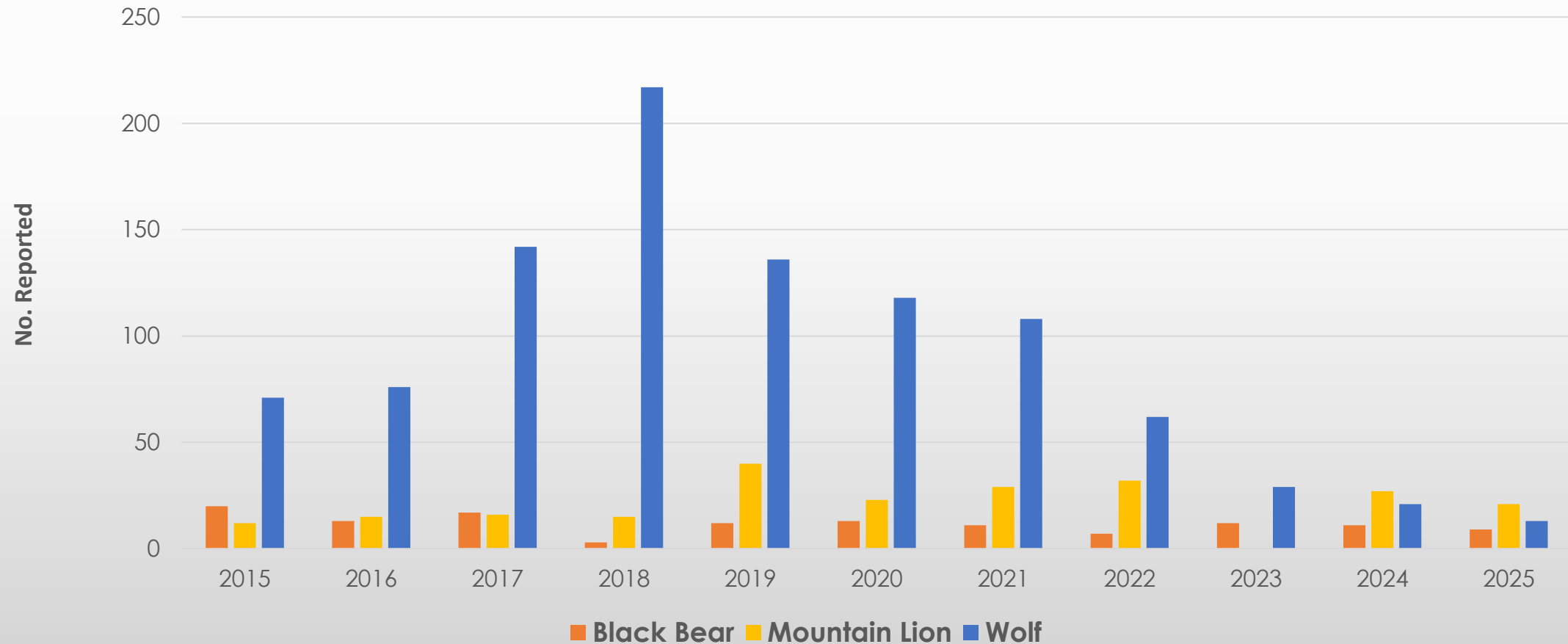
DEPREDATION INVESTIGATIONS

- Investigations
 - No difference between species
 - Wildlife Services conducts investigations
 - Same criteria used for all (see handout)
- Response is the same
 - Remove animals on confirmed depredations
- Payment
 - Wolves and Grizzly bears – OSMEC
 - Black Bears and Mountain Lions - IDFG



DEPREDATION COMPARISON: WOLF, BEAR, LION

Livestock Depredations Investigations (Confirmed and Probable)



Questions

