

Wolf Management in Michigan



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March, 2013



Meeting Overview

- Brief history of wolves and wolf management in MI
- Where are we now?
- What's next?
- How will information from this meeting be used?
- How can you stay informed?

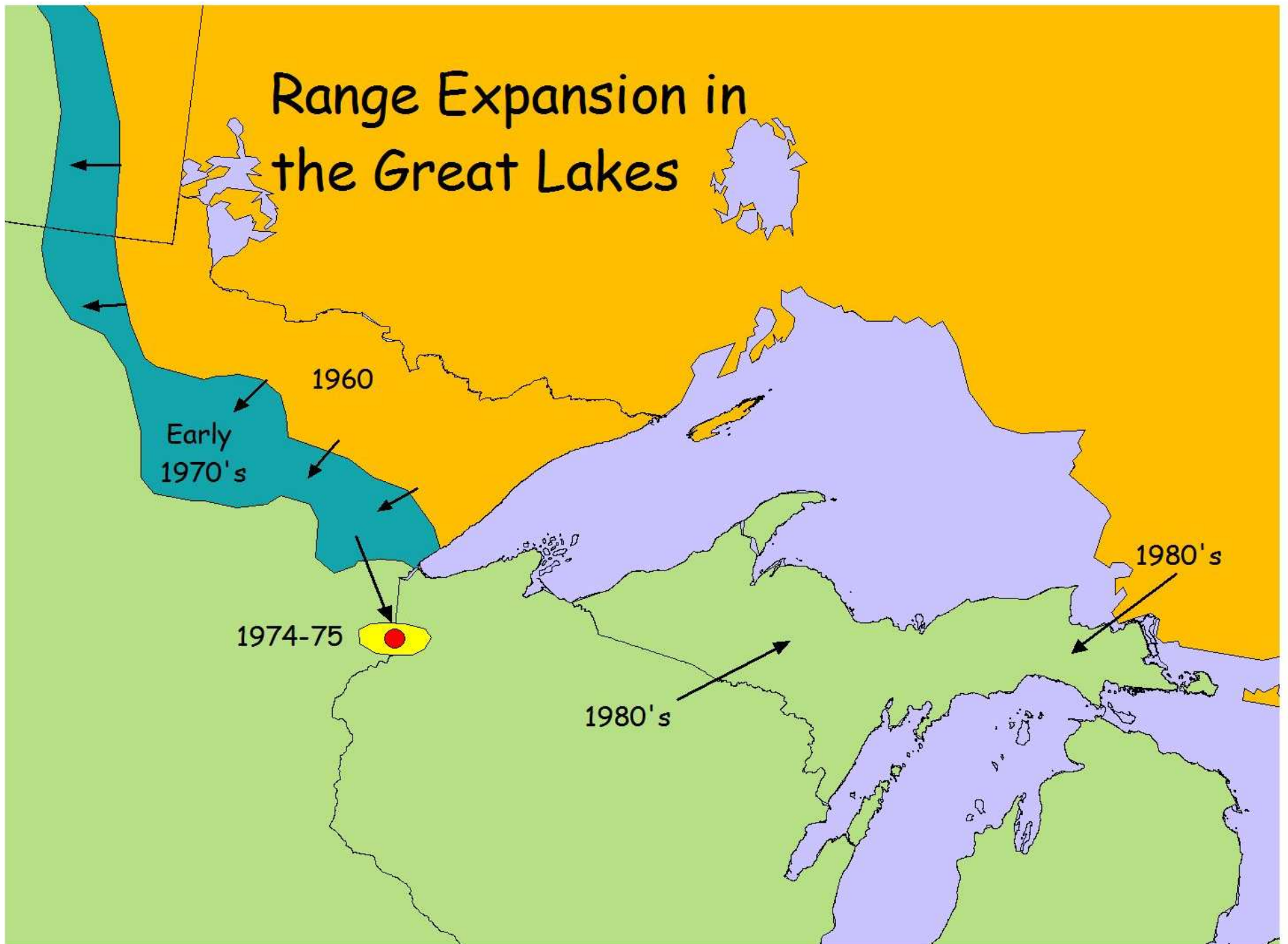


Meeting Structure

- Information from DNR
- Questions from Public
 - Regarding presentation or the topic of public harvest as a wolf management tool
- MSU survey- important component of public input process



Range Expansion in the Great Lakes



Michigan's First Wolf Plan

- Completed in 1998 focused efforts on:
 - Protection
 - Research
 - Monitoring
 - Education

Shift focus from recovery of an endangered species to more active management of wolf-human issues.



Wolf Management Roundtable June through November 2006

- Citizen/agency group, 20 represented
- Membership had range of attitudes and values
- Charged with recommending “guiding principles” to the DNR
- 10 days of meetings
- Final Report Issued



Plan Revision

- Plan was revised
 - Consistent with Roundtable's guiding principles
- Presented to NRC in August 2007
- 90-day public comment period
- Incorporated comments
- Signed by Director in July 2008
- 3 years, 2 months, plus early planning



On the Ground Management

- 2008 Plan guides actions and decisions
- Management Focus
 - Monitoring populations
 - Resolving conflicts
 - Information and education
 - Facilitate wolf-related benefits

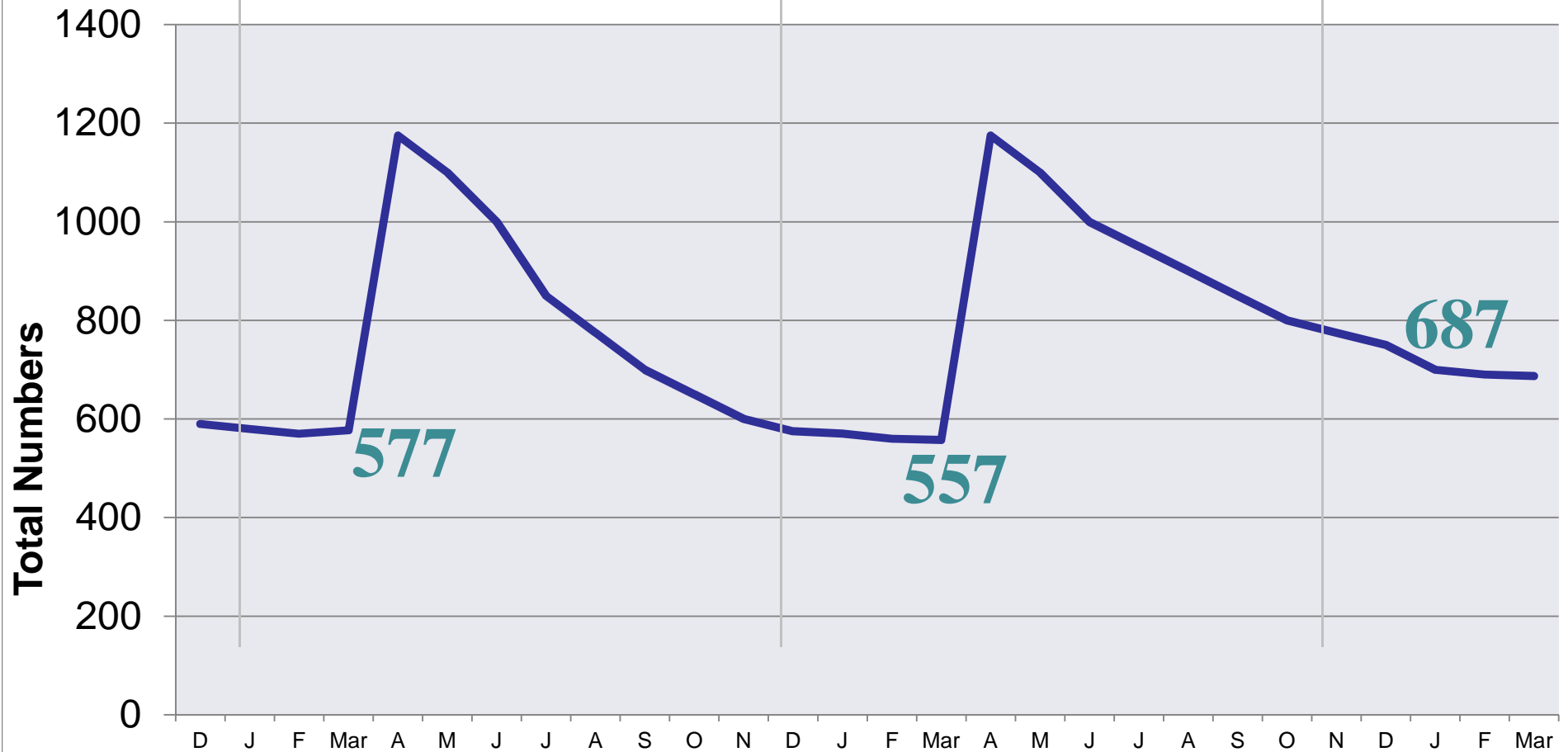


Monitoring Populations

- How many wolves and where?
 - Biennial survey gives minimum winter population estimate
 - Radio collars
 - Track surveys
 - Population modeling show population throughout year



Annual Cycle of Wolf Population in Michigan



2009

2010

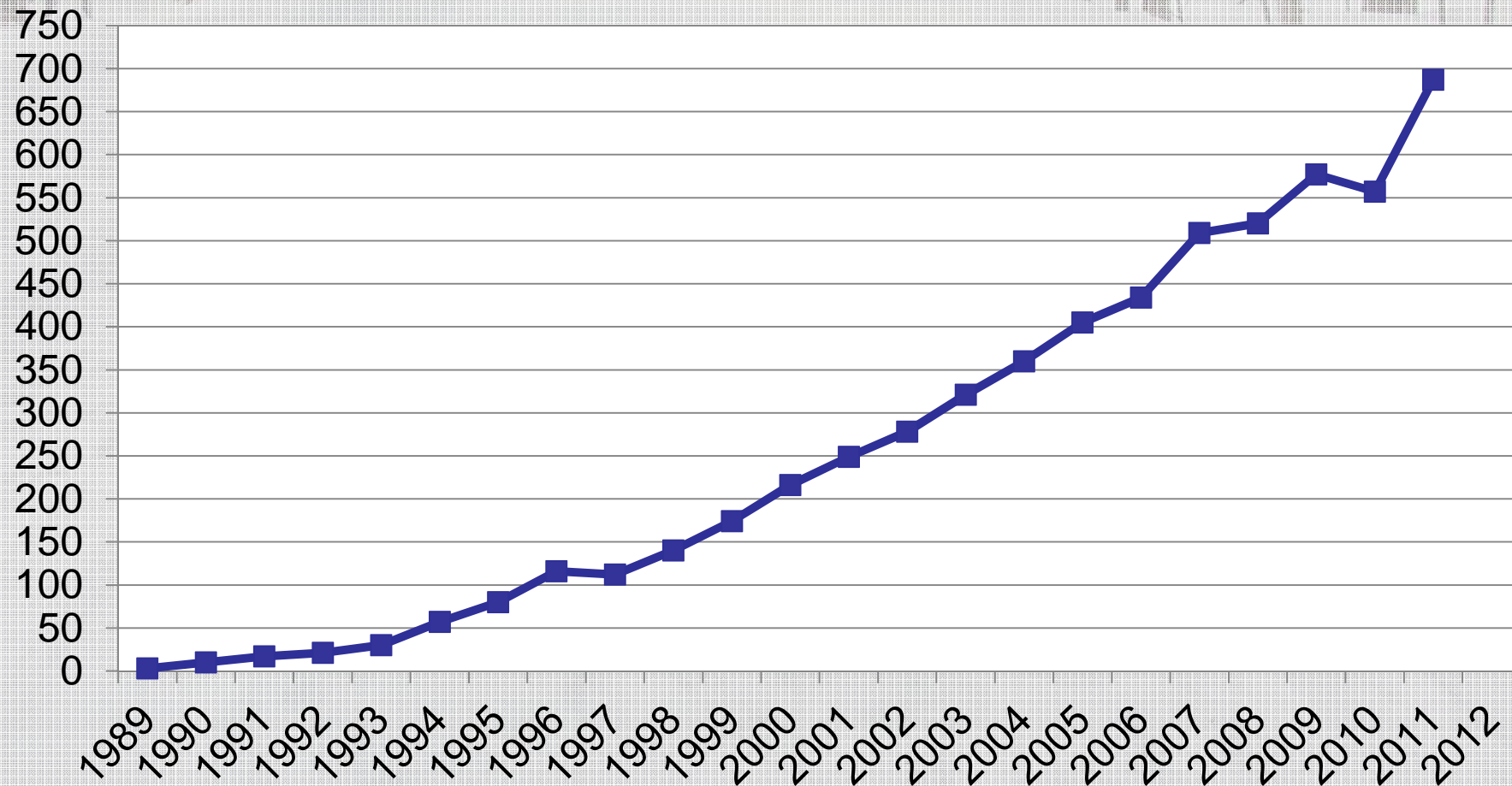
2011

Potential Seasonal Fluctuations in Michigan Wolf Numbers

Minimum Winter Population Estimates

No. of Wolves

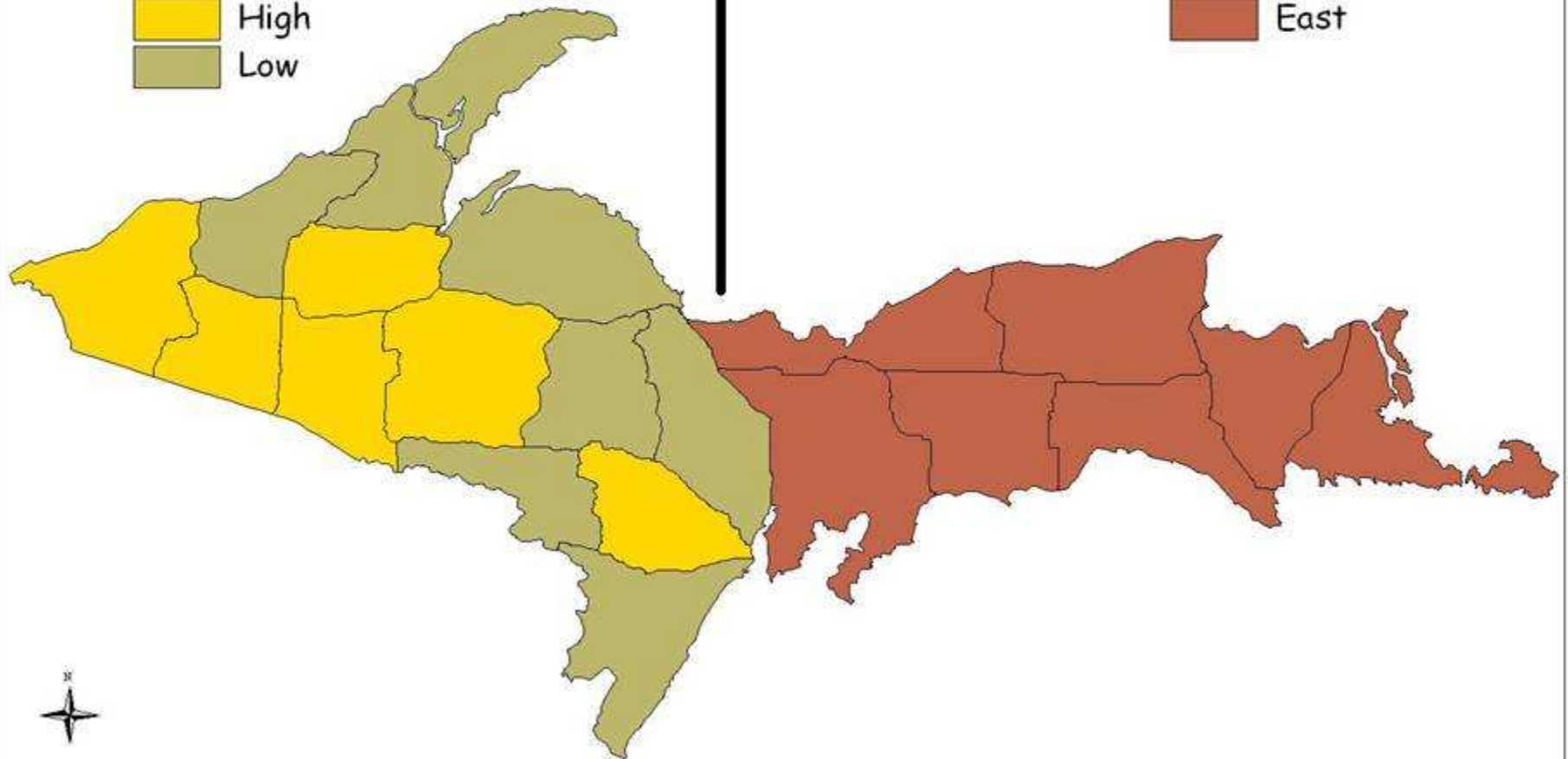
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Survey Unit Stratification

West U.P.

East U.P.



Resolving Conflicts

- Conflicts occur in several ways
 - Human safety
 - Livestock depredation
 - Pet depredation
 - Conflict can mean many things to many people
 - Agency needs to be responsive to wolf-related conflicts



Resolving Conflicts

- What do we do?
 - Non-lethal
 - Fencing
 - Flagging
 - Guard animals
 - Technical assistance
 - Information- hunting dog depredation activity
 - Hazing
 - Indemnification



Nonlethal Examples



Resolving Conflicts

- Lethal
 - PA 290 and 318
 - Permits
 - Targeted removal by agency staff



Indemnification

Year	MDA	IWC	Total
1998	\$612.50	NA	\$612.50
1999	\$400.00	NA	\$400.00
2000	\$850.00	NA	\$850.00
2001	\$1,450.00	\$750.00	\$2,200.00
2002	\$3,081.00	\$567.50	\$3,648.50
2003	\$4,370.00	\$350.00	\$4,720.00
2004	\$4,575.00	\$860.00	\$5,435.00
2005	\$1,510.00	\$380.00	\$1,890.00
2006	\$1,765.00	\$825.00	\$2,590.00
2007	\$5,564.75	\$1,095.00	\$6,659.75
2008	\$7,264.90	\$1,700.00	\$8,964.90
2009	\$3,526.50	\$1,170.00	\$4,696.50
2010	\$20,026.50	\$2,355.01	\$22,381.51
2011	\$14,829.50	NA	\$14,829.50
2012	\$20,530.00	NA	\$20,530.00
Totals	\$91,280.65	\$10,052.51	\$101,333.16

Legislation

PA 290 *Approved by the Governor on October 6, 2008.*

A bill to authorize the removal, capture, or lethal control of a gray wolf that is killing, wounding, or biting livestock under certain circumstances; and to promulgate rules.

PA 318 *Approved by the Governor on December 17, 2008.*

A bill to authorize the removal, capture, or lethal control of a gray wolf that is killing, wounding, or biting a dog under certain circumstances; and to promulgate rules.



MDNR Wildlife Division Procedure

- Permits were issued to 15 farms and 10 wolves were killed under these permits.



Wolf Control

Year	4d rule	10a-1A Permit	Human Safety, USFWS (50 CFR 17.21)	Federal Delisted State Threatened	Human Safety after Federal Delisting	State and Federal Delisted	Public Act 290	Damage Control Permit	Human Safety; State and Federal Delisted	Total
2003	4	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4
2004	5	NA	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6
2005	NA	2	4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6
2006	NA	7	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7
2007	NA	NA	3	14	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	18
2008	NA	NA	NA	8	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	9
2009	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	NA	0	1
2010	NA	NA	5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5
2011	NA	NA	4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4
2012	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	6	10	8	23
Total	9	9	17	22	2	2	6	10	8	85

58 Livestock
 27 Human Safety
 85 Total



Information and Education

- Direct Contact
 - Livestock producers
 - Pet owners/dog hunters
 - Communities
- Website
- Presentations
- Public Engagement (this meeting)
- Collaborations
- Need to build program



Management Moving Forward

- Wolf Management Plan outlines use of management strategies
 - January 27, 2012
 - Wolves Federally Delisted
 - Some tools in the Plan now available
 - » PA 290, 318, permitted take
 - » Management authority to State
 - December 28, 2012
 - Wolves listed as a game species
 - Hunting as management tool now an option



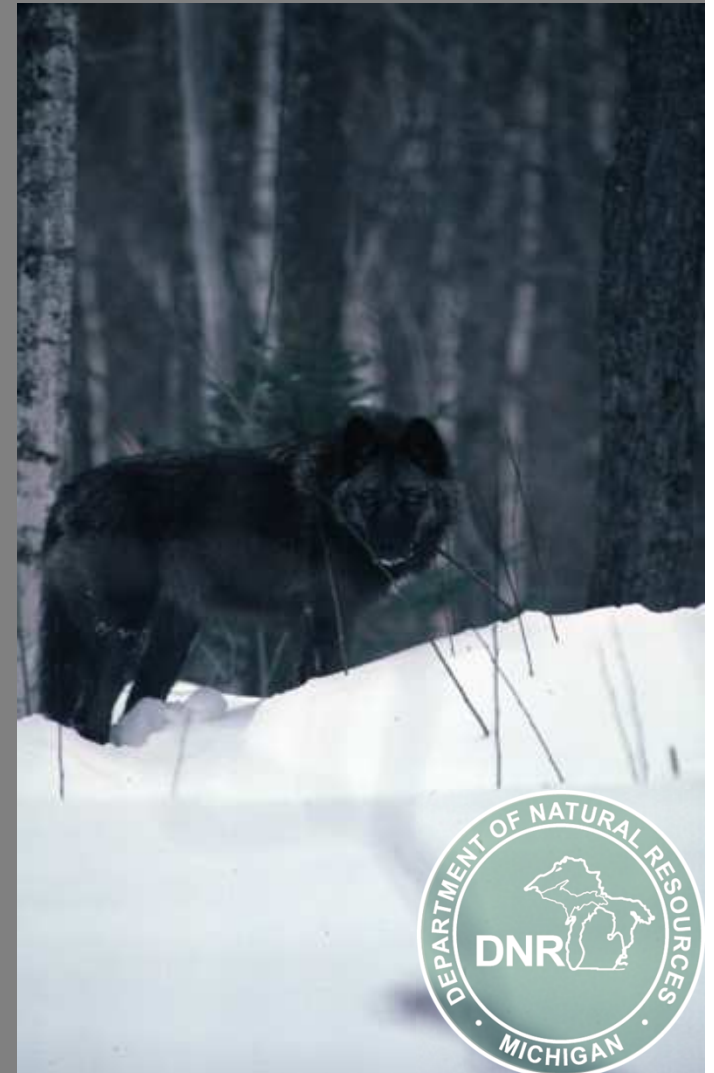
Wolves as Game Species in Michigan

- Public Act 520 of 2012 was signed into law on December 28
 - Added wolves to the game species list
 - Authorized first season and license fees
 - DNR makes recommendation on season
 - NRC to determine manner and method of take



Public Harvest in the Wolf Management Plan

- Section 6.12 of the Plan
 - Two categories of take:
 - Recreational
 - Conflict resolution



Public Harvest in the Wolf Management Plan: Section 6.12

- Recreational Harvest
 - Only issue with no consensus from Wolf Roundtable
 - Plan outlines several action items before considering



Public Harvest in the Wolf Management Plan: Section 6.12

- Conflict Resolution
 - Public harvest to resolve conflicts supported by Plan and Roundtable if:
 - Does not threaten long-term viability
 - Targeted lethal or nonlethal controls are ineffective or not logistically feasible
 - Wolf densities are found to be primary cause of conflicts in localized area
 - There is a need to address conflicts that cannot otherwise be resolved
 - Evaluate local situations on a case-by-case basis



Public Harvest Consideration Warranted

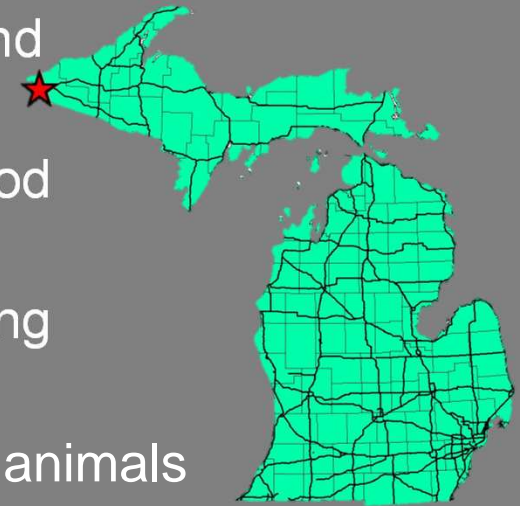
- Chronic conflicts despite lethal and nonlethal techniques in Ironwood/Gogebic County
- Chronic conflicts with depredation/dog incidents in localized areas
 - Difficult to resolve effectively with current techniques
 - Feasible to use public harvest to resolve issues



Human Safety Concerns

Ironwood Case

- February 2010- wolves use the areas in and around Ironwood
- Since 2010- 97 complaints submitted from Ironwood area.
- In March of 2010 nonlethal harassment began using cracker shells, radio-collars, and vehicles
- After more than 30 days of nonlethal harassment, animals removed for human safety reasons
- Nonlethal efforts continued in 2011 and 2012 before lethal control authorized.
- Efforts to reduce deer feeding in urban areas
- Wolves continue to use areas in and around Ironwood each spring since 2010
 - But reduction in complaints and wolf numbers



Depredation Concerns

- Some areas continue to have depredation after multiple years of nonlethal and targeted lethal control methods

Non lethal Examples: Livestock Guarding animals, Cracker Shells, Rubber Bullets, Flashing Lights, Sirens, Strobe Lights, Flagging, Radio Collars, Range Guards, Fencing, and Husbandry Practices.



- In some areas nonlethal methods have been successful in controlling depredation for multiple years
- No one method has proven to be 100% effective in controlling depredation
 - A combination of control efforts most effective
- Public harvest is another tool that could be used with non lethal efforts and targeted lethal efforts



Public Harvest

- Conditions currently exist that may benefit from the use of public harvest to help resolve conflicts
- Supported by Wolf Management Plan
- Decision and details surrounded by controversy
- Consider Michigan's Elk Management Program



What Would a Season Recommendation **NOT** Look Like?

- WOULD NOT jeopardize long-term viability of wolf population
- WOULD NOT be UP wide
- WOULD NOT ALLOW:
 - Aerial shooting
 - Poisoning
 - Hunting with dogs
- WOULD NOT replace other methods of conflict resolution



What MIGHT A Season Recommendation Look Like?

- Maintain long-term viability of wolf population
 - May not decrease overall wolf population
- WOULD use management units
 - Defined by management objectives and pack territories
 - May include public and private lands
- WOULD have conflict resolution objectives
- WOULD include hunting
 - MAY include trapping
- WOULD include monitoring and evaluation



Next Steps

- Continue to evaluate need, objectives of use of public harvest for management purposes
- Evaluate, incorporate input into recommendation process
- Provide information/respond to concerns on website



Remainder of Meeting

- Panel will respond to questions audience provided on index cards
- Opportunity to fill out survey and provide additional input



Stay Informed

- Survey results and summaries of input from meetings will be on the wolf website
- Information on recommendations will be on website as well
- www.michigan.gov/wolves
- www.fw.msu.edu/~gorem
- dnr-wildlife@michigan.gov
 - “Wolf Input” in subject



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/dnr

