

Myths and Misconceptions— Debunked!



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What should you know?

- What are the common misconceptions?
- What are the facts?

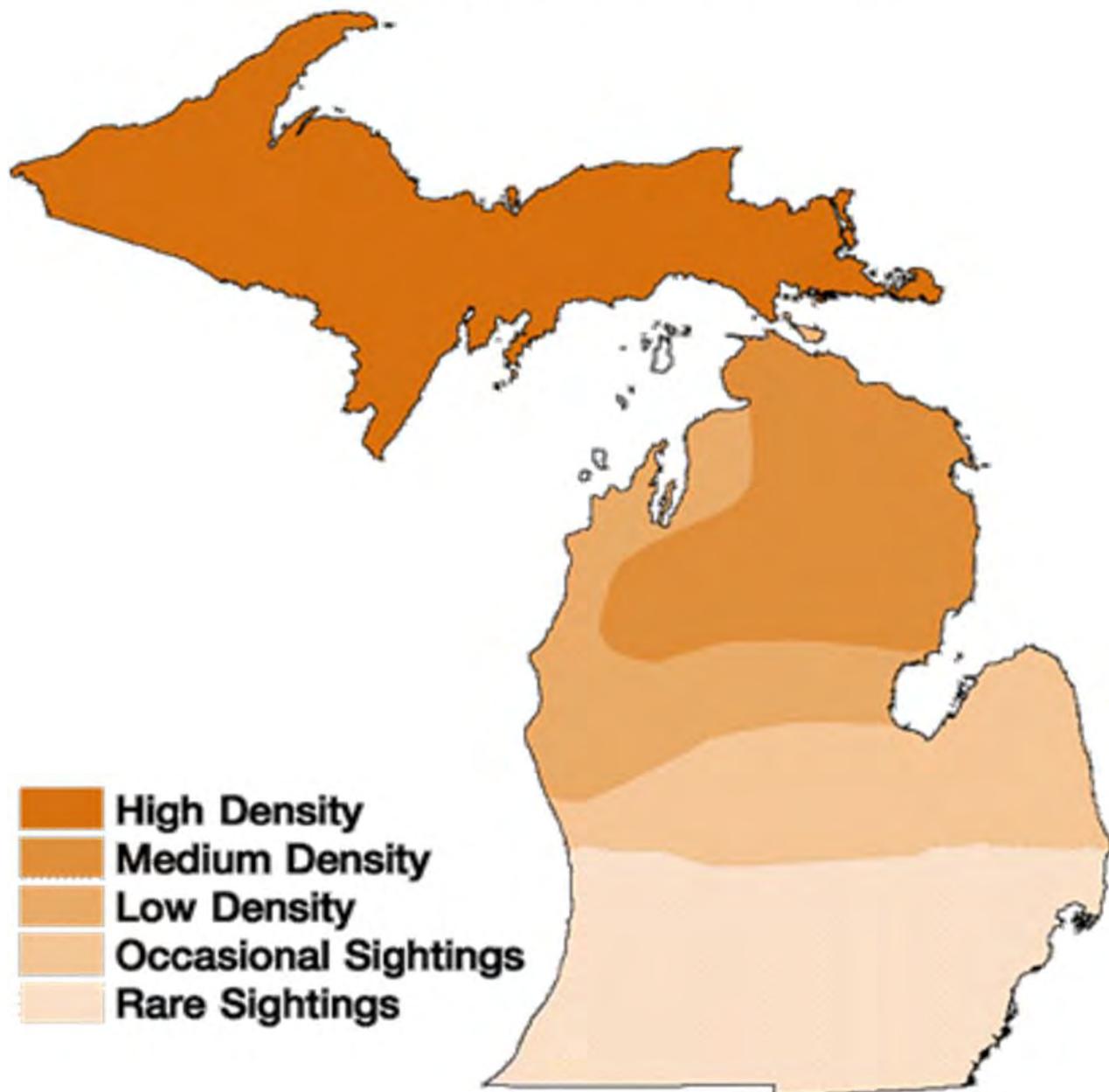


What can YOU do?





Distribution of Black Bear in Michigan

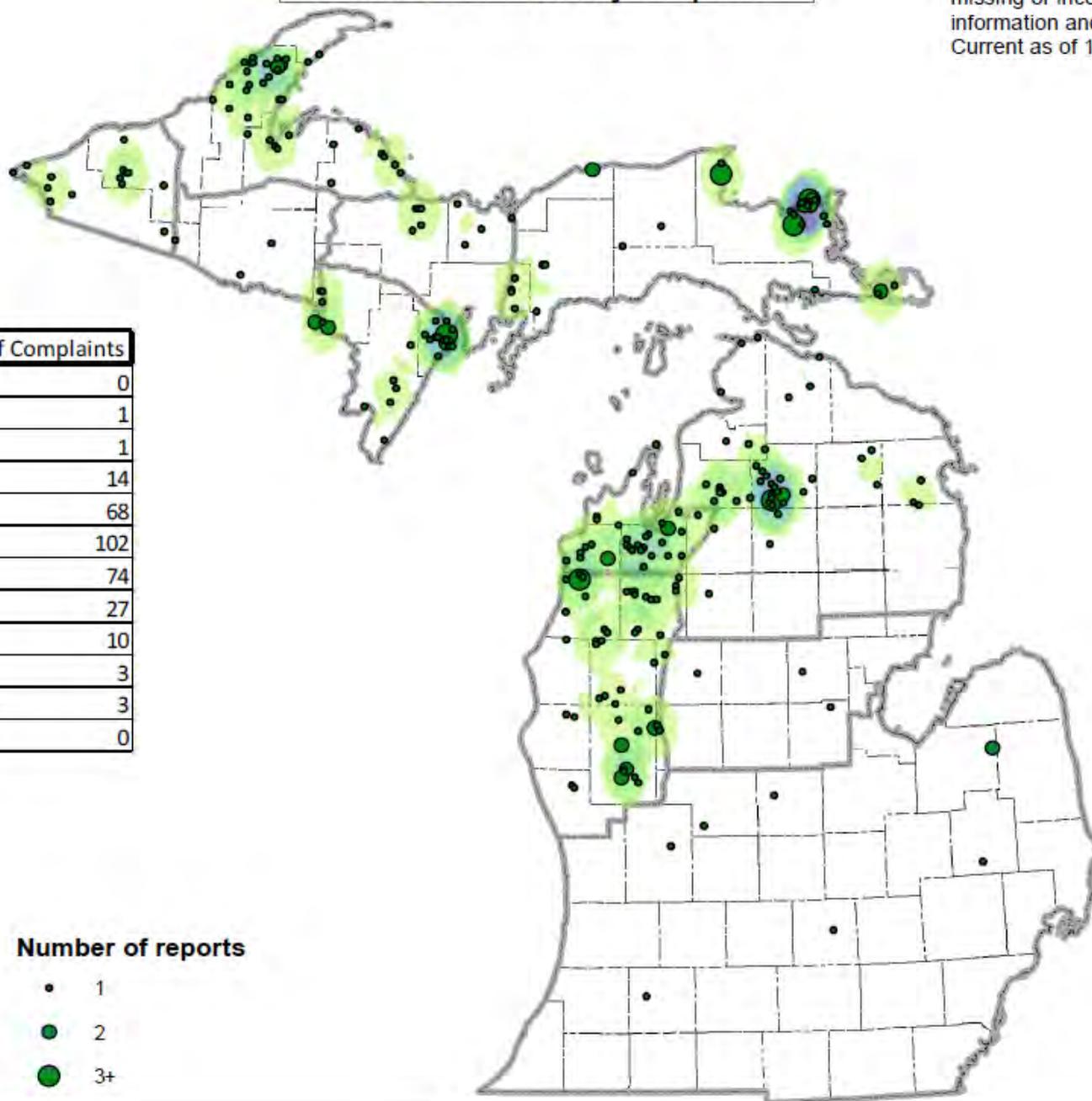
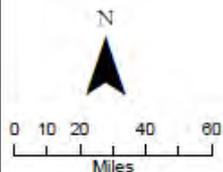
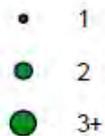


2019 Bear Activity Reports

Note: 19 activity reports had missing or incomplete location information and are not mapped. Current as of 12/02/2019.

Month	# of Complaints
January	0
February	1
March	1
April	14
May	68
June	102
July	74
August	27
September	10
October	3
November	3
December	0

Number of reports



What are bears thinking??

Dispersal is natural

- Becoming independent
- Can be triggered by mating season
- As population densities increase
- Looking for food









alamy stock photo



shutterstock.com • 289493114



depositphotos

image ID: 758447132 www.depositphotos.com







- Bears are lazy, and hungry
- Bears have a great memory





Delicious is in the eye
of the beholder



Keep bears fearing humans

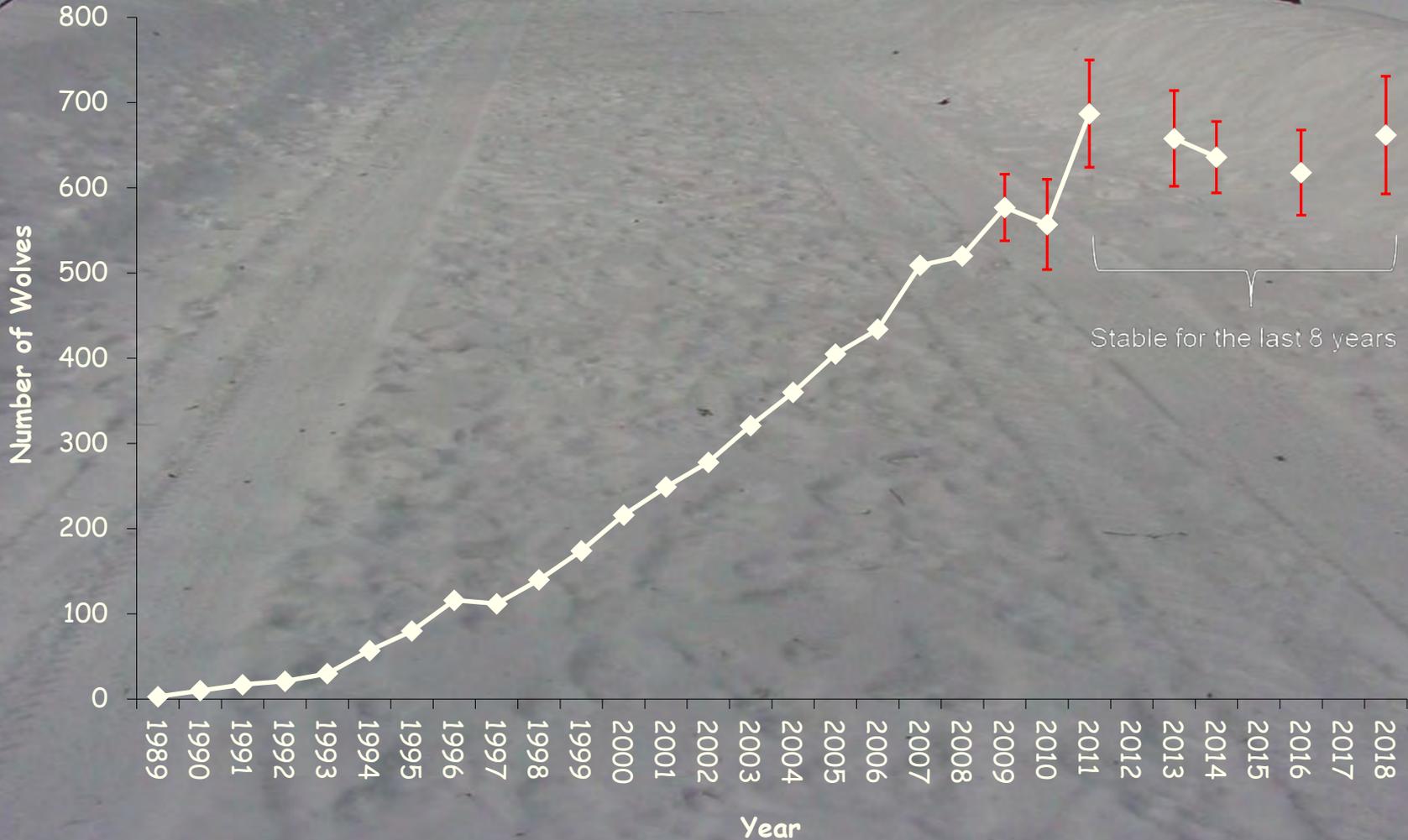


Being a good steward is as simple as not being a repeatable food source.

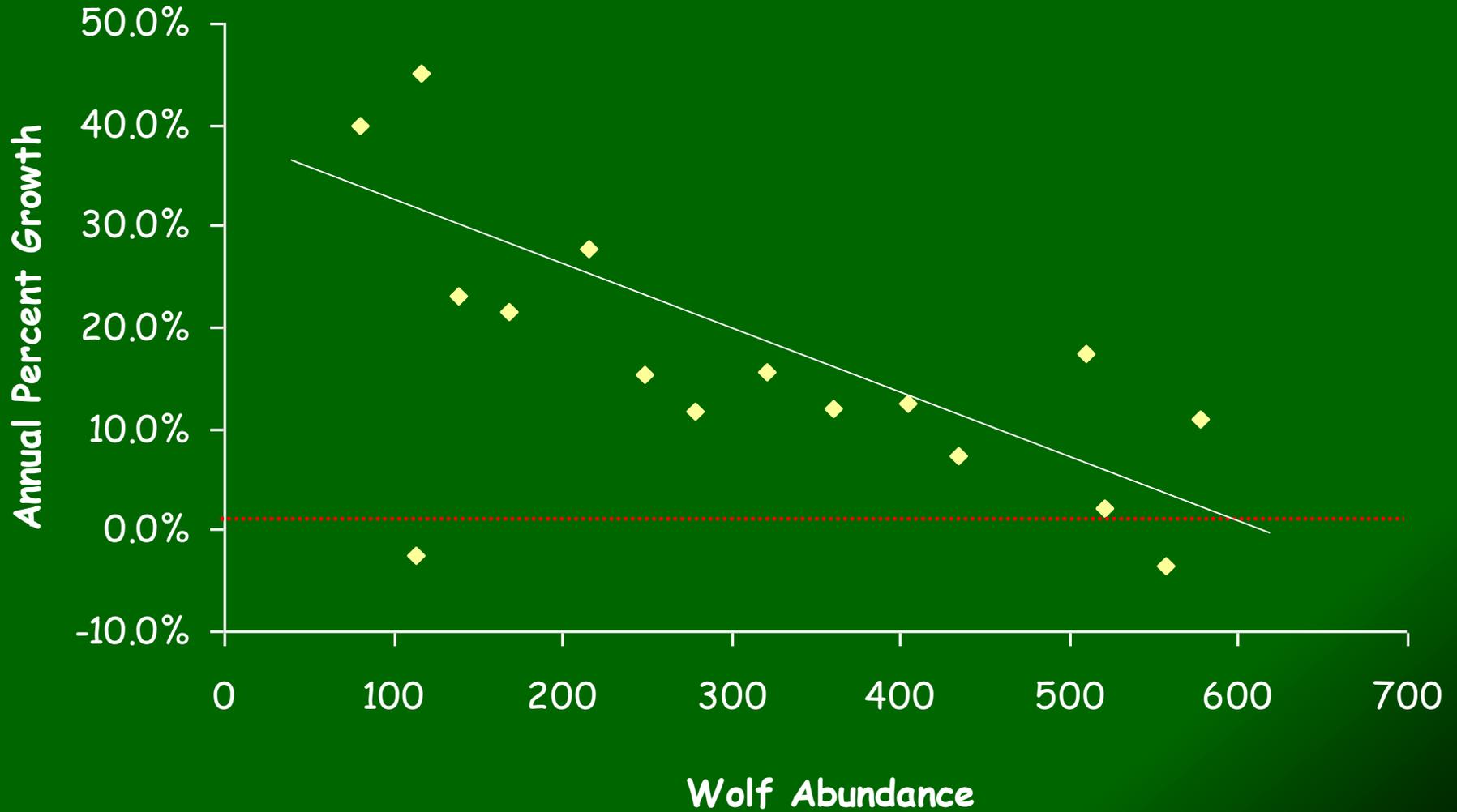


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Minimum Winter Population Estimates



Population Growth Projection



Public perception



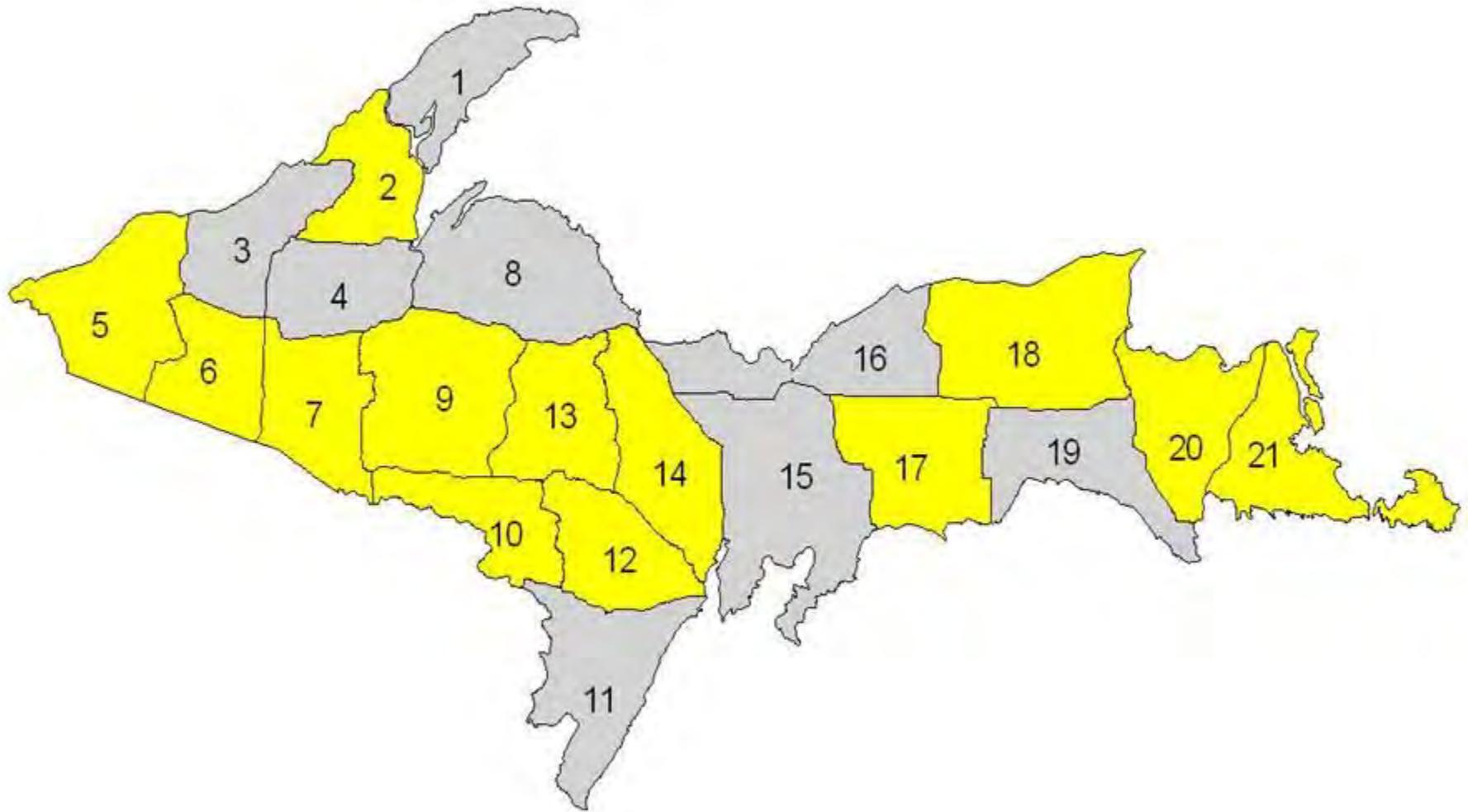
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X many =

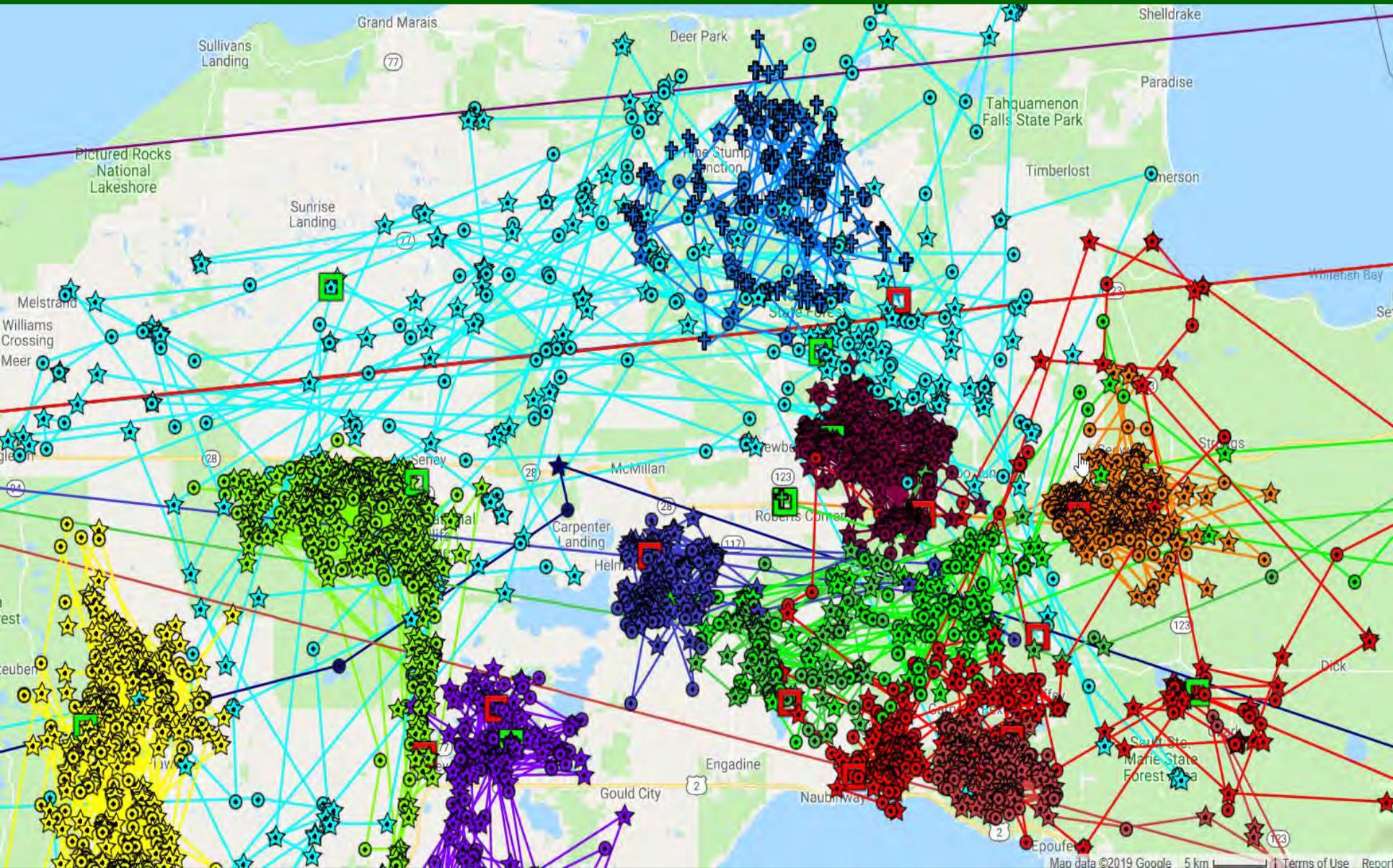


Wolf survey units







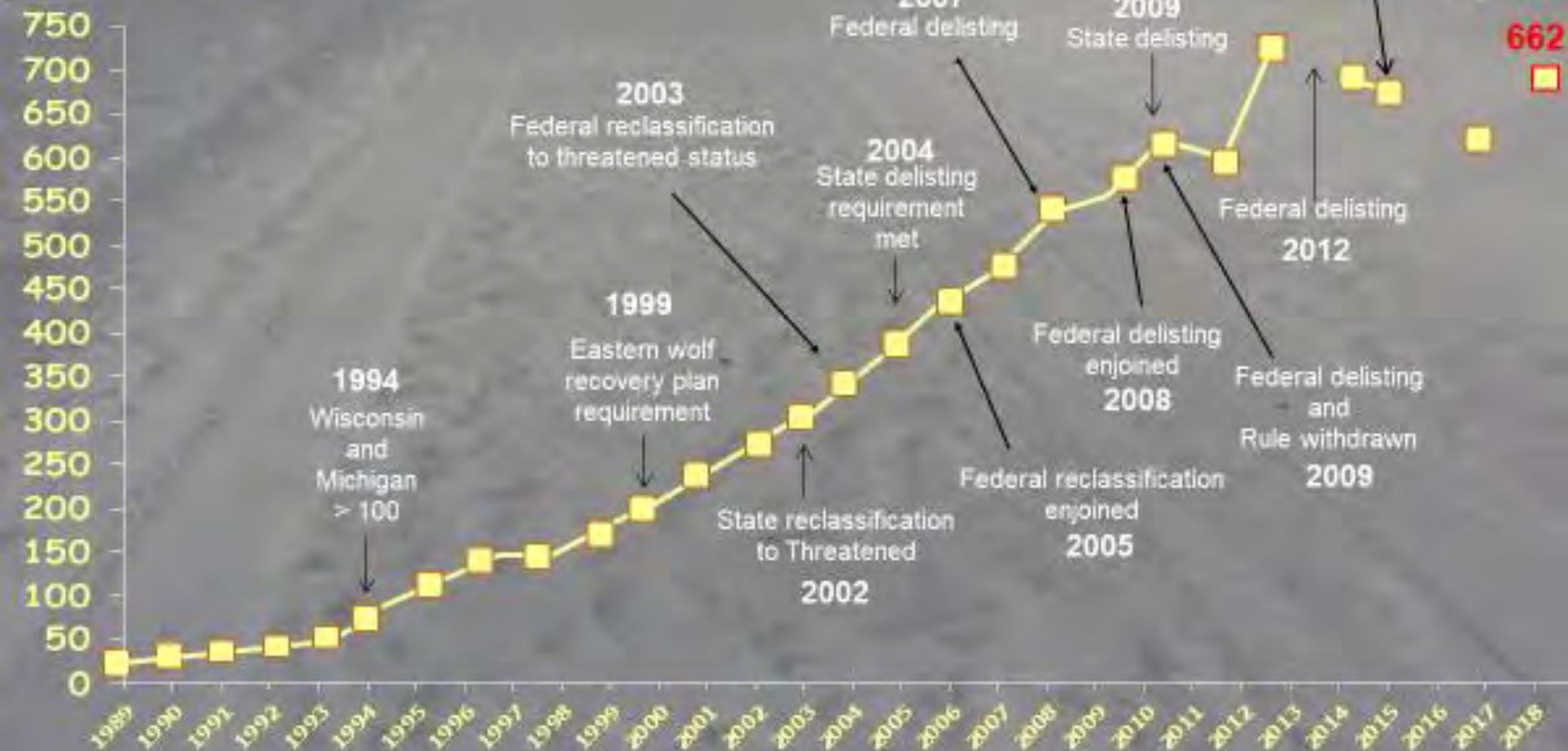


DNR does nothing to manage wolves

- 1976 wolves listed as a state endangered species
- 2002 wolves reduce to threatened status
- 2009 wolves removed from state endangered species list and became a game species in Michigan

Minimum Winter Population Estimates

No. of Wolves



DNR does nothing to manage wolves

- In March 2019 proposed to remove wolves in the continental US.
- Comment period closed in July, >750,000 comments
- March–July, 2020 feds will report what they have decided.

Attempted Wolf Reintroduction 1974

Four Wolves From MN

Released In The Huron
Mountains

Within 8 Months All 4
Wolves Were Killed

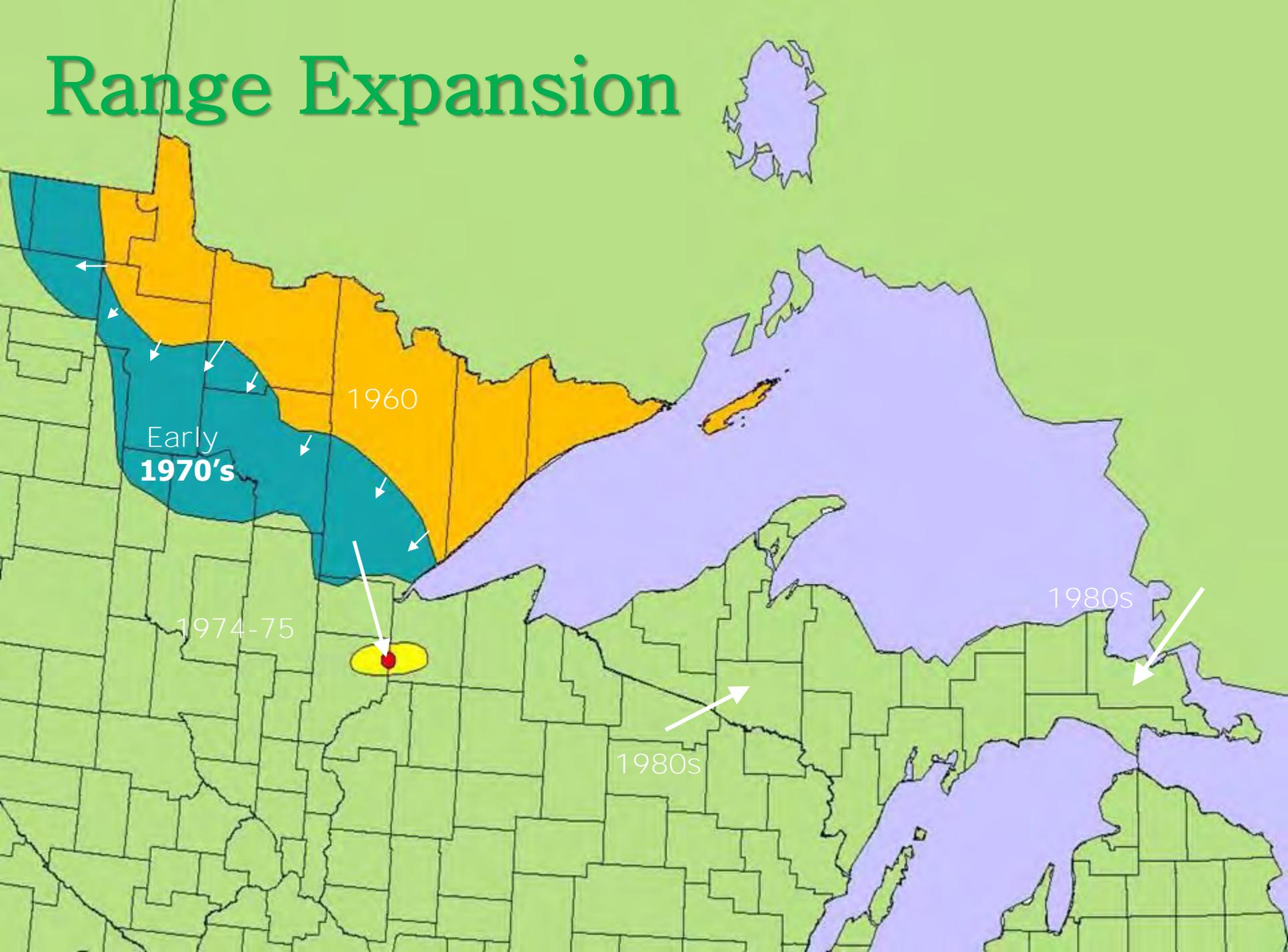
Wolves Did Not
Reproduce



How Did Wolves Return to Michigan?



Range Expansion





I see wolves all over so there are way more than you think...

Wolves don't travel as a pack all of the time

- Hunting
- Home range boundary checks
- Extra territorial explorations



Wolves always kill more than they can eat



Cougars

- a.k.a. mountain lion, puma, catamount, panther

- native, but extirpated around the turn of the century



DNR denies cougars exist



Not true

Verified cougars

- 49 confirmations, 11 in 2019
- Looked at over 371 submitted reports
- 97% of those are domestic cats or bobcats or canines

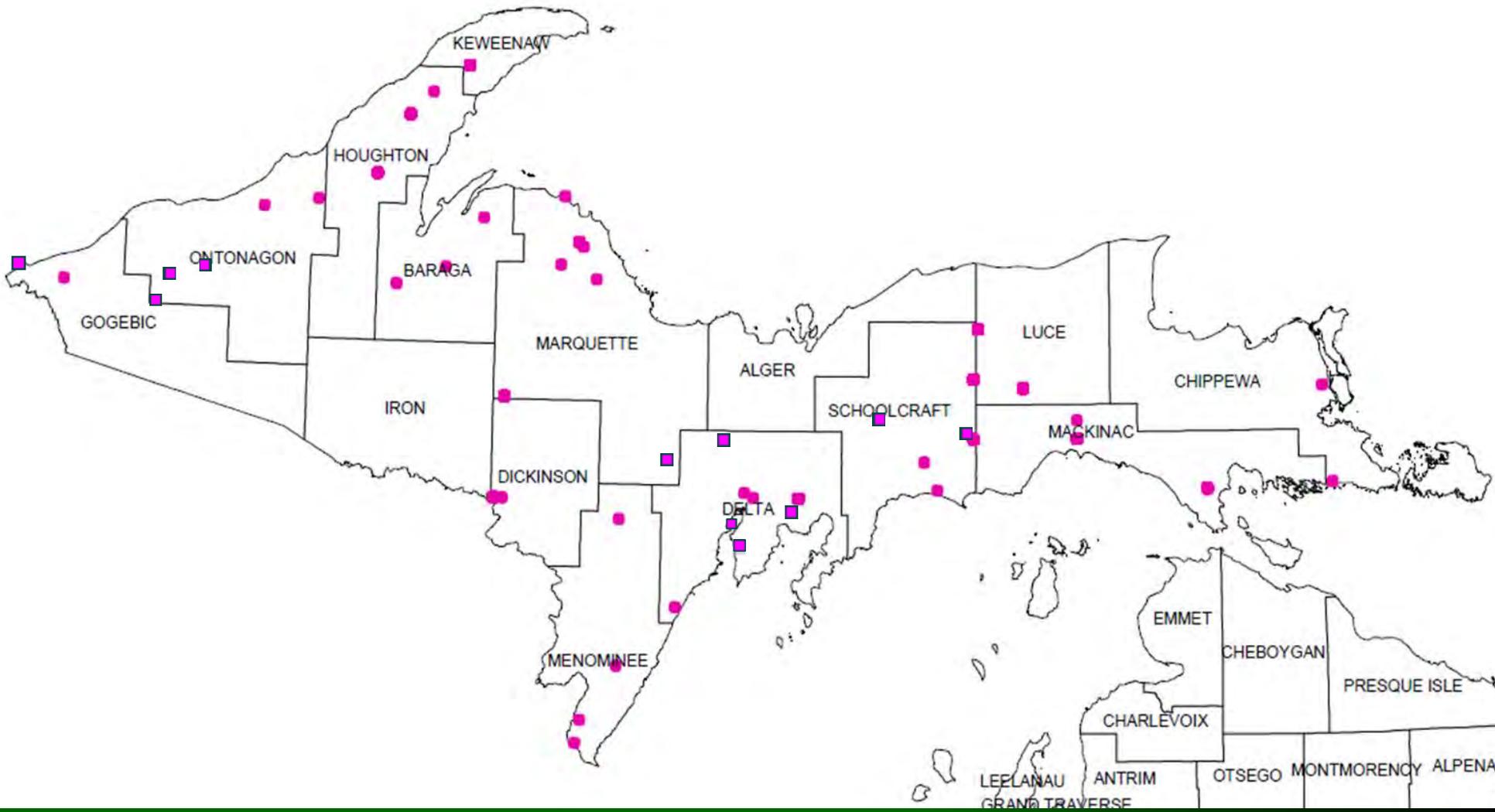


- No evidence of reproduction
- No females

Male cougar



Confirmed Cougar Locations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula 2008-2019



Not every verification is necessarily a separate cougar



What can the public do?

- Submit photos of evidence
 - www.michigan.gov/dnr
click “things to do”
then click “report wildlife observations”

- Let us verify



So why are cougars here?

- Young males are dispersing



Top 10 things the public should know to benefit wildlife

- A wolf looking at you isn't planning on ripping off your leg
- Just because someone says it, doesn't make it real
- Not every confirmed cougar is yet another cougar walking around
- Predators are supposed to eat prey
- If you feed or bait an animal you should fully expect predators to show up

Top 10 things the public should know to benefit wildlife

- If you feed wildlife, you are endangering them (they will become habituated)
- Young, orphaned wildlife are not better off being raised by humans. Leave them alone
- If you leave food/trash out, they will come, including big black bears with claws
- If you put the food on your porch they will come ONTO your porch
- Don't believe everything you read on facebook



Questions?







 Wildgame
INNOVATIONSSM

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Hunt results

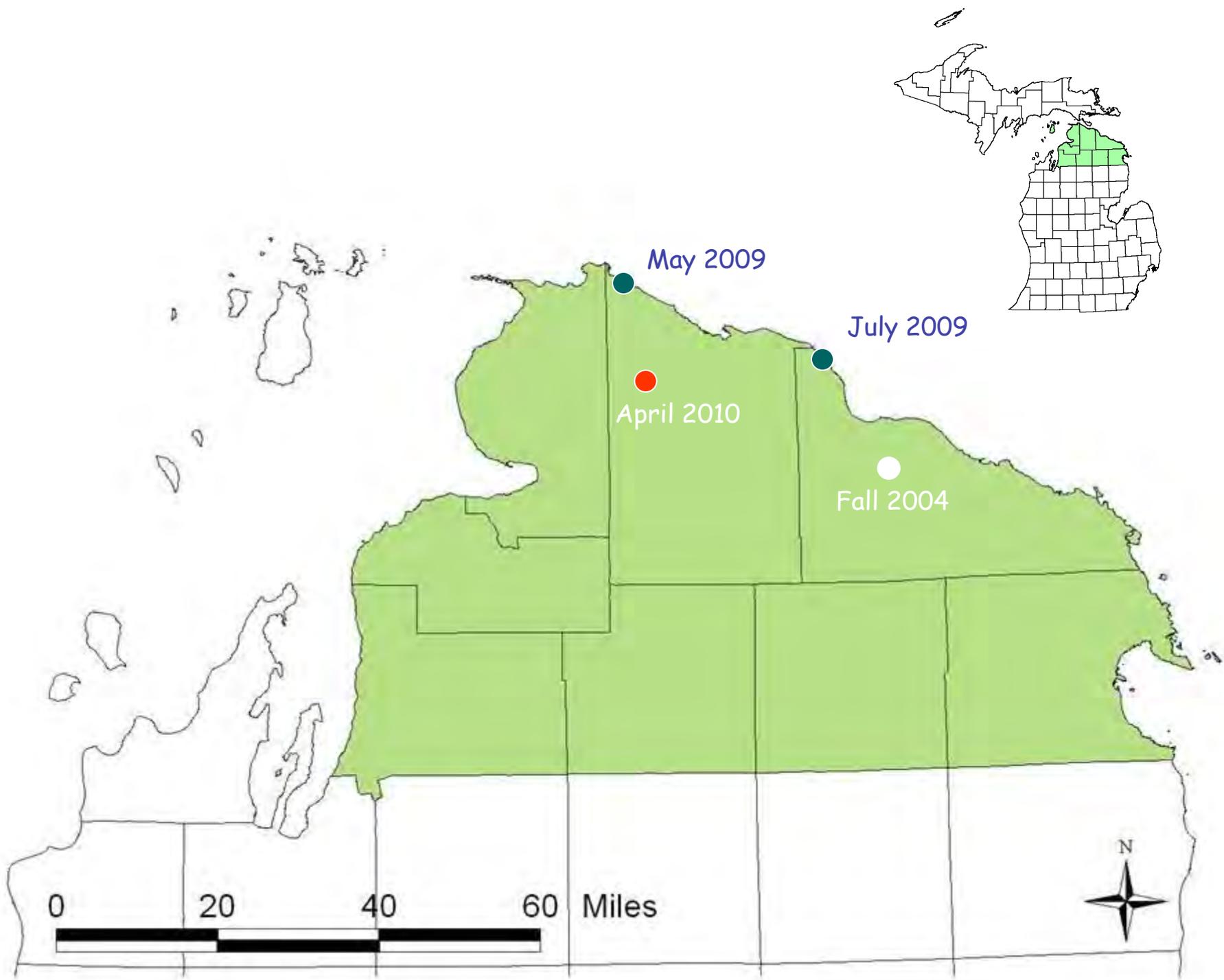
- 23 wolves harvested
- No unit was overharvested



Will there be another??

Wolves in the Lower Peninsula?







6/01/2012 11:26 AM



STEALTH CAM

05:02PM 12/10/14

31 F

STEALTH CAM



10/10/2009 11:52 PM

