

Mexican Wolf & Gray Wolf

Proposed Rule Public Hearing
Washington DC
September 30, 2013

Goal of the Endangered Species Act

- The goal of the Endangered Species Act is to prevent extinction

Recovery is...

Securing species from threat of extinction now or in the foreseeable future



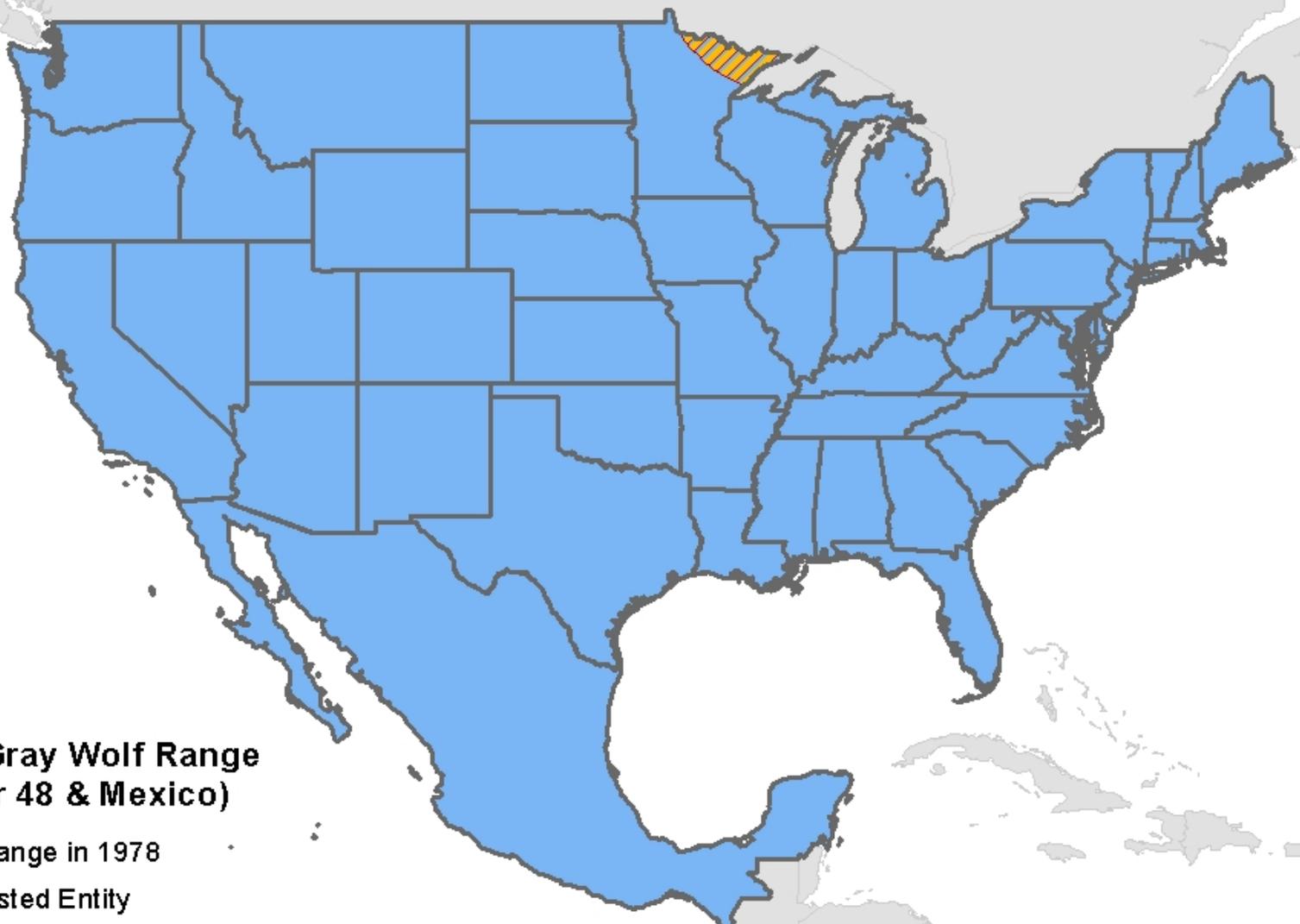
History of ESA Protections for the Gray Wolf

- **1960s and 1970s:** Several subspecies of gray wolf were listed
- **1978:** Subspecies listings consolidated into listing of *Canis lupus* as endangered throughout lower 48 states and Mexico (except Minnesota, where classified as threatened)
 - In 1978, only a few hundred wolves existed (NE Minnesota; Isle Royale, Michigan)



Range at Time of Listing

(Lower 48 & Mexico - 1978)



**1978 Gray Wolf Range
(Lower 48 & Mexico)**

-  Range in 1978
-  Listed Entity

Our Approach to Gray Wolf Recovery

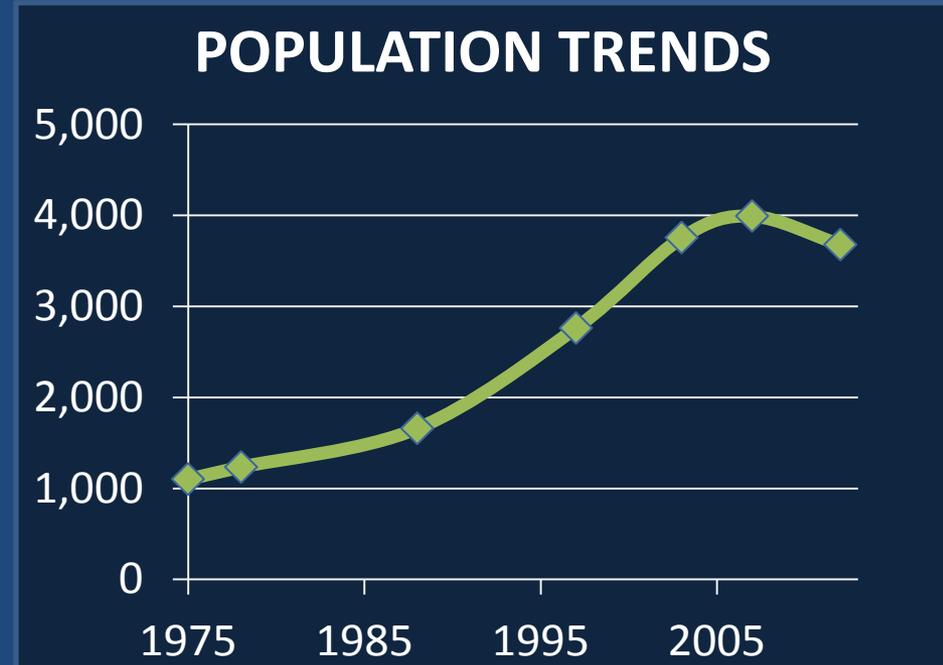
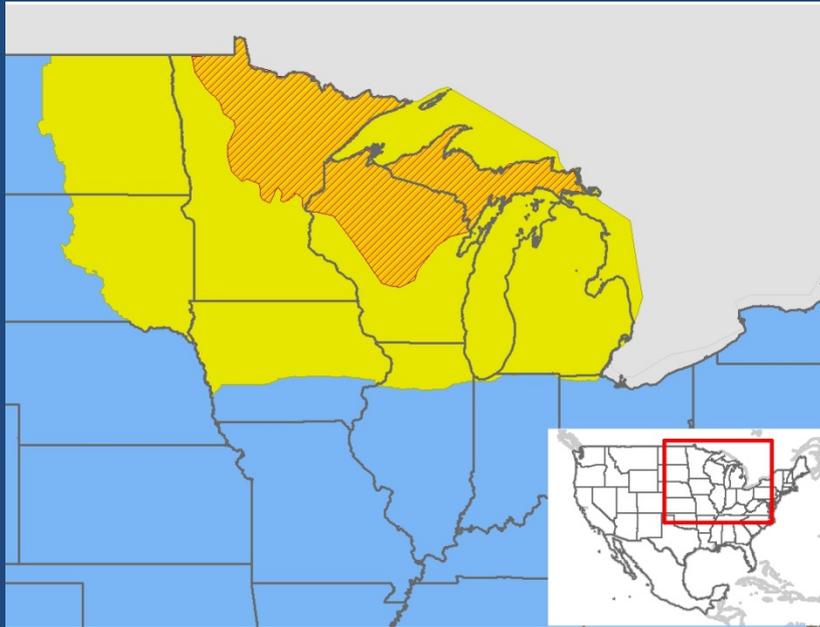
- The Service implemented gray wolf recovery programs in 3 regions of the country:
 - Western Great Lakes
 - Northern Rocky Mountains
 - Southwest



Credit FWS



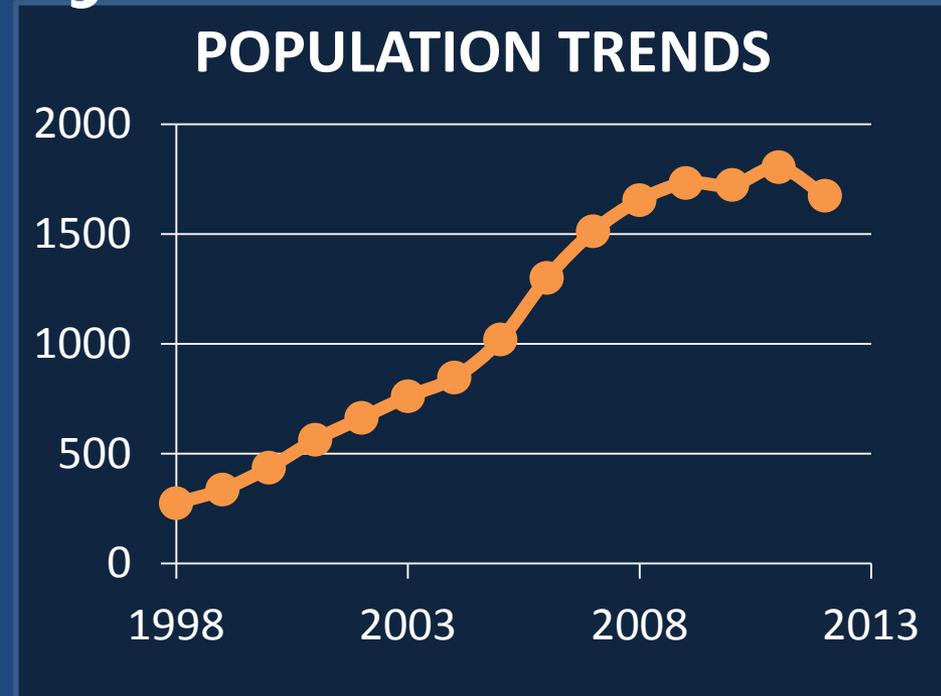
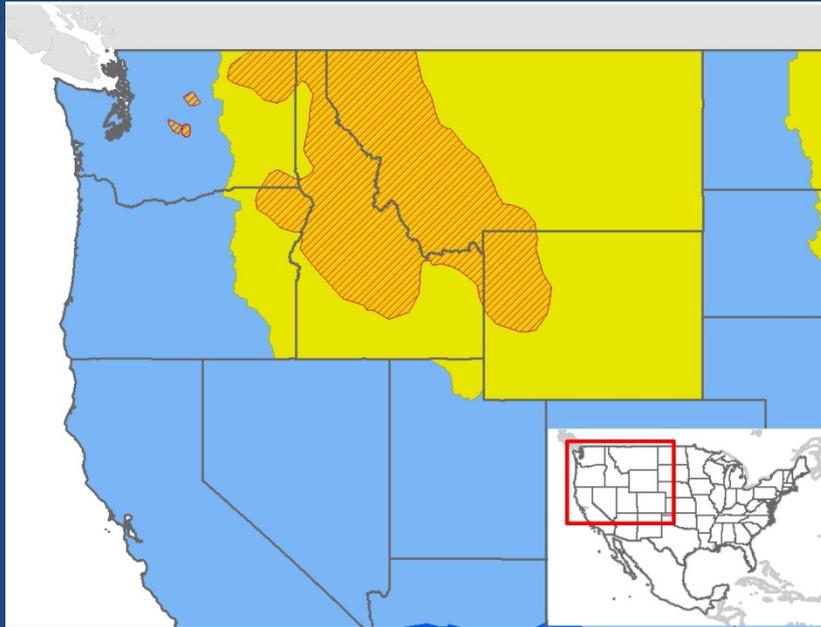
Gray Wolf Recovery in the Western Great Lakes



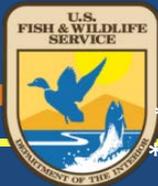
Year	MN	WI	MI		WGL* TOTAL
			Upper Peninsula	Isle Royale**	
2012 - 2013	2,211	809	658	8	3,686



Gray Wolf Recovery in the Northern Rocky Mountains



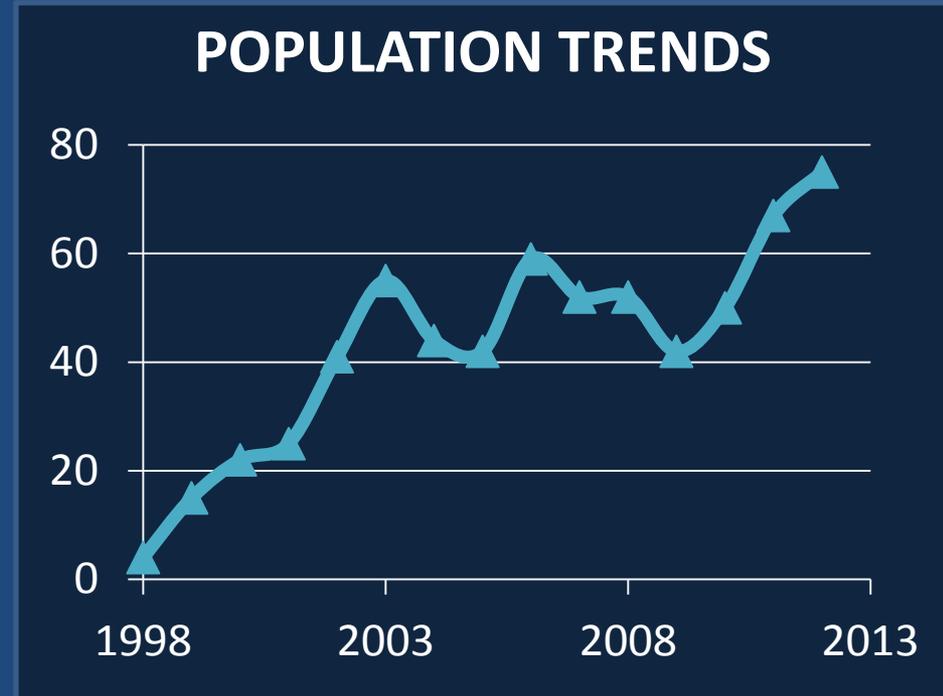
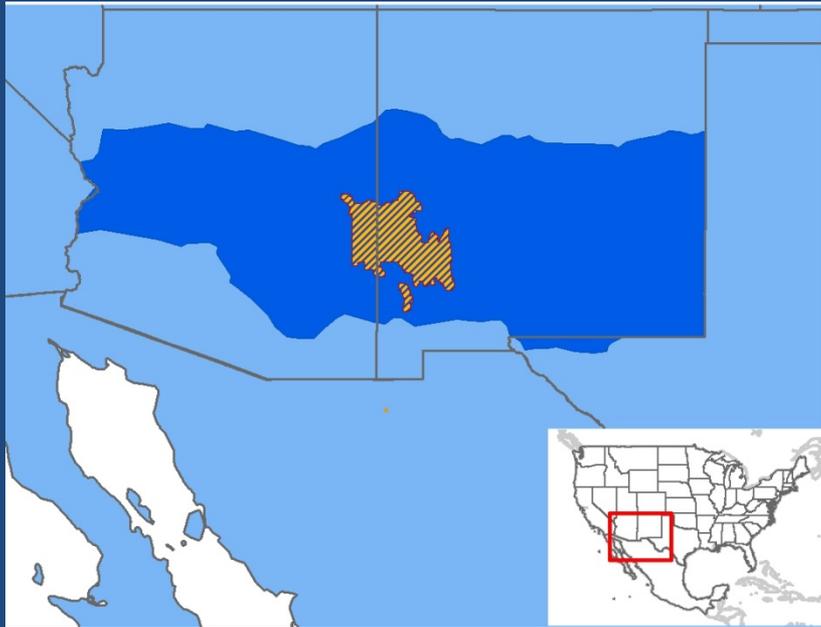
End of Year	MT	WY	ID	OR	WA*	NRM** TOTAL
2012	625	277	683	46	43	1674



* There are 10 additional wolves in WA state that are under ESA protection and outside of the Northern Rocky Mountains DPS boundary

** DATA SOURCE: http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/annualrpt12/tables/Final_Table4b_BP-State_2012.pdf

Gray Wolf (Mexican Wolf) Recovery in the Southwest



End of Year	AZ	NM	Mex*** TOTAL
2012	37	38	75



** DATA SOURCE: http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/pdf/MW_popcount_web.pdf

Results of Gray Wolf Recovery



Credit FWS

- With our partners, we have successfully established secure populations of gray wolves in:
 - **Western Great Lakes**
 - **Northern Rocky Mountains***and those populations have been delisted due to recovery*
- Gray wolf recovery remains a work in progress in the **Southwest**



What Now?

- How should the Endangered Species Act apply to gray wolf conservation in the future?
- Are there valid listable entities remaining that need the protection of the Endangered Species Act?



Credit Steve Mattheis



Criteria for Listing Under the Endangered Species Act

- A listed entity must be:



Credit FWS

- a valid species, subspecies, or Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and
- in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, or
- likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range



Our Approach

Considers whether and to what extent gray wolves should be listed in the contiguous U.S. and Mexico

- Proposed rule evaluates:
 - 1) the current gray wolf listed entity
 - 2) the gray wolf range wide
 - 3) 3 subspecies of gray wolf with historical ranges that include the contiguous U.S. and Mexico, and
 - 4) a potential Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of gray wolf in the Pacific Northwest



Step 2: Gray Wolf Species

Do gray wolves as a species (globally) warrant the protections of the Endangered Species Act?

- We find no evidence to suggest that gray wolves may be at risk of extinction throughout their entire range now or in the future
- Listing at species level is not warranted



Credit FWS



Step 3: Three subspecies

Do gray wolves included in the current listing warrant the protections of the Endangered Species Act as part of subspecies level listings?

- We find that *C. l. nubilus* and *C. l. occidentalis* do not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act
- We find that *C. l. baileyi* is currently at risk of extinction throughout its range



Step 4: Pacific Northwest

Do gray wolves in the Pacific Northwest (outside recovered Northern Rocky Mt. DPS) warrant listing?

- No, not a “population” at this time; therefore cannot be considered for listing
- Expect gray wolves in Pacific Northwest to meet our standard for “population” in near future
- Not discrete from other populations



Analyses and Results

STEP	Unit of Assessment	Description	Valid Entity?	Determination
1	<i>C. lupus</i>	current listed entity: all 42 States and Mexico	no	Delist
2	<i>C. lupus</i>	species – range wide	yes	Listing not warranted
3	<i>C. l. nubilus</i>	subspecies – range wide	yes	Listing not warranted
	<i>C. l. occidentalis</i>	subspecies – range wide	yes	Listing not warranted
	<i>C. l. baileyi</i>	subspecies – range wide	yes	List as endangered
4	<i>C. lupus</i> in Pacific Northwest	western Washington & Oregon; northern California	no	Not a listable entity

Our Proposal

- Focus ESA protection for Mexican wolf by listing the subspecies *C. l. baileyi* as endangered wherever found



Credit Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team

- Remove the current gray wolf listing from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
- Improve the experimental population rule for Mexican wolf



In Conclusion

The Goal:

- The goal of the Endangered Species Act is to **prevent extinction and secure species from threat of extinction** now or in the foreseeable future.

Gray wolf has recovered in:

- Western Great Lakes
- Northern Rockies



Credit Dan Shaw

We now need to focus Endangered Species Act protections on the endangered Mexican wolf, in the Southwest.

