

# Wolf Management – Public Harvest Recommendation



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Wildlife Division  
April 11, 2013



# Evaluation Process

- Management authority
- Review of the plan
- Evaluate field conditions
- Tribal consultation
- Engage the public
- Recommendation



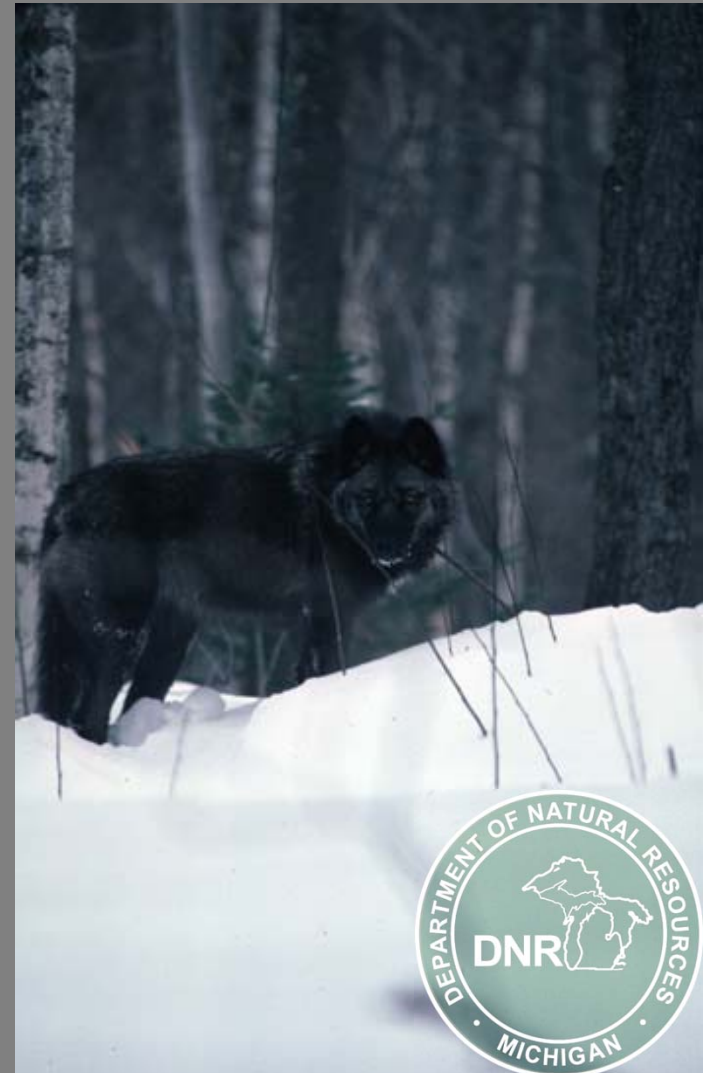
# Management Authority

- Wolves Federally Delisted
  - Management authority to State
    - » Some tools in the Plan now available
    - » 2008 PA 290, 318, permitted take
- Wolves Listed as a Game Species (2012 PA 520)
  - Management authority to Natural Resources Commission
  - Hunting as management tool now an option



# 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

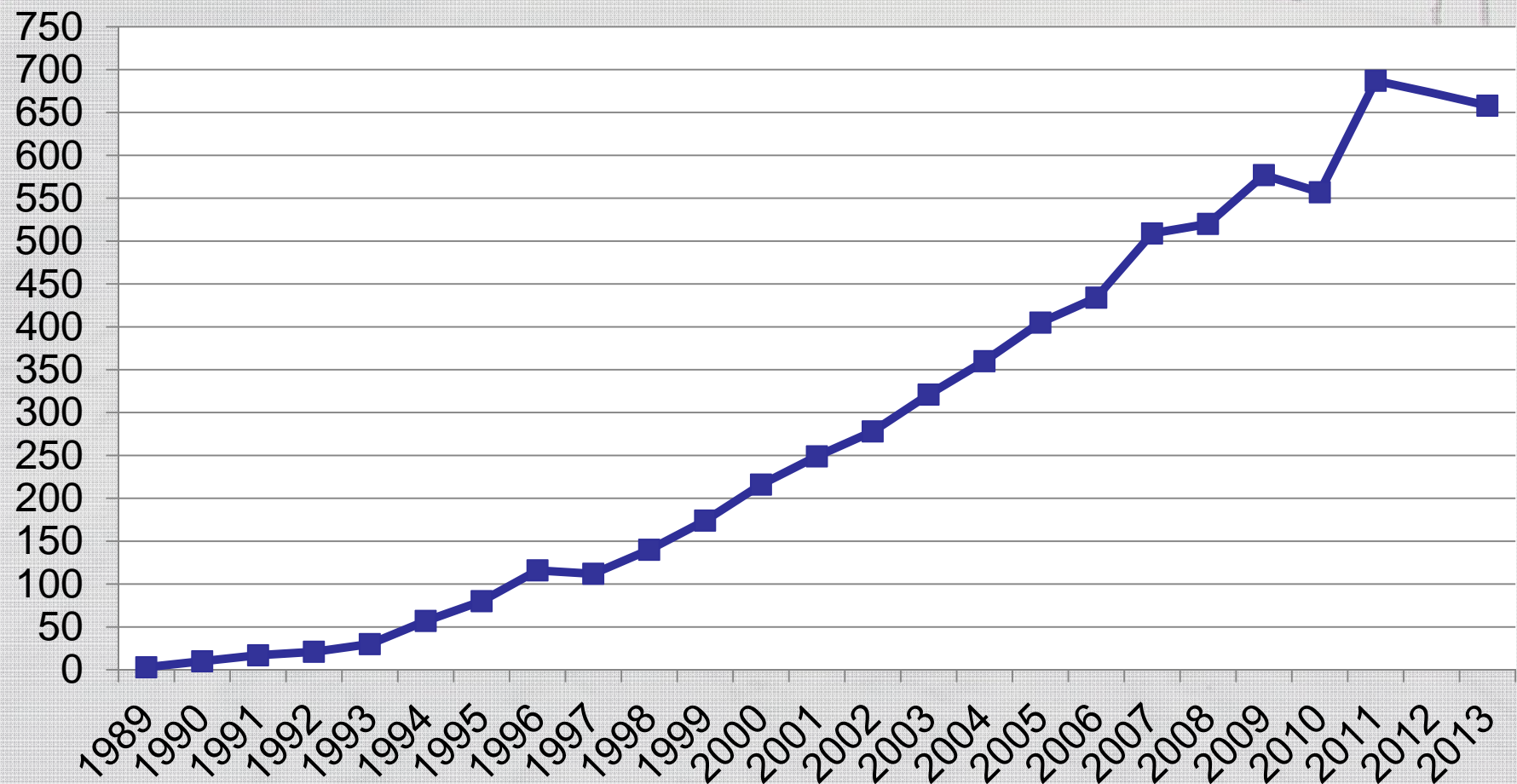




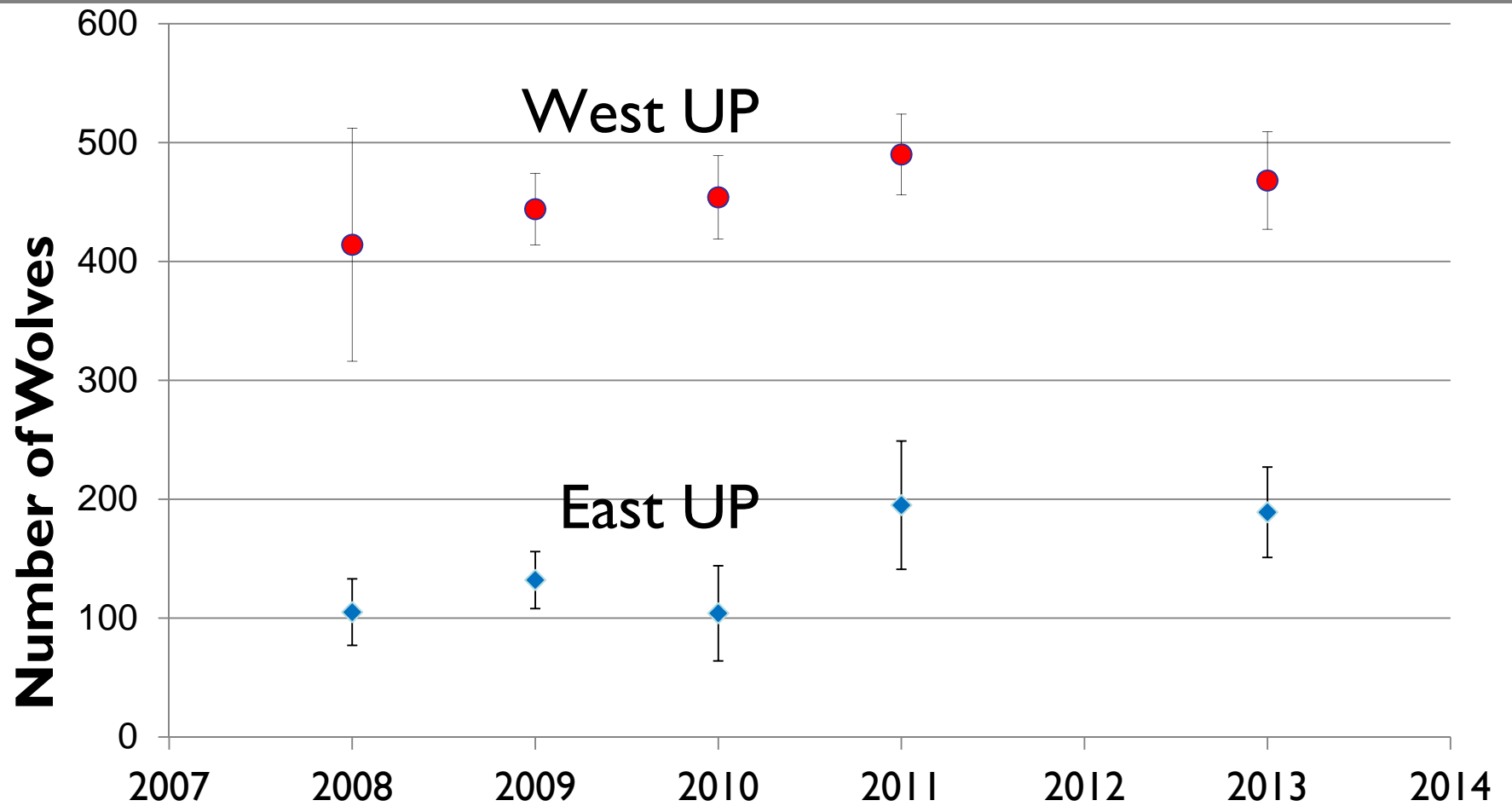
# Minimum Winter Population Estimates

No. of Wolves

2013-658

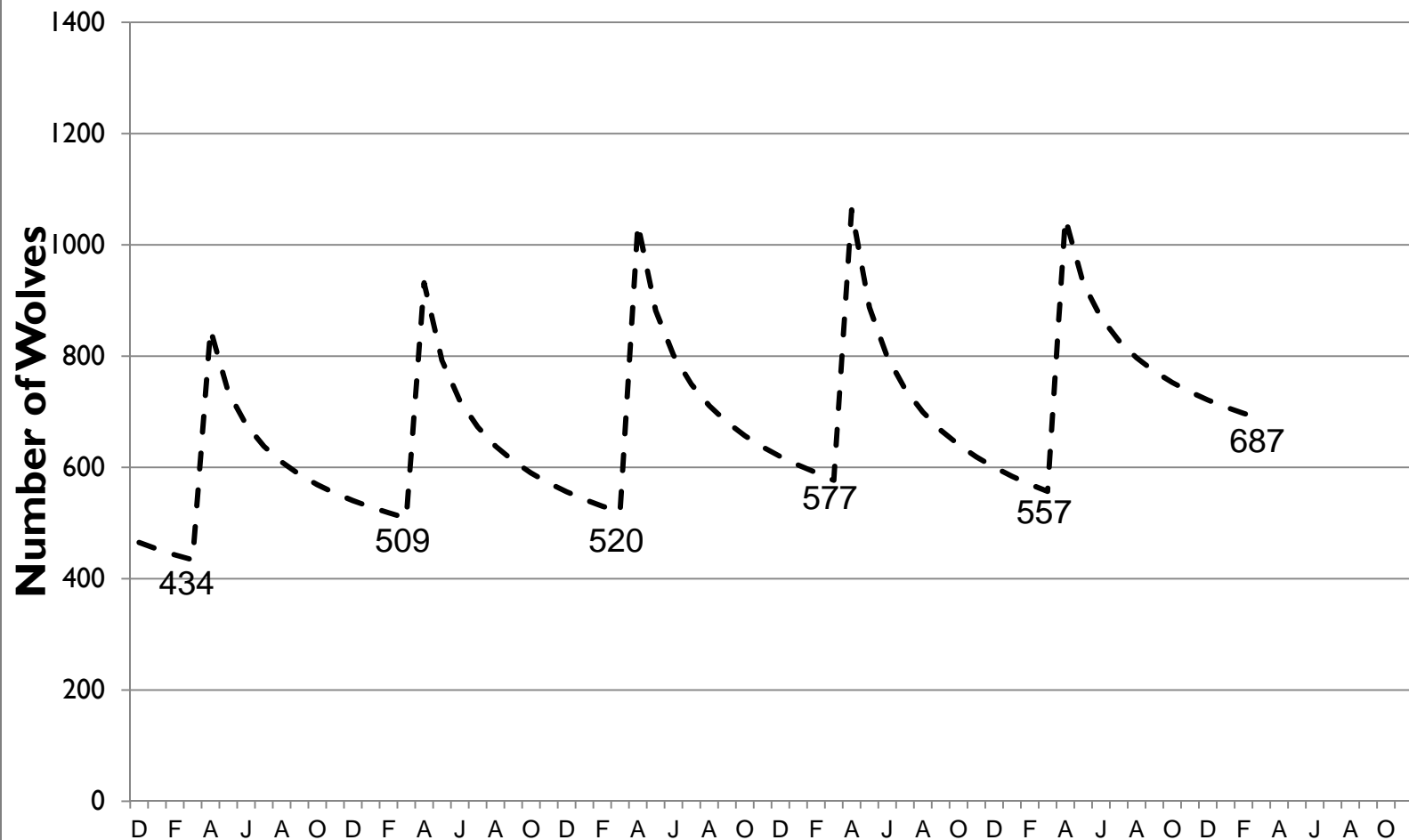


# Wolf Population By Region





# Annual Wolf Population Cycle



2006

2011

# 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



# Nonlethal Examples





# Resolving Conflicts

- Lethal
  - 2008 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



# 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	<b>85</b>

58 Livestock  
27 Human Safety  
85 Total

# Public Harvest Consideration Warranted

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



# Human Safety Concerns

- February 2010: wolves in Ironwood
- Since 2010: over 90 complaints from Ironwood area
- March of 2010: aggressive nonlethal harassment
- After more than 30 days, animals removed for human safety reasons
- Aggressive nonlethal efforts continued in 2011 and 2012 before lethal control authorized.
- Efforts to reduce deer feeding in urban areas
- Although wolf complaint numbers have declined, wolves continue to use areas in Ironwood



# Depredation Concerns

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





# Concerns Regarding Public Harvest

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## – Tribes

- The Tribal governments that provided comments were uniformly opposed to public harvest of wolves



# Concerns Regarding Public Harvest - WMAC

- Science
- Social conflicts
- Negative attitudes
- Poaching
- Public interest/input/engagement
- Regulations
- Financial resources
- Sustainability of wolf populations
- Use of management tools
- Wolf conflicts
- Wolf pack dynamics
- Wolf-deer relationships



# Concerns Regarding Public Harvest: Public Ranking

- Public agreed with the concerns of WMAC
- Of the concerns identified by WMAC, the following were ranked highest by the public:
  - Wolf conflicts
  - Science
  - Sustainability of wolf population



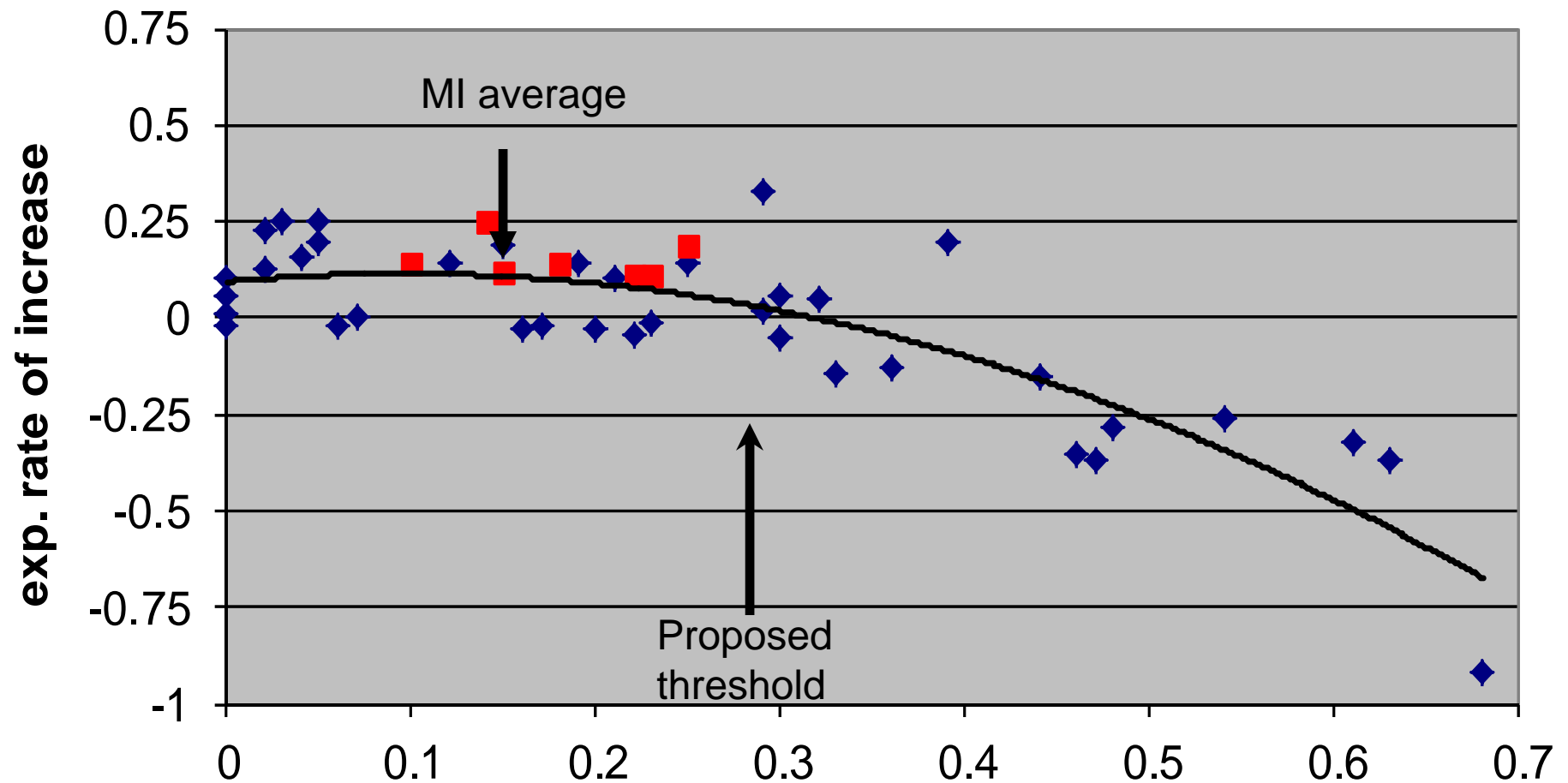
# Season Recommendation: Objectives

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- Maintain long-term viability of wolf population
  - Recommendation will not effect overall population trajectory
- Reduce Conflicts
  - Reduce livestock depredations
  - Reduce pet depredations
  - Reduce human safety issues



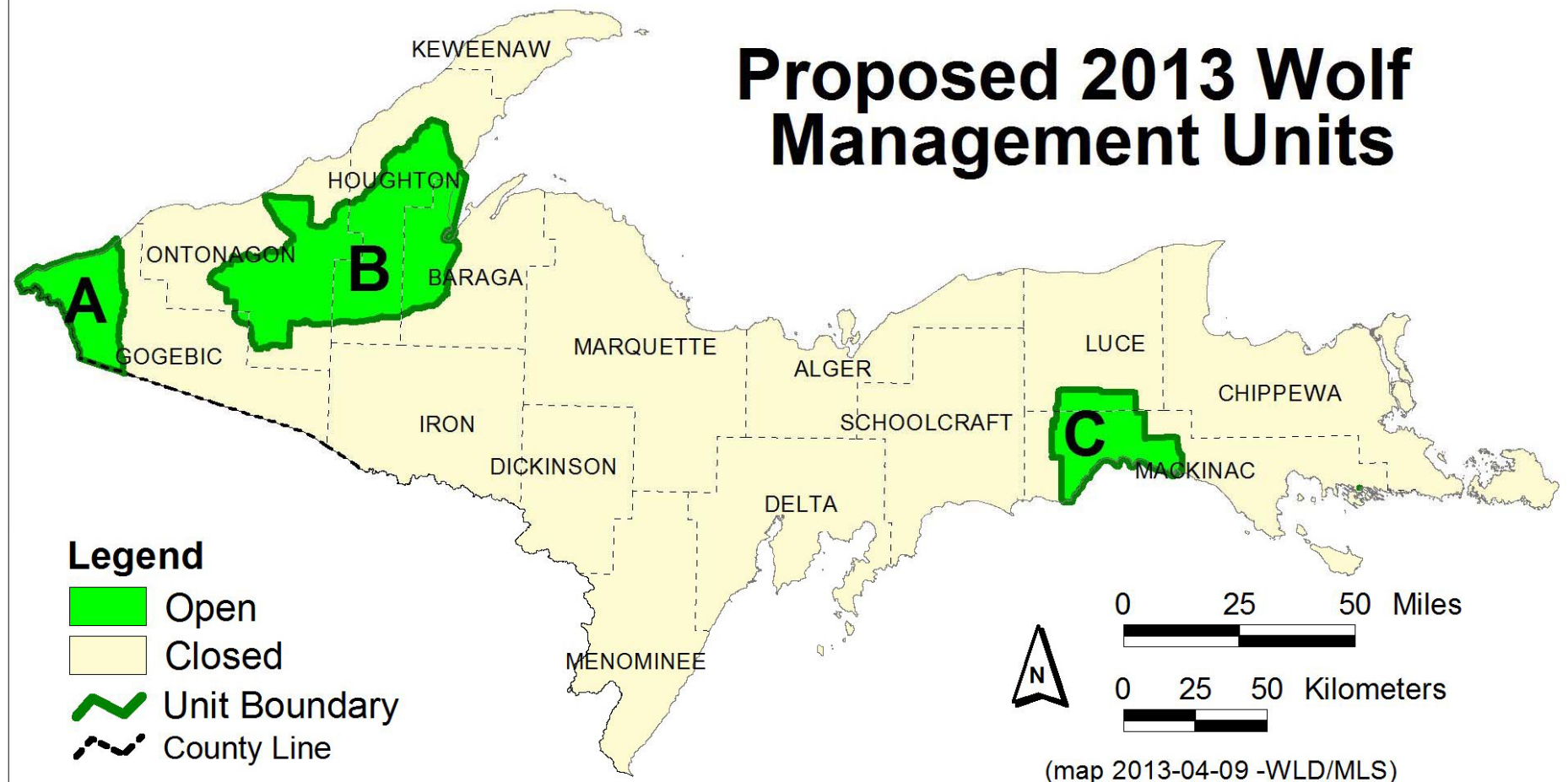
# Annual Human-Caused Mortality



Adams et al. (2008) Wildlife Monographs.



# Season Recommendation: Open Areas



# Season Recommendation: WMU A

- 201,845 acres
- 72% privately owned land
- Target harvest 16 (down from 21)
  - Objective to remove 20% of local population
  - Expect ~35% overall human caused mortality
- Reduce human safety issues
  - 91 complaints since 2010
  - Removal of 17 wolves

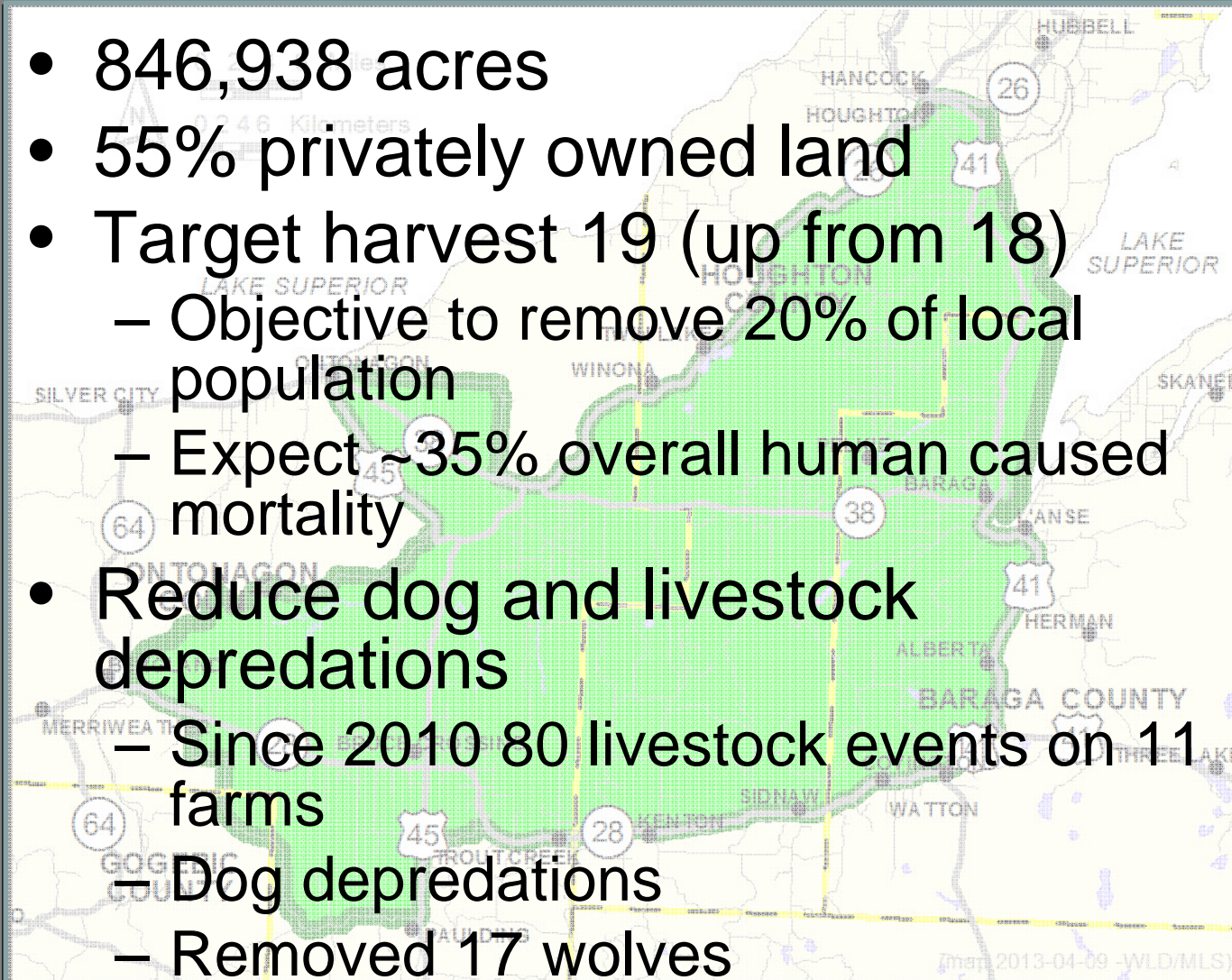
(map 2013-04-09 -WLD/MLS)





# Season Recommendation: WMU B

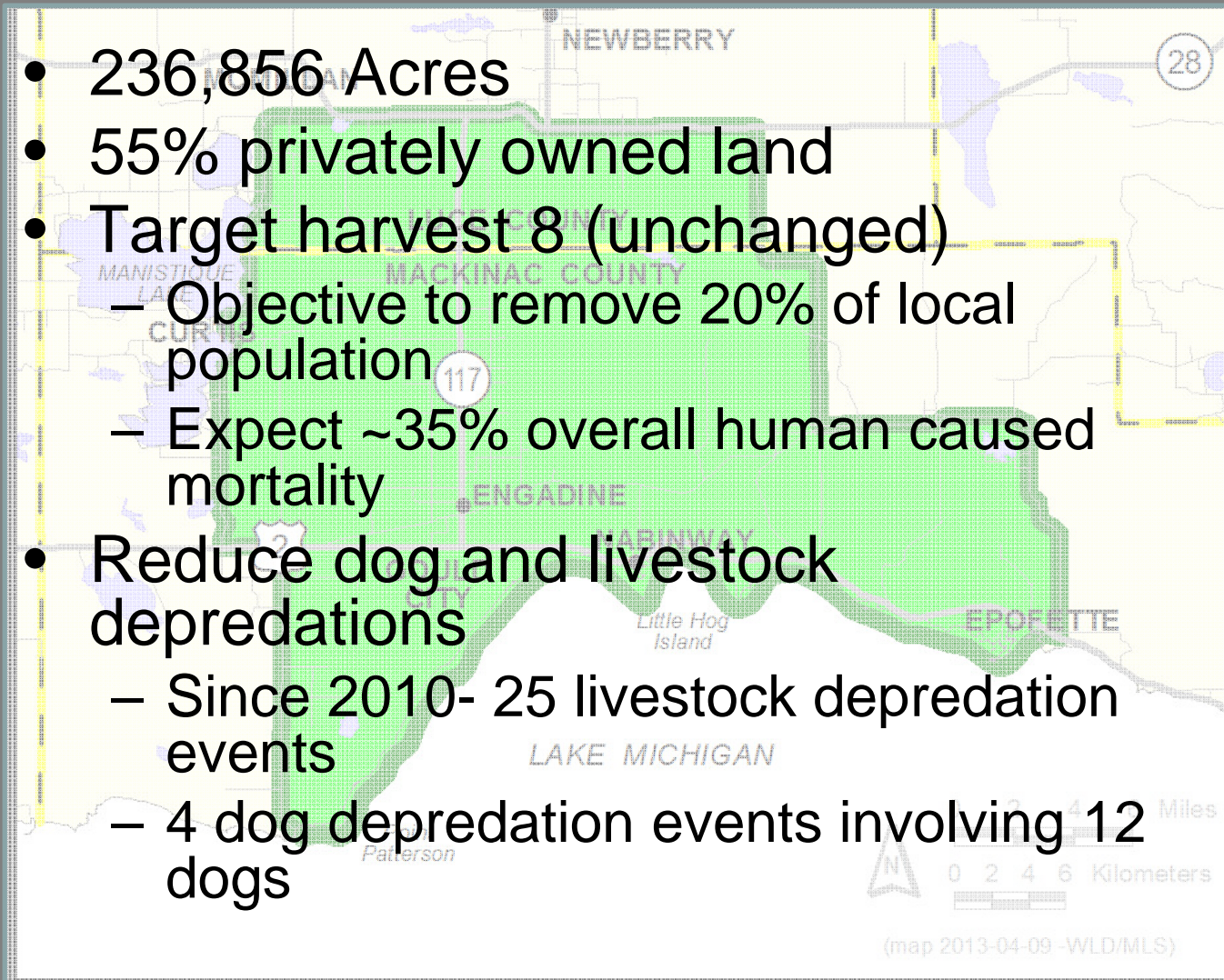
- 846,938 acres
- 55% privately owned land
- Target harvest 19 (up from 18)
  - Objective to remove 20% of local population
  - Expect ~35% overall human caused mortality
- Reduce dog and livestock depredations
  - Since 2010 80 livestock events on 11 farms
  - Dog depredations
  - Removed 17 wolves





# Season Recommendation: WMU C

- 236,856 Acres
- 55% privately owned land
- Target harvest 8 (unchanged)
  - Objective to remove 20% of local population
  - Expect ~35% overall human caused mortality
- Reduce dog and livestock depredations
  - Since 2010- 25 livestock depredation events
  - 4 dog depredation events involving 12 dogs



# Season Structure

- Call-In System
  - Check each day to see if season is open
  - Call-in and report take on day of harvest
  - Close units if goal is reached
- Mandatory registration
  - Within 72 hours
  - Seal pelt, collect tooth, female repro tracts
  - Collect harvest location information





# Season Structure

- Dates
  - November 1-December 31
    - Or until the Unit target harvest is reached or expected to be reached
- Bag limit- one wolf per person per year



# Season Structure

- Hunting
  - One half hour before sunrise until one half hour after sunset
  - Firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow
  - Public and private lands
- Trapping
  - Private land only (Excluding CF lands)
  - Foothold traps only
    - Outside jaw spread of 5.25"-8"



# Licenses

- Option 1
  - Lottery, random draw
    - Apply August 1- September 1
    - Available for purchase late Sept. – Oct. 31
  - License quota of 1,200
  - License good for all units until closed
  - Non-residents capped at 2%



# Licenses

- Option 2
  - Over the counter, no quota
  - License good for all units until closed
  - No non-resident restrictions
  - Licenses available Aug. 1- Oct. 31



# Evaluation Process

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- Recommendation





# Thank You

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[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



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# WOLF PRESENTATION

Jim Hammill, Upper Peninsula Resident  
April 11, 2013

# Wolf Presentation



Chris Smith, Western Field Representative  
Wildlife Management Institute  
April 11, 2013