

Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

21A. Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC)**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive summary and consider approving any recommendations from the May 14, 2026 Committee meeting. Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Previous committee meeting May 14, 2026; WRC
- **Today, consider approving WRC recommendations and agenda topics for the next WRC meeting** **June 17-18, 2026**
- Next committee meeting September 10, 2026; WRC

Background

WRC works under Commission direction to set and accomplish its work plan (Exhibit 1). Today, the Commission will receive a report on the previous WRC meeting and recommendations, and provide direction for any referred topics and revisions to WRC topics and timing.

Previous Committee Meeting

WRC met on May 14 in Sacramento, with Zoom and phone options for public participation. Official meeting minutes are posted on the [Commission's YouTube page](#), with a link also available on the Commission's meetings page at fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2026. An abbreviated summary is included in this document. Detailed overviews, exhibits, and presentations for each of the topics are available in the [WRC meeting materials](#).

Mammal Trapping

Discussion continued regarding a future rulemaking to align regulations with recent statutory changes related to mammal trapping. Points of discussion included the 150-yard trapping rule and the prohibition on relocating and/or releasing nuisance wildlife. WRC made a recommendation regarding the rulemaking.

Department Lands

The Department presented a set of recommendations for amendments to regulations governing Department lands, including ecological reserves and wildlife areas. The proposed amendments incorporated those introduced during the initial January vetting, and several the Department introduced during this final vetting. The proposals address public use activities such as hunting, boating, bicycling; updates to the Lands Pass Program; and designating or removing designations for specific properties. Discussion topics included hunting provisions, management considerations related to wild horses, and the potential designation of a new property. WRC provided a recommendation to advance the rulemaking.

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Private Lands Management (PLM) Program

The Department presented several concepts for improvements to the PLM Program, including increasing access for Department staff, increasing public access, including PLM tags in the “one elk tag per license year” rule, and requiring disease testing. The idea of increasing public access stimulated concern among stakeholders, and the Department committed to working with PLM property owners to dialogue about ways to increase public participation that would be acceptable to landowners. Discussion is expected to continue in September, leading to a potential WRC recommendation.

Annual and Periodic Regulation Changes

The Department presented initial recommendations regarding waterfowl hunting, Central Valley and Klamath River Basin sport fishing, upland (resident) game bird hunting, and big game hunting. The main topic of discussion was the Department’s recommendation to establish a hunting limit for each bear conservation region, while maintaining the overall statewide limit for black bear.

Wolf Update

As requested by the Commission, the Department presented WRC an update on its gray wolf program. The slides are provided in Exhibit 2, and the in-meeting presentation and ensuing discussion may be viewed in the [meeting video](#).

WRC Recommendations

WRC developed three recommendations to the Commission:

1. *Mammal Trapping*. Support a future rulemaking regarding mammal trapping based on the Department’s recommendation made during the WRC meeting.
2. *Department Lands*. Support a future rulemaking regarding Department lands based on the Department’s recommendation made during the WRC meeting.
3. *Work Plan*. Approve the recommended topics for the September 2026 WRC meeting.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Commission staff: Approve the WRC recommendations, including a change to the work plan as proposed in Exhibit 1.

Exhibits

1. [WRC work plan](#), updated May 5, 2026
2. [Department presentation on its wolf program](#), from the May WRC meeting (*for background purposes only*)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the recommendations from the May 14, 2026 Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, and approves the work plan as presented in Exhibit 1, plus any further changes discussed today.

California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) Work Plan
Scheduled Topics and Timeline for Items Referred to WRC
Updated May 5, 2026

Note: Proposed changes to topics/timing are shown in blue underscore or strike-out font.

Topics	Category	Jan 2026	May 2026	Sep 2026
Periodic and Annual Regulations				
Upland (Resident) Game Bird Hunting	Regulatory		X	X/R
Big Game Hunting (deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, black bear, Nelson bighorn sheep)	Regulatory		X	X/R
Waterfowl Hunting	Annual Regulatory		X	X/R
Central Valley Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory		X	X/R
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory		X	X/R
Sport Fishing	Regulatory	X/R		X
Department Lands	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Regulations & Legislative Mandates				
Mammal Trapping	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Private Lands Management Program			X	X/R
Restricted Species	Regulatory			
Take of Coyotes	Referral for Review			

KEY: X = Vetting/Discussion X/R = Discussion/Potential Recommendation to Commission



Gray Wolf Update



14 May 2026

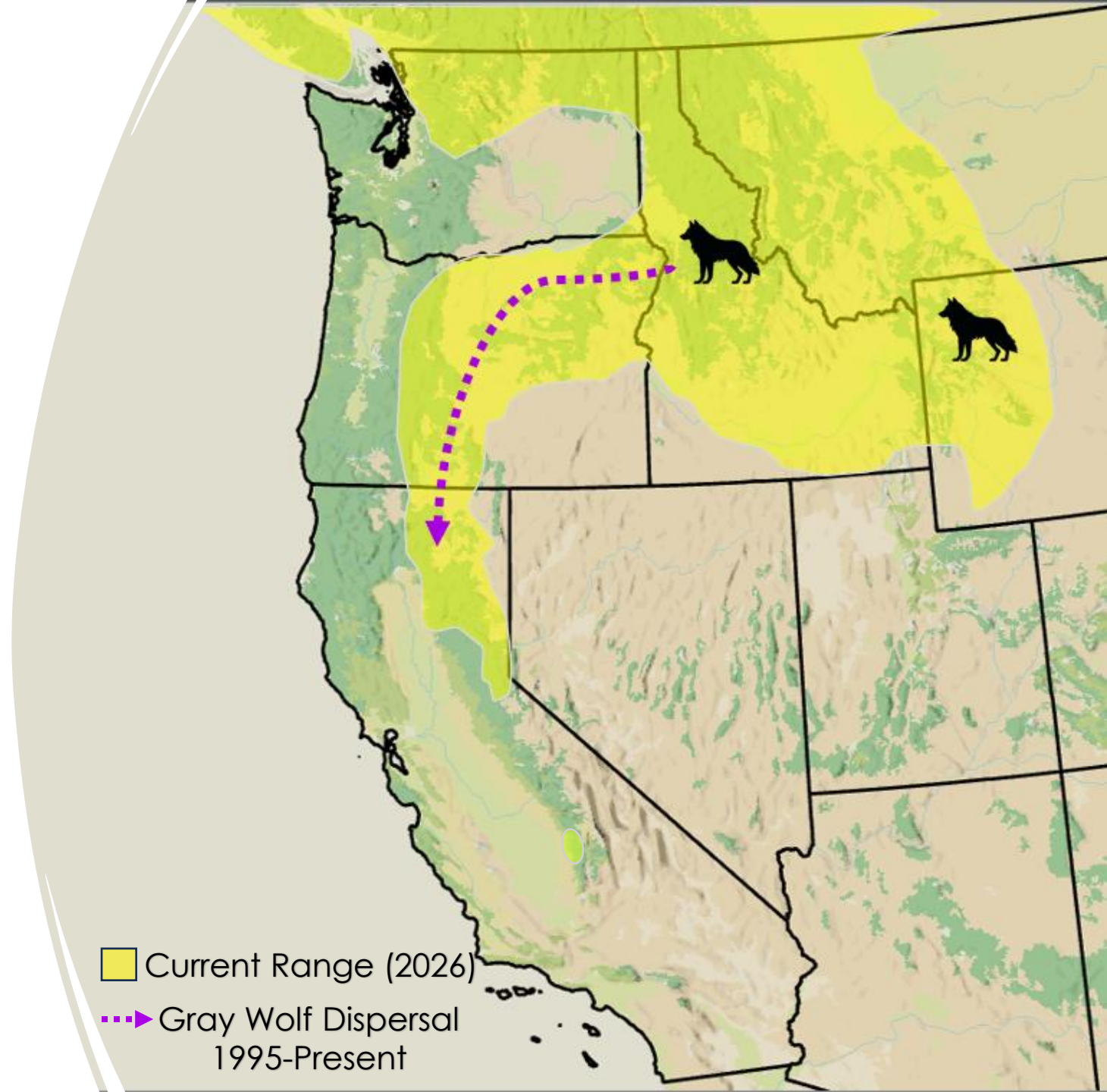


Extirpation & Recolonization

- Last wolves killed in San Bernardino Co. (1922) and Lassen Co. (1924)
- Radio-collared **OR-7** (2011)

Legal Status:

- ESA & CESA – “Endangered”





Phases of Wolf Recovery

Phase 1: <4 BP for 2 consecutive years

- Monitoring, no delisting, no injurious hazing, no take

Phase 2: starts when 4 BP for 2 consecutive years

- Review of status, injurious hazing and lethal take may be allowed if consistent with state and federal laws

Phase 3: starts when 8 BP for 2 consecutive years

- Same conflict interventions as Phase 2, period of long-term management strategy planning

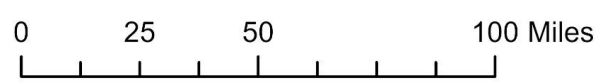
Breeding Pair




Surviving till Dec. 31

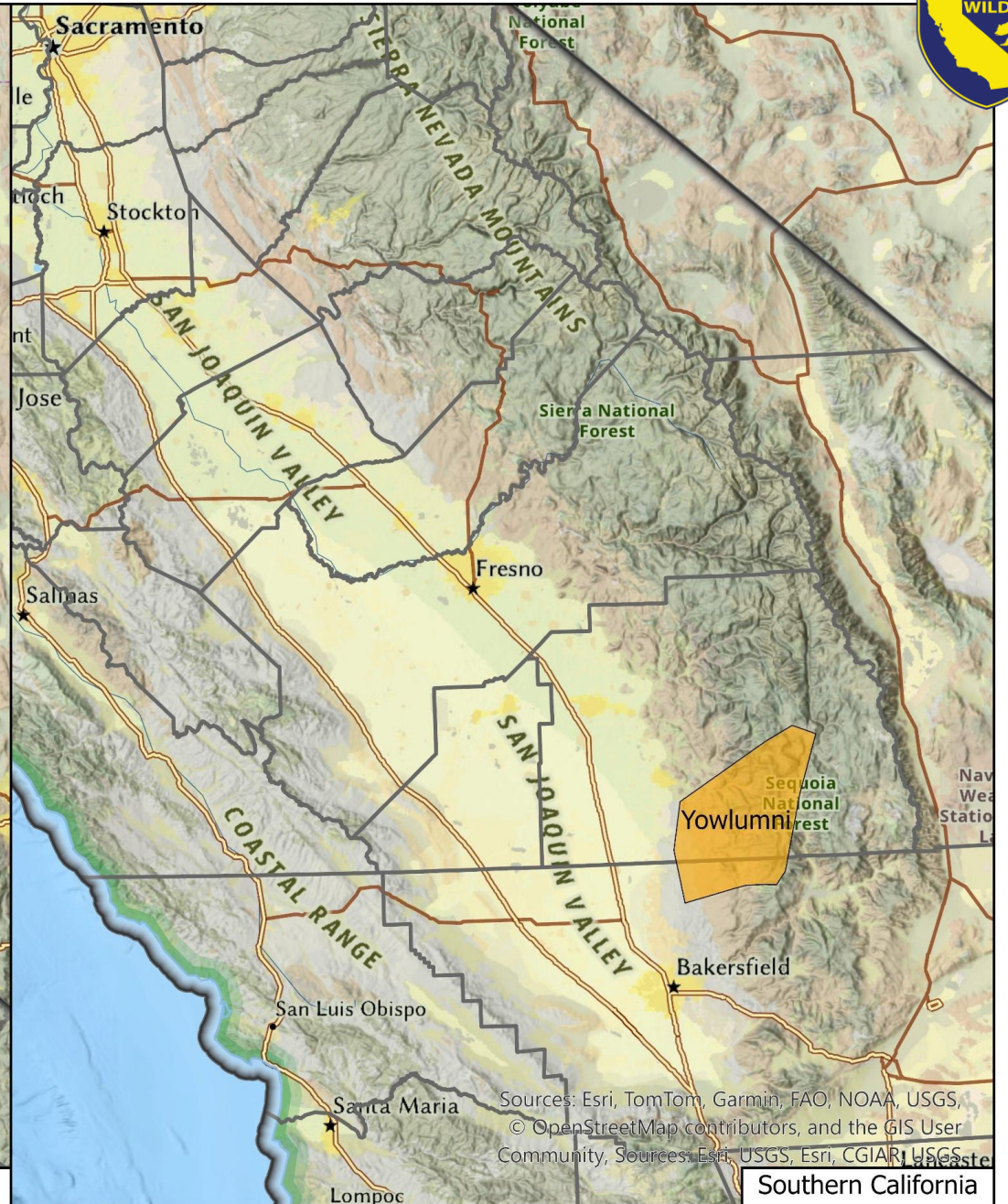
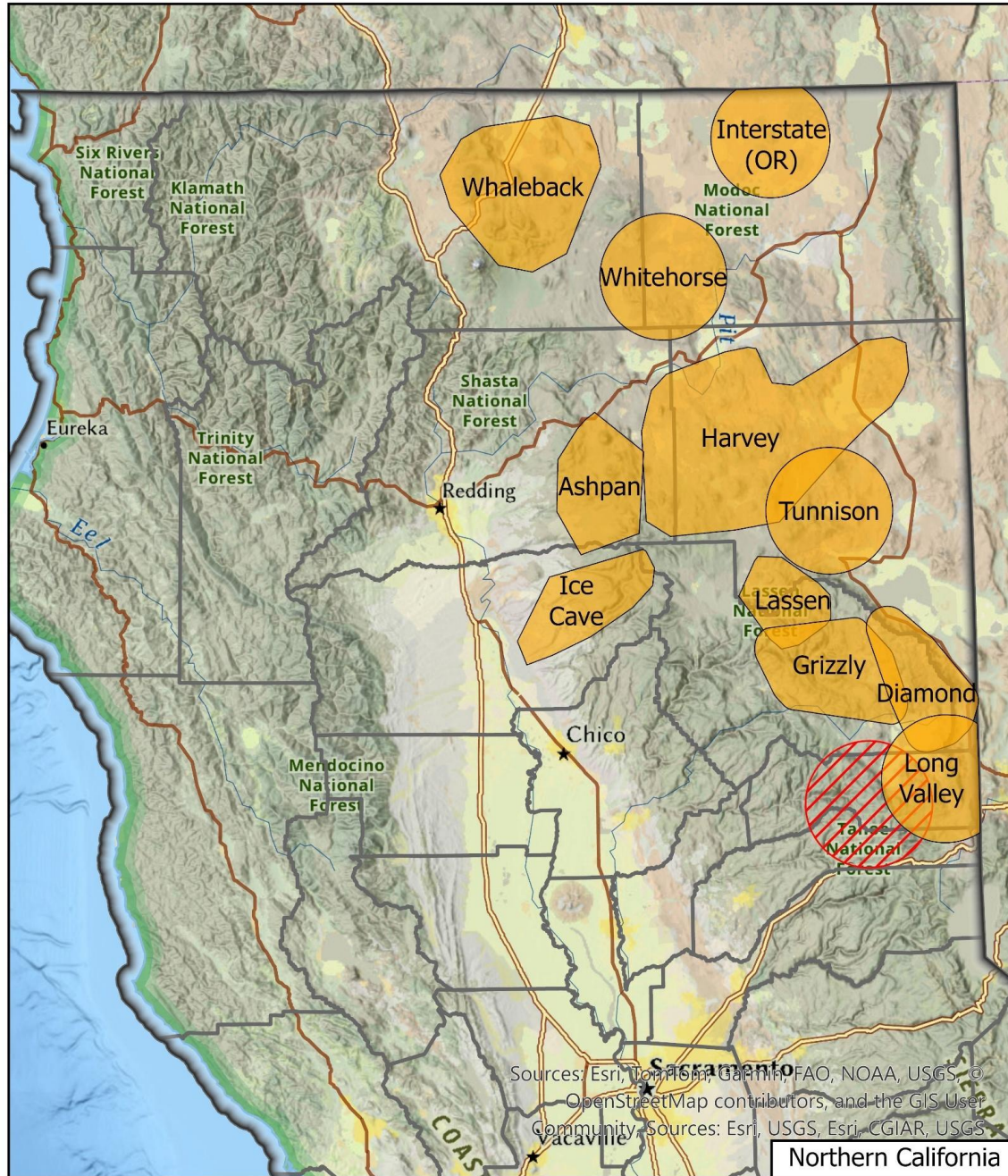
**Evidence to support recovery and delisting criteria may be available at the end of Phase 2 or in Phase 3*

March 2026



 Pack Territory

 Area of Wolf Activity



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

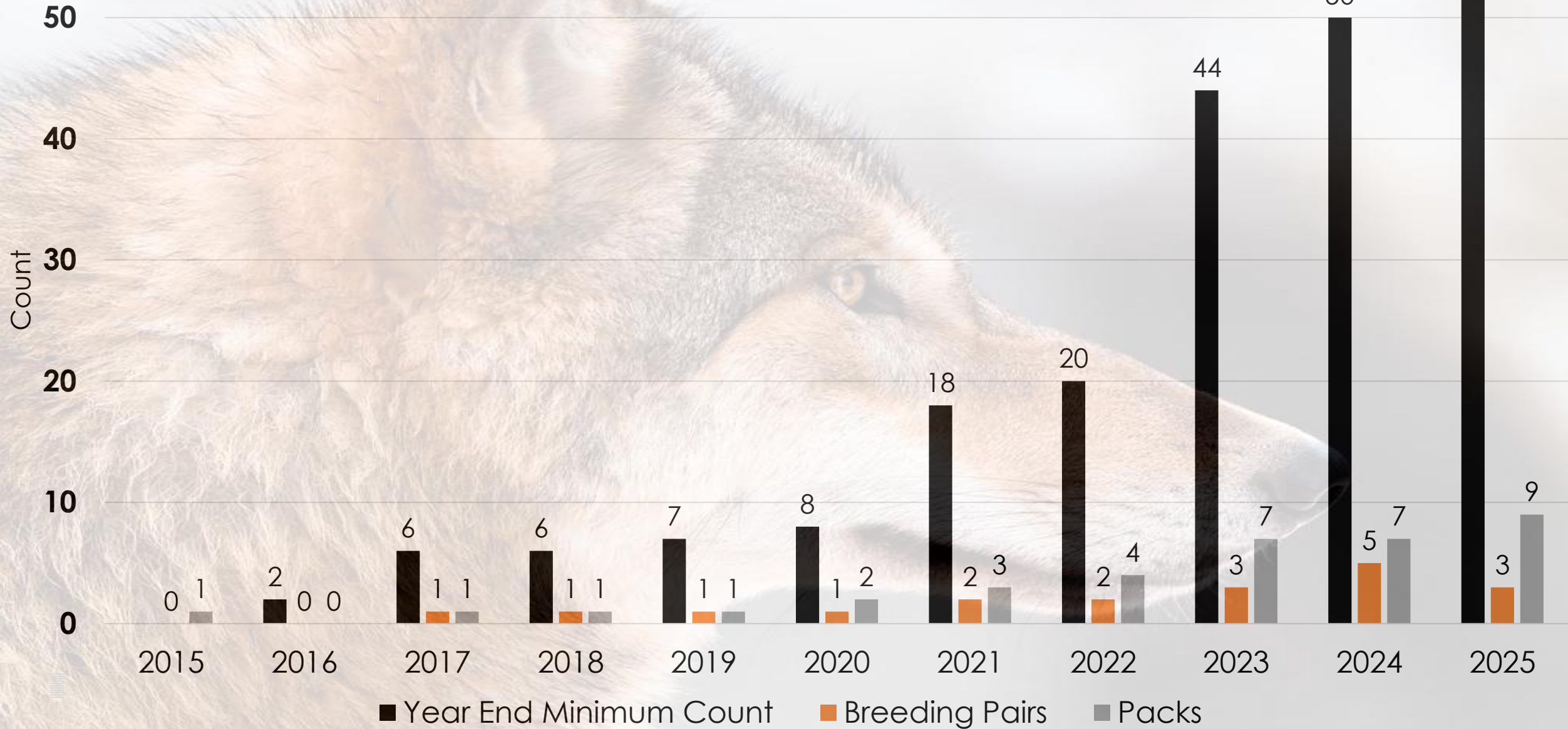
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS

Northern California

Southern California

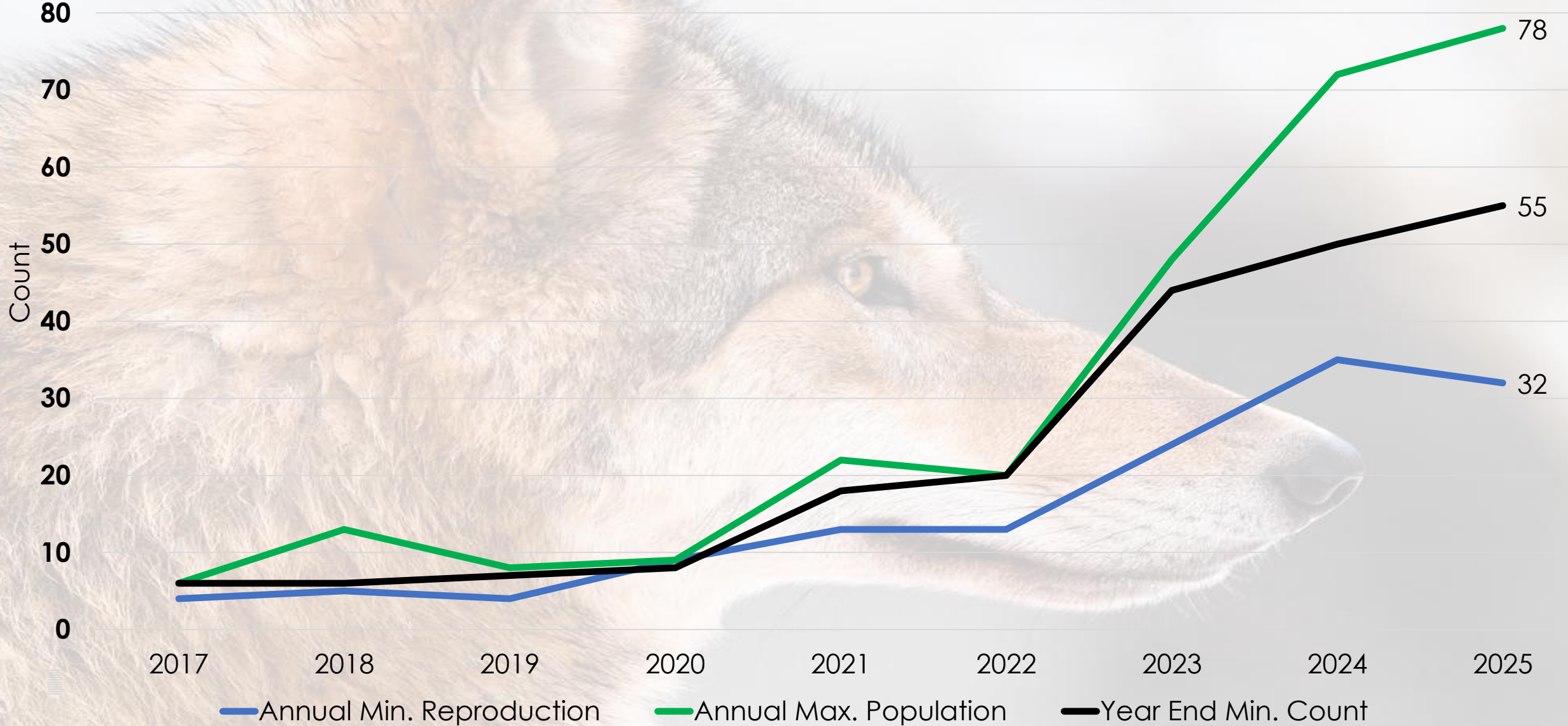


Wolf Population Metrics



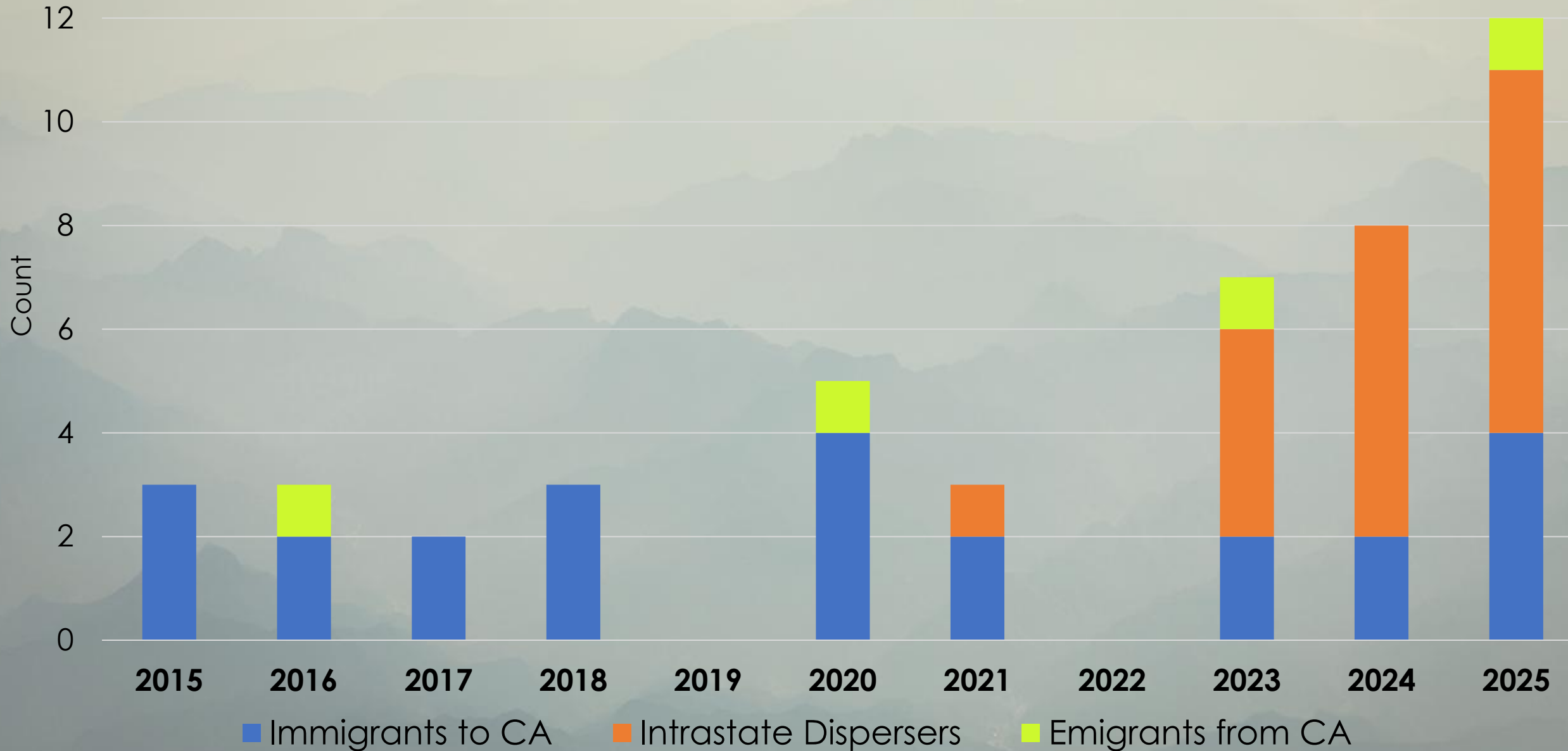


Wolf Population Metrics



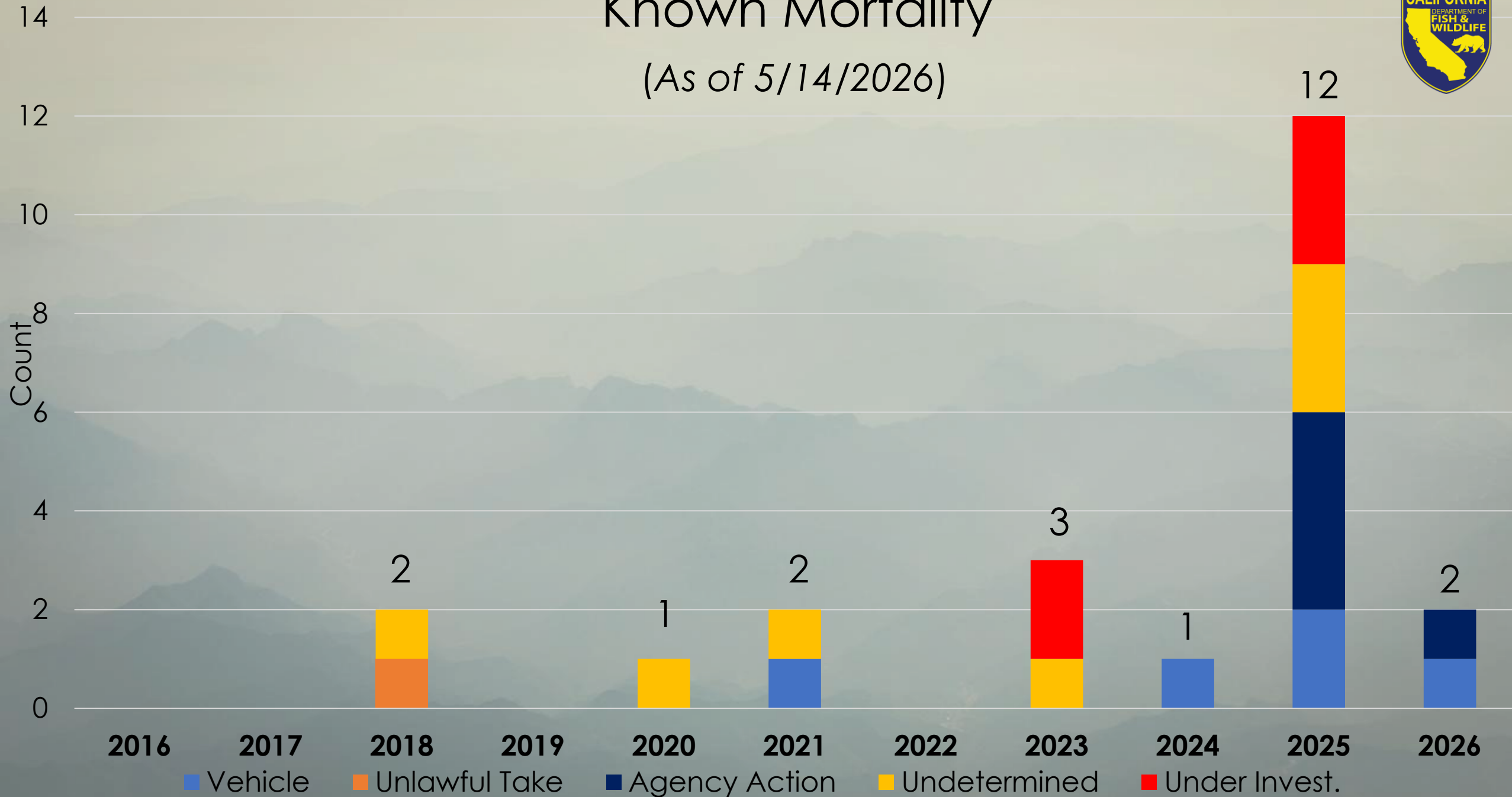


Known Dispersal



Known Mortality

(As of 5/14/2026)





Capture Efforts

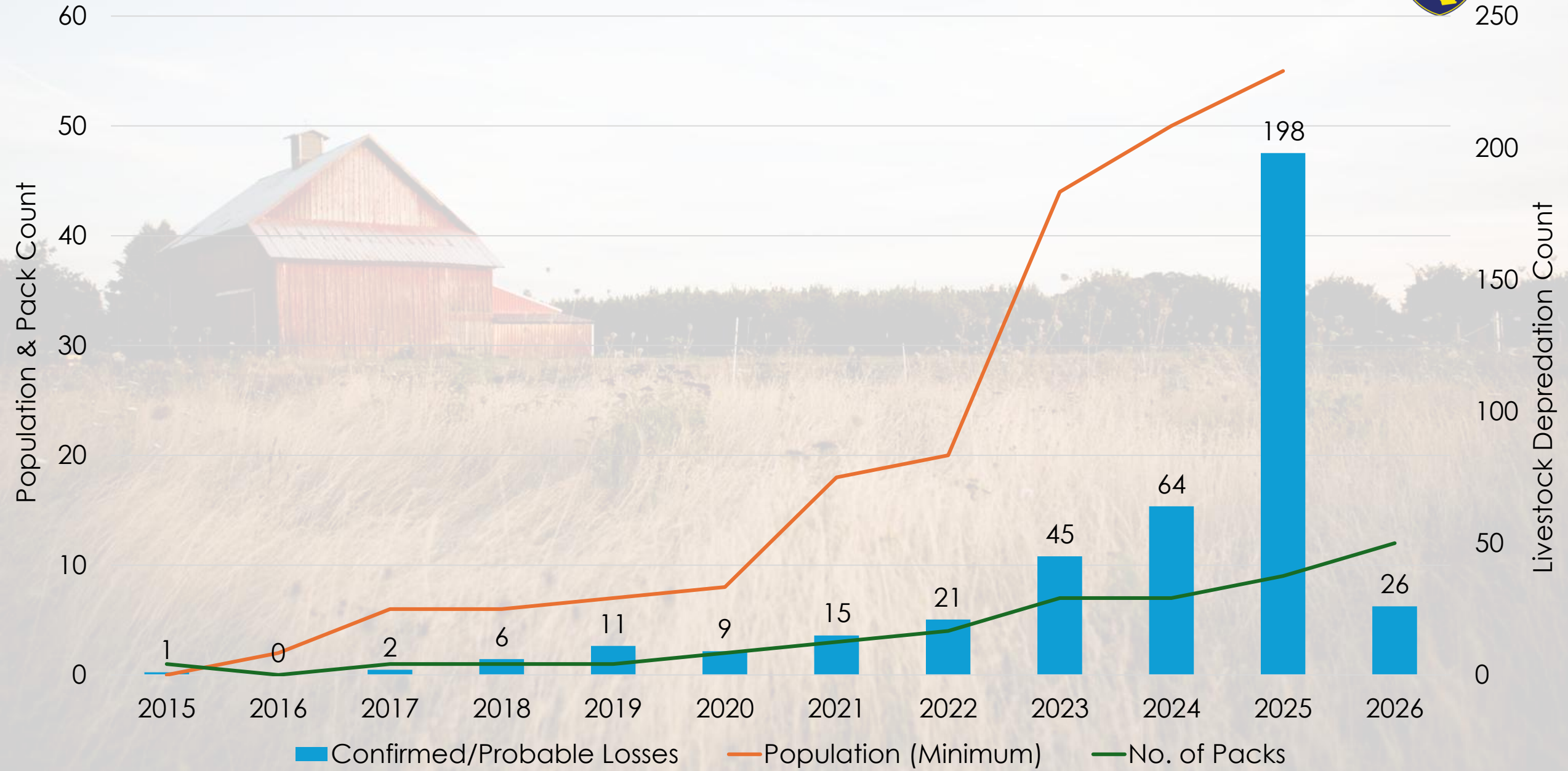
Ground captures: May – November

Aerial Captures: January and November

2025: 18 collars deployed in 5 packs

2026: 5 collars deployed in 2 packs so far

Wolf-Livestock Conflict vs Population Growth



Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program




\$3 Million


\$600,000


\$2 Million

"Pilot Program"
Starts

"Pilot Program"
Funds
Exhausted

Direct Loss
Applications
Open

2021

Feb.
2022

Feb.
2024

July
2024

Oct.
2024

July
2025

Direct Loss

Direct Loss

May 2022

Non-Lethal Tools

June 2023

Indirect

Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program




\$3 Million


\$600,000


\$2 Million

"Pilot Program"
Starts

"Pilot Program"
Funds
Exhausted

Direct
Appo
C

Direct Loss:
(As of 5/11/26)

\$646,033

*202 animals
68 applications*

2021

Feb.
2022

Feb.
2024

July
2024

Oct.
2024

July
2025

Direct Loss

Direct Loss

May 2022

Non-Lethal Tools

June 2023

Indirect

Communications



Daily

- Collared wolf locations
- GPS cluster locations

Monthly:

- Depredation Report updated

Quarterly

- Wolf Management Report
- Updated pack map
- Known Wolves

Annually

- Annual Report

Public Outreach

Website

- Conflict mitigation resources
- Public wolf sighting reporting
- Live collar map
- Reports and information
- Sign up for email notifications

Thank You



[www.wildlife.ca.gov/
Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf)

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