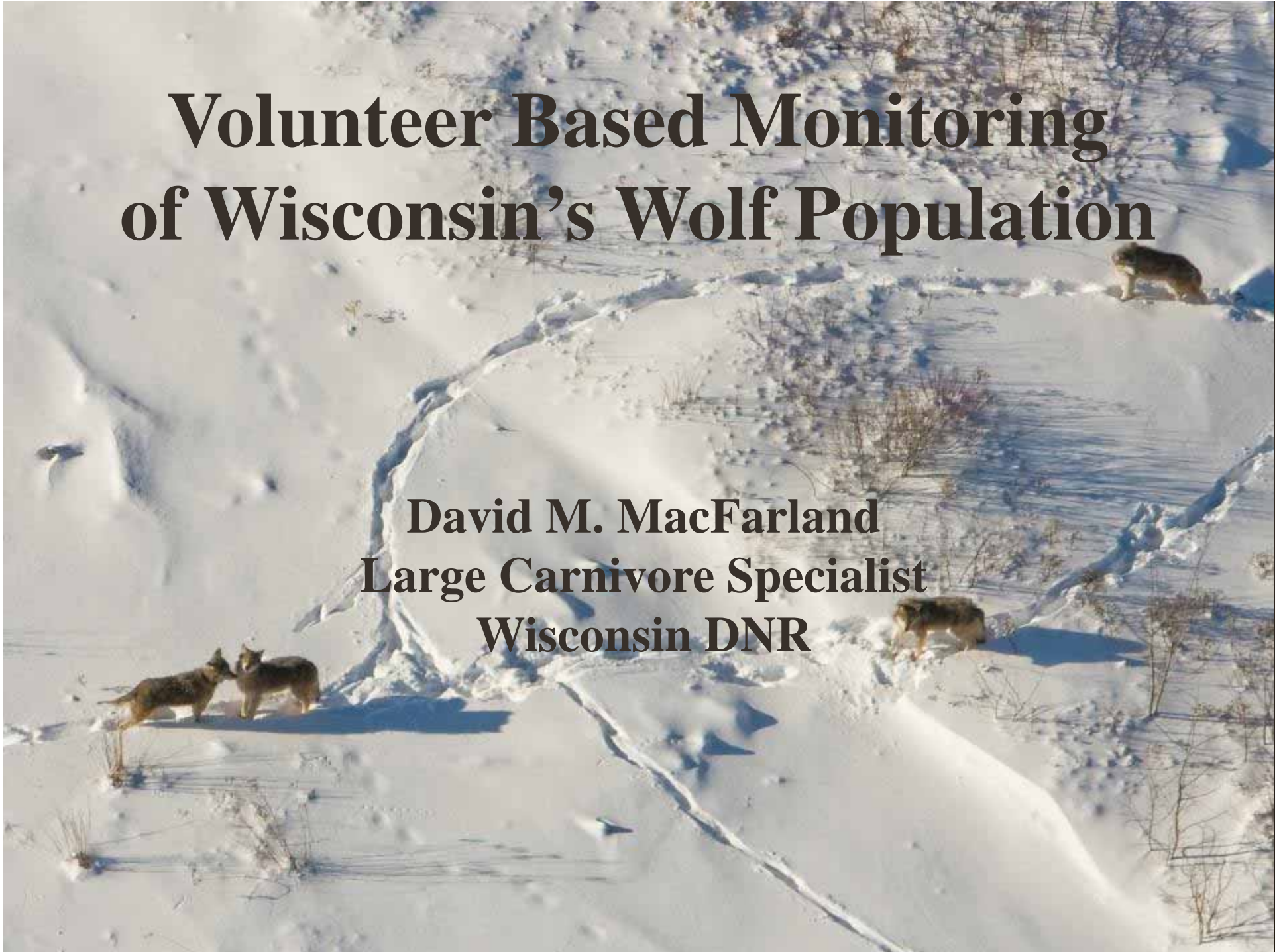
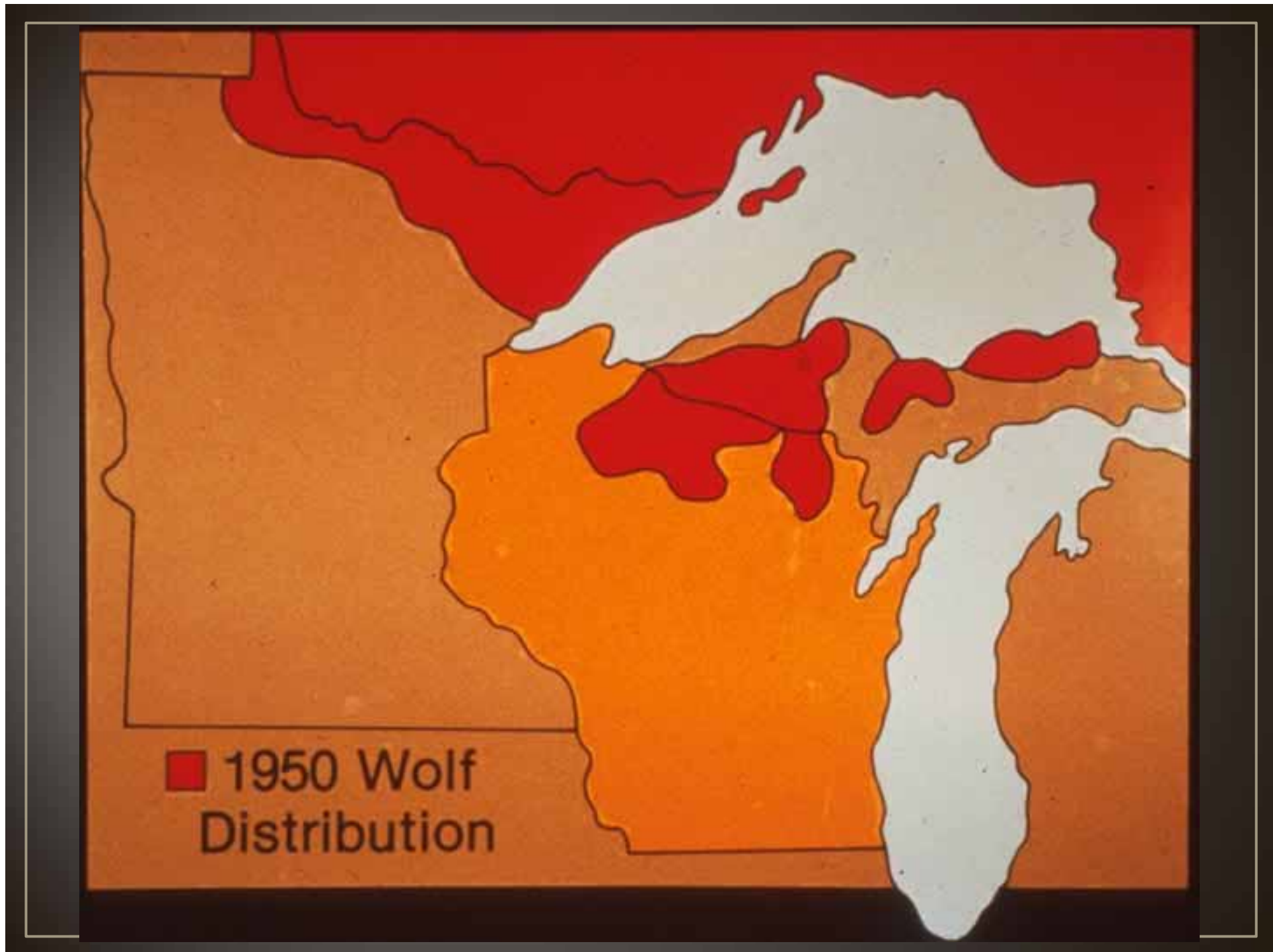



Volunteer Based Monitoring of Wisconsin's Wolf Population

**David M. MacFarland
Large Carnivore Specialist
Wisconsin DNR**



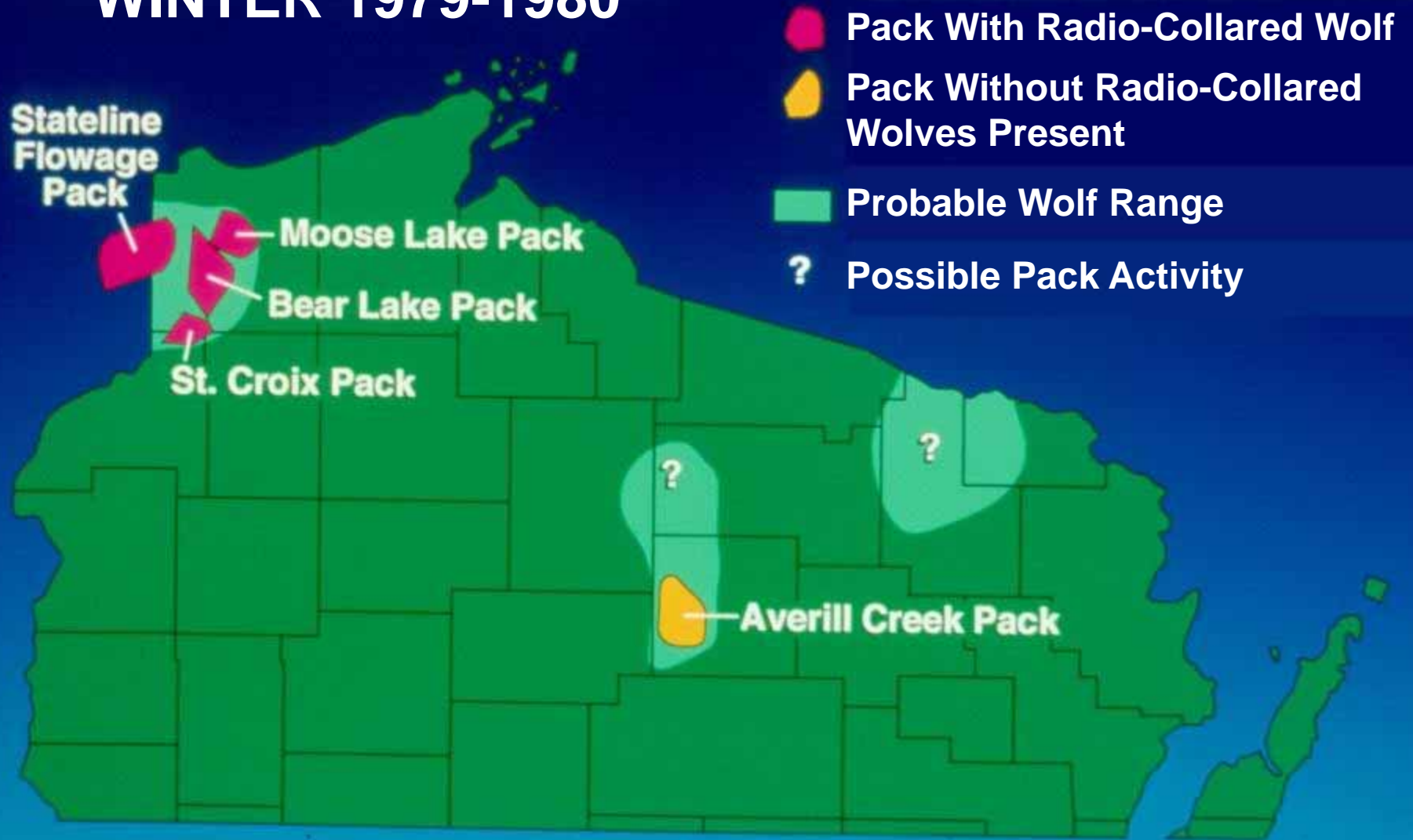









■ 1960 Wolf
Distribution



WINTER 1979-1980

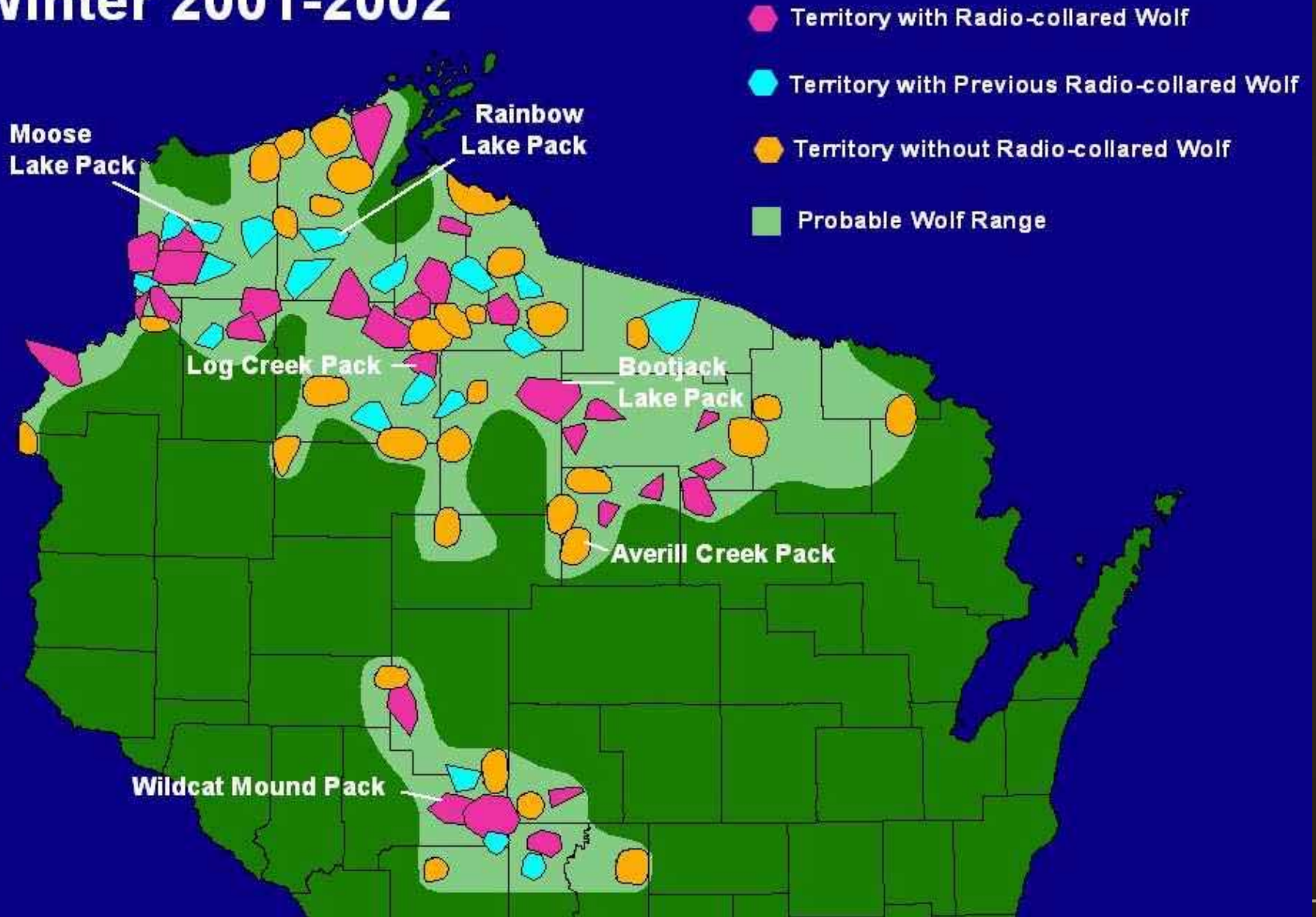


WINTER 1990-1991

-  Pack With Radio-Collared Wolf
-  Pack With Previous Radio-Collared Wolf
-  Pack Without Radio-Collared Wolf
-  Probable Wolf Range
-  Possible Pack Activity

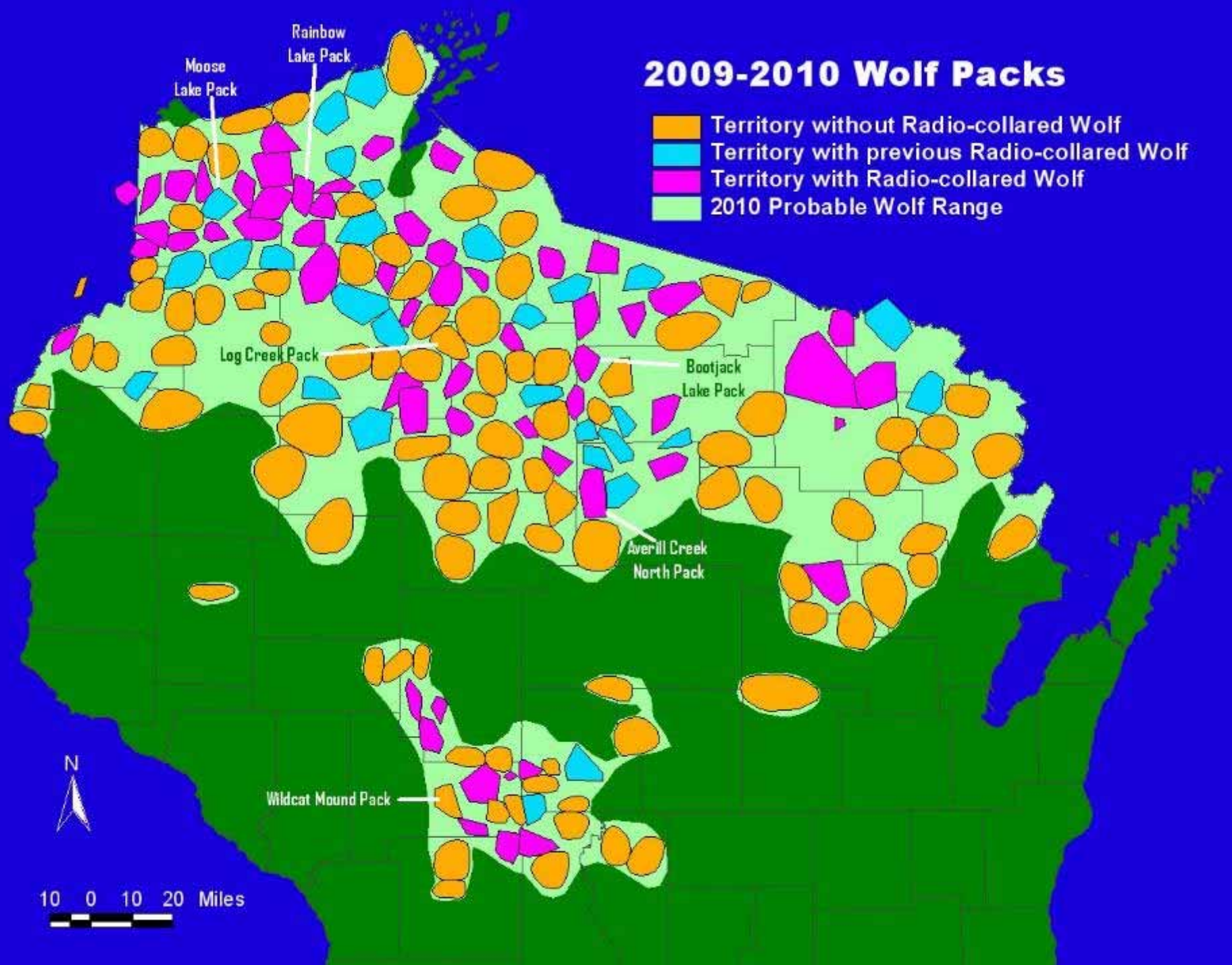


Winter 2001-2002



2009-2010 Wolf Packs

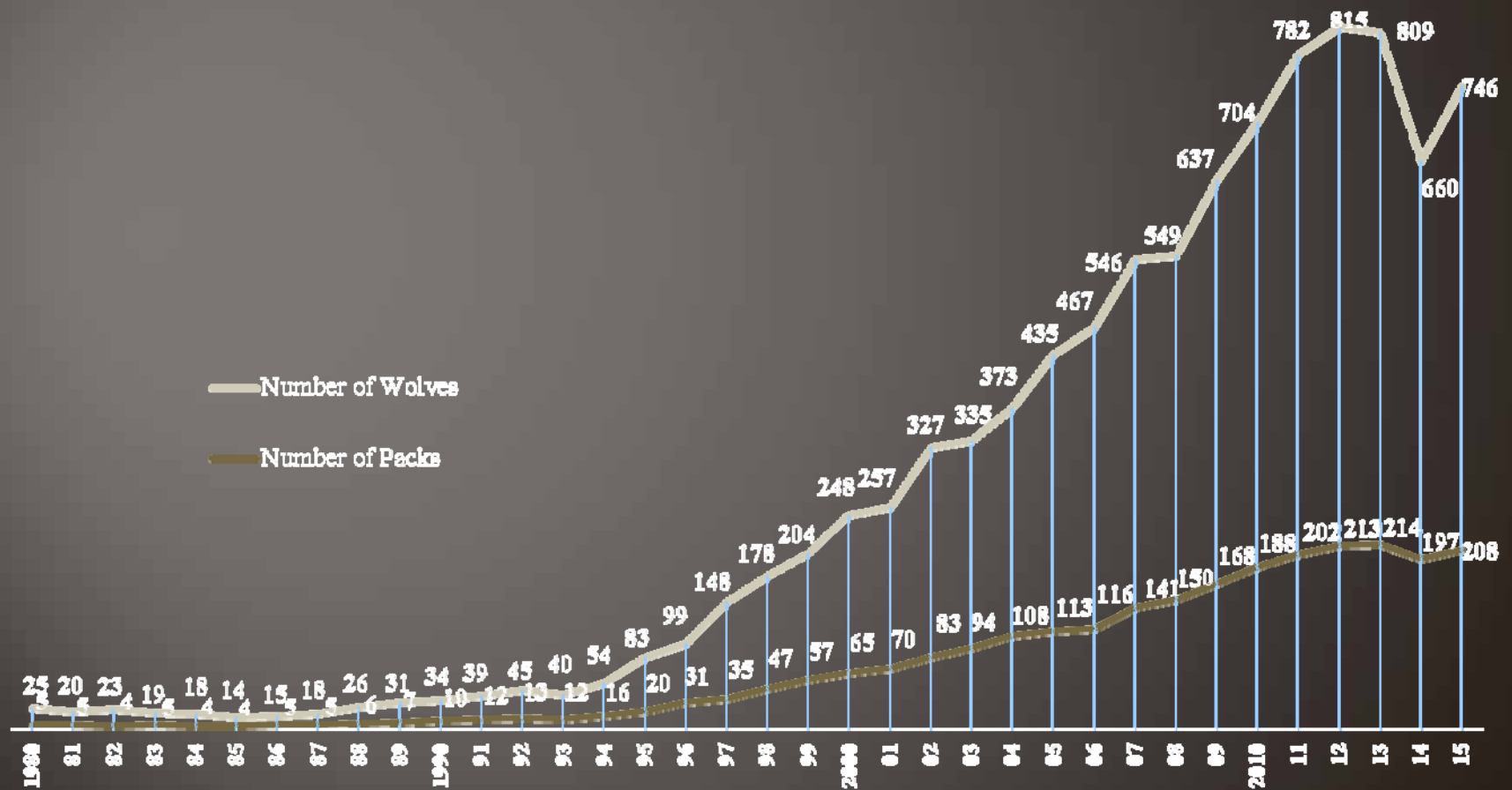
- Territory without Radio-collared Wolf
- Territory with previous Radio-collared Wolf
- Territory with Radio-collared Wolf
- 2010 Probable Wolf Range



Probable Range of Wolf Packs in Wisconsin in 2015



Changes in Wisconsin Gray Wolf Population: 1980-2015



Monitoring Goals:

- Distribution
- Minimum population count
- Mortality / Survival
- Reproduction
- Health
- Den & Rendezvous sites
- Dispersal

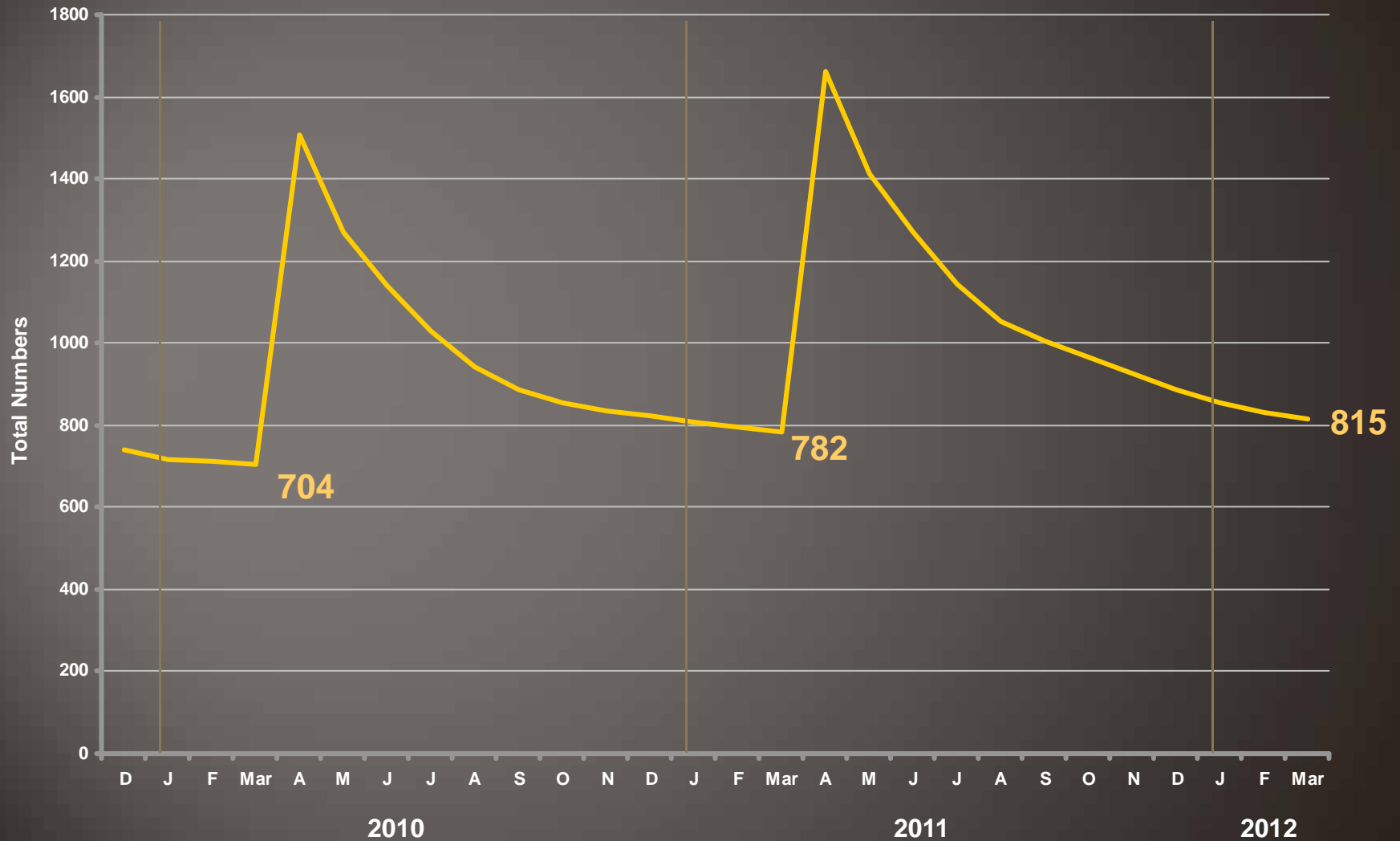
Wolf Monitoring Techniques

1. Live-trapping / radio monitoring
2. Winter snow track surveys
3. Summer howl surveys
4. Necropsy of dead wolves
5. Depredation trapping by USDA - Wildlife Services
6. Public observation reports

Territory Mapping With Telemetry

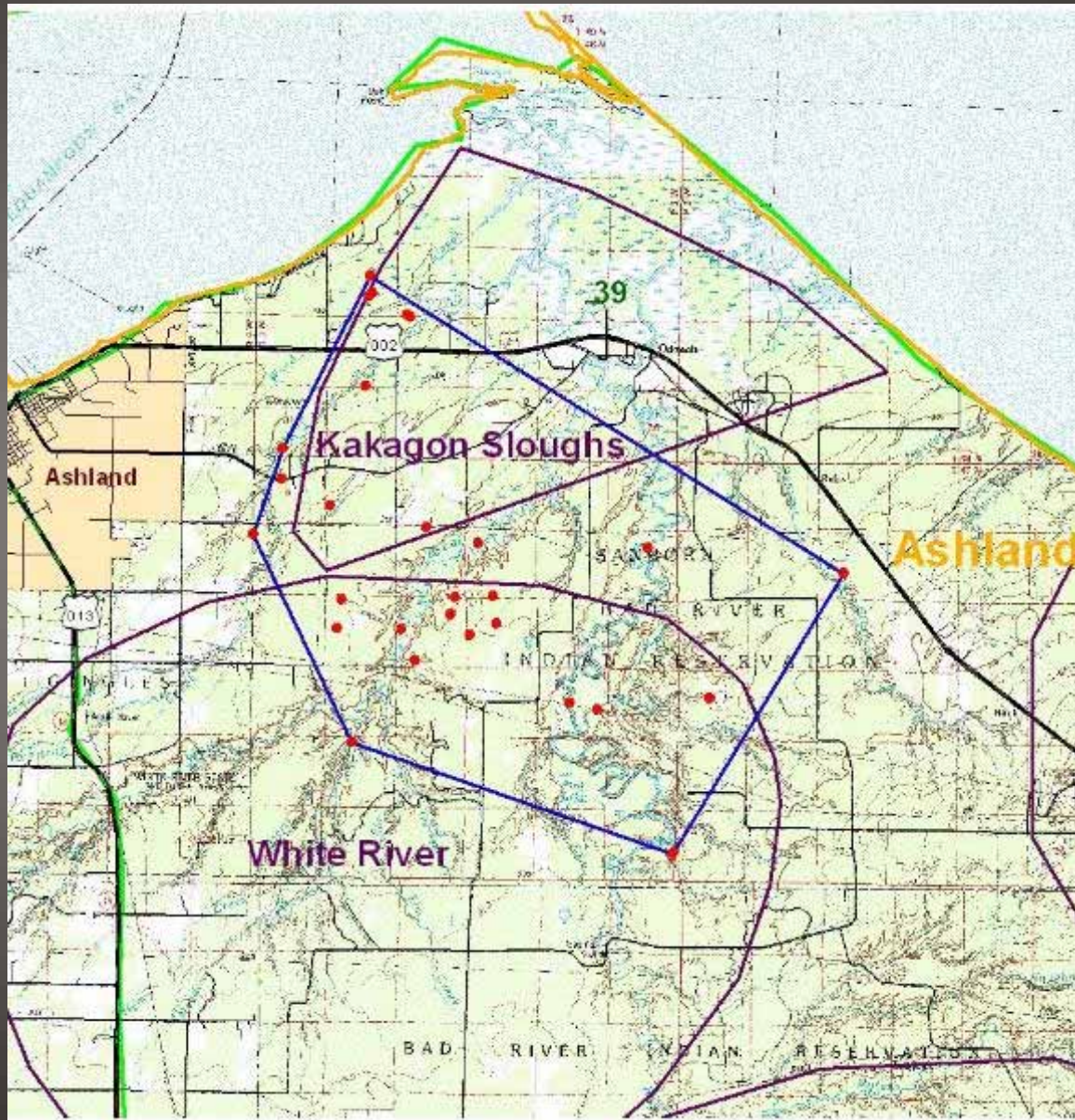
- Identify wolf pack territories with the aid of radio collared animals
- Determine the minimum count of wolves in each pack
 - Counts obtained in the winter
- Aggregate data from each pack to determine state-wide minimum count

Annual Cycle of Wolf Population in Wisconsin





Home Range Mapping



W667M Adult
28 locations
9-15-09 to 4-14-10
Kakagon Sloughs pack
38.6 sq. mi.

● W667

■ Wolf winter 09-10 Home Ranges
■ 2009 Wolf Pack Territories
■ Tracking Blocks

1 0 1 Miles



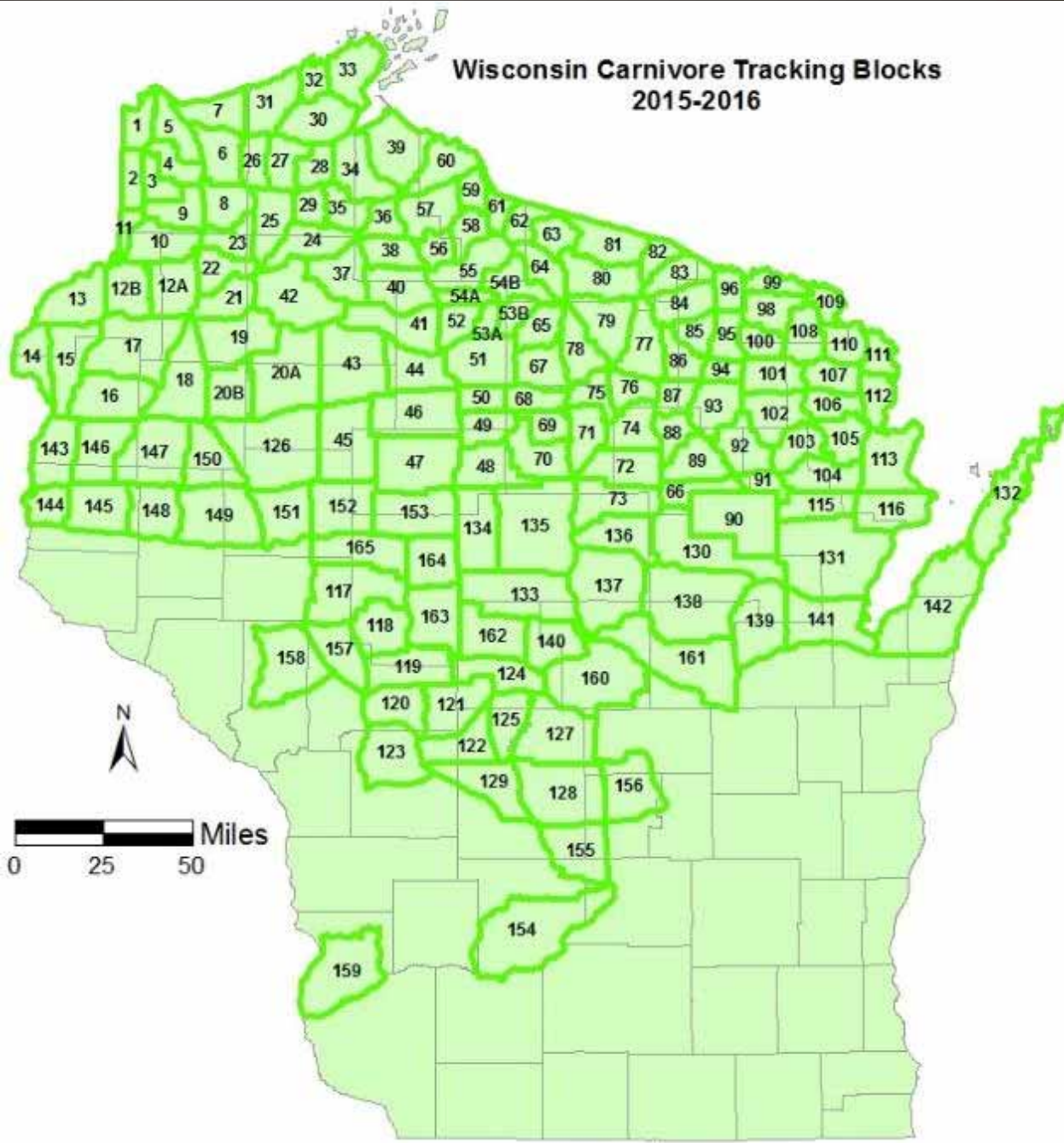
Wisconsin DNR
August, 2010

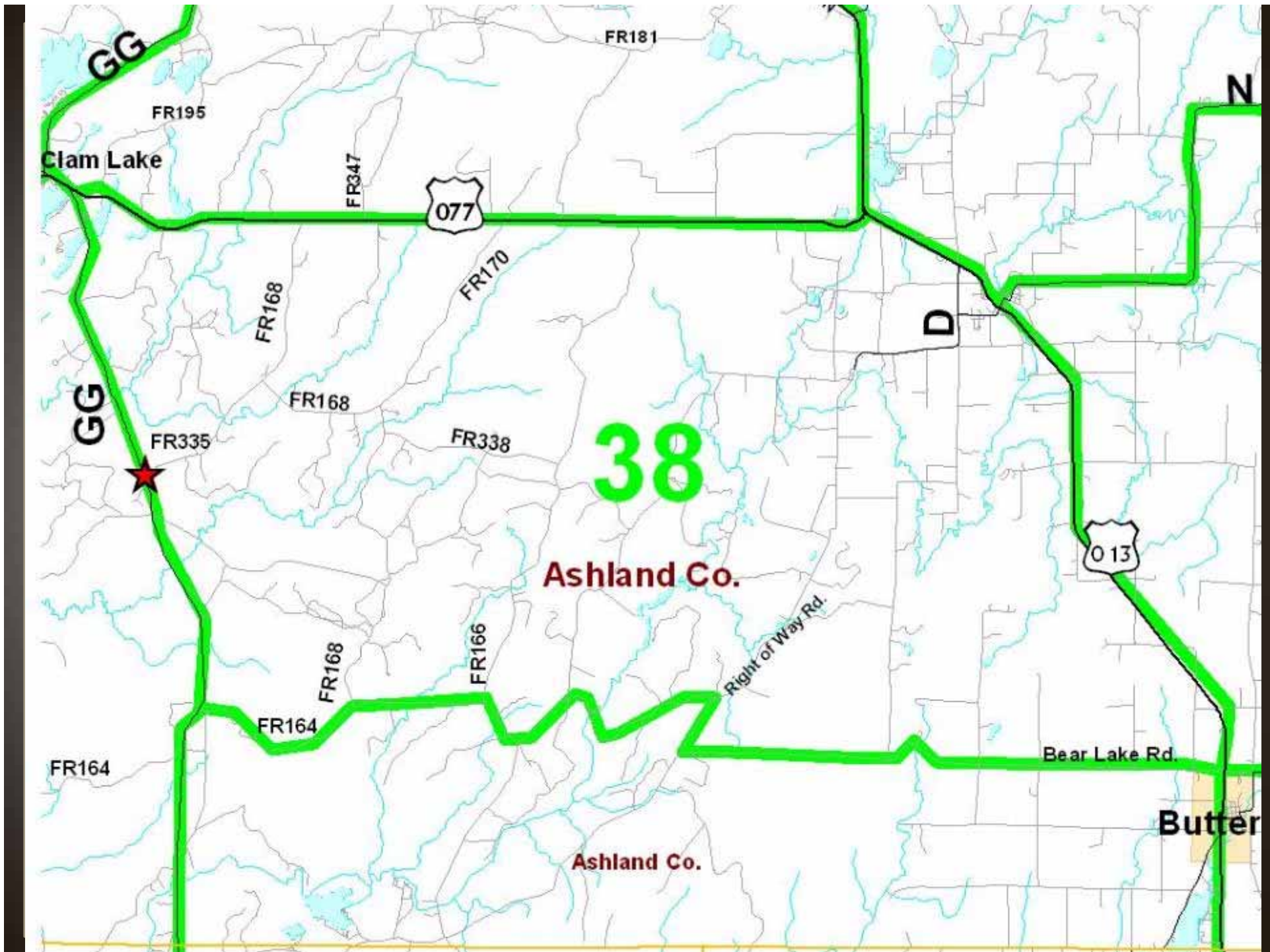


Tracking Program Goals

1. Determine wolf numbers, distribution, breeding status, & identify wolf packs
2. Develop an index of the abundance and distribution of other carnivore species
3. Determine the existence of rare carnivores such as lynx & cougar

Wisconsin Carnivore Tracking Blocks 2015-2016















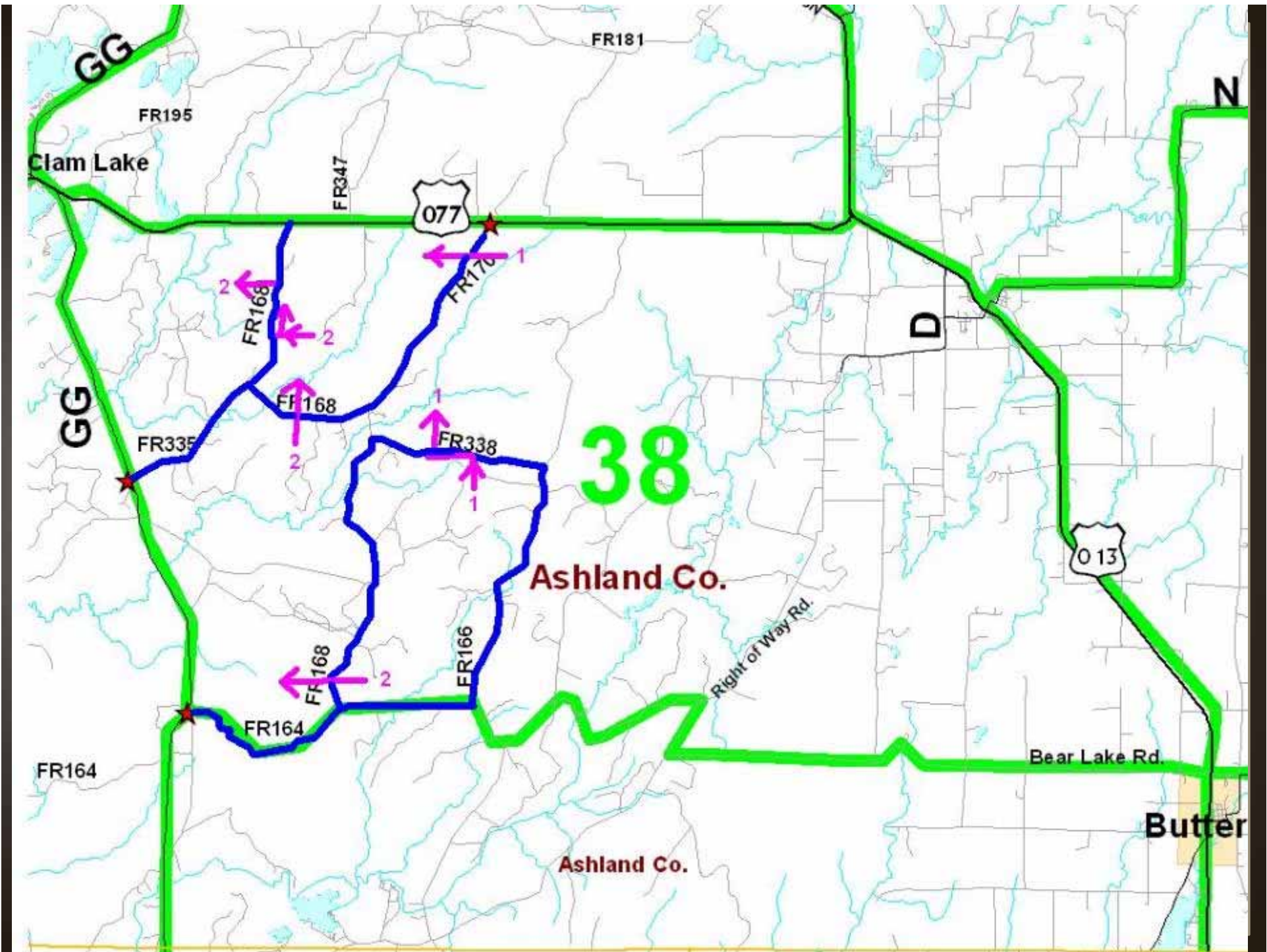






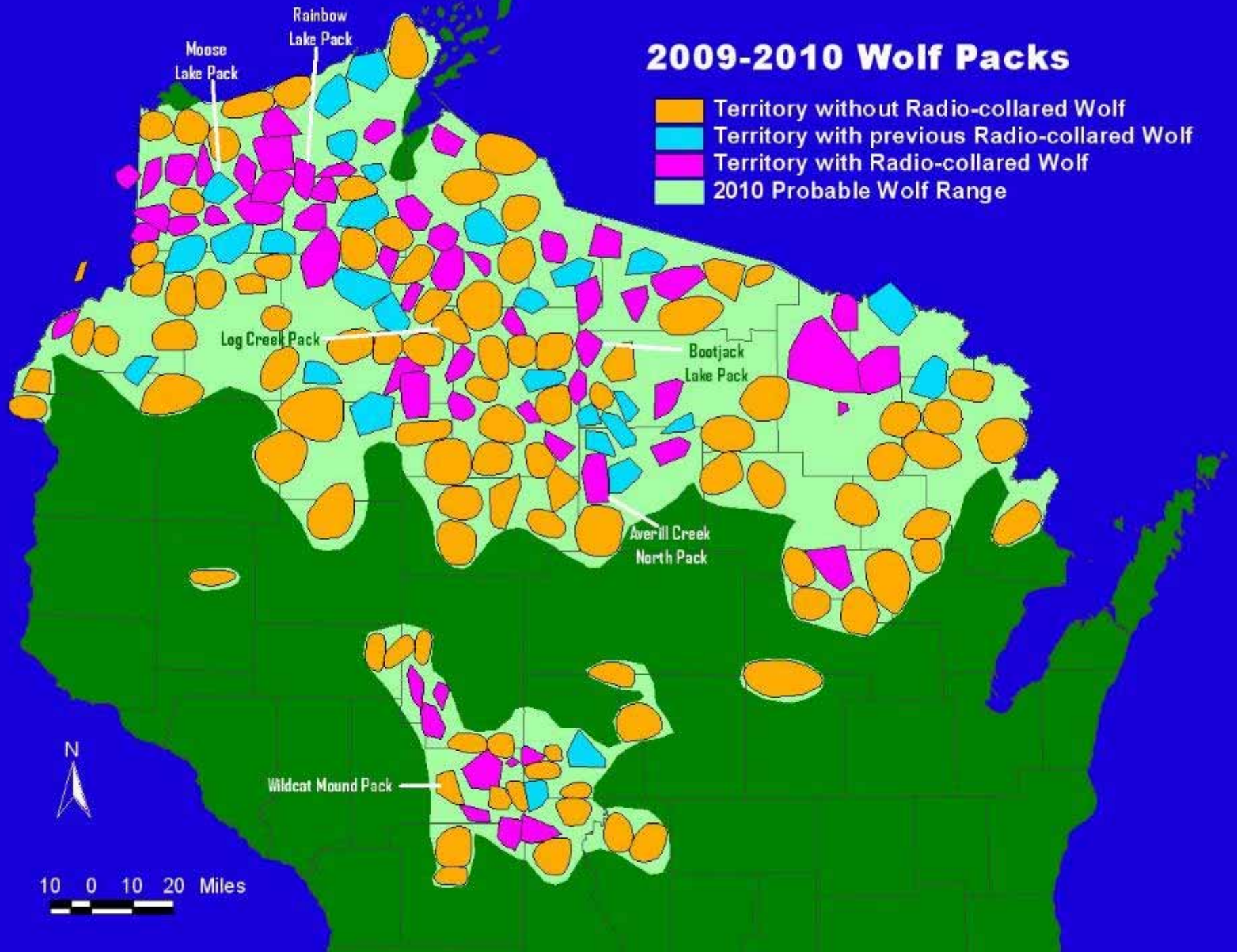


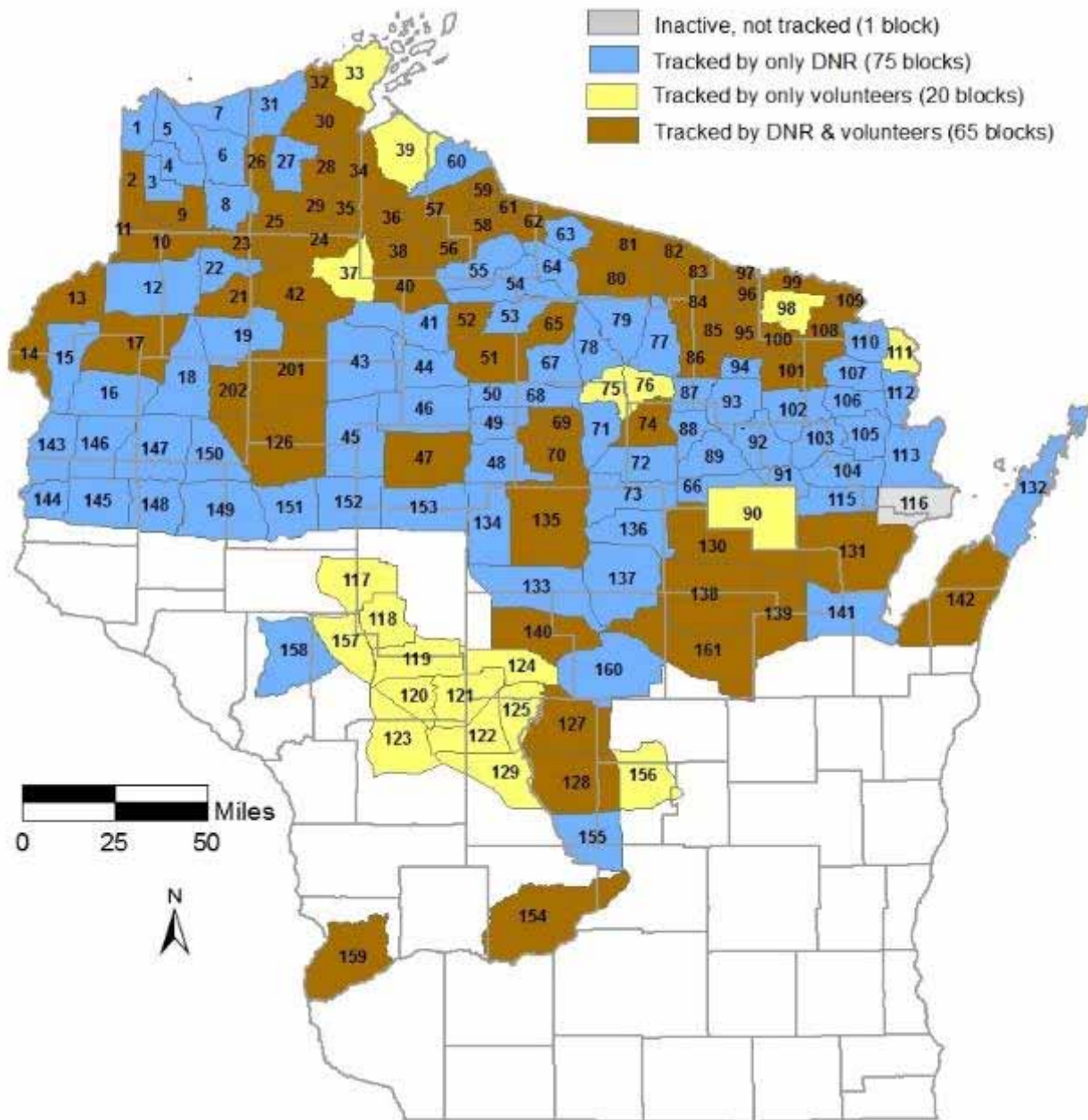




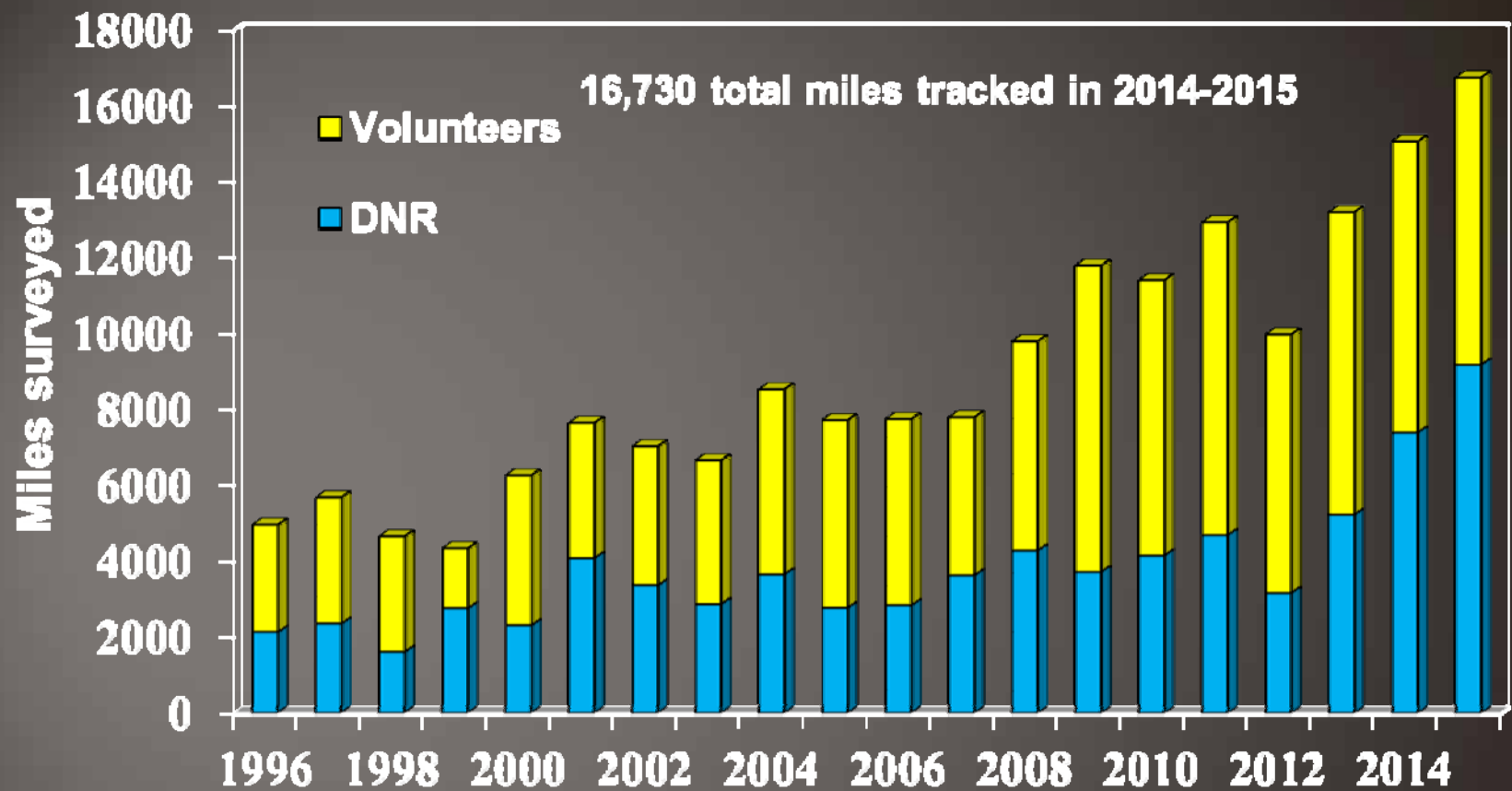
2009-2010 Wolf Packs

- Territory without Radio-collared Wolf
- Territory with previous Radio-collared Wolf
- Territory with Radio-collared Wolf
- 2010 Probable Wolf Range





Survey Blocks Tracked by DNR & Volunteers Winter 2014-2015



Winter Track Surveys in Wisconsin by WDNR & Volunteers

How to Volunteer

- Attend a track training held in the fall
 - More information at dnr.wi.gov Search: Carnivore Tracking
- Sign up for a tracking block
- Conduct at least 3 surveys in your block – approximately 20 miles each
- Submit completed survey forms to your regional coordinator

- For more information:

david.macfarland@wisconsin.gov

715-365-8917

Thank You!

