

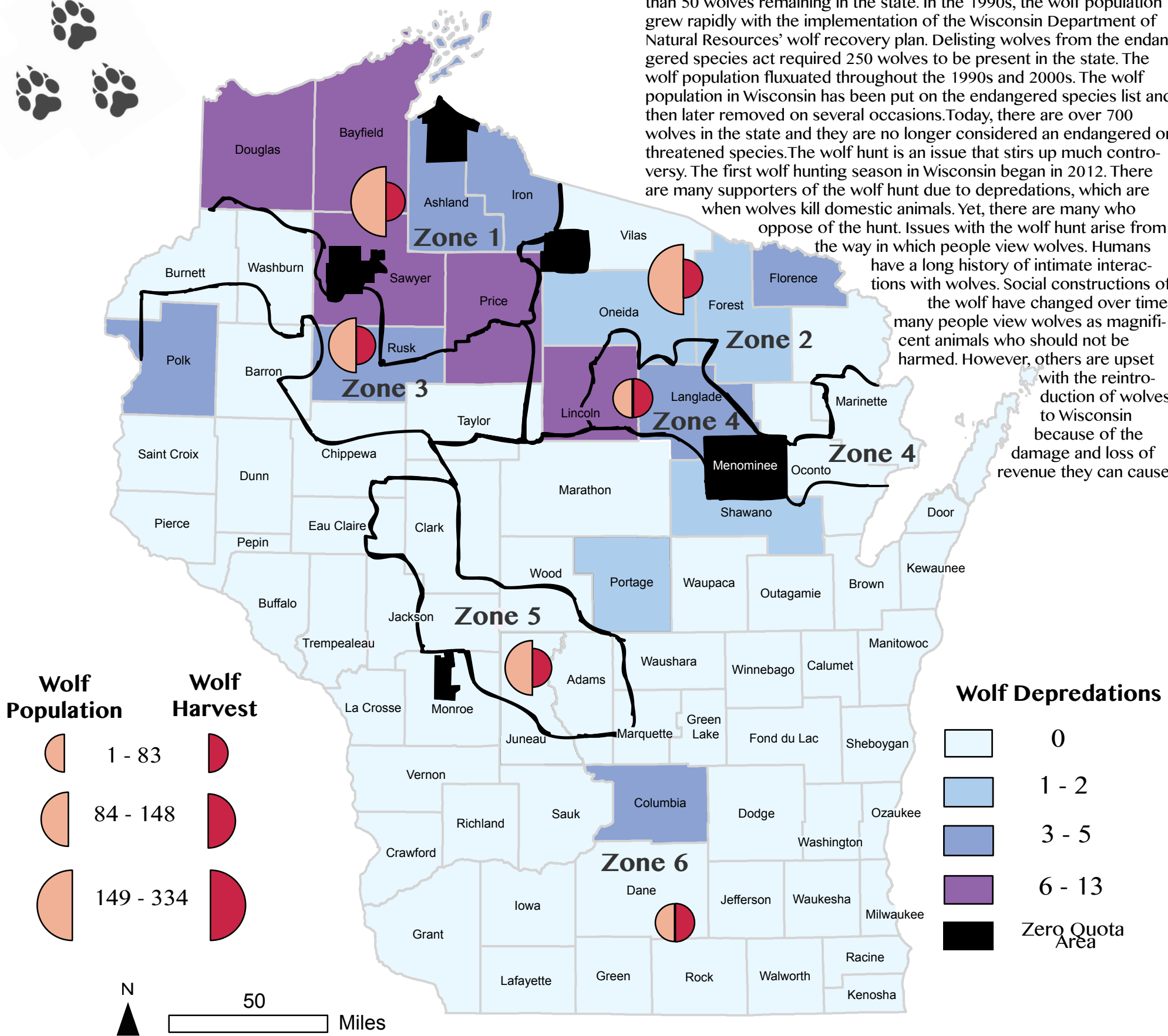
WISCONSIN WOLVES

2013 WOLF SEASON REPORT



History of Wolves in Wisconsin

In the early 1800's there were between 3,000 and 5,000 wolves in Wisconsin. By 1950, wolves had been hunted to near extinction, with less than 50 wolves remaining in the state. In the 1990s, the wolf population grew rapidly with the implementation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' wolf recovery plan. Delisting wolves from the endangered species act required 250 wolves to be present in the state. The wolf population fluctuated throughout the 1990s and 2000s. The wolf population in Wisconsin has been put on the endangered species list and then later removed on several occasions. Today, there are over 700 wolves in the state and they are no longer considered an endangered or threatened species. The wolf hunt is an issue that stirs up much controversy. The first wolf hunting season in Wisconsin began in 2012. There are many supporters of the wolf hunt due to depredations, which are when wolves kill domestic animals. Yet, there are many who oppose of the hunt. Issues with the wolf hunt arise from the way in which people view wolves. Humans have a long history of intimate interactions with wolves. Social constructions of the wolf have changed over time; many people view wolves as magnificent animals who should not be harmed. However, others are upset with the reintroduction of wolves to Wisconsin because of the damage and loss of revenue they can cause.



Wolf Hunting Zones

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has established 6 zones to manage the wolf population and wolf harvest. Zones provide maximum protection in most portions of suitable habitat, yet allow a flexible system for controlling wolves in less suitable areas where higher levels of conflict are most likely to occur. On tribal lands, the large black squares on the map, tribal governments will determine management of the wolves. During the hunting season, each zone is given a quota for the number of wolves that can be harvested. This helps to ensure that the wolf hunt manages the wolf population at a sustainable level.

Depredations

A depredation is when a wolf kills a domestic animal. In Wisconsin, most depredations are on farmers' livestock as well as hunting dogs. These depredations can cost farmers and pet owners hundreds of dollars. Depredations often occur in areas where there the most wolves present. Zone 1 for example has a large wolf population and a large number of depredations per county. This leads to zone 1 having a larger hunting quota to help reduce the problem. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources now offers compensation for depredations. Depredations are verified and recorded for compensation purposes. Zones with higher populations and higher numbers of depredations have the largest quota. This is a strategy from the DNR to help reduce the number of conflicts between wolves and people across the state.

Alissa Wilson
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Central Meridian: 90° West
 Latitude of Origin: 0°
 Data Sources: Wisconsin DNR Wolf Season Report 2013