

Wolves in 2022 and WGF

Adrian Wydeven



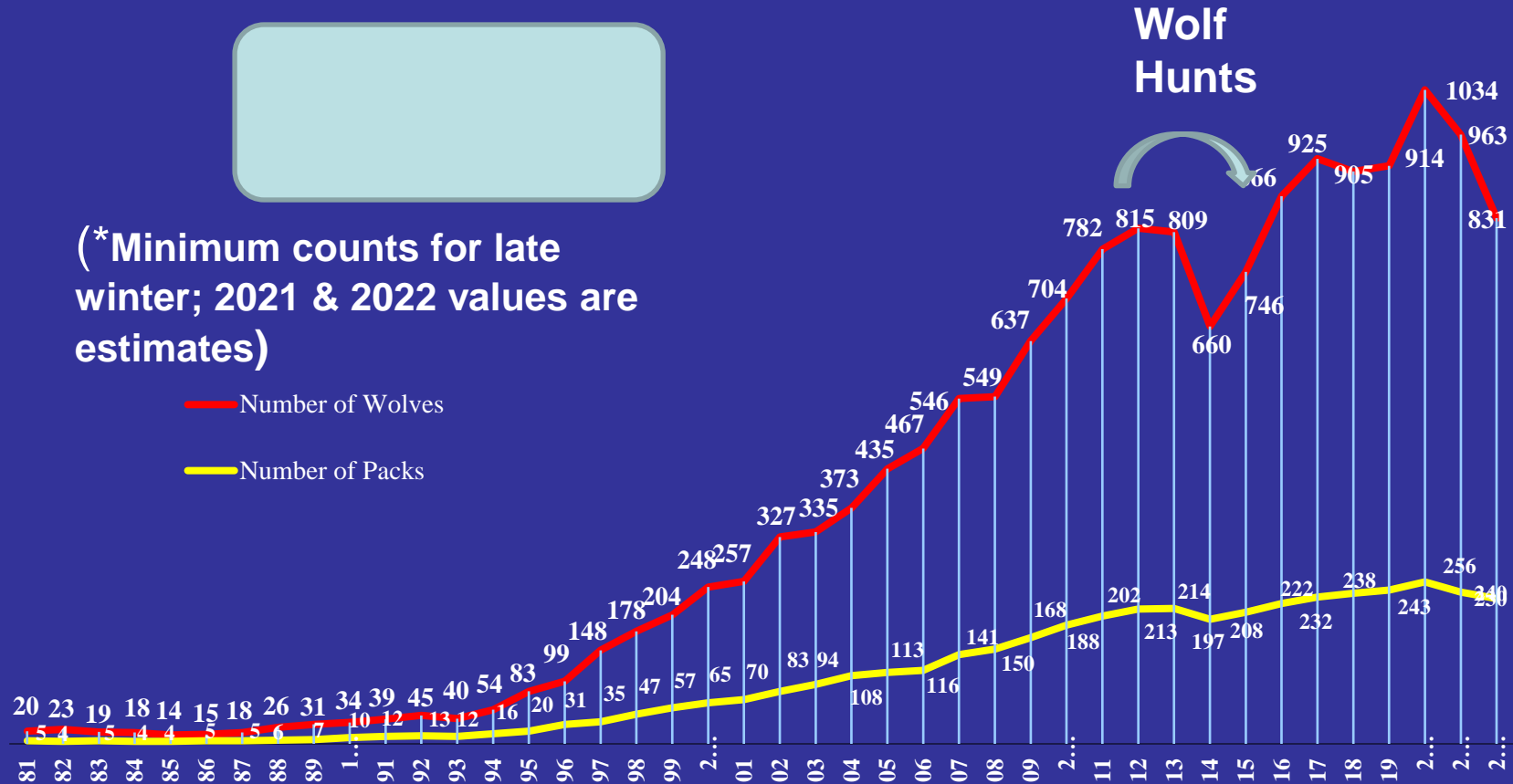
WI Gray Wolf Events in 2022 and WGF

- **Gray Wolves returned to Federal ESA list on February 10, 2022 across much of US**
- **Winter track surveys complete by April 1, 2022**
- **WGF social and fund raisers for wolf conservation with Louis Family on Lake Owen July 25, 2022**
- **WGF field event in Cable August 4-5, 2022, including successful howl for wolves.**
- **WDNR announced new wolf population estimate for 2022 on Sept. 30; decline of 14% from 2021.**
- **International Wolf Symposium, Oct. 13-16; 3 talks by WGF wolf team**
- **WDNR announced draft of new wolf plan on Nov. 10; many WGF recommendations included.**

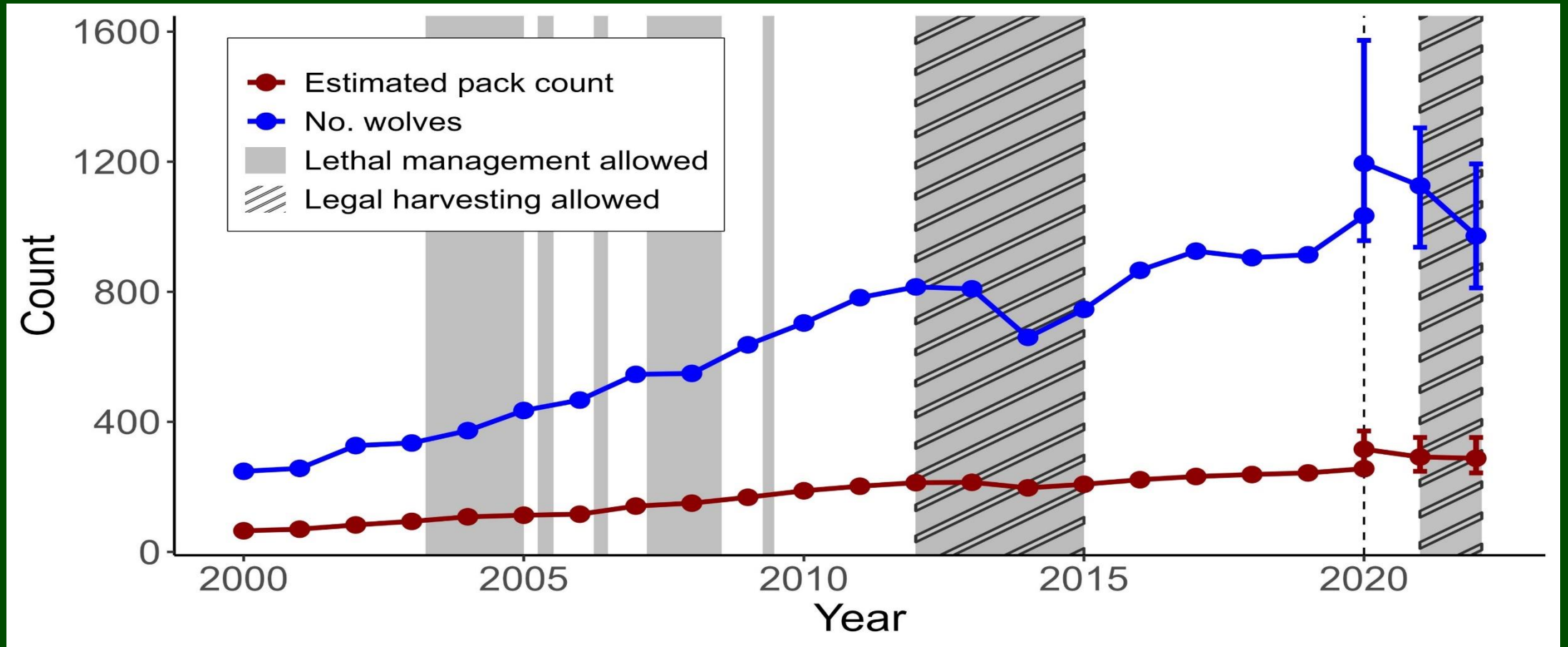
Minimum Count of Wolves in Wisconsin In Winter 1980-2022 *



(* Minimum counts for late winter; 2021 & 2022 values are estimates)



Wisconsin Gray Wolf Minimum Count (2000-2020) and Estimated Population (2020-2022) in Winter.



WGF involvement in Wolf Plan Committee in 2021

- **Adrian Wydeven and Tim Van Deelen, for WGF**
- **Erik Olson and Randy Jurewicz for Timber Wolf Alliance**
- **Peter David for Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission**
- **Jodi Habush Sinykin and Diane Cain for Sierra Club-WI Chp.**

Positive Aspects to Draft WI Wolf Plan

- **Removal of Numeric Goal; no need to reduce to 350 wolves**
- **Focus on Sustainable Populations and Ecological Benefits especially in Core Wolf Areas (Zones 1, 2 &5)**
- **Create protective Buffer Zones around Indian Reservations**
- **Modify 6 zones across the state to better protect populations and allow better control in Areas with High Conflicts**
- **Emphasis on Education and Teaching People about the State Wolf Population**
- **Emphasis on Reducing Illegal Wolf Kills**
- **Strong Commitment to Science and Continued Research with Partners**

Some Areas of Concern with Draft Wolf Plan

- **Plan calls for Lower Permits per Wolf Quotas to reduce risk of over-harvest and provide longer wolf seasons. If season too long could become disruptive to wolf packs, and reduce effectiveness of track surveys**
- **Propose training for wolf hunting dogs that would begin after firearm deer season, and would end after all wolf zones are closed to harvest. Same concerns as above.**
- **Does not create separate science and stakeholder advisory committees, and not clear who will be able to serve on the state wolf advisory committee**

Things DNR Cannot Change in Wolf Plan

- **Decision to Close Any Part in the State to a Wolf Hunting and Trapping Season**
- **Eliminate Use of Dogs in Wolf Hunting**
- **Change Start Date or Possible End Date of Wolf Harvest Except when Quotas Have been achieved in any Wolf Zone**
- **Eliminate Compensation for Dogs or Livestock**
- **Cannot Close Zones to Harvest until after 24 Hour Notification**

Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan – Draft Review and Public Comment Period

Thank you for your interest in providing input on the draft Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan. We want to hear your honest feedback on the draft plan. We encourage you to provide your thoughts on the draft plan's content, as well as anything you believe is missing and should be included.

Please invest time in [reading the draft plan](#) before completing this survey.

Submit comments via the [Online Comment Tool](#). The deadline to submit comments is 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 10, 2023

Send Your Comments to DNR on Draft Wolf Plan by Jan. 10, 2023

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