

Supplemental Information on FWP Proposed Wolf Quota in WMU 313

August 23, 2022

FWP proposes a wolf quota of 10 because it represents a mortality rate (34%) within the range of mortality (29 – 48 %) necessary to reduce wolf populations. The department's quota proposal is consistent with the 2021 legislative requirement to reduce wolves. Historically, an average of 29 wolves (range 18 – 40) have been in proximity to proposed WMU 313. A harvest of ten out of 29 (34%) is on the lower end of the required mortality range, thus we anticipate a slightly declining population in this area. While the quota could be increased to result in a larger reduction, there is public advocacy to reduce harvest pressure on these wolves.

If the quota is established at a number lower than 10, the anticipated mortality would likely decrease. Depending on the actual removal, the wolf population at this very local scale is more likely to remain stable or increase slightly. From a statewide or regional scale, the difference in population trajectory would be undetectable.