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Wolf in Latvia 2022-2023

Estimations, wolf hunting, wolf damage

State Forest Service
Department of Hunting
23.02.2023.



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Facts about Latvia



Total area:
64,589 km²

Population:
1.85 million
(est. 2023)

53 % of the area is
covered by forest
(2022)



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Wolves in Latvia

Wolf hunting is legally allowed in Latvia

(Annex V of the 1992 Habitats Directive)

Hunting allowed under strict supervision of State Forest Service (SFS) and scientific authorities (maximum limit 300 individuals)

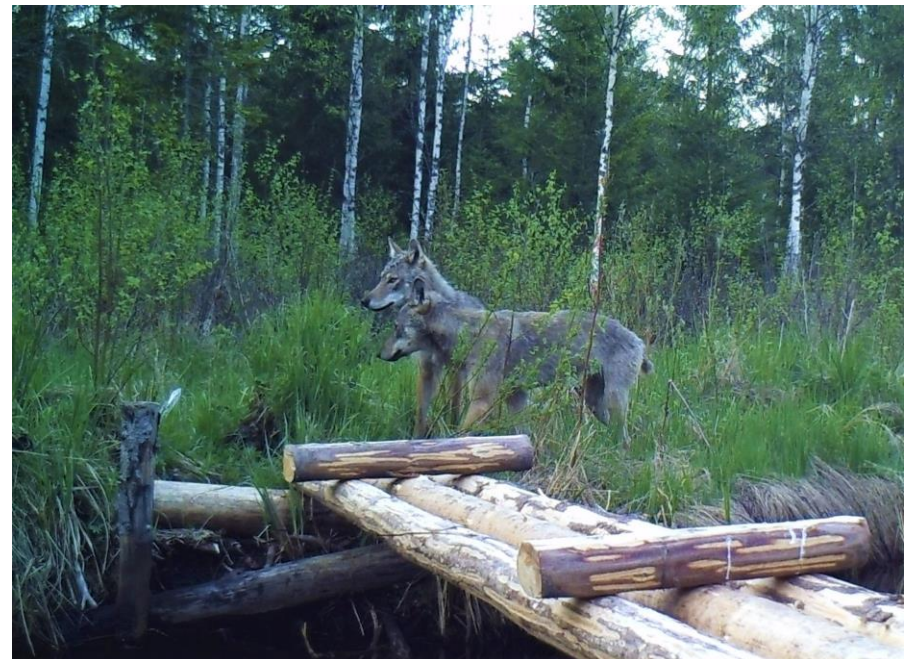
Estimated wolf numbers:
ca. 1300 (SFS data, 2022)

Hunting season:

from July 15 until the limit is filled
but no later than March 31

Season 2022/2023:

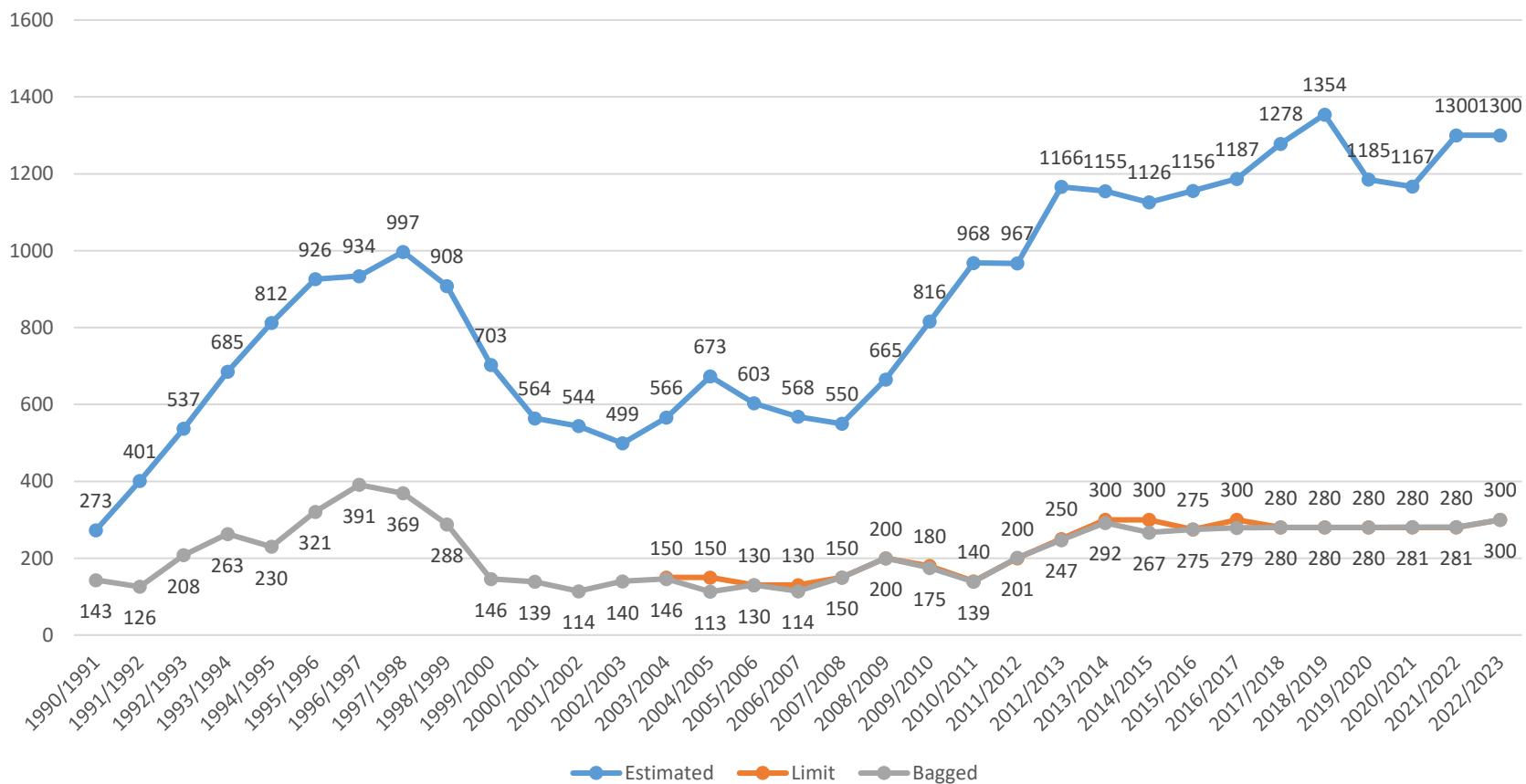
Limit – 300, bagged - 300





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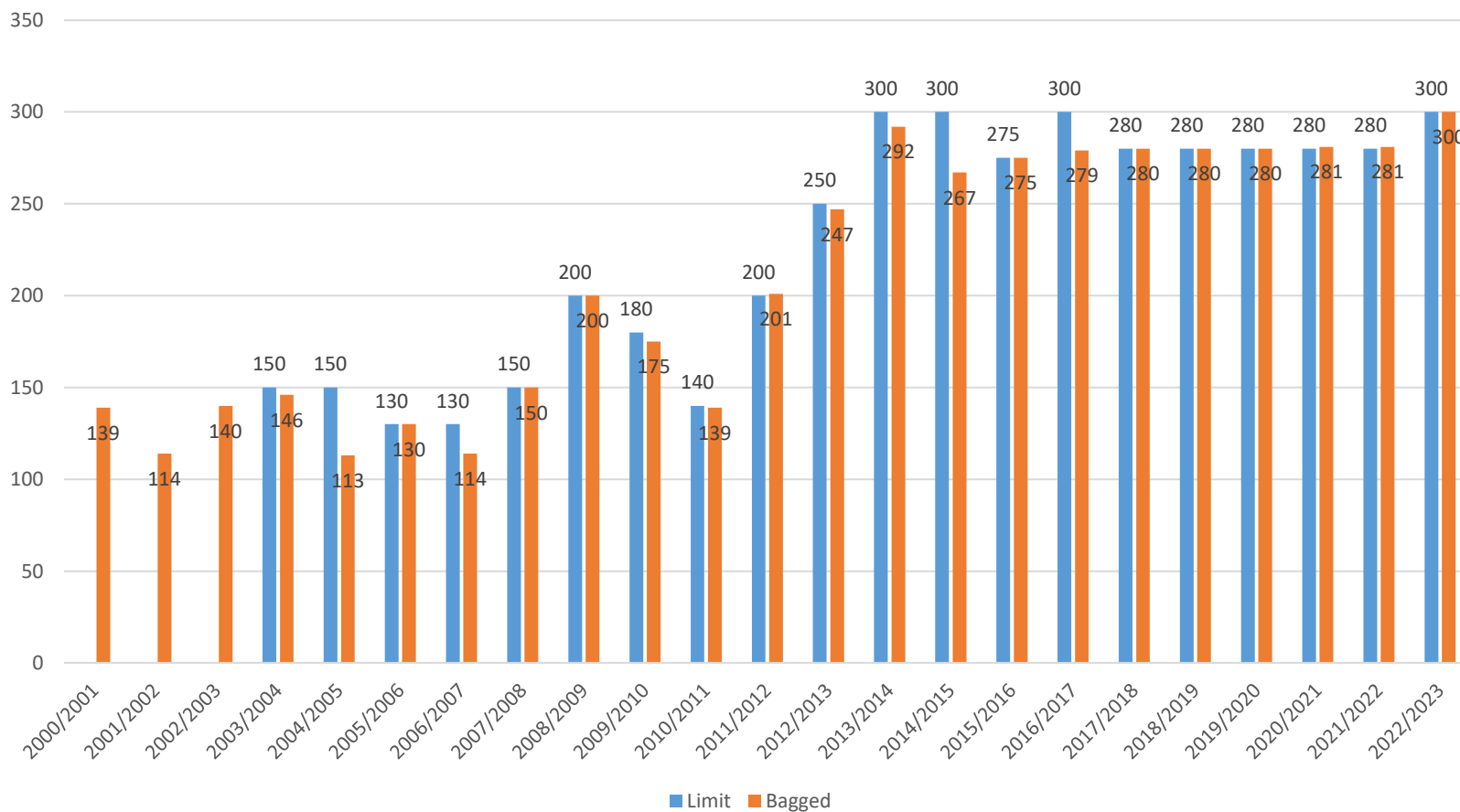
Wolf population dynamics in Latvia





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Wolf limit and bagging data per hunting seasons



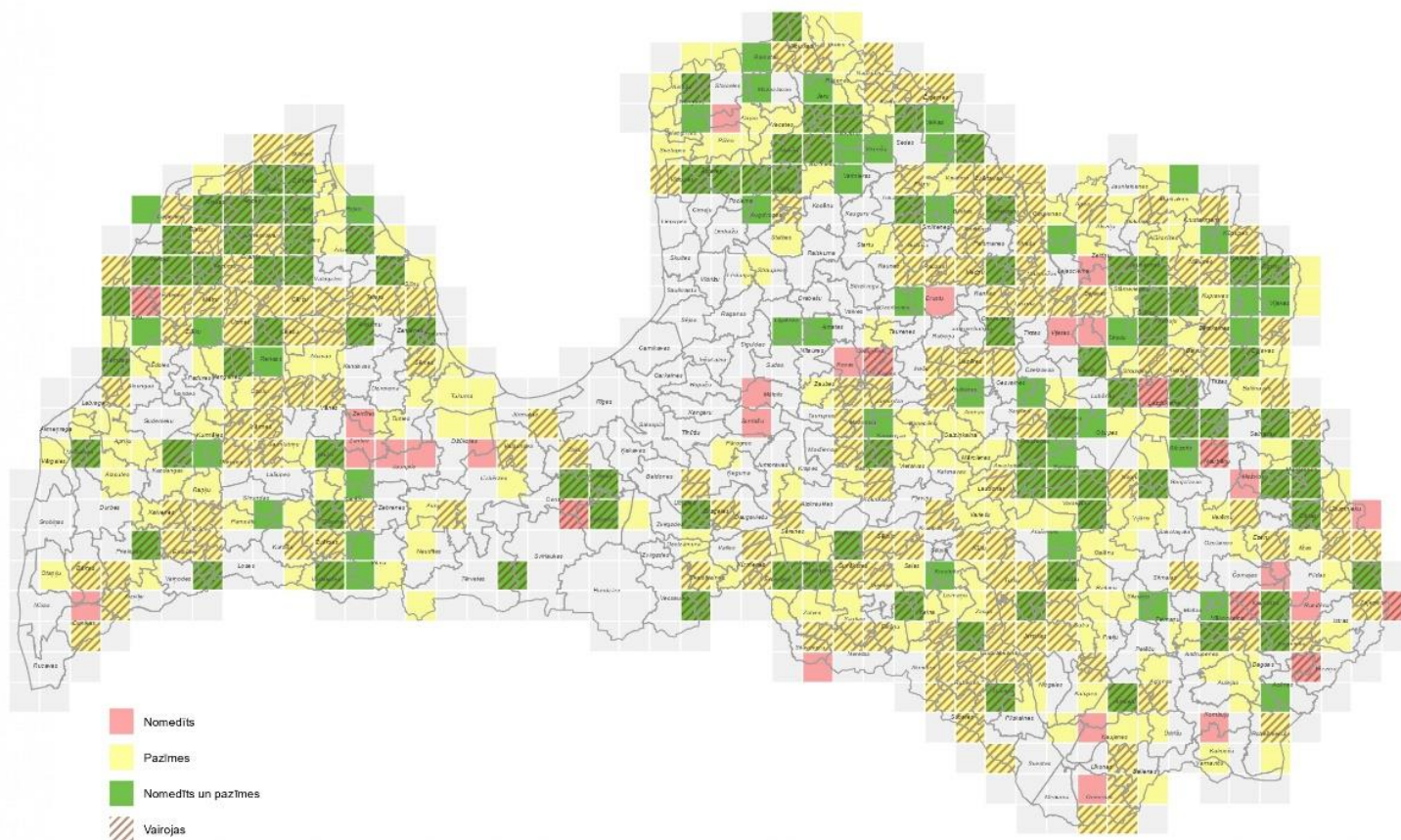


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Wolf distribution map 2021/2022

(bagged, signs of presence, bagged AND presence,
signs of reproduction)

2021./2022. gada medību sezonā konstatētās vilku pazīmes un nomedītie vilki

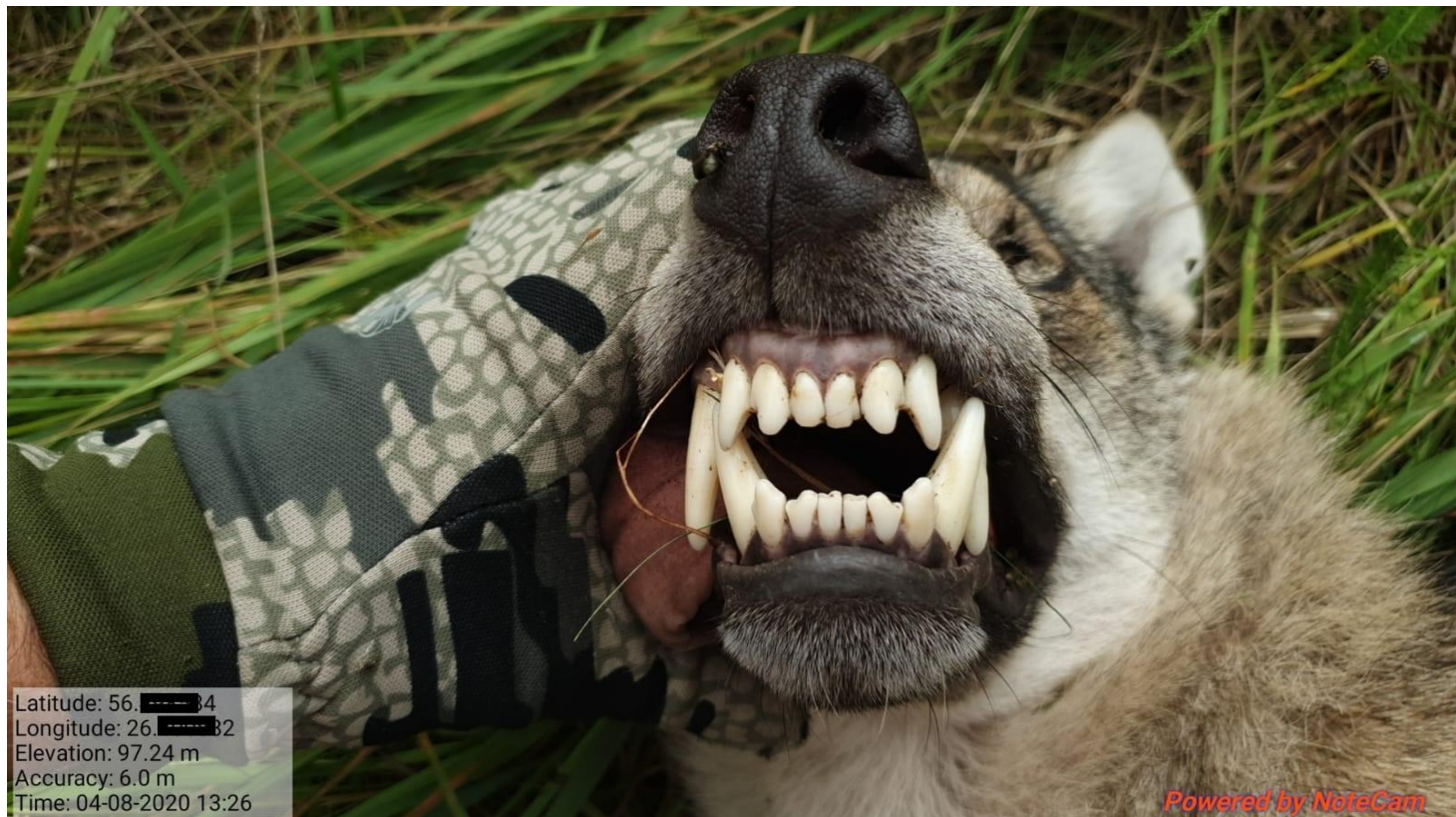




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Hunting requirements

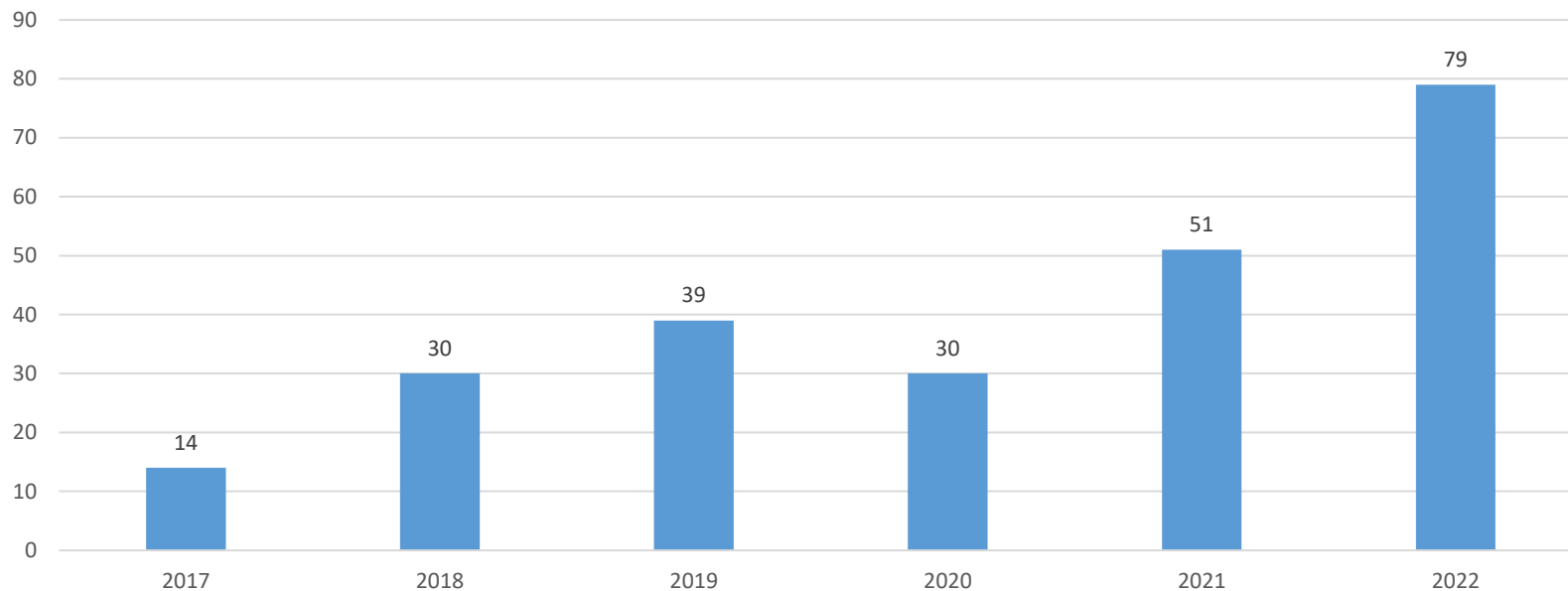
- On the spot: **wolf teeth photo** including date and GPS
- **E-mailing the photo to SFS**, along with wolf sex/age info and hunter contact data
- **SFS can adjust** wolf limit and/or hunting requirements
- For the **last 10 wolves**, hunting must be coordinated with SFS





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Wolf attacks on domestic animals confirmed by SFS in 2017-2022



No financial compensations for wolf damage and/or prevention measures

Actual number of wolf attacks can be larger



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Confirmed wolf damage

(mostly sheep, though attacks on dogs, goats and cattle also are recorded)

2021 - **51 attacks**

Killed: 129 sheep, 7 cattle, 5 dogs, 5 red deer in fenced area

Wounded: 22 sheep, 1 goat

Lost: 13 sheep

Total number of domestic animals damaged: **182**

2022 – **79 attacks**

Killed: 256 sheep, 5 cattle, 10 goats, 4 dogs

Wounded: 102 sheep, 1 cattle, 4 goats

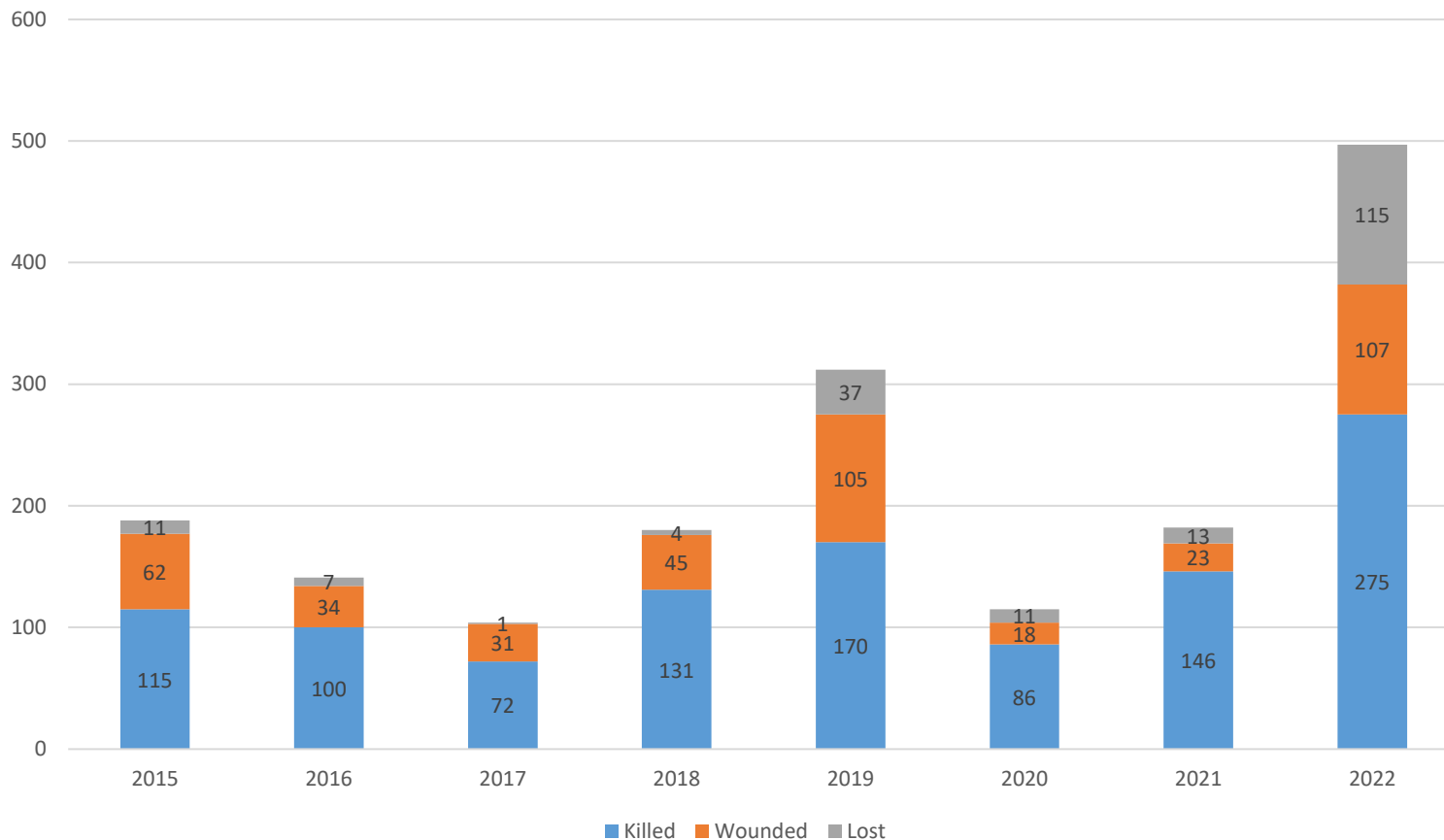
Lost: 113 sheep, 1 goat, 1 dog

Total number of domestic animals damaged: **497**



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Confirmed wolf damage 2015-2022 (domestic animals killed, wounded and lost)





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Thank You for Your attention!