

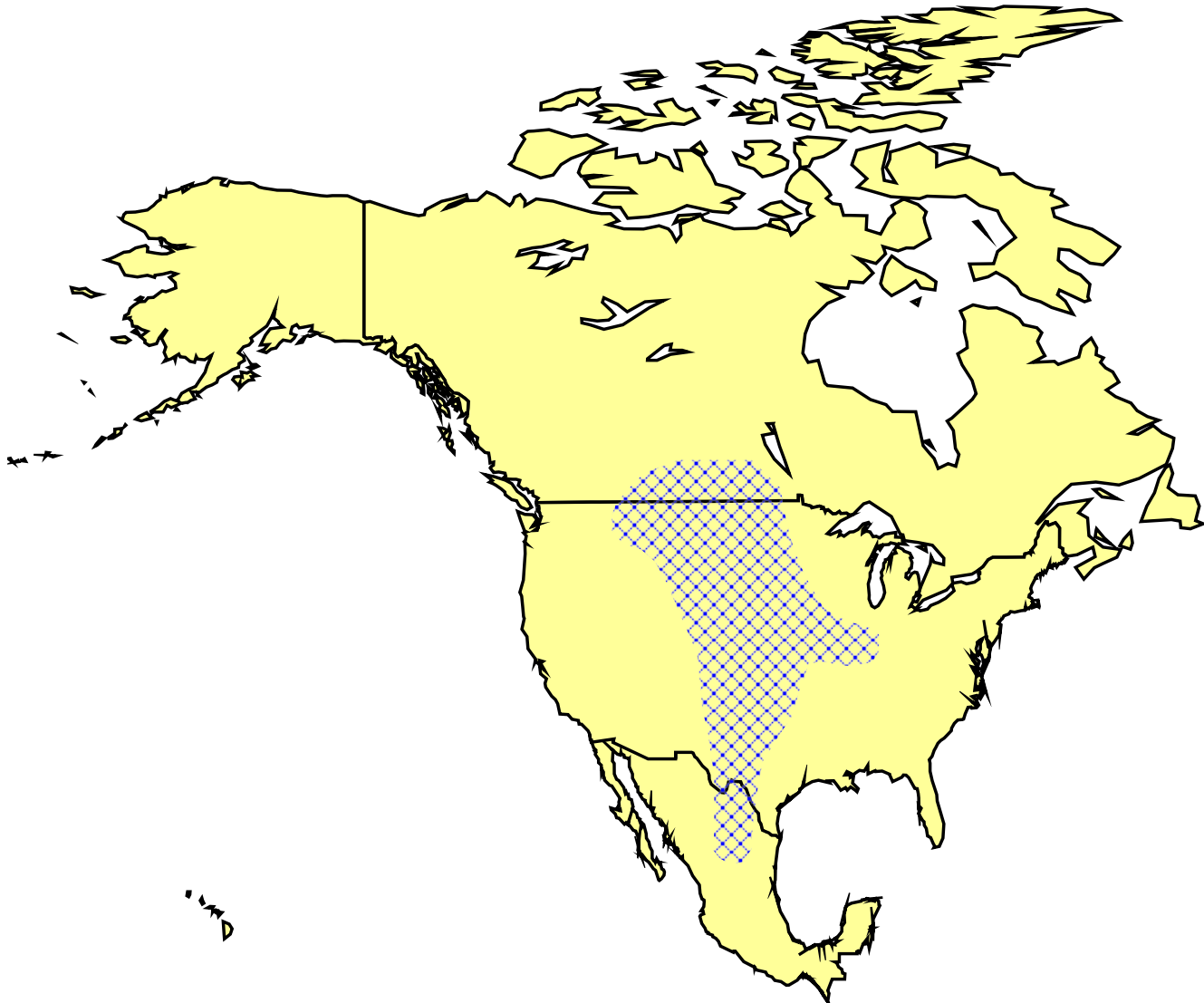
# Coyotes in North Carolina

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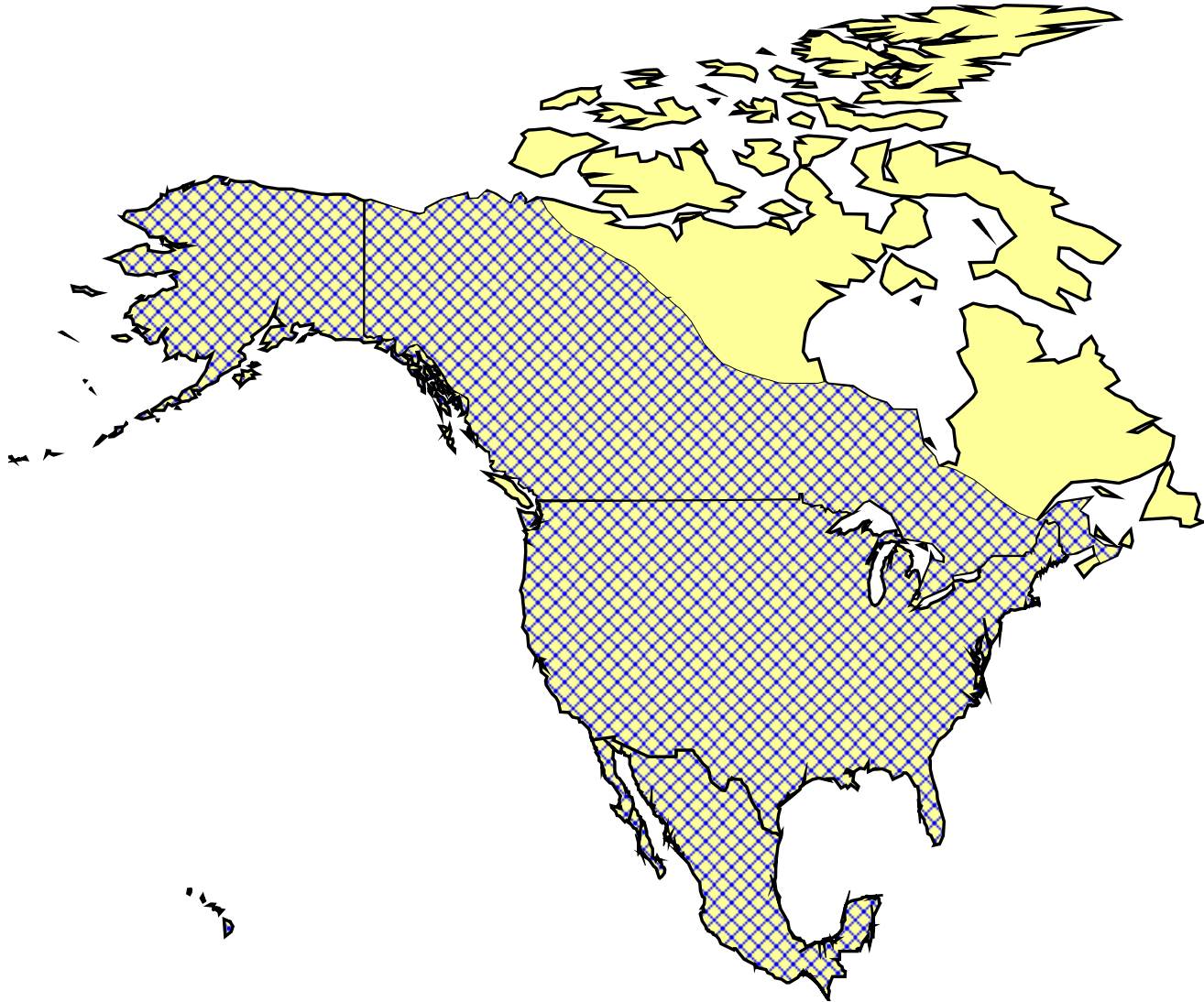


*History, Distribution, and Status*

# North American Coyote Distribution: Prior to European Settlement



# North American Coyote Distribution: Current



# Coyotes in North Carolina



# Description



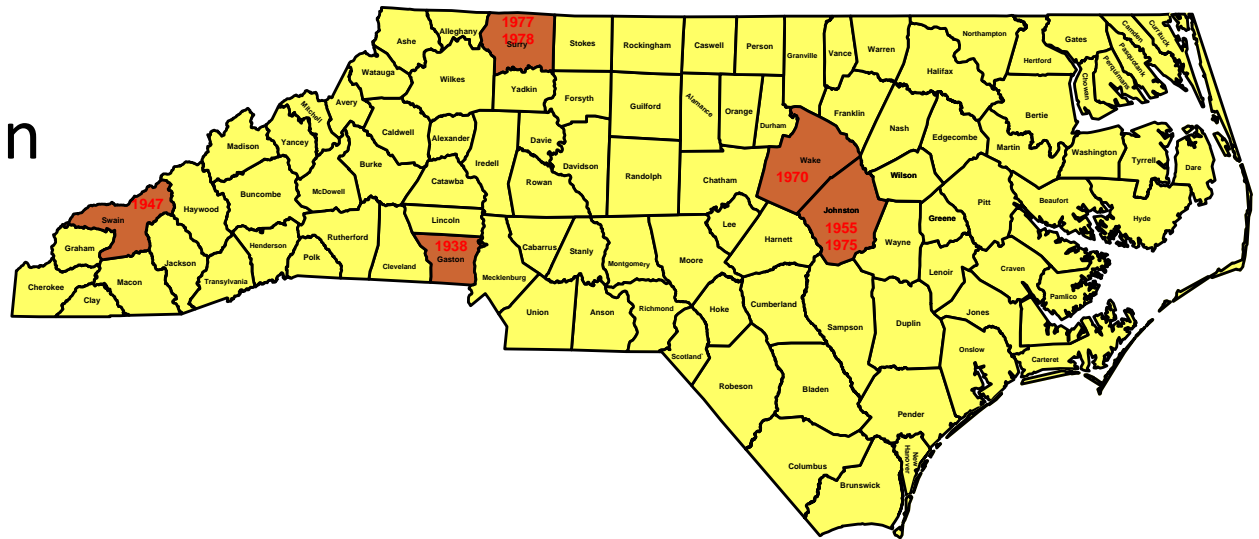
Typically 25-40 pounds



Variation in color

# NC Coyotes: Prior to 1983

- 1938: Gaston
- 1947: Swain
- 1955: Johnston
- 1970: Wake
- 1977: Surry
- 1978: Surry



# Coyotes Spread across the Southeast

- Louisiana: late 1940s
- Arkansas: 1960s
- East of the Mississippi River
  - 1970s through 1980s
  - Expedited by merging local populations from coyotes released to chase with hounds





# Coyotes in NC: Post-1983

- Collection of reliable reports & specimens helped track coyotes in North Carolina
- Populations first established in eastern part of state obviously from illegal translocations
- 1988–1990: First natural migration into western counties
- After 1996: All populations merged together

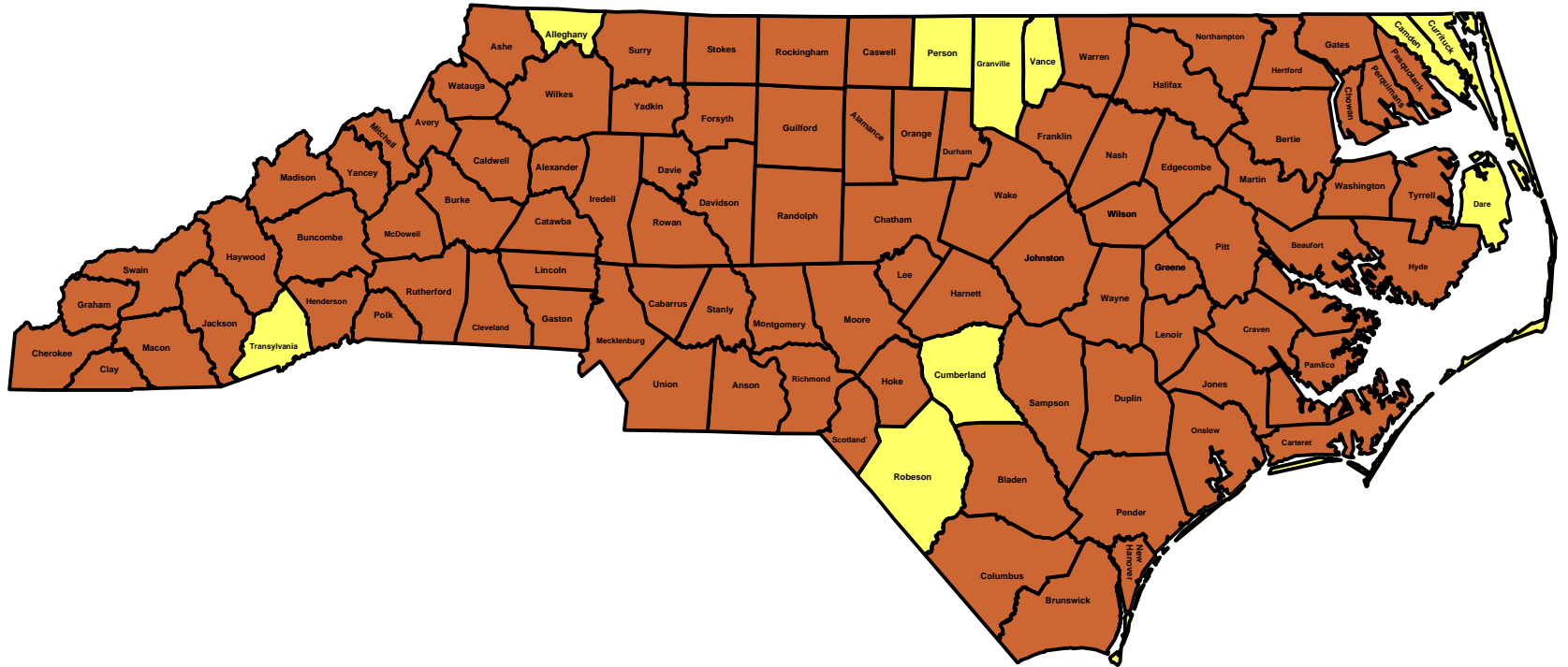








# Coyote Occurrences 2000

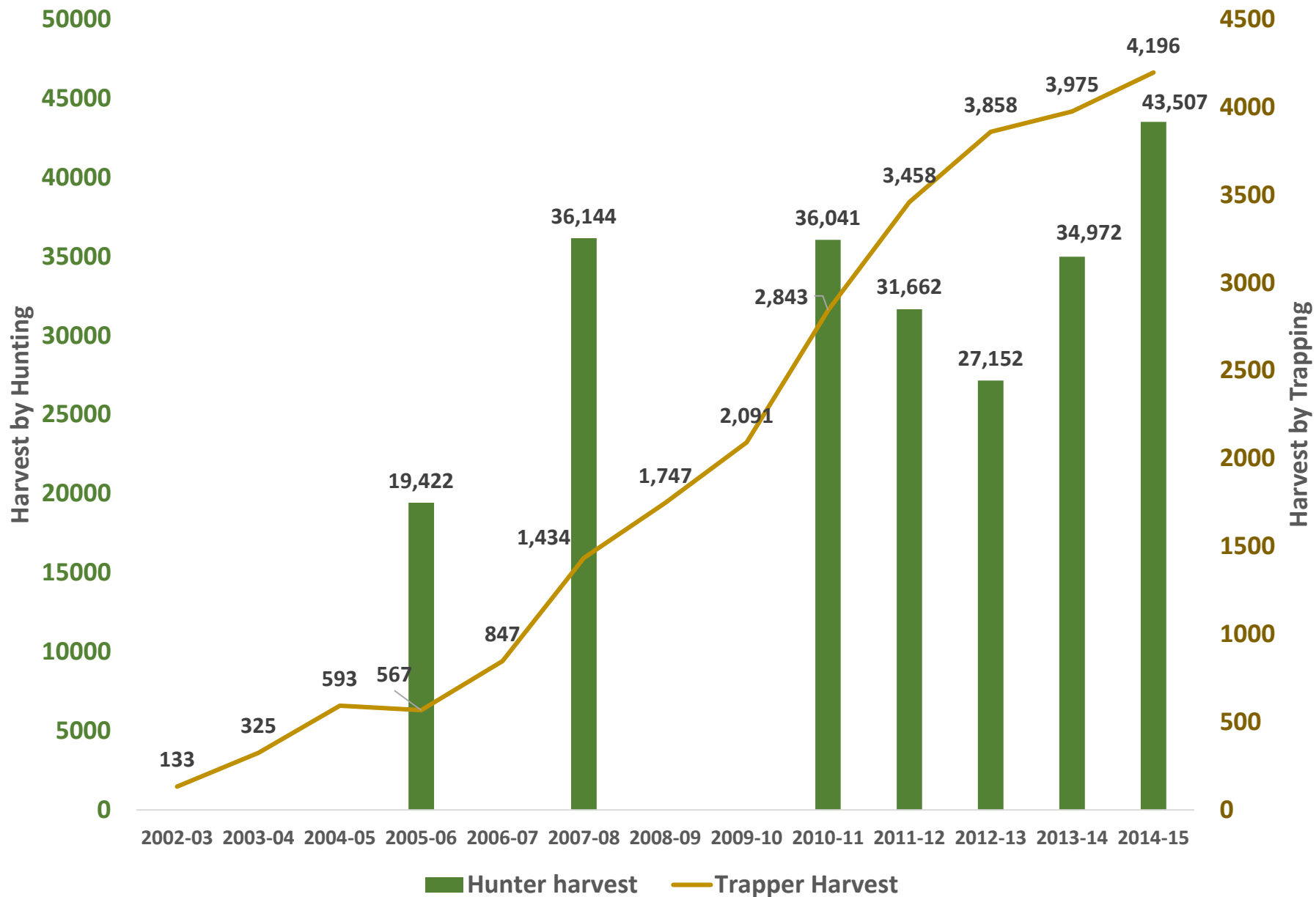




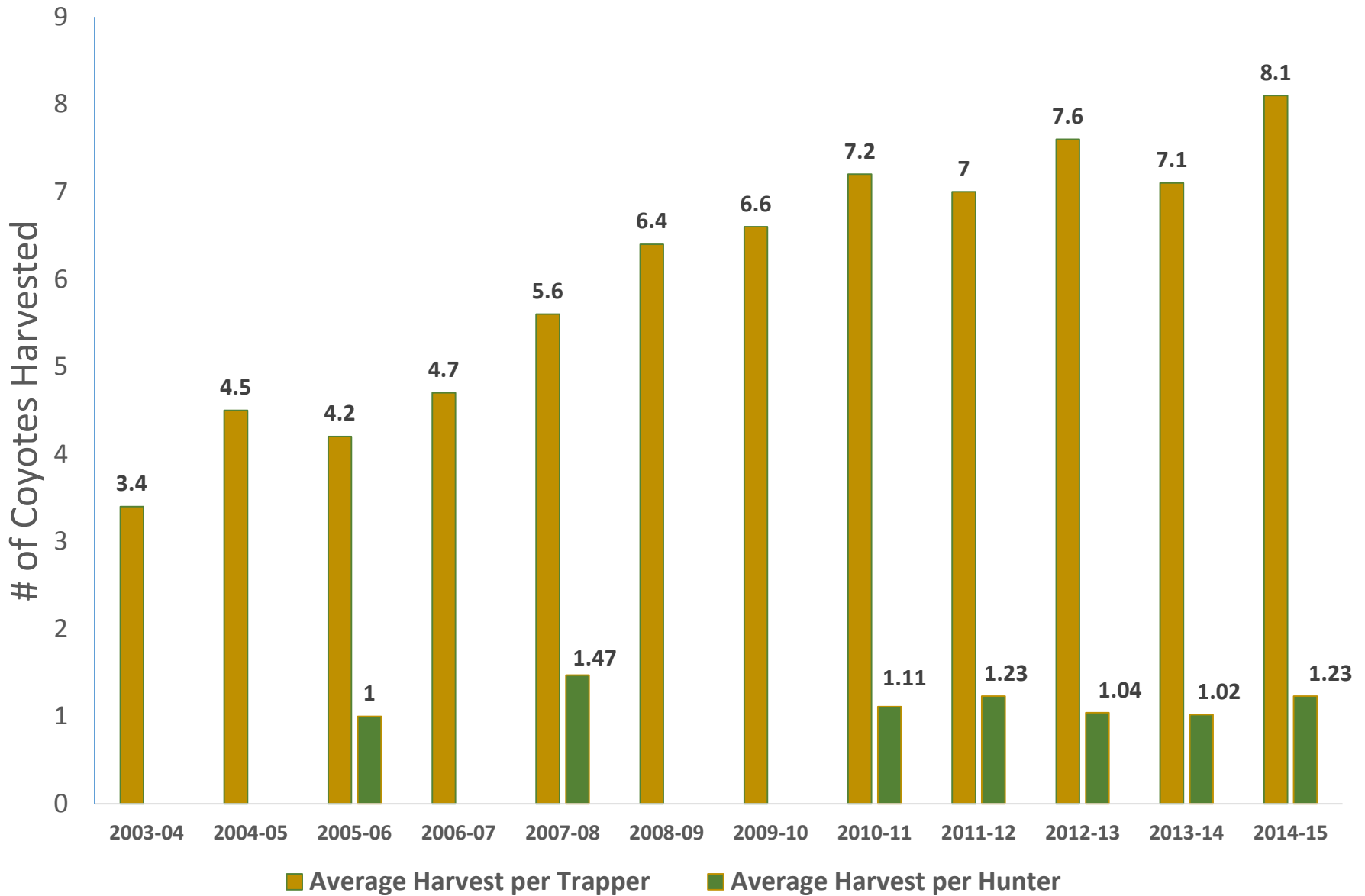




# Estimated Coyote Harvest by Method



# Average Coyote Harvest by Method



# Adaptability

- Habitat
- Food Habits
- Behavior



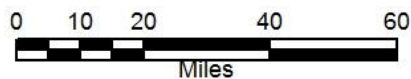
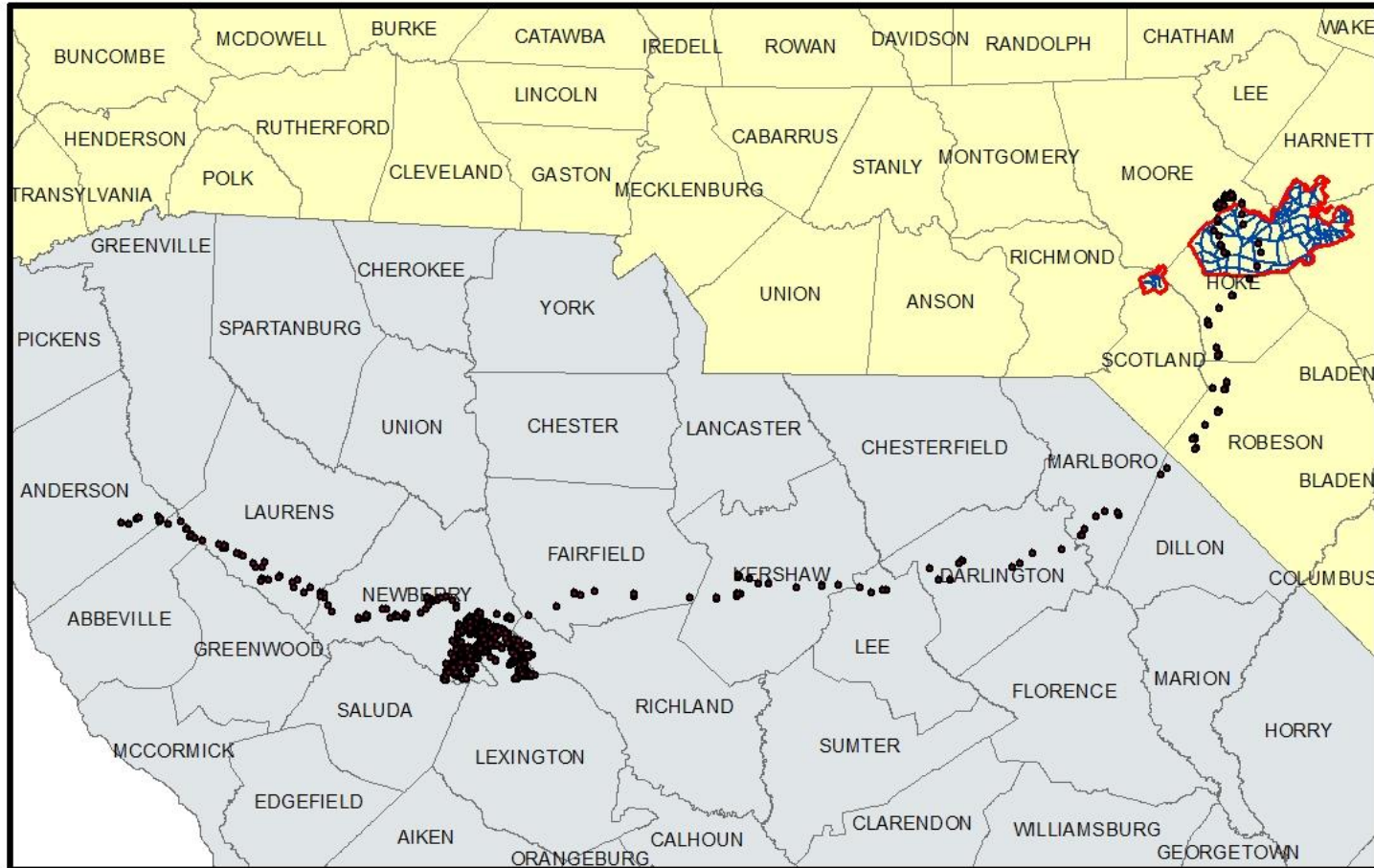
# Diet estimates of coyotes

<b>Albermarle Peninsula Diets (scats)</b>	
<b>Diet Item</b>	<b>Percent Occurrence</b>
Small rodents	32.7%
Rabbits	29.7%
White-tailed deer	24.8%
Other mammals	7.9%
Vegetation	3.0%
Other	2.0%

<b>Fort Bragg Diets (scats)</b>	
<b>Diet Item</b>	<b>Percent Occurrence</b>
Soft mast	40.7%
Insects	21.4%
White-tailed deer	8.0%
Small rodents	7.6%
Trash	5.9%
Rabbits	5.3%

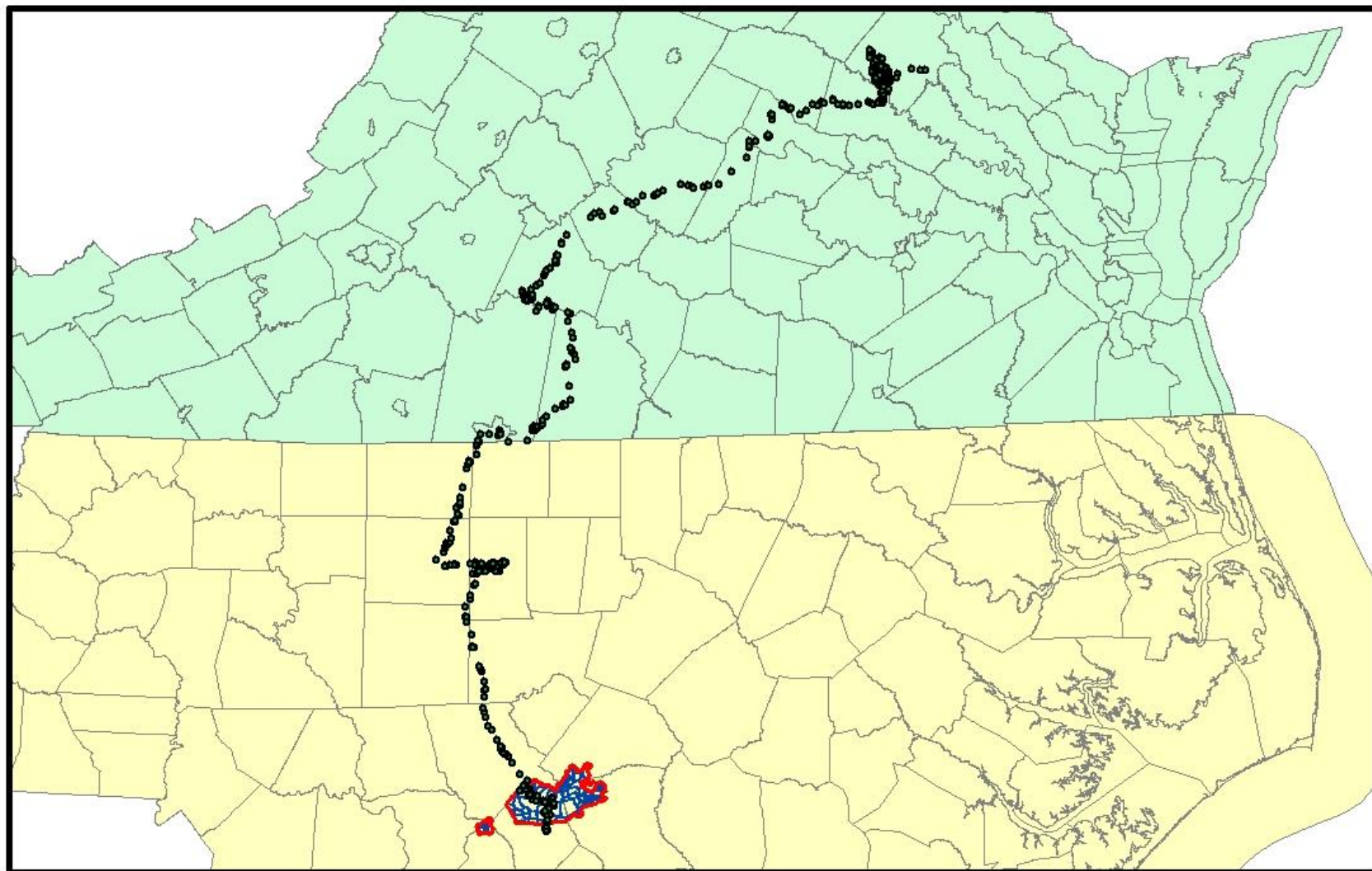
# Coyote Dispersal

30819 - Female, Subadult





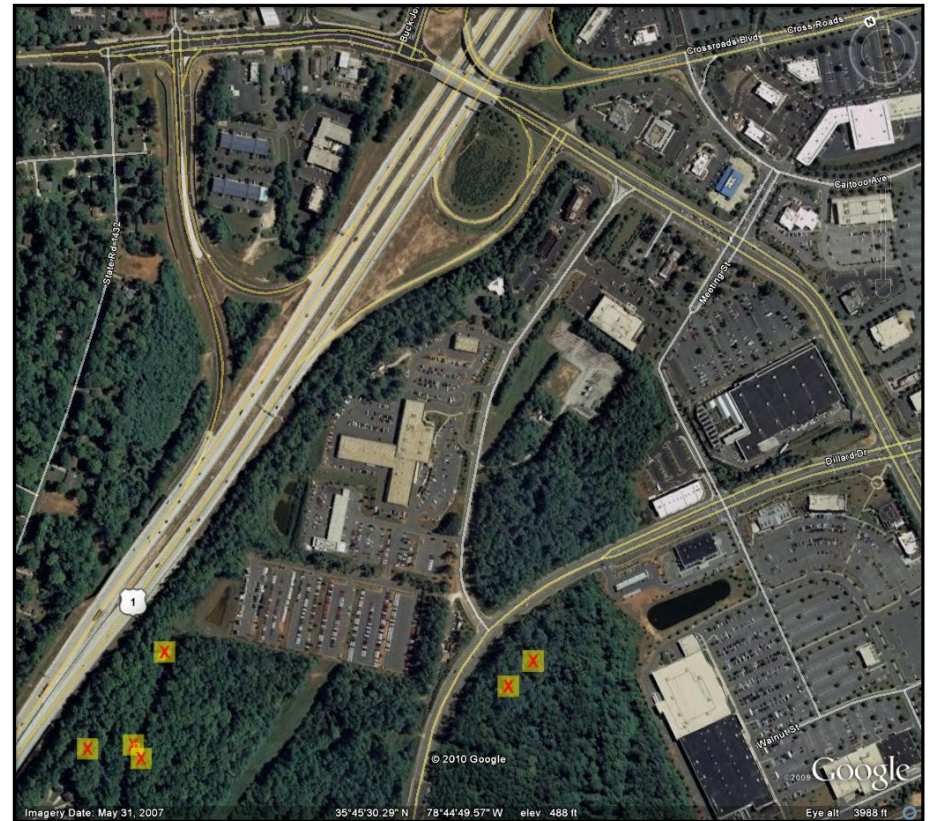
# 30850 - Female, Juvenile



0 25 50 100 150  
Miles

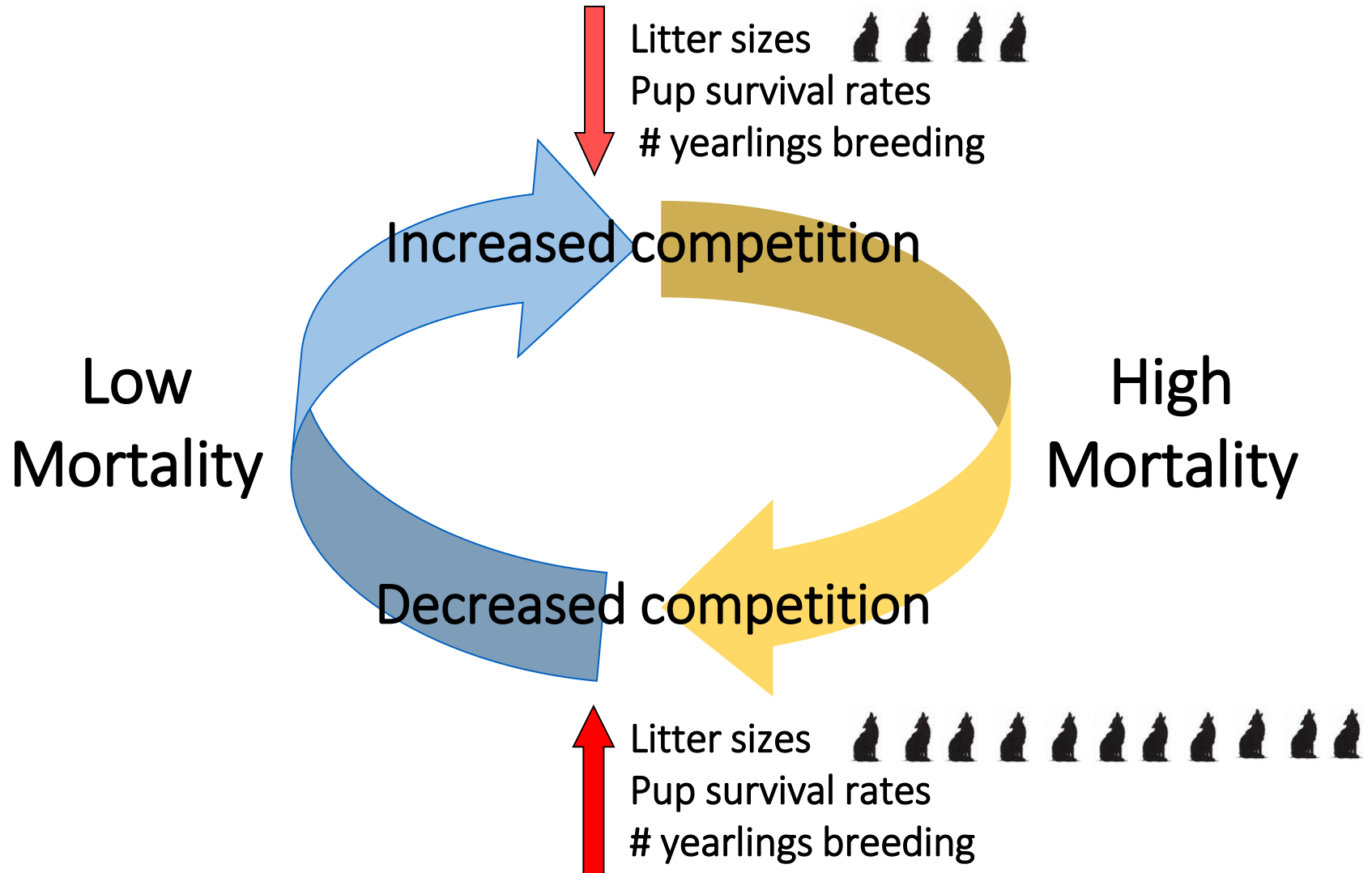


# Coyotes in Urban Areas



# Adaptability to Mortality

1. Vehicle
2. Disease
3. Harvest



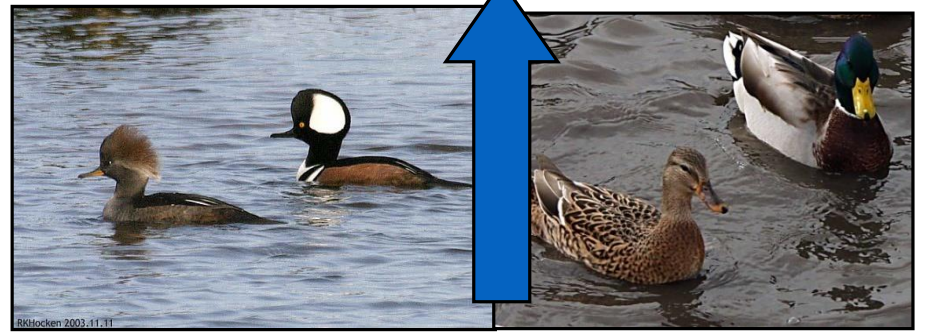
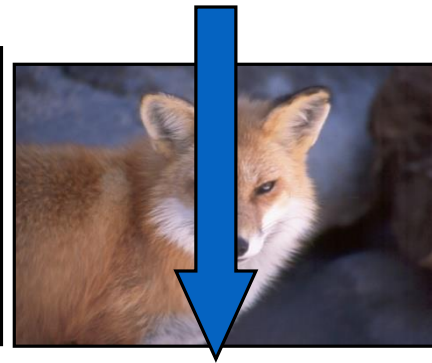
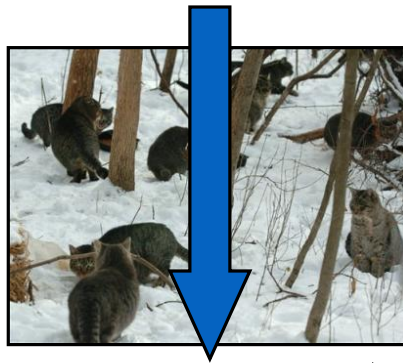
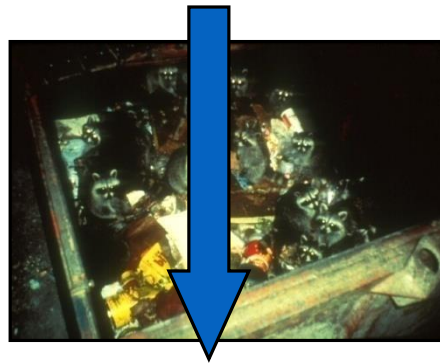
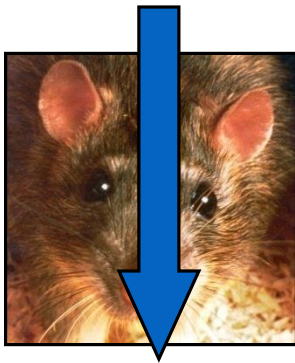


# Coyote Interactions in NC



# Coyote-Wildlife Interactions

- Impacts are likely to be minimal to beneficial overall
- Ecological Role



# Coyote-Wildlife Interactions

- Coyotes may have impacts if prey populations are low due to other factors
  - Unlikely as coyotes switch to whatever is most abundant
    - This seems to hold true for deer
- Red foxes are probably the only species that could be adversely impacted by coyotes

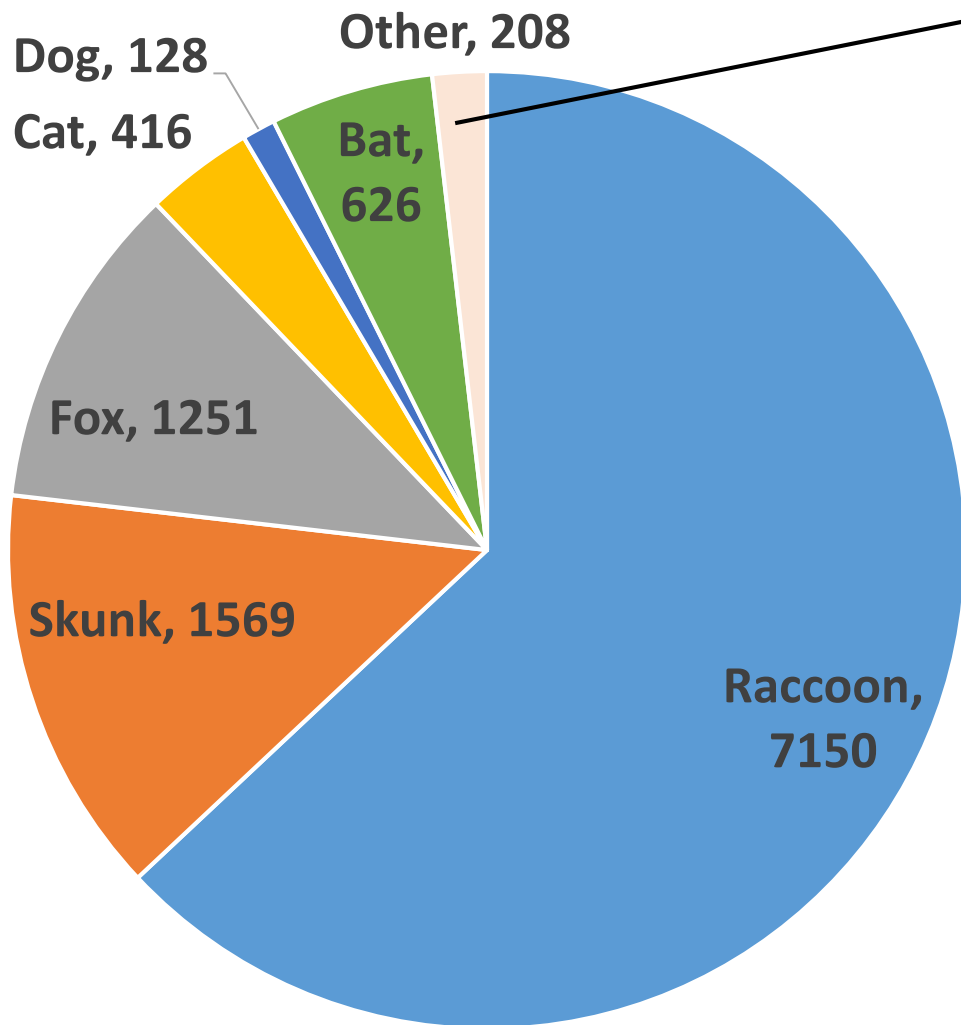


# Coyote-Human Interactions

- Various concerns associated with coyotes:
  - Diseases
  - Depredation
  - Human Safety



# Rabies (1990-2015)



- OTHER (208)**
- 64-COW
  - 58-BOBCAT
  - 34-EQUINE
  - 14-COYOTE**
  - 10-GOAT
  - 9-GROUNDHOG
  - 6-BEAVER
  - 4-DEER
  - 3-RABBIT
  - 3-OPOSSUM
  - 1-FERRET
  - 1-OTTER

# Urban Coyote-Human Interactions

- Conflicts:

- Attracted to unsecure food

- Pets
    - Pet food
    - Bird seed
    - Garbage

- Begin to associate humans with food

- Will adapt to living among people where they are not harassed

- Attacks are rare; no unprovoked attacks in NC





# Rural Coyote-Human Interactions

- Depredation a concern with livestock
- Predation (all species) accounts for:
  - 39% of all sheep and goat losses (nationally)
  - 5.5% of all cattle losses (nationally)



# Rural Coyote-Human Interactions

- Livestock Damage:
  - Pre-2000: Dogs blamed
  - Post-2000: Coyotes blamed
  - Reality: **Both** responsible
  - Not all coyotes kill livestock
- Unconfined & unprotected livestock vulnerable
- Husbandry practices important





# Tools for Preventing/Resolving Conflicts

## Non-lethal:

1. Education
2. Tolerance
3. Modifying Human Behavior
  - Removal of attractant
  - Leashing dogs
  - Cats indoor
  - Husbandry practices

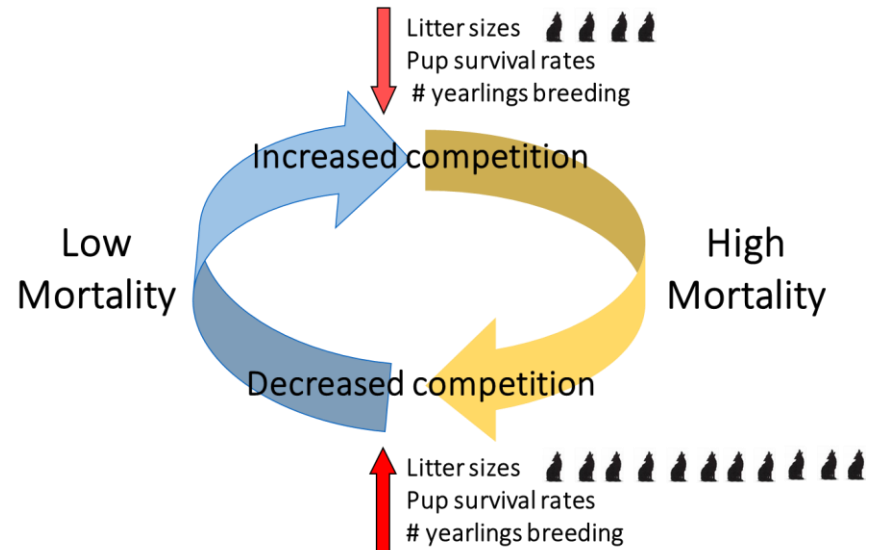
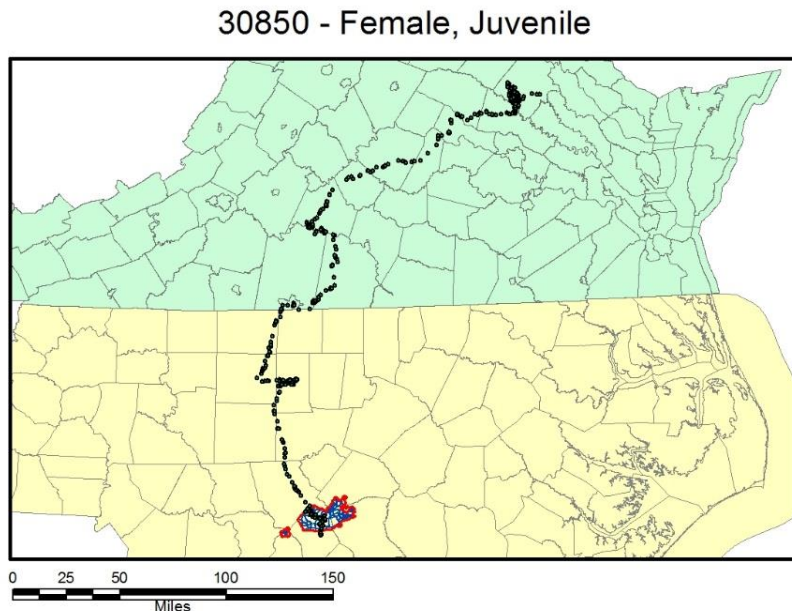
## Lethal



# Eradication?

- To cause and maintain population decline:
  - Remove 70% annually
  - Coyotes will return

## Not possible or needed



# Bounties

- They don't work
- Target <5% of coyote population
- Paying people who are already catching coyotes
- Rampant fraud
  - Coyotes “grow wheels” (out-of-state & out-of-county)
  - Can buy parts/pieces online
- Cost 10s of thousands
- Don't target the problem animals
  - Many states have tried, all have failed

# Managing Coyotes is Important

- Must use integrated approach
- Population management  $\neq$  damage management

You can help us document coyote trends!

Hunter, Trapper, and Hunter Observation surveys

