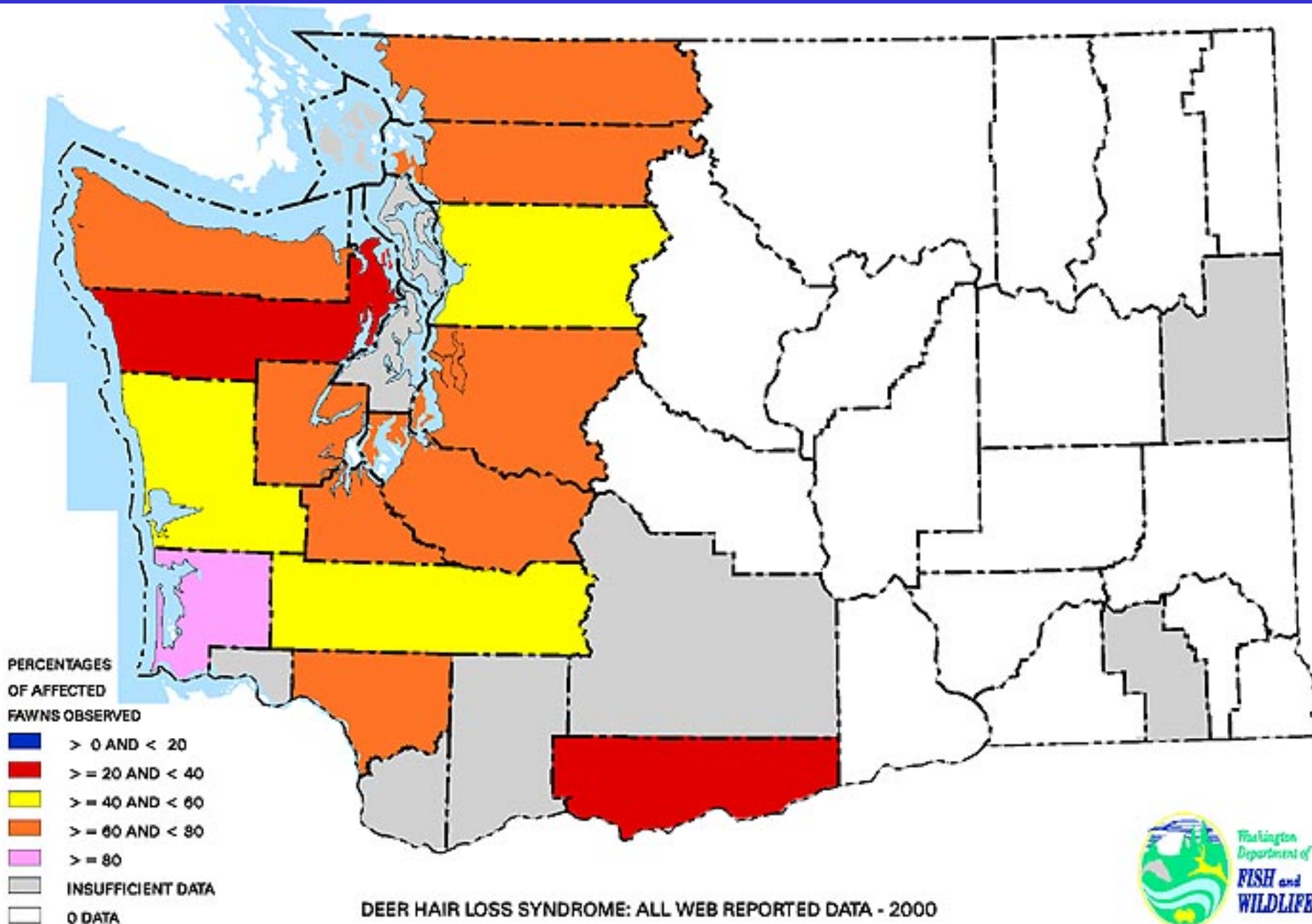


History of Hair Loss Syndrome in *Deer* in Yakima/Kittitas Counties



Westside HLS From Sika Deer Louse



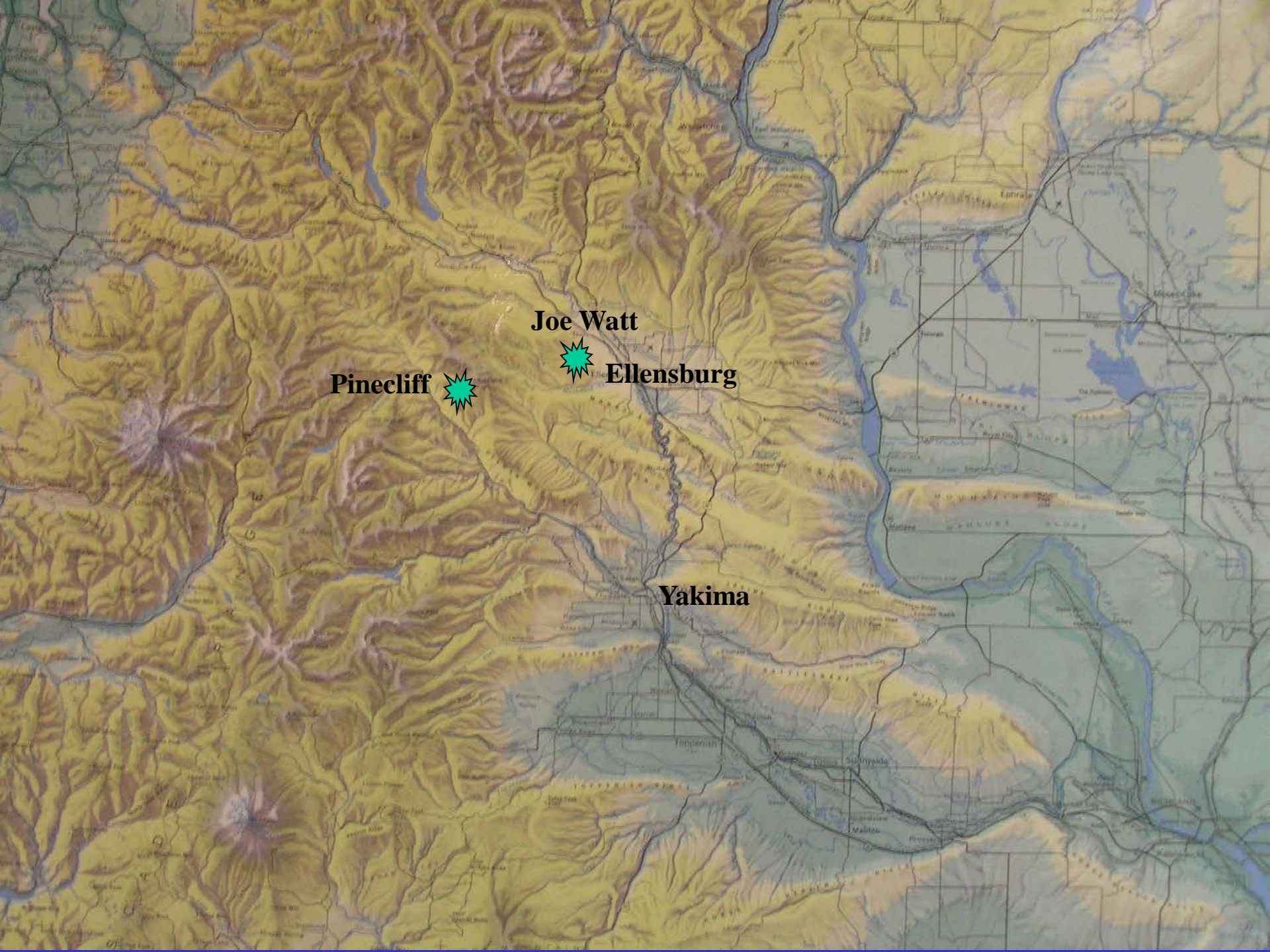




February 2003 – Pinecliff Area of Highway 410

Joe Watt Canyon Spring 2004





Pinecliff



Joe Watt



Ellensburg

Yakima



Darted Deer in February 2005



Keds



Ticks



Fleas



Lice



Fallow Deer Lice – *Bovicola tibialis*



- Different louse than found in Western WA.
- Exotic louse, first observation in WA.
- 1940's Vancouver Island, B.C. in Black-tailed deer w/ Fallow
- 1954 Vancouver B.C., captive B.T. deer
- 1973 Mendocino Co. CA., B.T. deer with Fallow
- 1983 New Mexico on captive Axis deer
- 2004 on Fallow deer in Oregon

What did the Experts Know about *Bovicola tibialis*



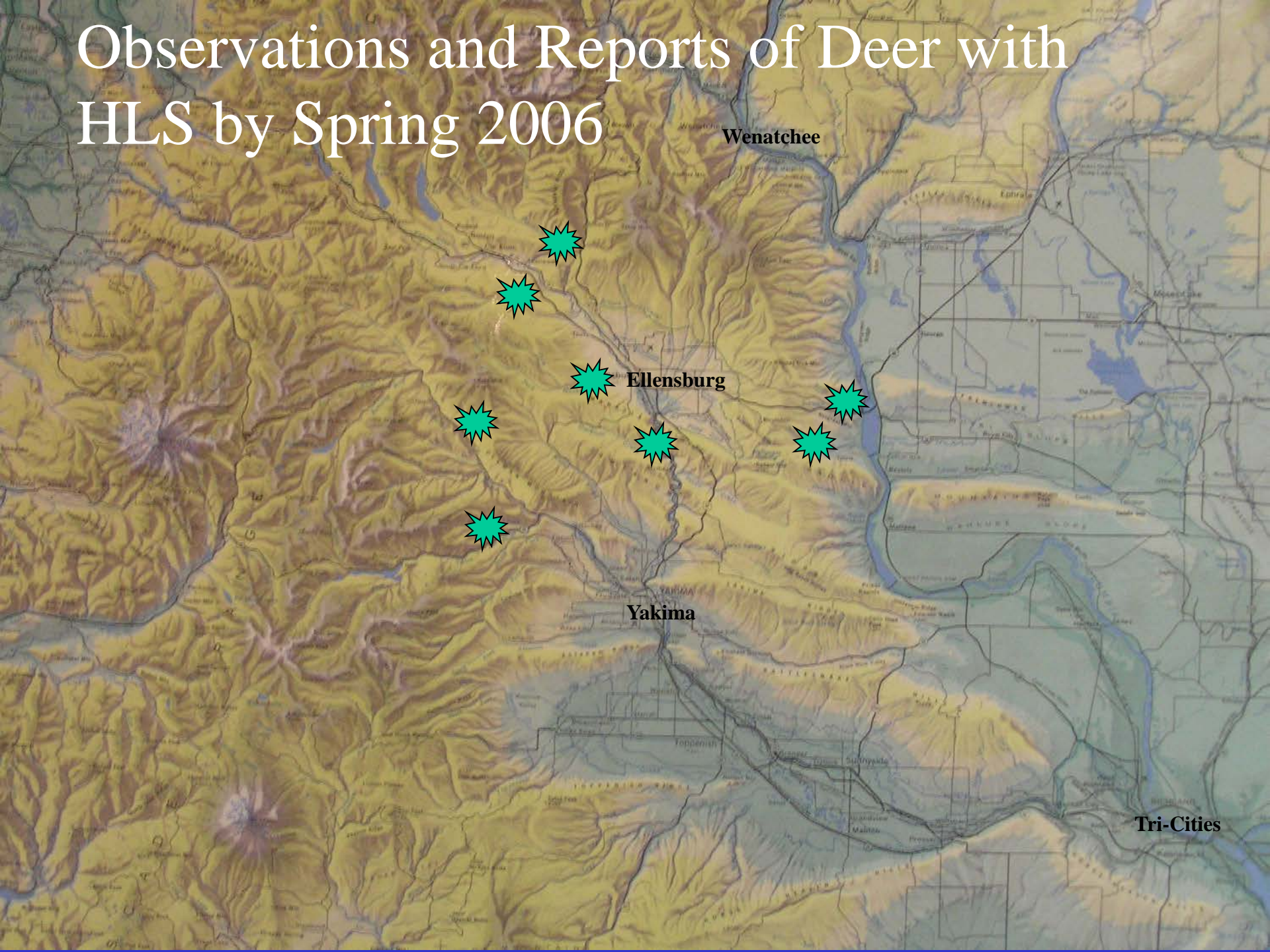
- *Pathogenic*
- *Very unusual on wild animals*
- *Had not been reported to cause serious problems anywhere*
- *Lice are typically host specific (i.e. deer)*
- *Will not jump to domestic stock, pets, etc.*

Obvious problem by March 2006 – more lice collected

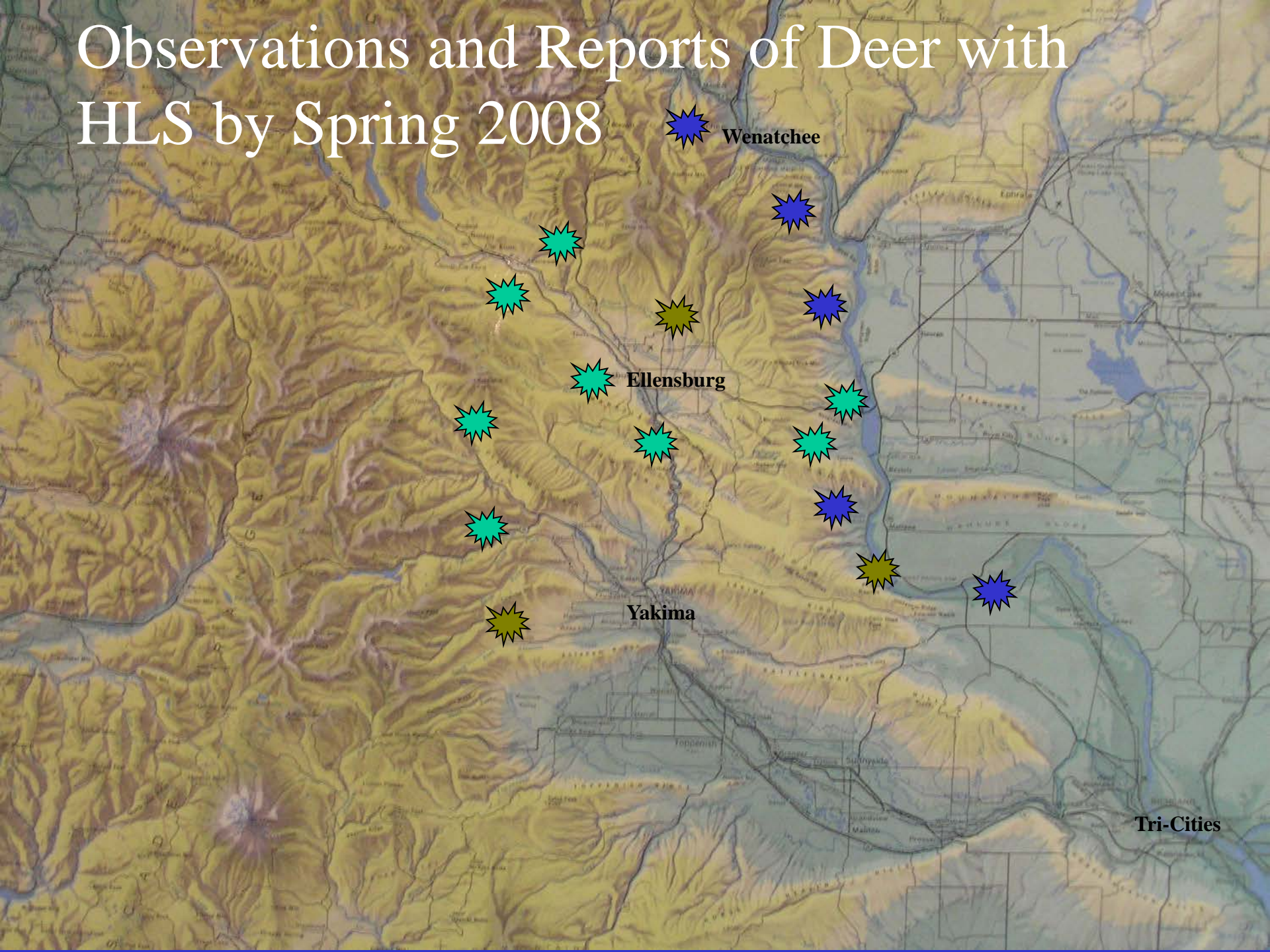
All were fallow deer lice – *Bovicola tibialis*



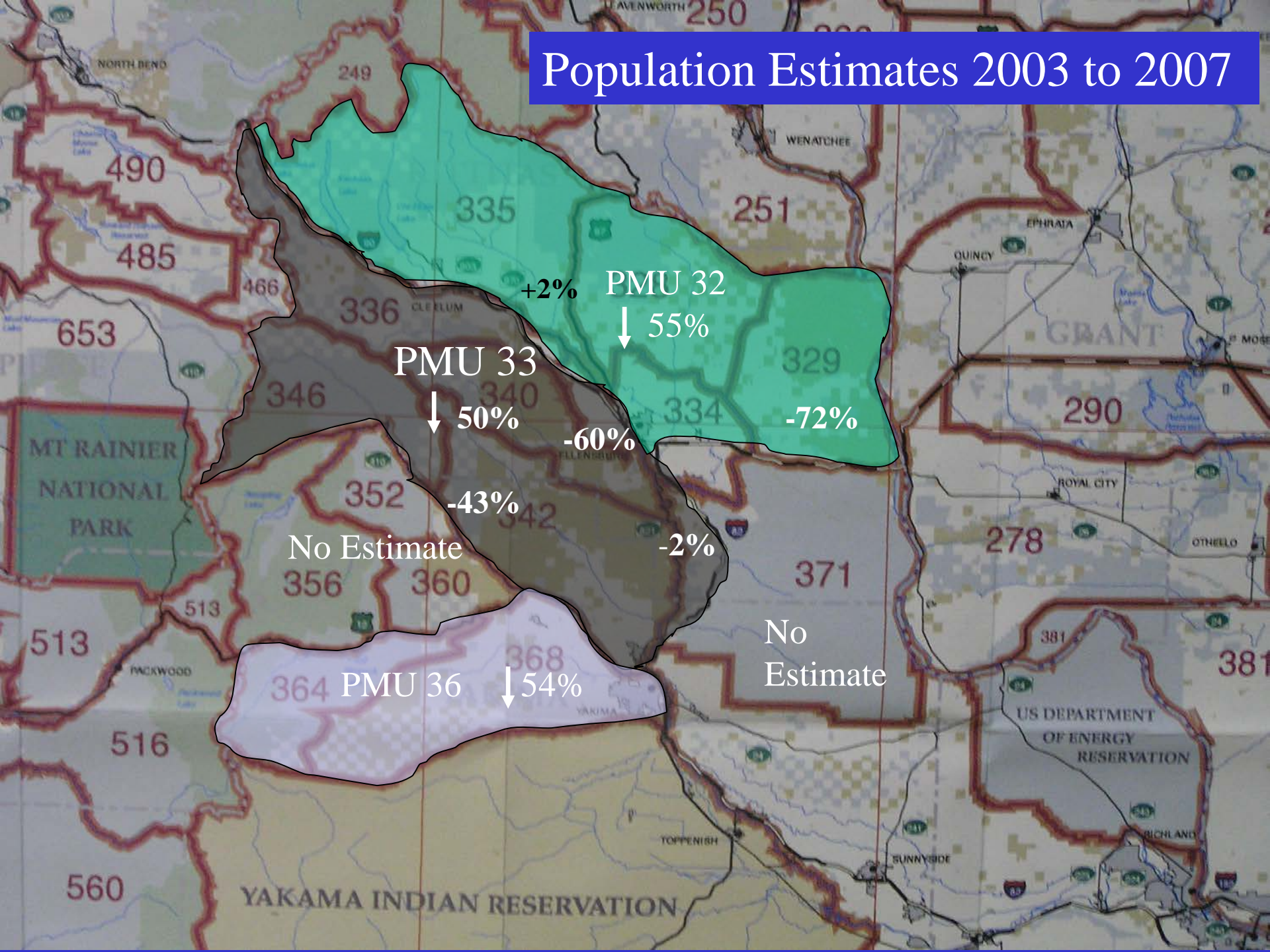
Observations and Reports of Deer with HLS by Spring 2006



Observations and Reports of Deer with HLS by Spring 2008



Population Estimates 2003 to 2007



What Do We Know



- Fallow deer louse (so far)
- Lice/HLS only obvious in late winter - spring
- Impacts black-tailed and mule deer equally
- Appears to be spreading
- Deer surveys and harvest indicates ~50% population decline
- Need a lot more information

What Else Do I Think?



- Nutrition and condition of deer maybe predisposing factor
- Fawn are impacted most significantly
- Mortality is distributed February - May
- Sika deer louse is probably coming
- Deer population recovery is not likely in near future
- Will not impact elk

Management Options

- Try to treat the deer with antiparasitic
- USDA approach (quarantine and remove)
- Be conservative with harvest
- Not possible on large scale
- Not very popular, especially without more data
- Hope survivors have some resistance

What's The Plan



- Educate, but not alarm
- Collect more deer and necropsy
- Potential web based reporting