

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Update

July – September 2018



Field Work and Monitoring

Lassen pack

The Lassen pack continues to occupy its territory in western Lassen and Plumas counties. The pack used summer pup rearing sites differently than in 2017 – the wolves used fewer rendezvous sites and those sites used were generally nearer to the den site. The mid-August pack count was a minimum of 2 adult wolves, 2 yearlings, and 5 pups.

Uncollared black wolf (southern Lassen County)

A black wolf continues to be observed occasionally within the Lassen pack home range. Although this wolf is not known to be a member of the Lassen pack, it sometimes uses areas within the pack's territory and has been photographed in close proximity to pack members. Pending genetic analysis of biological samples may provide information on the origin of this wolf.

Uncollared black wolf (northern Lassen County/southern Modoc County)

A black wolf was photographed by a private trail camera in northern Lassen County in both August and September. In September, CDFW observed what appeared to be wolf tracks nearby in southern Modoc County. This wolf appears likely to be the same wolf that was photographed in northern Lassen County in April. In August, CDFW also received a trail camera photo taken in April in southern Modoc County that may be the same wolf. CDFW continues its efforts to obtain and analyze genetic material from this wolf.

Dispersing wolves

OR-44

OR-44's collar has failed and his whereabouts are unknown. His last known location was in Siskiyou County on May 28.

OR-54

OR-54 spent much of the summer months in Sierra and southern Plumas counties, including the vicinity of Sierra Valley. In late summer she had one three-week foray that took her through the Lassen Pack territory and into Butte County before she returned to the Plumas/Sierra area. Near the end of September, she again passed through the Lassen Pack territory as she traversed portions of western Lassen and northern Plumas counties. OR-54 has travelled more than 1,500 miles in California.

Dispersing wolves are not settled within a territory, and as such, their movements are unpredictable. They often cover great distances within a 24-hour period. If these wolves remain at or repeatedly visit areas of concentrated livestock use or other sites that cause management concern, CDFW attempts to notify those landowners and producers in the immediate area.

Other

An uncollared dead wolf was found in Lassen county on September 5, and the mortality is currently under investigation.

Sighting Reports

CDFW continues to receive and investigate reports of wolf presence from many parts of California. Public reports are an important tool for us. Please report wolves or wolf sign on the CDFW Gray Wolf web page: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report.

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Livestock Interactions

Depredation Investigations

CDFW and/or USDA Wildlife Services (WS) staff investigated seven reports of suspected wolf depredations. The results are as follows:

| Date | Determination ¹ | County | Investigators |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| 7/1/2018 | Other | Lassen | CDFW / WS |
| 8/15/2018 | Confirmed wolf | Lassen | CDFW / WS |
| 8/19/2018 | Other | Lassen | CDFW / WS |
| 9/7/2018 | Confirmed wolf | Lassen | CDFW / WS |
| 9/14/2018 | Possible/Unknown | Lassen | CDFW |
| 9/19/2018 | Confirmed wolf | Lassen | CDFW / WS |
| 9/27/2018 | Other | Plumas | CDFW / WS |

¹ "Other" denotes cause of death other than wolf. "Possible/Unknown" indicates the cause of death could not be determined and/or wolf depredation possibly occurred.

Individual Determination reports are available at www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf

Use of Non-Lethal Deterrents

On Aug 16, approximately 1 mile of electrified fladry ("turbo fladry") was set up by WS and CDFW staff on a private grazing lease property. After it was determined that the local afternoon winds caused a significant maintenance problem, WS staff installed an additional 2.5 miles of fladry in the same area on August 31.

Communication

CDFW biologists have been in regular and frequent communication and coordination with CDFW wardens, WS, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), livestock producers, range riders, conservation organizations, and private timberland owners and managers.

Presentations

- July 9 – Trail camera and wolf monitoring workshop, The Wildlife Society (Mineral)
- July 10 – Wolf Update, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors (Yreka)
- July 12 – Wolf Update, Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission (Tulelake)
- July 13 – Trail camera and wolf monitoring workshop for the USFS and WS personnel, (Burnt Camp, Siskiyou County)
- July 16 – Wolf Update, USFS Red Bluff Hatchery personnel (Red Bluff)
- July 17 – Wolf Update, Plumas County Board of Supervisors (Quincy)
- August 28 – Town Hall Meeting regarding wolves (Calpine)

Other Activities

- July 24 – CDFW Wolf Specialist attended the Rustici Rangeland Tour (Beckwourth)
- August 30 – Coordination meeting with CDFW and WS (Redding)
- September 21 – Interagency Coordination meeting with CDFW, WS, and USFS (Redding).