

# Quarterly Update

April 1<sup>1</sup>, 2017 – September 30, 2017

## Field Work

### Lassen pack

**Reconnaissance** – From May through June, biologists surveyed for wolf presence and identified a 40 mi<sup>2</sup> area being used regularly by the Lassen pair. We began trapping on 6/7, and after two separate trapping efforts totaling 12 days, we captured and collared an adult female wolf on 6/30. On the next day, we documented a minimum of four pups.

From July through September biologists monitored the wolf using her GPS collar and shifted work to 1) monitor pack demographics with trail cameras, 2) assess habitat use and ecology by GPS locations, and 3) assess habitat use, ecology, and genetic information by visiting and collecting data at previously-vacated den and rendezvous sites.

**Results** - The pack continued to use its den site until 7/17 at which time they moved the pups 2.25 mi away to their first rendezvous site. The pack then moved the pups nine different times between four different rendezvous sites, ranging from 5-8 mi between moves. On 9/8, the pups began to travel regularly with the adults. In mid-September, we documented sign of at least 1-2 pups.

### Other wolves

**Reconnaissance** - 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: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report>. We also continue to operate trail cameras and conduct field surveys in eastern Siskiyou County, in the general area used by the old Shasta Pack in 2015.

**Results** – In May, we received genetic results indicating that scats collected in January in eastern Siskiyou County were from a female wolf born in Oregon in 2014. We have not subsequently detected that wolf or other wolves in Siskiyou County, but several of our field partners have reported potential tracks and scat, and a US Forest Service trail camera photographed what is apparently a wolf in July. We submitted a scat collected by one of our field partners for DNA analysis, but have not yet received the results.

## Communication

DFW biologists have been in regular and frequent communication and coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Wildlife Services, US Forest Service, livestock producers, range riders, conservation organizations, and private timberland owners and managers.

Presentations include:

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<sup>1</sup> \* DFW intends to provide quarterly wolf updates. This first effort includes work news from the previous two quarters.

- 6/21/17: CDFW Northern Enforcement Districts wardens, Greenville
- 8/25/17: Public Lands Council of the California Cattlemen's Association, Susanville
- 9/21/17: Lassen County Fish and Game Advisory Commission, Susanville

## **Other Activities**

- CDFW Biologists assisted CDFW and USFWS Law Enforcement investigating three different reports of dead wolves during this period. All three were domestic dogs.
- CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services coinvestigated four individual cattle carcasses that were thought to be possible wolf kills. We concluded that the cause of death of three of the carcasses was not predation. Too little remained of the fourth carcass to determine whether it had been predated. Summaries of those investigations can be found on the CDFW Gray Wolf web page: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf>
- Two DFW biologists attended Range Rider training in Tom Miner Basin, MT