

Quarterly Update

October 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Field Work

Lassen pack

From October – December biologists routinely monitored satellite collar GPS locations and visited areas frequented by wolves to collect information regarding diet and landscape use.

In October, a black wolf appeared to have either joined or became loosely affiliated with the pack. Toward the end of the year it appeared to no longer be traveling with the pack, but may still be in the area.

Genetic results confirmed the breeding members of the pack are the same wolves documented traveling together in Lassen County the previous year. Testing also individually identified three (2 females and 1 male) of the four pups born in 2017. Additional samples have been submitted to genetically identify the fourth pup and hopefully provide information about the origins of the black wolf.

CDFW and Wildlife Services conducted 10 investigations of 11 injured and dead animals to determine if wolves were involved. Results of those investigations include

- 1 calf confirmed killed by wolves
- 1 calf probably killed by wolves
- 1 adult cow possibly injured by wolves
- 3 calves and 1 adult cow that died from natural causes
- 1 calf and 1 adult cow unknown if killed by wolves
- 1 chicken killed (and 2 missing), and 1 duck injured by a domestic dog

Reports summarizing each of these investigations are located at

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf>

Other wolves

Other than the black wolf mentioned above, there is no significant news to report. Biologists continued to run numerous trail cameras in the old Shasta Pack territory in eastern Siskiyou County, but detected no wolves.

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.

Communication

DFW biologists have been in regular and frequent communication and coordination with DFW wardens, 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:

- 10/4/17 – Rotary Club, Susanville
- 10/13/17 – Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Redding
- 11/2/17 – Board of Forestry Range Management Advisory Committee, Sacramento
- 11/2/17 – Plumas County Fish and Wildlife Commission, Quincy
- 11/10/17 – San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Walnut Creek
- 11/11/17 – Lindsay Wildlife Experience, Conservation Icons Lecture Series, Walnut Creek
- 11/14/17 – Lassen County Board of Supervisors, Susanville

Other Activities

- 10/26/17 – USFS/USFWS/CDFW coordination meeting, Yreka
- 11/17/17 – Working Circle/CDFW coordination meeting, Redding
- 12/8/17-12/9/17 – Range Rider Workshop (presenter and attendee), Fall River Mills
- 12/27/17 – Working Circle/CDFW coordination and planning meeting, Chico