

# Wolf Management Update

## California Department of Fish and Wildlife

### December 2017 – April 2018

#### Field Work

##### Lassen pack

During this period, biologists routinely monitored satellite collar GPS locations and visited areas frequented by wolves to collect diet and landscape use data.

A black wolf continues to be occasionally observed within the Lassen pack territory. This wolf is not known to be a member of the Lassen pack, and aside from those occasional observations its range is not known. Pending genetic analysis of biological samples may shed light on the origin of this wolf.

On January 19, CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services staff investigated a calf carcass and determined wolves had not killed it. Reports detailing livestock loss investigations and determinations are available at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf)

##### **Conflict Deterrence Measures\***

- On December 28, Foxlights (devices that emit variable light colors/patterns during the night) were deployed at a cattle pasture to deter potential conflicts. The cattle and Foxlights were moved to another pasture on January 25. During that period no conflicts were observed, but wolves were documented within or near the pasture on nine occasions. On January 25, turbo fladry (red flags attached 1.5' apart on an electrified wire that flap in the breeze) was setup around the pasture, and subsequently wolves were not recorded within or near the fladry. Eventually the cattle were rotated to another pasture without fladry, and on April 1 wolves attacked and injured a calf in that pasture. Foxlights were installed on the new pasture on April 3 and were replaced with turbo fladry on April 10.
- On December 28, 2017, Foxlights were deployed around a sheep pasture. Though wolves were documented near the pasture, no conflicts occurred. After lambing, the owner moved the sheep to a larger pasture, and additional Foxlights were installed on April 4.
- On January 5, Foxlights were installed around a cattle pasture. On January 16, turbo fladry was installed around the same pasture. On January 24 an additional Foxlight was installed at an opening in the fladry, and on February 1 the fladry opening was closed.

\*Deployment and maintenance of Foxlights and turbo fladry was undertaken by staff from Wildlife Services, Working Circle, US Forest Service, CDFW, as well as local community members.

##### Other wolves

OR-54, a two-year old GPS-collared female from southern Oregon's Rogue pack had an extra-territorial movement into California. An extra-territorial movement differs from a dispersal in that a wolf leaves its pack for a period of time, but then returns. In this case, OR-54 spent 28 days in California after entering eastern Siskiyou County on January 23. Prior to returning to Oregon on February 19, she traveled through portions of

Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, and Plumas counties and covering a minimum distance of 506 miles (minimum daily mean 18.1 miles/day).

OR-44, a two-year old GPS-collared male wolf that dispersed from northeastern Oregon's Chesnimnus pack in fall 2017, entered California on March 13. Through the end of March, OR-44 logged a minimum of 191 miles in California.

Because extra-territorial and dispersing wolves are not settled within a territory, their movements are unpredictable and they often cover great distances each day. However, if these wolves remain at or repeatedly visit areas of concentrated livestock use or other sites with increased potential for conflict, CDFW attempts to notify those landowners and producers in the immediate area.

CDFW continues to receive and investigate reports of wolf presence from many parts of California. Public reports are very valuable, and we encourage the submittal of sighting reports at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report>.

## **Communication**

CDFW biologists have been in regular and frequent communication and coordination with CDFW 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:**

- 1/11/2018 – Indian Valley Town Hall Meeting, Taylorsville
- 1/16 – 1/17/2018 – California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Stockton
- 1/27 – 1/28/2018 – Snow Goose Festival, Chico
- 1/31/2018 – Apex predator course and a human wildlife conflicts course, Humboldt State University
- 2/22/2018 – Forester and wildlife staff of a private timberland company
- 2/28/2018 – Vertebrate Pest Conference, Rohnert Park
- 3/16/2018 – Wildlife Seminar and 2 case study classes, UC Berkeley

### **Other Activities:**

- 2/20 – 2/21/2018 – Range Rider Workshop, Chester
- 3/20/2018 – Coordination meeting with Lassen Forest Range Conservation staff
- 3/27/2018 – Meeting with Eagle Lake Ranger District (Lassen National Forest) grazing permittees
- 4/5/2018 – Meeting with Hat Creek Ranger District (Lassen National Forest) grazing permittees