



## CURRENTLY KNOWN GRAY WOLVES IN CALIFORNIA

### **Lassen Pack**

The Lassen Pack is California's second contemporary pack, and the only currently known wolf pack. The wolves generally utilize a broad area of western Lassen and northernmost Plumas counties. A trail camera first photographed the pack's female (LAS01F) in August 2015. In February 2016, biologists first encountered the tracks of what appeared to be two wolves traveling together, and the two wolves were then regularly detected during the following summer and fall. Genetic testing indicated the male wolf (CA08M) was born into the Rogue Pack in 2014. The female wolf is not closely related to known Oregon wolves, and it is therefore suspected she dispersed from another part of the broader northern Rocky Mountain wolf population. The female was fitted with a GPS tracking collar in late June 2017 and CDFW biologists regularly monitor her whereabouts.

In 2017, the pair produced at least four pups, three of which were known to be alive in late March 2018. The pair produced another litter in April 2018, and 5 pups were known to be alive in mid-August. At that time the pack also included at least two yearlings from the 2017 litter.

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

### **Shasta Pack**

The Shasta Pack was California's first known contemporary pack. The pack occupied a portion of eastern Siskiyou County and produced five pups in spring 2015. Genetic testing indicated both of the breeding wolves were from Oregon's Imnaha pack (the same pack that produced OR-7). The first sign of the wolves occurred when a trail camera photographed one of the animals in August 2014. What appeared likely to be two wolves were photographed in February 2015, and two wolves were again photographed in May 2015. In August, five pups were discovered. The pack was regularly detected from August through November, and at least six wolves remained alive in late November 2015. The Shasta Pack was observed feeding on a calf carcass in mid-November 2015, and a subsequent investigation determined the wolves had likely killed the calf.

There were no verified detections of the pack between late November 2015 and early May 2016, until a yearling male (CA07M) was detected by trail cameras, tracks, and scat near several pup-rearing sites the pack had used in 2015. In November 2016, that same male (verified through genetic analysis of scat) was observed in northwestern Nevada.

CDFW believes the pack no longer exists, although some evidence suggests at least one wolf was roaming within and near the Shasta Pack territory in the summer and fall of 2017.



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### **Other Wolves Detected (Collared)**

#### **OR-7**

Born into northeast Oregon's Imnaha pack in 2009, OR-7 was collared with a GPS transmitter by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in February 2011. OR-7 dispersed from the pack in September 2011 and followed a southwesterly course across eastern Oregon to the southern Cascades. On December 28, 2011, he crossed the Oregon border into eastern Siskiyou County just north of Dorris. OR-7 spent much of 2012 and early 2013 in California. He spent the greatest amount of time in mountain habitats west of Lake Almanor (near the junction of Butte, Plumas and Tehama counties), and roamed widely throughout northeastern California, including the Sacramento Valley floor near Redding and Red Bluff. OR-7 returned to Oregon in April 2013, found a mate, and they formed the Rogue Pack. The pack's territory includes a portion of the southern Cascades south of Crater Lake National Park.

OR-7 and his mate produced three pups in 2014, and subsequent litters in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Three of OR-7's offspring have been detected in California: OR-54, the breeding male of the Lassen Pack ("CA08M"), and a female ("CA10F") detected in eastern Siskiyou County in 2017.

#### **OR-25**

As a yearling member of the northeast Oregon's Imnaha Pack, OR-25 was GPS collared in 2014 by ODFW. In 2015, he dispersed to southcentral Oregon and has since regularly used portions of Klamath, Lake and Jackson counties. In late 2015 and early 2016, he made four trips to California. During his longest visit (22 days) he roamed through portions of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta and Siskiyou counties. His other three visits ranged from 10-19 days each and included portions of Modoc and Siskiyou counties. On or around October 29, 2017, OR-25 was found dead (age four years) near Fort Klamath, Oregon.

#### **OR-54**

OR-54 was born into Oregon's Rogue Pack most likely in 2016. She is the fourth Rogue Pack wolf known to have spent time in California. OR-54 weighed 83 pounds when collared by ODFW biologists in October 2017. On January 24, 2018, she crossed the Oregon border into eastern Siskiyou County in California. After passing through portions of four counties and travelling more than 500 miles, OR-54 returned to Oregon on February 19. On April 15, OR-54 again entered eastern Siskiyou County from Oregon. By the end of June, OR-54 had travelled through Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Plumas, Sierra, and Nevada counties. She spent most of the summer in Sierra and southern Plumas counties, including the vicinity of Sierra Valley. In August, she had one three-week foray through the Lassen Pack territory and into Butte County before returning to the Plumas/Sierra counties area. In late 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.



### **OR-44**

On March 13, 2018, a male wolf wearing a GPS tracking collar (OR-44) crossed the Oregon border into eastern Siskiyou County in California. CDFW staff had been in close communication with ODFW regarding his locations to closely monitor his whereabouts as long as he remained in California. OR-44's collar has failed and his whereabouts are unknown. His last known location was in Siskiyou County on May 28.

OR-44 was born into northeastern Oregon's Chesnimnus Pack in 2016. OR-44 was collared by ODFW in December 2016 and dispersed from his pack in fall 2017. He is believed to be approximately two years old.

### **Other Wolves Detected (Un-Collared)**

#### **CA10F**

In late January 2017 the tracks of a wolf were observed on two consecutive days in eastern Siskiyou County, approximately 20-25 miles south of the Oregon border. On each day the tracks were followed for over a mile and a scat associated with the tracks was eventually located. The wolf appeared to be traveling in a southeasterly direction. Genetic testing of the scats determined that the wolf was female and had been born into Oregon's Rogue pack in 2014. CA10F is therefore a littermate of CA08M, the breeding male of the Lassen Pack. Her current whereabouts are unknown.

#### **Uncollared black wolf (southern Lassen County)**

Since October 2017, a black wolf has been periodically observed within the Lassen Pack's territory. Although it is not known to be a member of the Lassen pack, it has been seen both with members of the pack and alone within the pack's territory. The origin of this animal is unknown. CDFW staff collected potential wolf scats from the vicinity of the observations. Genetic analysis of those scats suggests the animal is a male and is unrelated to animals of the Lassen and Shasta packs. Additional analysis is pending.

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

A black wolf was photographed by private trail cameras in northern Lassen County and in southern Modoc County in April. What appeared to be the same wolf was then photographed in by another private trail camera in northern Lassen County in both August and September 2018. In September, CDFW observed what appeared to be wolf tracks nearby in southern Modoc County. CDFW continues its efforts to obtain and analyze genetic material from this wolf.