



## CALIFORNIA'S KNOWN WOLVES – PAST AND PRESENT

### **Lassen Pack**

The Lassen Pack is California's second contemporary pack, and the only currently known wolf pack in the state. 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. It is suspected she dispersed from another part of the broader northern Rocky Mountain wolf population, and she has been found to have half-siblings in the Wyoming wolf population. The female was fitted with a GPS tracking collar in late June 2017 and CDFW monitors her whereabouts. Her collar is expected to stop transmitting soon.

The pack has produced litters in 2017 (four pups), 2018 (5 pups), and 2019 (four pups). One of the 2019 pups (LAS02F) was fitted with a satellite tracking collar in September 2019.

The presence of the pack's breeding male wolf has not been confirmed since spring 2019, and in late spring the breeding female began being detected with a black male wolf. As of October 2019, CDFW estimates the pack two consists of two adults, one yearling, and four pups.

In September 2018, an uncollared female yearling wolf was found dead in Lassen County. The carcass was examined, observed to be in a state of advanced decomposition, and a cause of death could not be determined. The death remains under investigation by CDFW's law enforcement division. CDFW reminds the public that killing a wolf is a potential crime and subject to serious penalties including imprisonment. CDFW takes very seriously any threats to this recovering wolf population and investigates fully any possible criminal activity.

### **Shasta Pack**

The Shasta Pack was California's first known contemporary pack and occupied a portion of eastern Siskiyou County. Genetic testing indicated both of the breeding wolves were from Oregon's Imnaha pack (the 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 photographed again in May 2015. In August 2015, the pack was observed to have five pups. The pack was regularly detected from August through November 2015 and consisted of a minimum of six wolves in late November 2015. The Shasta Pack was observed feeding on a calf carcass in mid-November 2015, and 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 two pup-rearing sites used by the pack in 2015. In November 2016, CA07M (verified through genetic analysis of scat) was observed in northwestern Nevada. CDFW believes the pack no longer exists. Some evidence suggests at least one wolf was roaming within and near the Shasta Pack territory in the summer and fall of 2017.



## **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 state line 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: the breeding male of the Lassen Pack ("CA08M"), and a female ("CA10F") detected in eastern Siskiyou County in 2017, and OR-54.

### **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 state line into eastern Siskiyou County in California. Since then, she has spent much of her time in California, although she has made two trips back to Oregon. Since leaving the Rogue Pack, OR-54 has logged a minimum of 7,646 miles. Dispersing wolves are not settled within a territory, and often cover great daily distances and their movements are unpredictable.

OR-54 has traveled widely in northeastern California, and traveled through portions of Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou and Tehama counties. She spent much of the summers of 2018 and 2019 in Plumas and Sierra counties, including the vicinity of Sierra Valley. In late September 2019 she crossed to the south side of Interstate 80 and briefly entered Nevada before returning to California and crossing back to the north side of the highway the following day. Her travels represent the southernmost known wolf locations in the state since wolves returned to California in 2011.



### **OR-44**

OR-44 was born into northeastern Oregon's Chesnimnus Pack in 2016. The wolf was collared by ODFW in December 2016 and dispersed from his pack in fall 2017. He crossed the Oregon state line into eastern Siskiyou County on March 13, 2018. CDFW staff was in close communication with ODFW regarding his locations until his collar failed in mid-May 2018. OR-44's last known location was in Siskiyou County on May 28, and his current whereabouts are unknown.

### **OR-59**

OR-59, a 1.5 year old male dispersing wolf with a satellite tracking collar fitted by ODFW, crossed from Oregon into Modoc County in early December 2018. On Dec. 9, 2018 CDFW was notified by ODFW of a mortality signal for OR-59. CDFW Wildlife Officers responded to the last known location and found OR-59 deceased. This wolf mortality is currently under criminal investigation conducted by CDFW's law enforcement division. CDFW takes very seriously any threats to this recovering wolf population and will investigate fully any possible criminal activity in these deaths. CDFW reminds the public that killing a wolf is a potential crime and subject to serious penalties including imprisonment.

### **Other Wolves Detected (Uncollared)**

#### **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 state line. 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.

#### **Unknown wolves**

Since October 2017, uncollared individual black wolves have been documented by private and CDFW trail cameras, tracks, and scat in Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, and Plumas counties. While it is difficult to ascertain how many different wolves are represented in trail camera photos, CDFW believes there are at least two individuals.

One black wolf in particular has been periodically observed within the Lassen Pack's territory since 2017 - both alone and with members of the pack. Genetic analysis of scats collected near areas where this animal has been observed suggests the animal is a male that is closely related to wolves in northeastern Oregon's former Meacham Pack. It has not yet been confirmed that this male is the one that has been detected with the Lassen Pack's breeding female several times in late spring and summer 2019.