



Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

January - March 2020

Field Work

Lassen pack

There were at least 6 wolves in the Lassen pack during the reporting period. The satellite collar on the female pup collared in September 2019 stopped functioning in late January after only about 4 months of operation. Currently there are no functioning radio collars in the pack.

Dispersing wolves

OR-54

OR-54 was found dead in February. The mortality is under investigation. She first left her natal Rogue pack in southwest Oregon on January 23, 2018, and subsequently covered a minimum distance of 8,712 miles at an average of 13 miles/day. After dispersing, she spent most of her time in California but also returned to Oregon three times. She had 14 days where she traveled over 40 miles and 5 days where she traveled over 50 miles. In California, OR-54 spent time in Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Yuba counties. She was a three-year-old wolf and the offspring of OR-7.

More information about these and other wolves can be found on CDFW's gray wolf web page in a document called "*California's Known Wolves – Past and Present*".

Big and Little Valley area survey

There were 6 confirmed public detections (5 trail cameras, 1 visual) of single wolves between April 2018 and February 2019 in a broad area around Big Valley and Little Valley (near the junction of Lassen, Modoc, and Shasta counties). The area was surveyed thoroughly during the quarter to determine if a wolf pair or pack were occupying a territory. No sign was found.

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://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report>

Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations

CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services (WS) staff investigated 2 reports of suspected wolf depredations during the quarter. The results are as follows:

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf / Pack Area	County	Investigators
3/17/20	Non-depredation	1 calf, dead	Uncollared	Plumas	CDFW, WS
3/30/20	Non-wolf depredation	1 calf, injured (euthanized)	Uncollared	Plumas	CDFW, WS

Determination reports are available at www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf

Use of deterrent tools

USDA Wildlife Services deployed fladry at five ranches on the Lassen pack's winter range. Foxlights are in use on one private pasture on winter range.

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.

Engagement events:

- February 2 – Presentation and candid discussion with the Lassen County Board of Supervisors by Headquarters and Regional staff. Susanville.
- February 13 – Town hall (presentation and discussion) with the residents of Westwood.
- March 11 – Update to the California Wolf Center Board of Directors. Teleconference.
- March 20 – Presentation and discussion with two UC Berkeley wildlife management classes. Video conference.