

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

April - June 2020

Field Work

Lassen pack

Two wolves were fitted with radio collars during the period including a yearling male LAS03M and the breeding female LAS01F. The pack's original breeding male has not been documented since the 2019 breeding season. Since June 2019, a black male wolf has been routinely documented. Reproduction this spring, and the black wolf's status as the new breeding male were confirmed by field work and genetic analysis. Field observations and trail cameras indicate eight pups present at the end of the reporting period. Thus far, six pups (4 males and 2 females) have been genetically identified. The new breeding male is not related to other known California wolves. We will attempt to determine his genetic relationship to wolves in other areas, but his origin is currently unknown. There was a minimum of six adults and yearlings in the pack during the reporting period.

Dispersing wolves

An uncollared male wolf attacked and killed a calf in Modoc County on May 13, approximately 4.5 miles from the Oregon border. His DNA was collected on the calf carcass and is being analyzed to potentially determine his geographic origin.

Because we have regularly detected dispersing wolves in California since December of 2011, it is likely that a small number of uncollared dispersers exist in the north state at any moment in time.

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*".

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

Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations

CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services (WS) staff investigated 3 reports of suspected wolf depredations during the quarter. The results are as follows:

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack Area	County	Investigators
5/14	Confirmed	1 calf, dead	Uncollared	Modoc	CDFW, WS
6/12	Non-Depredation	1 calf, dead	Lassen	Lassen	CDFW, WS
6/21	Unknown	1 cow, dead	Lassen	Lassen	CDFW

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

Use of deterrent tools

USDA Wildlife Services, with the assistance of CDFW staff, deployed fladry at one ranch on the Lassen pack's summer range.

Communication

CDFW biologists have been in regular and frequent communication and coordination with CDFW Wildlife Officers, 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 13 – Town hall (presentation and discussion) with the residents of Westwood.
- April 16 – Presentation to Humboldt State Mammals Management class. Zoom video conference.
- April 13 – Presentation on California's Large Carnivores as part of P-22 Presents series (live online video presentation).

