



## Wolf Management Update California Department of Fish and Wildlife July - September 2020

### **Field Work**

#### **Lassen pack**

Genetic analysis of numerous scats collected at several pup rearing sites indicated two females in the pack had litters in 2020, producing a minimum of 9 pups. LAS01F, the original breeding female, produced a minimum of five pups. LAS09F, a two-year-old female from the 2018 litter, produced a minimum of four pups. Both litters were sired by the pack's new breeding male. We do not yet have a sufficient DNA profile from the breeding male to assess his origin. We anticipated that a double litter was possible because there was a new male in the pack during the breeding season that was unrelated to two mature Lassen pack females. While multiple litters are somewhat uncommon, they most frequently occur when genetically unrelated adult wolves join a pack.

While we initially thought that the breeding female captured and collared in June 2020 was likely LAS01F, genetic analysis indicated the newly collared wolf was actually LAS09F (the second breeding female).

The yearling male that was captured and collared last quarter and referred to as LAS03M in the March-June quarterly report is now identified as LAS13M (the 13<sup>th</sup> Lassen pack member genetically/uniquely identified).

During the reporting period CDFW documented 3 adults, 3 yearlings, and 9 pups in the pack. There was one functioning satellite radio collar (LAS09F) within the Lassen pack at the end of September.

#### **Dispersing wolves**

LAS13M began to disperse from the Lassen pack in mid-August. For a few weeks he spent time in the northern part of the pack's home range approximately 20 miles from the rest of the pack. He then left the pack's home range and was in Modoc County in late September. In early October he entered Lake County, Oregon.

Because we have regularly detected dispersing wolves in California since December 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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report).

# Livestock Interactions

## Depredation investigations

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

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack Area	County	Investigators
8/17	Confirmed	1 cow, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS, CDFW
8/23	Confirmed	1 calf, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS, CDFW
8/28	Confirmed	1 calf, dead	Lassen	Plumas	WS, CDFW
9/5	Confirmed	1 calf, dead	Lassen	Plumas	WS, CDFW
9/15	Confirmed	1 calf, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS

The individual determination reports are available at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf)

## Use of deterrent tools

USDA Wildlife Services, with the assistance of CDFW staff, deployed fladry at two ranches 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, county governments and staff, livestock producers, private timberland owners and managers, and non-governmental associations.

## Engagement events:

- August 11 – Lassen County Board of Supervisors, local plan implementation, Susanville
- August 15 – General public, CDFW wolf program summary and update, Dunsmuir
- September 17 – Lassen County Fish and Game Commission, local plan implementation, Susanville
- September 23 – Calaveras County Fish and Game Commission, large carnivore research summary (including wolves, mountain lions, and bears), San Andreas