

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

October- December 2020

Field Work

Lassen pack

CDFW attempted to collar additional Lassen pack wolves in October and November but was unsuccessful. Trail cams were deployed to monitor the pack through the winter.

At the end of 2020, the Lassen pack consisted of a minimum of 5-6 wolves, with one functioning collar (LAS09F). The breeding male and at least one breeding female (LAS09F) were known to be with the pack through December. LAS14F, who has a non-functioning collar, was known to be with the pack at least through November 24. We tried numerous times to remotely detach the collar but believe those attempts were unsuccessful.

The Lassen pack had a total of 7 confirmed depredations between August of the last quarter and October of this quarter.

Dispersing wolves

LAS13M dispersed from the Lassen pack in mid-August. By early October he entered Oregon, where he remained through the end of the year.

OR85, a dispersing yearling male wolf from the Mt. Emily pack in northeast Oregon, entered Modoc County west of Goose Lake by November 4. Two days later he was in Siskiyou County and has been there since. CDFW, Siskiyou County staff, and local people worked closely together to learn more and to coordinate with area livestock interests. Working together we learned that OR85 is traveling with another wolf. At the end of the year the origin and gender of the second wolf had not yet been determined.

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.

Survey for presence

In December, CDFW surveyed an area in the Siskiyou Mountains near the California/Oregon border. No wolf sign was found.

Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations

CDFW investigated nine suspected wolf depredations, and USDA Wildlife Services coinvestigated five of those during the quarter. The results are as follows:

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack Area	County	Investigators
10/19	Confirmed	1 cow, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS, CDFW
10/30	Unknown	1 cow, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS, CDFW
10/31	Confirmed	1 cow, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS, CDFW
11/7	Non-Depredation	1 calf, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS, CDFW
11/24	Non-Depredation	1 cow, dead	Lassen	Lassen	WS, CDFW
12/12	Non-Depredation	1 calf, dead	OR85	Siskiyou	CDFW
12/12	Non-Wolf Depredation: Coyote	1 calf, dead	OR85	Siskiyou	CDFW
12/15	1 Non-Depredation, 1 Unknown	2 calves, dead	OR85	Siskiyou	CDFW

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

Use of deterrent tools

CDFW and Wildlife Services deployed a Radio Activated Guard (RAG) Box on a producer's property in Modoc County to protect yearling cattle. Dispersing wolf LAS13M was localized in the immediate area for several days. No incidents were reported, and LAS13M moved on and the RAG box was removed.

USDA Wildlife Services has deployed fladry on two ranches within the Lassen pack's 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, conservation organizations, and private timberland owners and managers.

Engagement events:

- October 15 – Discussion with Lassen County ranchers, California Farm Bureau, and Defenders of Wildlife – Online meeting
- October 22 – Lassen County Fish & Game Commission – Susanville
- November 5 – Lassen County Fish & Game Commission – Susanville
- November 12 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- November 17 – Lassen County Board of Supervisors - Susanville
- December 10 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call