

# **Wolf Management Update**

## **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

### **January – March 2021**

#### **Field Work**

##### ***Lassen pack***

There were at least six wolves in the pack through the quarter, with one functioning collar (LAS09F). There were no known livestock depredations or reported conflicts.

##### ***Whaleback pair***

OR-85 continued to travel with a second wolf through the reporting period. Genetic and trail camera information indicate that the second wolf is likely female. The pair so far occupies a 480 mi<sup>2</sup> territory in eastern Siskiyou County ranging from eastern Shasta Valley to western Butte Valley, and to south of Highway 89.

A depredation investigation was conducted near this pair. It was determined not to be a wolf depredation (see below). There were no known livestock depredations or reported conflicts.

##### ***Dispersing wolves***

Male wolf OR-93 dispersed from the Oregon's White River pack (southeast of Mount Hood) and entered California in the beginning of February. He traveled through northeastern California, the Sierra Nevada, and parts of the Great Basin before crossing the San Joaquin Valley and entering the Coast Ranges in San Benito County. By April 5, he had crossed three significant highways (State Route 99, Interstate 5, and U.S. Highway 101) and was in San Luis Obispo County, having traveled a minimum average of 16 miles/day in California for a total minimum of 935 miles. He had traveled through portions of the following counties: Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Mono, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, San Benito, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo.

Because we have regularly detected dispersing wolves in California since December 2011, it is likely that a small number of uncollared dispersers exist in California 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).

#### **SURVEY FOR PRESENCE**

CDFW is currently surveying an area south of Portola and west of Sierra Valley after a credible report of tracks of two wolves in the snow traveling together. Results so far are inconclusive and efforts are ongoing.

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#### **Livestock Interactions**

##### **Depredation investigations**

CDFW investigated one suspected wolf depredation during the quarter:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Determination</b>		<b>Type</b>	<b>Wolf/Pack Area</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Investigators</b>
1/7	Non-wolf depredation:	coyote	1 calf, dead	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW

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

##### **Use of deterrent tools**

Fladry was installed on a ranch in Siskiyou County within the Whaleback pair range by USDA Wildlife Services, Siskiyou County, USFWS and CDFW personnel. Fladry was installed on a ranch in Plumas County by USDA Wildlife Services within the Lassen pack range. Fladry continued to be used on two other ranches in Plumas County within the Lassen pack range.

#### **Communication**

CDFW biologists are 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.

Extensive communication also occurs in counties with new dispersing wolves. This includes the county boards of supervisors, agricultural commissioners, farm services advisors, local Cattlemen's and Farm Bureau boards.

##### **Engagement events:**

- January 12 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- January 21 – Update to members of Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors - Teleconference
- January 27 – Meeting with USDA Farm Services Agency on Livestock Indemnity Program – Teleconference
- February 10 – Update to California Wolf Center Board of Directors – Teleconference
- February 11 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- February 18 – Lecture to Mammals Management Class, Humboldt State University – Teleconference
- February 19 – Wolf talk to Bay Area grade school children – Teleconference
- March 1 – Update to California Farm Bureau – Conference call
- March 11 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- March 11 – Lecture for Night School series for California Academy of Sciences – Teleconference
- March 26 – Meet with Klamath National Forest to discuss 2021 grazing season - Teleconference