

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

April – June 2021

Field Work

Lassen pack

The pack included a minimum of three adults/yearlings and 6 pups, with one functioning GPS collar (LAS09F). The pups are offspring of LAS09F and LAS016M. It is unknown if the original breeding female, LAS01F, is alive or with the pack, as she has not been detected since last fall.

Staff conducted a short, but unsuccessful capture-to-collar operation. There were no known livestock depredations or reported conflicts.

Whaleback pack

There were two adults (OR85, WHA01F) and a minimum of 6 pups (offspring of the pair), with one functioning GPS collar (OR85).

A capture-to-collar operation was conducted to place another collar in the pack. That effort was unsuccessful, and field work moved to the Beckwourth pack area. There were no known livestock depredations or reported conflicts.

Beckwourth pack

After tracks of two wolves traveling together were observed south of Portola in February, CDFW began surveying in the area. Three wolves were detected together in Sierra Valley at the end of May after a confirmed wolf kill of a yearling heifer.

In June, field work was conducted to collect DNA to determine origins of the wolves, determine reproductive status, and capture to collar. No wolves were collared, and reproductive status remains unknown. DNA collected to date indicates one of the wolves is LAS12F, a two-year-old female born into the Lassen Pack. One of the other wolves is not from California, and no information is yet available on the third wolf.

Dispersing wolves

OR93's collar apparently ceased to function in early April. His last location was in San Luis Obispo County.

OR103 entered Siskiyou County from Oregon in early May and remained in the county through the end of June. Trail camera photographs indicate he has a front foot injury. In June, he was implicated in a probable depredation event in which 2 calves were injured. Two others in the same area were also reported as injured but could not be captured for close investigation.

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*".

Survey for presence

CDFW is continuing to survey the Beckwourth pack area.

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

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Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations

CDFW investigated two suspected wolf depredations during the quarter:

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack Area	County	Investigators
5/25	Confirmed	1 yearling, dead	Beckwourth	Plumas	WS, CDFW
6/8-6/12	Probable	2 calves, injured	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW

Individual determination reports are available at wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf

Use of deterrent tools

Fladry was installed on a ranch in Lassen County within the Lassen pack range by USDA Wildlife Services.

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.

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:

- April 1 – Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission – Lake Shastina
- April 8 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- April 22-23 – Siskiyou County ranch tour with UC Berkeley professors
- May 6 – Siskiyou County Cattlemen's – Yreka
- May 12 – Wolf Genetics talk, general public - Susanville
- June 3 – Plumas County Fish and Game Commission - Quincy
- June 17 – Meet with Siskiyou County ranchers near OR103
- June 22 – Sierra County Fish and Game Commission - Conference call
- June 24 – Town Hall meeting with Sierra Valley ranchers - Sierraville