Wolf Management Update
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
July – Sept 2021

Field Work

Lassen pack

There was a minimum of three adults/yearlings, one with a functioning collar (LAS09F), and a minimum of four pups. The Dixie Fire burnt over the pack's general pup rearing areas, but all seven wolves were observed about three weeks after the fire had passed through.

In the fall, wolf pups become large enough to start traveling with the pack, and by September the pack appeared to be traveling widely throughout its territory.

There were no known livestock depredations or reported conflicts.

Whaleback pack

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

There were no known livestock depredations or reported conflicts.

Beckwourth pack

Field work was conducted to survey the area to determine reproductive status, home range, origins and potentially capture to collar. A minimum of two wolves were documented during the quarter and reproductive status remains unknown. The survey area has covered a 10-18 mile radius around known detections, which have been sporadic. Wolves seem to pass briefly through known areas every three to four weeks.

There were no known livestock depredations or reported conflicts.

Dispersing wolves

An animal likely to be OR93 was detected in Ventura County in late September. In August, a trail camera in Kern County was discovered to have photographed a wolf in May that was also likely OR93.

OR103 remained in Siskiyou County during the quarter. Although he was in close proximity to the Whaleback pack on several occasions, he has not been known to travel with the pack.

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

More information about wolves in California can be found on CDFW's gray wolf webpage 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

CDFW has been surveying the South Warner Mountains following a compelling report of wolves. No conclusive sign has been discovered to date.

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Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations
There were no suspected depredations or investigations during the quarter.

Determination reports for prior investigations are available at wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf

Use of deterrent tools
Fladry was used on one ranch and Foxlights were used on another ranch in Lassen County. USDA Wildlife Services monitored those activities.

Communication

CDFW biologists have been in regular and frequent communication and coordination with CDFW wardens, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Wildlife Services, U.S. 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:
- July 8 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- July 25 – Update on California Wolves following a showing of "The Trouble with Wolves" by Collin Monda, hosted by Wolf Haven International and REI, Arcadia – Virtual meeting
- August 12 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- September 3 – Presentation on California wolves for series "Virtual Mind Walk" for Central Coastal Coast Parks Association – Virtual meeting
- September 9 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call