

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

October – December 2021

Field Work

Lassen pack

The pack had a minimum of five wolves, with one functioning collar (female LAS09F). The pack is traveling within its home range, similarly as in past years.

There was a confirmed depredation of a cow and a calf in November.

Whaleback pack

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

There was a confirmed depredation of a calf in November.

Beckwourth pack

No new information. To date, CDFW has been unsuccessful in collaring individuals and determining the pack's reproductive status. It is possible the pack did not reproduce in 2021.

Dispersing wolves

OR93 was found dead close to Interstate 5 near Lebec in southern Kern County. A necropsy determined the cause of death was consistent with a vehicle strike.

OR103 remained in Siskiyou County during the quarter. He crossed Interstate 5 multiple times and spent much of the quarter on the west side of the highway. He had four confirmed depredations and one probable depredation involving nine injured cattle (eight calves and one adult). Two calves were ultimately euthanized due to the extent of their injuries.

CDFW has regularly detected dispersing wolves in California since December 2011. It is likely that a number of uncollared dispersers exist in the state at any moment in time.

More information 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 surveys areas of suspected wolf presence. Nothing new to report.

CDFW continues to receive and investigate reports of wolf presence from many parts of California. Public reports are an important tool for the Department. Please report wolves or wolf sign on the CDFW Gray Wolf web page: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report.

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Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack Area	County	Investigators
10/25/21	Confirmed	Five calves injured	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW
10/26/21	Non-Depredation	Yearling cattle	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
11/5/21	Probable	Adult cattle injured	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW
11/7/21	Confirmed	Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
11/7/21	Confirmed	Calf	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW
11/9/21	Confirmed	Calf	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW
11/10/21	Confirmed	Calf	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW
11/11/21	Confirmed	Cow and calf	Lassen	Plumas	WS
11/14/21	Non-Depredation	Adult	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW
11/17/21	Non-Depredation	Calf	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW
12/3/21	Non-Depredation	Calf	OR103	Siskiyou	CDFW

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

Use of deterrent tools

Fladry was used on two ranches in Siskiyou County. USDA Wildlife Services monitored those activities.

Communication

CDFW biologists have been in 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 occurred in counties with new dispersing wolves and packs. This includes the county Boards of Supervisors, county Fish and Game Commissions, agricultural commissioners, Farm Services Advisors, local Cattlemen's and Farm Bureau boards.

Stakeholder engagement events:

- October 14 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- November 9 – Update to Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission – Yreka, CA
- November 10 – Community meeting with Shasta Valley ranchers – Yreka, CA
- November 11 – California Wolves presentation to California Wildlife Center – Zoom
- November 11 – Update to Siskiyou County Farm Bureau – Yreka, CA
- November 11 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call
- November 13 – Wolves and People presentation to Sedona Wolf Week. Hollywood, CA
- December 2 – Wolf presentation to California Cattlemen's Association – Reno, NV
- December 2 – California Wolves presentation to Siskiyou County Backcountry Horsemen – Big Springs, CA
- December 7 – Update to Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – Yreka, CA
- December 9 – Monthly update with Working Circle and agriculture interests – Conference call