

CALIFORNIA'S KNOWN WOLVES – PAST AND PRESENT

Current Wolf Packs

Lassen Pack

The Lassen Pack utilizes a broad area of western Lassen and northern Plumas counties with a 332 mi² home range. The pack produced litters in 2017 (four pups), 2018 (five pups), 2019 (five pups), 2020 (a double litter of nine pups), 2021 (five pups), and 2022 (five pups). In the 2020 double litter, the original breeding female (LAS01F) had five pups and a two-year old female (LAS09F) had four pups. LAS01F has not been detected since fall 2020, and LAS09F gave birth to the 2021 and 2022 litters.

DNA analysis indicated LAS02M, the original breeding male, was a 2014 offspring of southwestern Oregon's Rogue Pack. While he sired the 2017-2019 litters, he has not been detected with the pack since spring 2019. The origin of LAS01F is unknown. A new adult male (LAS16M) began traveling with the pack as early as June 2019, and DNA analysis of pup scats showed LAS16M has sired the pack's litters since 2020. DNA analysis to determine his origin is ongoing.

In late summer 2020, a satellite-collared yearling male wolf (LAS13M) dispersed from the pack. After traveling through Lassen and Modoc counties, LAS13M entered Oregon in October 2020. In 2021, the Dixie Fire burned significant portions of the pack's summer range including pup-rearing areas. The breeding wolves and the five known 2021 pups survived the fire.

For several years the pack has exhibited extraterritorial movements up to 55 miles outside of their home range during the winter. Extraterritorial movements are occasional and brief travel forays outside of a pack's regular home range.

Whaleback Pack

The Whaleback Pack consists of the male wolf OR85 and female wolf WHA01F. They occupy a 293 mi² home range in eastern Siskiyou County. OR85 was initially collared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in February 2020 and was born in 2019. He dispersed from the Mount Emily Pack near La Grande, Oregon and entered California in November 2020. DNA analysis determined that WHA01F is related to southwestern Oregon's Rogue Pack. In 2021, the pair produced seven pups. In 2022, the pack produced eight pups. OR85 was recollared by CDFW in February 2023.

The pack has exhibited extraterritorial movements up to 85 miles outside of their home range during winter 2023. Extraterritorial movements are occasional and brief travel forays outside of a pack's regular home range.

Beckwourth Pack

The Beckwourth Pack was confirmed in May 2021 when three wolves were photographed by trail camera at a wolf depredation site in southern Plumas County. Tracks of two wolves had been observed in the same general area in February 2021. DNA analysis from a scat indicated one of the three was female wolf LAS12F from the Lassen Pack 2019 litter. The origins of the other two wolves were unknown. In 2022, two wolves were detected in an area 22 miles from the area where wolves were detected in 2021. DNA analysis from a scat indicated that one was a male wolf LAS19M from the Lassen Pack 2020 litter, but we were unable to collect DNA from the other wolf, and therefore its origins are unknown. At this time, we do not know if the wolves detected in these two areas represent the same pack.

Other wolf groups

Tehama County – A group of three wolves were documented by a private citizen's trail camera in March 2023. Survey efforts have begun to determine reproductive status, numbers, origin, and to eventually collar.

Lassen County – A group of 2-4 wolves have been documented in a valley in western Lassen County on three different occasions during the winter of 2023. Survey efforts have begun to determine reproductive status, numbers, origin, and to eventually collar.

Past Wolf Packs

Shasta Pack

The Shasta Pack was California's first known contemporary pack and occupied a portion of eastern Siskiyou County.

DNA indicated that both breeding wolves were from Oregon's Imnaha pack (the pack that produced OR7). The pair was first detected in early 2015 and five pups were identified that summer. The pack was regularly detected from August through November 2015 and consisted of a minimum of six wolves in late November 2015. The Shasta Pack was not detected after November 2015, except for one yearling identified within the pack's range in May 2016. DNA analysis of a scat determined the same animal was in northwestern Nevada in November 2016.

Past individual collared wolves

OR103

OR103, a wolf born in 2019 or 2020, entered northeastern Siskiyou County on May 4, 2021. Except for a brief foray into northern Trinity County in early March 2022, he remained in Siskiyou County until early July 2022, when he returned to Oregon. OR103 was collared by ODFW in Deschutes County, Oregon. His pack origin is currently unknown. OR103 was found on October 6, 2022 illegally killed near Upper Klamath Lake, OR.

OR93

OR93, a male wolf born in 2019, initially entered Modoc County on January 30, 2021. After briefly returning to Oregon, OR93 reentered Modoc County on February 4. On February 24, he entered Alpine County after passing through portions of Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, and Calaveras counties. On February 25, he entered Mono County. In mid-March, he was in western Tuolumne County. By late March he was in Fresno County, and then entered San Benito County after crossing Highway 99 and Interstate 5. He was in Monterey County on April 1 and his last collar transmission was from San Luis Obispo County on April 5. OR93 was found dead on November 10, 2021 near the town of Lebec in Kern County. Evidence indicated he died from a vehicle strike. When his collar stopped transmitting April 5, he had traveled at least 935 air miles in California, a minimum average of 16 air miles per day.

OR93 dispersed from the White River pack in northern Oregon. He was collared in June 2020.

OR54

OR54 was an offspring of southwestern Oregon's Rogue Pack and was most likely born in 2016. She was the fourth Rogue Pack wolf known to have spent time in California. She was fitted with a satellite collar by ODFW in October 2017, and she initially dispersed to California in January 2018. She subsequently spent most of her time in California but made two trips back to Oregon. She traveled widely in northeastern California, through portions of Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Yuba counties. In September 2019, OR54 crossed to the south side of Interstate 80 and briefly entered Nevada before returning to California and again crossing the Interstate. She covered more than 8,710 miles after leaving the Rogue Pack. OR54 was found dead in Shasta County in February 2020. Her mortality remains under investigation.

OR59

OR59 was a male wolf from northeastern Oregon. He was fitted with a satellite collar by ODFW in February 2018 and crossed the state line into Modoc County in December 2018. CDFW staff found OR59

shot in December 2018. His mortality remains under investigation.

OR44

OR44 was a male offspring from northeastern Oregon's Chesnimnus Pack. He was fitted with a satellite collar by ODFW in December 2016 and dispersed from his pack in fall 2017. OR44 crossed the state line into eastern Siskiyou County in March 2018. His collar failed in May 2018, and his last known location was in Siskiyou County.

OR25

OR25 was a male offspring of northeastern Oregon's Imnaha Pack. He was fitted with a satellite collar by ODFW in 2014. OR25 made four trips to California during late 2015 and early 2016, traveling through portions of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties. OR25 was found dead near Fort Klamath, Oregon in October 2017.

OR7

OR7 was born in 2009 in northeastern Oregon's Imnaha pack. He was fitted with a satellite collar by ODFW in February 2011. He dispersed from his pack in September 2011 and crossed the state line into eastern Siskiyou County in December 2011. He spent much of 2012 and early 2013 in California traveling through Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties. OR7 returned to Oregon in April 2013, found a mate, and formed the Rogue Pack.

Four of OR7's offspring have been detected in California: LAS02M (the original breeding male of the Lassen Pack), DIS01F (a female detected by DNA from scat in eastern Siskiyou County in 2017), OR54 and WHA01F (the breeding female of the Whaleback pack).

In late 2019 ODFW reported that OR7 was no longer with the Rogue pack. His fate is unknown.

Other individual uncollared wolves detected

Since 2017, uncollared dispersing wolves have periodically been detected in northern California via trail cameras, DNA, handheld cameras, and visual observation by CDFW. Most of these detections have occurred in Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, and Siskiyou counties.

DNA has been collected from some uncollared dispersers including DIS01F (a female from the Rogue Pack in Siskiyou County in January 2017), DIS02M (a male from northeastern Oregon's Meacham Pack in Lassen County in October 2017), and DIS03M (a male related to northeastern Oregon's former Walla Walla Pack detected in Modoc County in May 2020).

Legal status and violation reporting

Gray wolves are protected, and CDFW takes any threats to the recovering wolf population seriously. The Department reminds the public that killing a wolf is a potential crime and subject to serious penalties including fines and imprisonment.

To report any information regarding a fish and wildlife violation, you may contact CDFW using one of several methods, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Call CalTIP at 1-888-334-2258 (toll free).
- Text "CALTIP" followed by a space, and the message, to 847411 (tip411).
- Download the CalTIP smartphone app (free).

