

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

January – March 2023

Field Work

Lassen pack

There were a minimum of five wolves in the pack. There are currently no collared wolves in the Lassen pack.

An unsuccessful helicopter capture to collar wolves occurred in February.

There were no confirmed depredations during the quarter.

Whaleback pack

There were a minimum of four wolves in the pack. Both the breeding male (OR85) and male pup WHA012M were captured and collared by helicopter darting in March. A prior helicopter capture attempt in February was unsuccessful.

Male pup WHA14M was killed by a vehicle on Highway 97 in January.

During this past winter, the Whaleback wolves have been documented to have gone on several extra-territorial movements ranging from 12-85 miles outside of their home range. Group sizes during the movements ranged from two to eleven wolves. Extraterritorial movements are when individuals or groups of wolves briefly leave their natal pack territory and return. These movements were documented by both DNA and satellite collars.

There were 15 confirmed and probable depredations during the quarter, eight of which occurred during extraterritorial forays.

Beckwourth pack

There was a minimum of one wolf in the Beckwourth pack area.

There were no confirmed depredations during the quarter.

Other wolf groups

Tehama County – A group of three wolves were documented by a private trail camera in March. 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 quarter (outside the Lassen Pack's territory). Survey efforts have begun to determine reproductive status, numbers, origin, and to eventually collar.

Dispersing wolves

There have been no new dispersing wolves detected during this period.

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 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*".

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 (areas of suspected wolf presence)

There are no other suspected wolf pairs or packs.

Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack/ Area	County	Investigators
1/2/23	Unknown	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW/Siskiyou Co
1/3/23	Probable	1 calf injured	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
1/4/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
1/5/23	Non-Wolf Dep – coyote	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW/Siskiyou Co
1/5/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
1/6/23	Confirmed	1 calf killed 1 calf injured	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
1/6/23	Confirmed	1 calf injured	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
1/6/23	Non-Wolf Dep – coyote	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
1/6/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
1/8/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
1/9/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
1/11/23	Non-Wolf Dep – dog	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
1/15/23	Confirmed	2 calves	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
1/17/23	Non-Wolf Depredation	1 miniature donkey	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
1/19/23	Confirmed	1 cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW
1/22/23	Possible	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW/Siskiyou Co
2/5/23	Probable	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
2/7/23	Non-Wolf Dep – dog	4 goats	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW/Siskiyou Co
2/10/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
2/15/23	Non-Wolf Dep – coyote	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
3/6/23	Confirmed	1 yearling	Whaleback	Lassen	WS
3/15/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW/Siskiyou Co
3/15/23	Non-Depredation	1 cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW/Siskiyou Co
3/16/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
3/26/23	Non-Depredation	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	CDFW/Siskiyou Co

Non-lethal deterrence tools

CDFW deployed a total of nine new Foxlights at one location in the Whaleback pack area during the quarter. In total, 65 Foxlights were active across five different locations in the Whaleback pack area during the quarter. CDFW deployed and routinely maintained ~five miles of turbo fladry at two different locations in the Whaleback pack area during the quarter and USDA WS deployed another ~0.75 miles of turbo fladry at a third location. In total, five different locations had active turbo fladry during the quarter in the Whaleback pack area. To date, no confirmed depredations have occurred inside of turbo fladry in California. Following the successful collaring of two members of the Whaleback pack, CDFW deployed two Radio Activated Guard boxes at two different locations in the Whaleback pack area. CDFW and Siskiyou County deployed six wildlife cameras in the Whaleback pack area to assist wolf-livestock conflict mitigation activities.

Communication

CDFW biologists have been in regular communication and coordination with livestock producers, USDA Wildlife Services, county agriculture departments, private timberland managers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, CDFW wardens, U.S. Forest Service, and conservation organizations,

Ongoing communication also occurs in counties with any known dispersing wolves. This includes the county Boards of Supervisors, agricultural commissioners, farm services advisors, local Cattlemen's, and Farm Bureau boards.

Agency and community engagement events:

- February 6 – Wolf check in with USFWS – Virtual
- February 8-9 – Presentation at The Wildlife Society Western Chapter Annual Conference – Riverside
- February 23 – Presentation at Scott Watershed Informational Forum – Etna
- March 14 – Presentation to California Wolf Center – Virtual
- March 28 – Western States wolf management networking – Virtual
- March 30 – Technical Assistance Workshops on Wolf-Livestock Compensation - Yreka