

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

April – July 2023



Field Work

Beckwourth pack (Plumas County)

Status: The current status of the Beckwourth pack is unknown. One wolf was documented in 2022, but there have not been detections of multiple wolves since 2021. The area is being surveyed and monitored through this season. In 2021, the Beckwourth pack was identified with three wolves including LAS12F (disperser from the Lassen 2019 litter). In 2022, sign of two wolves was observed 22 miles north of the 2021 Beckwourth detections. At that time, it could not be ascertained if the 2022 detections were Beckwourth pack animals or a new group. During the summer of 2023 DNA analysis confirmed there are two separate packs: Beckwourth and an unnamed Plumas County pack (below).

Collared wolves: None

Depredation Events: There were no confirmed depredations during the reporting period.

Non-lethal Deterrence Tools: None

Unnamed Plumas County pack

Status: There was a minimum of two adults and two pups in the pack. The pack consists of the breeding wolves LAS23F and LAS19M. They are partial siblings from a Lassen double litter in 2020.

Collared wolves: LAS23F was captured and collared during the reporting period.

Depredation Events: There were no confirmed depredations during the reporting period. However, calf carcasses were reported as suspected depredation but were too old to determine cause of mortality.

Non-lethal Deterrence Tools: None

Unnamed Lassen County pack

Status: There was a minimum of two adults and an unknown number of pups in the pack. The female is WHA05F of the Whaleback 2021 litter. Preliminary genetic analyses indicate the male is not from known California packs or Oregon's Rogue pack. Pups are verified, but so far have been unable to document numbers.

Collared wolves: None

Depredation Events: There were no confirmed depredations during the reporting period.

Non-lethal Deterrence Tools: None

Lassen pack (Plumas and Lassen counties)

Status: There was a minimum of two adults, five yearlings, and four pups in the Lassen pack.

Collared wolves: Yearling female wolf LAS23F was captured and collared this reporting period.

Depredation Events: There was one confirmed depredation during the reporting period.

Non-lethal Deterrence Tools: CDFW deployed ~5 miles of turbo fladry at one location and USDA Wildlife Services deployed ~2.25 miles of turbo fladry at a second location in the Lassen pack area during the reporting period. CDFW also deployed a total of 18 new foxlights at one location in the Lassen pack area. In total, 83 foxlights were active across six different locations in the Whaleback and Lassen pack areas during the reporting period.

Unnamed Tulare County pack

Status: There was a minimum of one adult and four pups in the (currently) unnamed pack. The breeding female is a disperser from the Rogue pack in Southwest Oregon. The genetic profile of the pups, as determined from samples taken in the field, indicate that the breeding male is a disperser from the Lassen pack 2020 litter. However, CDFW has not yet been able to confirm this directly through samples taken from this animal.

Collared wolves: None

Depredation Events: There were no confirmed depredations during the reporting period.

Non-lethal Deterrence Tools: None

Whaleback pack (Siskiyou County)

Status: There was a minimum of two adults, two yearlings/adults, and eight pups.

Collared wolves: The breeding male (OR85) and one yearling is collared.

Depredation Events: There was one confirmed and three probable depredations during the reporting period.

Non-lethal Deterrence Tools: Two radio activated guard boxes deployed in April and May at two different locations in the Whaleback pack area are still active. Two infrared alert devices are deployed in the Whaleback pack area at one location. In total, 83 foxlights were active across six different locations in the Whaleback and Lassen pack areas during the reporting period.

Unnamed Tehama County pack

Status: A group of three wolves were documented by a private trail camera in March. Survey efforts continue to determine reproductive status, numbers, origin, and to eventually collar.

Collared wolves: None

Depredation Events: There were no confirmed depredations during the reporting period.

Non-lethal Deterrence Tools: None

Dispersing wolves

There have been no new dispersing wolves detected during this period. However, it is likely that a small number of uncollared dispersers exist in the state at any moment in time. CDFW has regularly detected dispersing wolves in California since December 2011. 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 were no other suspected wolf pairs or packs detected during this reporting period. CDFW continues to survey for the presence of uncollared and collared animals, based on wolf sighting reports and other sign of wolf activity (e.g., suspected depredation, DNA, tracks).

Livestock Interactions

Depredation investigations

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack/Area	County	Investigators
5/15/23	Probable	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
5/17/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
6/18/23	Confirmed	1 cow	Lassen	Plumas	USDA Wildlife Services
6/20/23	Non-Dep, Unknown	1 cow, 1 calf	Unnamed	Plumas	USDA Wildlife Services
6/21/23	Non-Dep, Natural	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
6/30/23	Probable	1 cow killed	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
7/18/23	Unknown	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
7/28/23	Unknown	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
7/30/23	Unknown, Probable	1 cow, 1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co

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 County Boards of Supervisors, agricultural commissioners, farm services advisors, local Cattlemen’s, and Farm Bureau boards.

Agency and community engagement events:

- April 7 – Conflict Reduction Consortium meeting – virtual
- April 13 – USFWS update – virtual
- April 13 – FWS forestry talk – McCloud, Calif.
- April 19 – Meeting with Siskiyou County – Montague, Calif.
- April 20 – Shasta Valley ranch visits – Shasta Valley, Calif.
- April 26 – Meeting with Klamath Forest biologists and other staff – Yreka, Calif.
- April 28 – Wolf Compensation Grants Public Workshop – Dorris, Calif.
- May 1 – Feather River College lecture – Quincy, Calif.
- May 9 – Director Bonham addressed Lassen County Board of Supervisors (BOS)
- May 24 – Western States wolf management networking – virtual
- July 11 – Director Bonham addressed Lassen County BOS
- July 29 – USFS Regional Public Affairs field trip – Klamath National Forest