

Wolf Management Update California Department of Fish and Wildlife August – October 2023

Field Work

Packs¹

Beckwourth pack (Plumas County)

Status: The current status of the Beckwourth pack is unknown. In 2021, the Beckwourth pack was identified with three wolves including LAS12F (disperser from the Lassen 2019 litter). In 2022, one wolf was documented in the area. The area continues to be surveyed and monitored, but no wolves have been detected in 2023.

Collared wolves: None.

Depredation Events: There were no depredation investigations during the reporting period.

Beyem Seyo pack (Plumas County)

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

Collared wolves: The breeding female (LAS23F).

Depredation Events: There were no depredation investigations during the reporting period.

Harvey pack (Lassen Country)

Status: There was a minimum of two adults and one pup in the pack. The breeding female is WHA05F of the Whaleback 2021 litter. Preliminary genetic analyses indicate the breeding male is not from known California packs or Oregon's Rogue pack. Two pups were initially confirmed, but by the end of the reporting period there was some indication from camera trap and monitoring data that only one remained.

¹ California's 2016 Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves defines a wolf pack as "two or more wolves traveling together and using a definable area". CDFW recognizes wolf groups as packs when it either 1) detects multiple wolves and evidence of reproduction, or 2) detects two or more wolves four or more times within a geographically congruent area within a six-month period.

Collared wolves: The breeding female (WHA05F).

Depredation Events: There were no depredation investigations during the reporting period.

Unnamed pack (Sierra and Nevada County)

Status: A group of two wolves was documented by a private trail camera in March. Four additional detections from camera traps were confirmed in the same geographic area in August and October. Survey efforts continue to determine reproductive status, numbers, origin, and to eventually collar.

Collared wolves: None.

Depredation Events: There were no depredation investigations during the reporting period.

Lassen pack (Plumas and Lassen counties)

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

Collared wolves: A yearling female (LAS32F).

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

Whaleback pack (Siskiyou County)

Status: There was a minimum of two adults, one yearling/adult, and eight pups.

Collared wolves: The breeding male (OR85).

Depredation Events: There were seven confirmed depredations and one probable depredation during the reporting period.

Yowlumni pack (Tulare County)

Status: There was a minimum of two adults and six pups in the pack. The breeding female (YOW01F) is a disperser from the Rogue pack in Southwest Oregon and direct offspring of OR7. The breeding male is LAS24M, a disperser from the Lassen pack 2020 litter.

Collared wolves: None.

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

Areas of Wolf Activity²

Modoc County – Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) reported multiple wolves on the California border near western Modoc county. This area is being investigated by CDFW & ODFW.

Tehama County – In eastern Tehama County, three wolves were recorded by camera trap in March and two wolves were detected in April. No subsequent detections have occurred, but the area is still being monitored.

Dispersing wolves

There were 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 are several areas of potential wolf activity adjacent to known packs and in novel areas in Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and Tehama counties. CDFW continues to survey for the presence of uncollared and collared animals based on wolf sighting reports and other signs of wolf activity (e.g., suspected depredations, DNA, tracks, etc.).

² When two or more wolves are detected at one or more locations outside of a known pack area but one of the pack criteria is not met (see footnote 1 for criteria), an area encompassing the detections will be identified as an Area of Wolf Activity. AWAs will be prioritized for additional survey and will be recognized as packs if a pack criterion is met.

Livestock Interactions

Depredation Investigations

Month	Number of Investigations	Total Probable	Total Confirmed
August	9	1	4
September	7	1	4
October	2	0	1
Total	18	2	9

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf/Pack Area	County	Investigators
8/6/23	Non-Depredation	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
8/8/23	Unknown	1 calf	Yowlumni	Tulare	CDFW
8/14/23	Unknown	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
8/18/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
8/19/23	Unknown	2 calves	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
8/19/23	Unknown	2 calves	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
8/23/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Lassen	Lassen	USDA Wildlife Services
8/26/23	Confirmed	1 yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
8/30/23	Non-Depredation	2 yearlings, 1 infirm calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
9/1/23	Non-Depredation	1 yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
9/8/23	Confirmed	1 yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
9/8/23	Probable	1 yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
9/10/23	Confirmed	1 calf	Lassen	Lassen	USDA Wildlife Services
9/13/23	Confirmed	1 cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
9/20/23	Confirmed	1 cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
9/20/23	Non-Depredation	1 cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
10/30/23	Non-Depredation	1 cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
10/31/23	Confirmed	1 cow	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: None during reporting period