

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

November – December 2023

Field Work

Packs¹

Beckwourth pack (Plumas County)

Status: There was a minimum of two wolves in the Beckwourth pack. There were four detections of two separate wolves, one black and one gray, confirmed in the reporting period. The area continues to be monitored.

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 eight wolves in the Beyem Seyo pack. The pack consists of the breeding wolves LAS23F & LAS19M, and six pups.

Collared wolves: The breeding female (LAS23F)

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

Harvey pack (Lassen County)

Status: There was a minimum of three wolves in the Harvey Pack, including the breeding wolves WHA05F & HAR01M and one pup.

Collared wolves: The breeding female (WHA05F)

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

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.

Lassen pack (Plumas and Lassen counties)

Status: There was a minimum of 10 wolves in the Lassen Pack, including the breeding wolves LAS09F and LAS16M, five yearlings, and three pups.

Collared wolves: A yearling female (LAS32F). However, the collar began to function irregularly during the reporting period.

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

Whaleback pack (Siskiyou County)

Status: There was a minimum of 11 wolves in the Whaleback Pack including the breeding wolves OR85 & WHA01F, one yearling, and eight pups.

Collared wolves: The breeding male (OR85)

Depredation Events: There were seven confirmed depredations during the reporting period.

Yowlumni pack (Tulare County)

Status: There was minimum of eight wolves in the Yowlumni pack including the breeding wolves YOW01F & LAS24M, and six pups.

Collared wolves: YOW01F was captured and collared during the reporting period.

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

Unnamed pack (Sierra and Nevada county)

Status: There was a minimum of two wolves documented, traveling together in an area spanning portions of Sierra and Nevada counties.

Collared wolves: None

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

Areas of Wolf Activity²

Modoc County – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has documented two wolves near the California state line, western Modoc County. This area is being monitored by CDFW and ODFW.

Tehama County – In eastern Tehama County, camera traps detected three wolves in March and two wolves in April 2023. This area continues to be monitored.

Dispersing wolves

There have been no new dispersing wolves detected during this period. However, it is likely that an unknown 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)

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). Survey areas include the AWAs mentioned above in Modoc and Tehama counties as well as additional areas of suspected wolf presence in Lassen and Plumas counties.

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 Wolf	Total Confirmed Wolf
November	11	0	4
December	9	0	4
Total	20	0	8

Date	Determination	Type	Wolf Pack Area	County	Investigators
11/05/2023	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/07/2023	Non-Depredation	1 Cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
11/08/2023	Confirmed	1 Cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/12/2023	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/18/2023	Confirmed	1 Cow, 2 Calves	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/20/2023	Non-Wolf Depredation	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/23/2023	Unknown	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/25/2023	Non-Wolf Depredation	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/27/2023	Unknown	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/28/2023	Unknown	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
11/29/2023	Non-Depredation	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/07/2023	Non-Wolf Depredation	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/10/2023	Non-Depredation	1 Cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/16/2023	Confirmed	1 Yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/17/2023	Non-Wolf Depredation	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/26/2023	Non-Wolf Depredation	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/28/2023	Non-Depredation	1 Cow	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/28/2023	Confirmed	1 Yearling	Harvey	Lassen	USDA - Wildlife Services
12/30/2023	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co
12/31/2023	Confirmed	2 Calves (confirmed) 1 Calf (unknown)	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:

Nothing to report for this period.