

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

January – March 2024

Field Work

Packs

Antelope pack (Sierra and Nevada counties)

Status: There was a minimum of two wolves traveling together. The area continues to be monitored.

Collared wolves: None

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

Beckwourth pack (Plumas and Sierra counties)

Status: There was a minimum of two wolves in the Beckwourth pack last fall. The area continues to be monitored.

Collared wolves: None

Depredation Events: No depredation investigations during the reporting period.

Beyem Seyo pack (Plumas County)

Status: There was a minimum of seven wolves, including the breeding wolves LAS23F and LAS19M, and five pups. One pup died from a vehicle strike during the reporting period.

Collared wolves: The breeding female (LAS23F)

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

Harvey pack (Lassen and Shasta counties)

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.

Lassen pack (Plumas and Lassen counties)

Status: There are at least five wolves in the Lassen pack, including the breeding wolves LAS09F and LAS16M.

Collared wolves: The collar on LAS32F failed in January 2024.

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

Whaleback pack (Siskiyou County)

Status: There was a minimum of seven wolves in the Whaleback pack, including the breeding wolves OR85 and WHA01F.

Collared wolves: The breeding male (OR85)

Depredation Events: There were two 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: The breeding female (YOW01F)

Depredation Events: No depredation investigations during the reporting period.

Areas of Wolf Activity

Western Modoc County – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has documented two wolves near the California state line.

Southern Modoc County – Two wolves were detected during this quarter. Genetic analysis determined that they are WHA07M and WHA09F of the Whaleback pack.

Eastern Plumas County – Two wolves were detected during this quarter.

Eastern Tehama County – Camera traps detected two wolves during this quarter.

Dispersing wolves

CDFW has detected no new collared dispersing wolves during this period. An unknown number of uncollared dispersers likely exist in the state at any time. CDFW has regularly detected dispersing wolves in California since December 2011. More information is available on the CDFW Gray Wolf webpage 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 wolf sightings or 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 wolf depredation, DNA, tracks). Survey areas include the “Areas of Wolf Activity” in Modoc, Plumas, and Tehama counties and several additional areas of suspected wolf presence in Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Shasta counties.

Livestock Interactions

Depredation Investigations

Month	Number of Investigations	Total Probable Wolf	Total Confirmed Wolf
January	3	0	3
February	3	0	1
March	4	0	0
Total	10	0	4

Date	Determination	Type	Pack Area	County	Investigators
1/3/2024	Confirmed	4 Lambs	<u>Beyem Seyo</u>	Plumas	USDA - Wildlife Service (WS)
1/22/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Harvey	Lassen	USDA - WS
1/22/2024	Confirmed	2 Calves	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
2/1/2024	Unknown	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
2/19/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
2/23/2024	Unknown	1 Calf	New Area	Modoc	USDA - WS
3/14/2024	Possible	1 Calf	Unknown	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.
3/19/2024	Unknown	1 Calf	New Area	Modoc	USDA - WS
3/25/2024	Non-Wolf Depredator	1 Sheep	Unknown	Butte	USDA - WS & CDFW
3/27/2024	Unknown	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou Co.

Communication

CDFW staff are in regular communication and coordination with livestock producers, county agriculture departments, private timberland managers, USDA-WS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and conservation organizations. Ongoing communication also occurs in counties with known wolves and new areas of wolf activity including county Boards of Supervisors, agricultural commissioners, farm services advisors, local Cattlemen's, and Farm Bureau boards.

Agency and community engagement events:

- January 10 – Wolf update to Mount Shasta Rotary - Mount Shasta, CA
- January 18 – Presentation to the Tahoe Basin Interagency Group - Virtual
- January 31 – Meeting with Placer County Department of Agriculture - Rancho Cordova, CA
- February 2 – Conflict Reduction Consortium meeting - Virtual
- February 5 – Western States Wolf Network meeting - Virtual
- February 7 & 9 – Presentations to Western Section of The Wildlife Society - Rohnert Park, CA
- February 9-10 – Presentation to Tule River Tribe
- February 19 – Presentation to CalPoly Humboldt wildlife management class - Virtual
- February 23 – Presentation to UC Berkeley wildlife seminar - Berkeley, CA
- March 7 – Western States Wolf Network meeting - Virtual
- March 12 – Update to Modoc County Board of Supervisors – Alturas, CA

- March 12 – Update to Lassen County Board of Supervisors – Susanville, CA
- March 18 – Presentation to CA Farm Bureau Capitol Ag Conference (Livestock Advisory Committee) - Sacramento, CA
- March 19 – Attendance at Sierra County Board of Supervisors meeting – Loyalton, CA
- March 20 – Presentation to CA Farm Bureau Capitol Ag Conference (Forestry and Public Lands Advisory Committee) - Sacramento, CA
- March 28 – Wolf update at Plumas National Forest Annual Allotment Meeting – Vinton, CA