

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

July – September 2024

Population Monitoring

Packs

Antelope pack (eastern Sierra and eastern Nevada counties)

Status: There was a minimum of two wolves traveling together. Genetic analysis determined one to be male wolf WHA08M, originally from the Whaleback pack.

Fieldwork: This area continues to be monitored.

Collared wolves: None

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

Beckwourth pack (southern Plumas and Sierra counties)

Status: While wolves were not detected in the Beckwourth pack area during the reporting period, there was a minimum of two wolves last October. If wolves are not detected by December, CDFW will no longer consider the Beckwourth pack to be active.

Fieldwork: 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)

Status¹: The pack is active, and no population changes were recorded.

¹ Previously, CDFW has reported on the minimum number of wolves known to be in each pack in each quarterly update. Monitoring efforts will continue throughout the year in each pack, especially in those without collared animals. However, in accordance with California's 2016 Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves, metrics for gray wolf recovery are largely focused on annual change, including a year-end minimum count and assessment of breeding

Fieldwork: Biologists spent 12 days attempting to capture and collar additional Beyem Seyo wolves, without success.

Collared wolves: The breeding female (LAS23F)

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

Diamond pack (eastern Plumas and southern Lassen County)

Status: There was a minimum of two wolves traveling together, LAS28F and an unknown individual.

Fieldwork: Biologists continue to survey the area, and deployed camera traps and acoustic recording detectors during the reporting period.

Collared wolves: None

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

Harvey pack (southern Lassen and eastern Shasta counties)

Status: The pack is active, and no population changes were recorded.

Fieldwork: The area continues to be monitored.

Collared wolves: The breeding female (WHA05F)

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

pair numbers. Therefore, for the reproductive packs, the 'Status' section in this and subsequent quarterly updates will only report on updates to reproduction and mortality.

Lassen pack (*northern Plumas and southern Lassen counties*)

Status: The pack is active, and no population changes were recorded.

Fieldwork: Biologists spent 32 days attempting to capture and collar Lassen wolves. Individual wolves have been exhibiting trap avoidance and capture activities have been unsuccessful.

Collared wolves: None

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

Whaleback pack (*eastern Siskiyou County*)

Status: The pack is active, and no population changes were recorded.

Fieldwork: The area continues to be monitored.

Collared wolves: The breeding male (OR85)

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

Yowlumni pack (*southern Tulare County*)

Status: The pack is active, and no population changes were recorded.

Fieldwork: Biologists spent seven days attempting to capture and collar Yowlumni wolves. One collar was deployed (the third active collar in the pack).

Collared wolves: The breeding female (YOW01F), a yearling female (YOW03F), and yearling male (YOW06M).

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

Areas of Wolf Activity

Southern Modoc County – Two wolves were detected during the prior quarter. Surveys for presence are ongoing.

Eastern Shasta County – Camera traps detected two wolves during the quarter.

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

Dispersing wolves

CDFW did not detect new dispersing collared wolves during this period (from California packs or from other states). 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, Shasta, and Tehama counties and several additional areas of suspected wolf presence in Alpine, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Shasta counties.

Livestock Interactions

Depredation Investigations

Month	Number of Investigations	Total Probable Wolf	Total Confirmed Wolf
July	9	0	5
August	12	0	9
September	8	1	6
Total	29	1	20

Date	Determination	Type	Pack Area	County	Investigators
7/2/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
7/10/2024	Confirmed	2 Calves	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
7/11/2024	Non-Depredation	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
7/11/2024	Unknown	1 Yearling	Yowlumni	Tulare	CDFW
7/24/2024	Unknown	1 Calf	Yowlumni	Tulare	CDFW
7/26/2024	Unknown	1 Calf	N/A	Sierra	CDFW
7/29/2024	Confirmed	1 Yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County

7/31/2024	Confirmed	2 Yearlings	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
7/31/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	N/A	Sierra	USDA Wildlife Services & CDFW
8/2/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	N/A	Plumas	USDA Wildlife Services
8/5/2024	Non-Depredation	1 Cow	Beyem Seyo	Plumas	USDA Wildlife Services & CDFW
8/9/2024	Non-Depredation	1 Calf	Yowlumni	Tulare	CDFW
8/9/2024	Confirmed	1 Yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/11/2024	Confirmed	1 Yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/14/2024	Confirmed	1 Yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/19/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/20/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/22/2024	Confirmed	2 Yearlings	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/22/2024	Confirmed	1 Yearling	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/26/2024	Non-Depredation & Unknown	2 Yearlings	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
8/27/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
9/2/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Harvey	Lassen	USDA Wildlife Services
9/4/2024	Confirmed	1 Calf	Whaleback	Siskiyou	Siskiyou County
9/5/2024	Confirmed	1 Cow	Beyem Seyo	Plumas	USDA Wildlife Services
9/6/2024	Probable	1 Calf	Yowlumni	Tulare	CDFW
9/17/2024	Non-Depredation	1 Bull	Yowlumni	Tulare	CDFW
9/17/2024	Confirmed	1 Cow	Harvey	Lassen	USDA Wildlife Services
9/18/2024	Confirmed	1 Cow	Harvey	Lassen	USDA Wildlife Services
9/27/2024	Confirmed	1 Cow	Beyem Seyo	Plumas	USDA Wildlife Services

Communication

CDFW staff are in regular communication and coordination with livestock producers, county agriculture departments, private timberland managers, USDA-Wildlife Services, 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:

- August 1 – Interagency Meeting with USDA and USFWS – Virtual