

Wolf Management Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

January – March 2025

Population Monitoring

Packs

Ashpan pack (Eastern Shasta County)

Status: The pack is active and consists of at least two wolves. Formerly the 'Eastern Shasta County AWA, this group has met the criteria for pack as of this quarter.

Fieldwork: The area continues to be monitored, with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.

Collared wolves: None

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

Beyem Seyo pack (Sierra County)

Status: The pack is active. WHA08M is known to have joined the pack and is thought to be the breeding male. Two collared males (BEY09M and BEY10M) dispersed from the pack into Lassen County. One collared female (BEY01F) briefly entered central Nevada County but returned to the pack.

Fieldwork: Five wolves were collared (including the recollaring of LAS23F) in January during helicopter operations. Focused GPS cluster investigations occurred in this pack's territory in February, when CDFW and UC Berkeley biologists collected data to better understand winter diets.

Collared wolves: LAS23F (breeding female), WHA08M (adult male, 2021 Whaleback litter), BEY01F (female, 2023 litter), BEY09M and BEY10M (males, 2024 litter).

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

Diamond pack (eastern Plumas and southern Lassen County)

Status: The pack is active and there were at a minimum, two wolves identified in the area: LAS28F and LAS30M.

Fieldwork: Biologists continue to survey the area and deployed camera traps.

Collared wolves: None

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

Harvey pack (*southern Lassen and eastern Shasta counties*)

Status: The pack is active.

Fieldwork: Five wolves were collared (including the recollaring of WHA05F) in January during helicopter operations. Focused GPS cluster investigations occurred in this pack's territory in February, when CDFW and UC Berkeley biologists collected data to better understand winter diets.

Collared wolves: WHA05F (breeding female), HAR04F and HAR05F (both females, 2024 litter), HAR07M and HAR11M (both males, 2024 litter).

Depredation Events: There were three confirmed and one probable depredation events during the reporting period.

Ice Cave pack (*Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and Tehama counties*)

Status: The pack is active.

Fieldwork: The area continues to be monitored by deploying with cameras and conducting ground surveys.

Collared wolves: None

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

Ishi pack (*Eastern Tehama County*)

Status: The pack is active and consists of at least three wolves. Formerly the 'Eastern Tehama County AWA, this group has met the criteria for pack as of this quarter.

Fieldwork: The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.

Collared wolves: None

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

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

Status: The pack is active.

Fieldwork: The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys continuing during this reporting period. Several attempts were made to locate this group during helicopter operations in January, but the capture team was unsuccessful.

Collared wolves: None

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

Tunnison pack (*Central Lassen County*)

Status: The pack is active and consists of a minimum of two wolves: LAS32F and DIS04M. Formerly the 'Central Lassen County AWA', this group has met the criteria for pack as of this quarter.

Fieldwork: An attempt was made to locate this group during helicopter operations in January, but the capture team was unsuccessful.

Collared wolves: None. However, LAS32F has a non-functioning collar.

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

Whaleback pack (*eastern Siskiyou County*)

Status: The pack is active. At least three wolves from the Whaleback pack were detected in Modoc County during this quarter (see Areas of Wolf Activity below). However, it is unclear whether these individuals will remain in Modoc County or return to the pack in Siskiyou County.

Fieldwork: Two wolves (WHA01F and WHA29F) were collared during the reporting period during helicopter operations in January. Focused GPS cluster investigations occurred in this

pack's territory in February, when CDFW and UC Berkeley biologists collected data to better understand winter diets.

Collared wolves: OR85 (breeding male), WHA01F (breeding female), and WHA29F (female, 2024 litter).

Depredation Events: There were three confirmed and one probable depredation events during the reporting period.

Yowlumni pack (southern Tulare County)

Status: The pack is active. Sarcoptic mange was detected in the pack. Two mortalities were recorded during this quarter and are currently under investigation.

Fieldwork: The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys during this reporting period. Focused GPS cluster investigations occurred in this pack's territory in February, with CDFW staff collecting winter dietary data.

Collared wolves: YOW01F, (the breeding female).

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

Areas of Wolf Activity

Southern Modoc County – Three wolves were detected at four livestock depredations that were investigated by CDFW/USDA and species was confirmed through genetic analysis. All three wolves were identified to be associated with the Whaleback pack.

Southern Plumas County – Camera traps detected two wolves in the historical range of the Beyem Seyo pack during this quarter.

Dispersing wolves

Three collared wolves dispersed from the Beyem Seyo pack this quarter. Two male wolves, BEY09M and BEY10M (2024 litter), dispersed into Lassen County. One female wolf, BEY01F (2023 litter) briefly dispersed into central Nevada County but returned to her natal pack's territory. One wolf was detected on a single camera trap in central Kern County.

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 across California. Public reports are an important monitoring tool. Please report wolf sightings through 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 wolves, based on sighting reports and other signs indicating wolf activity (e.g., suspected wolf depredation, DNA, tracks). Survey areas include the "Areas of Wolf Activity" in Plumas and Modoc counties and several additional areas of suspected wolf presence in Butte, Modoc, Plumas, and Kern counties.

Livestock Interactions

Depredation Investigations

| Month | Number of Investigations | Total Probable Wolf | Total Confirmed Wolf |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| January | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| February | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| March | 18 | 2 | 10 |
| Total | 26 | 3 | 16 |

| Date | Determination | Type | Pack Area | County | Investigators |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------------------|
| 1/26/2025 | Non-Depredation | 1 Calf | Yowlumni | Tulare | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 1/29/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Cow | Lassen | Plumas | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 2/9/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | AWA | Modoc | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 2/15/2025 | Confirmed & Probable | 3 Calves | AWA | Modoc | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 2/18/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | Whaleback | Siskiyou | Siskiyou County |
| 2/18/2025 | Non-Wolf | 3 Calves | AWA | Modoc | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 2/26/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | AWA | Modoc | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 2/28/2025 | Confirmed | 3 | AWA | Shasta | CDFW |
| 3/1/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Steer | AWA | Modoc | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/4/2025 | Possible | 1 Cow | Yowlumni | Tulare | CDFW & USDA |
| 3/5/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | Whaleback | Siskiyou | Siskiyou County |
| 3/7/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | Diamond | Plumas | CDFW & USDA |
| 3/7/2025 | Probable | 1 Calf | Whaleback | Siskiyou | Siskiyou County |
| 3/13/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | Diamond | Plumas | USDA Wildlife Services |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------------------|
| 3/13/2025 | Non-Depredation | 1 Calf | Whaleback | Siskiyou | Siskiyou County |
| 3/14/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | Harvey | Lassen | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/15/2025 | Probable | 1 Calf | Harvey | Lassen | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/16/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Cow | Diamond | Plumas | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/18/2025 | Confirmed | 2 Calves | Harvey | Lassen | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/20/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | AWA | Lassen | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/21/2025 | Possible | 2 Calves | Harvey | Lassen | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/21/2025 | Non depredation | 1 Dog | N/A | Lassen | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/21/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | Whaleback | Siskiyou | Siskiyou County |
| 3/26/2025 | Confirmed | 1 Calf | Harvey | Modoc | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/28/2025 | Non-Wolf | 1 Calf | N/A | Plumas | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/30/2025 | Possible | 1 Calf | Harvey | Lassen | USDA Wildlife Services |
| 3/31/2025 | Non-Wolf | 1 Calf | AWA | Modoc | 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, conservation organizations, and the public where known wolf activities occur. Ongoing communications also occur in counties with known wolf activity. During these efforts, CDFW includes direct information sharing with county Boards of Supervisors, agricultural commissioners, farm service advisors, members of the local Cattlemen's Association, and Farm Bureau boards.

Agency and community engagement events:

- February 13th – Interagency Wolf Meeting (CDFW/USDA/USFWS) - Virtual
- February 18th – Wolf Update, UC Davis Rustici Rangeland Symposium – Davis, CA
- February 19th – Western States Wolf Network – Virtual
- February 25th – Lecture on CDFW wolf management for Cal Poly Humboldt – Virtual
- February 25th – Feather River College presentation on human dimensions in wolf management in California – Quincy, CA
- February 25th – Panel discussion on wolves for Modoc County – Alturas, CA
- March 5th – Wolf update to Sierra and Plumas counties – Loyaltan, CA
- March 7th – Butte County Juvenile Hall presentation on wildlife biologist careers and wildlife management – Oroville, CA
- March 18th – Truckee Chamber of Commerce – Good Morning, Truckee breakfast – presentation on wildlife updates – Truckee, CA