



Updated: 4/13/2026

2026 CDFW WOLF-LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINATIONS

This document summarizes livestock depredation investigations (LDIs) and determinations completed in 2026. It is updated periodically to include recent LDIs.

Livestock Depredation Investigations:

If a livestock owner (or owner's agent) discovers deceased or injured livestock and suspects wolf depredation, they may request a Livestock Depredation Investigation (LDI). CDFW staff, USDA Wildlife Services, and/or county agricultural staff (in some counties) will work together to respond to each investigation request. Investigations are conducted as soon as practical, to gather the most accurate information and evidence. Ideally, an investigation occurs within hours of the request.

The goal of LDIs is to determine the cause of the animal's injury or death. LDIs involve assessment of physical and circumstantial evidence. Trained investigators examine the carcass or injured animal and search for signs of an attack (e.g., premortem bites and tissue hemorrhage, evidence of a chase and struggle, etc.), as well as conditions potentially unrelated to predation, such as disease or prior injury. Investigators normally collect genetic evidence for analysis at the CDFW Wildlife Forensic Laboratory. Genetic evidence can establish the presence of certain species, and even certain individuals, at a carcass—but critically, such evidence does not determine cause of death. Evidence like animal tracks or scats can also help establish the presence of certain species at or near a carcass. Investigators document their observations on a mandatory field investigation form and take photographs as supportive evidence.

Determination:

***Disclaimer:** Wolf-livestock depredation investigations involve coordination among multiple agencies and personnel across the state. The information provided here reflects the Department's knowledge as of the date of this document and may be updated as new information becomes available.*

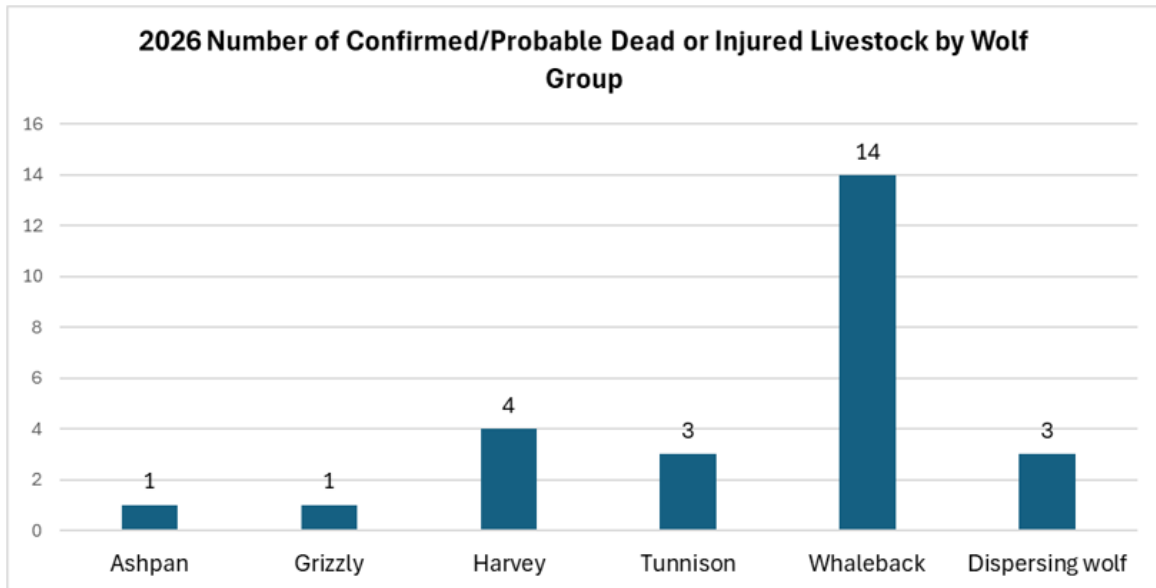
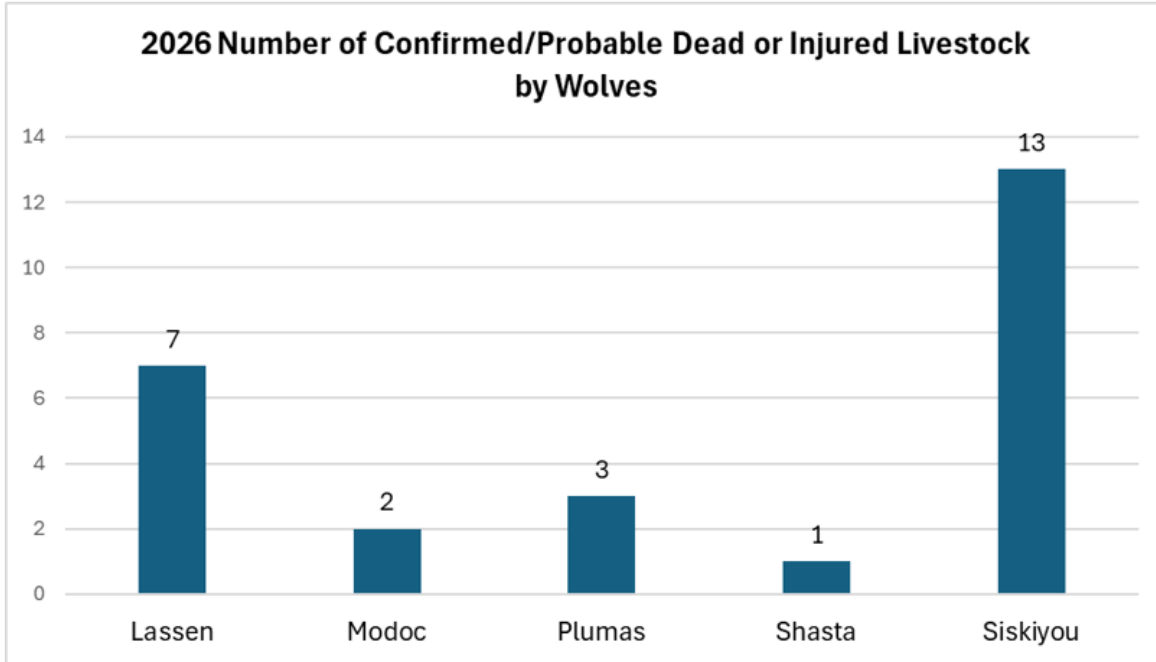
Based on the completed LDI, CDFW makes a final determination based on the evidence collected. The field investigation form and photographs are reviewed and CDFW staff communicate with the field investigators (if CDFW staff were not present at the investigation). Genetic evidence and GPS data from collared wolves are considered when available. Determinations are classified as either **Confirmed Wolf**, **Probable Wolf**, **Possible Wolf**, **Non-Wolf Depredation**, **Non-Depredation**, and **Unknown**. A description of each category can be found at: [Considerations for Classification of Reported Wolf Depredation Incidents](#)

Educational Resources:

Information on livestock protection tools and how to minimize wolf presence: [Tools for California Livestock Producers to Discourage Wolf Presence, Guidance for Suspected Wolf Depredation, and Wolf Legal Status Livestock Protection Tools for California Ranchers \(ucanr.edu\)](#)

2026 Investigations

Total Investigations	Total Livestock Confirmed/Probable Killed or Injured by Wolves
47	26



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2026 Investigations & Determinations

47	040126-SIS	- Non-Depredation	- Siskiyou - Central Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
46	033126-SIS	- Confirmed (2) - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Cow, 1 Dead Calf
45	033026-SIS	- Confirmed (1), Probable (1) - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	2 Dead Calves
44	032426-SIS-2	- Non-Wolf Depredation (1), Non-depredation (1)	- Siskiyou - Central Siskiyou - Private	2 Dead Calves
43	032426-SIS-1	- Non-Depredation	- Siskiyou - Central Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
42	032326-TEH	- Non-Depredation	- Tehama - Western Tehama - Private	1 Dead Steer
41	032226-SHA	- Possible	- Shasta - Central Shasta - Private	1 Dead Calf
40	032026-SIS	- Probable - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Central Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
39	032026-BUT	- Unknown	- Butte - Western Butte - Private	1 Dead Cow
38	031926-LAS	- Probable (1), Unknown (1) - Harvey pack	- Lassen - Eastern Lassen - Private	2 Dead Calves
37	031726-LAS	- Probable - Harvey pack	- Lassen - Eastern Lassen - Private	1 Dead Calf
36	031626-MOD	- Unknown	Modoc Eastern Modoc Private	1 Dead Calf
35	031426-SIS	- Confirmed - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
34	031226-SIS	- Non-Depredation	- Siskiyou Central Siskiyou Private	1 Dead Cow
33	031226-LAS	- Confirmed - Tunnison pack	- Lassen - Southern Lassen - Private	1 Dead Calf

32	031026-MOD	- Non-Depredation	- Modoc - Eastern Modoc - Private	2 Dead Calves
31	031026-LAS	- Non-Depredation	- Lassen - Eastern Lassen - Private	1 Dead Cow
30	030926-SIS	- Non-Depredation	- Siskiyou - Central Siskiyou	1 Dead Calf
29	030626-PLU	- Possible	- Plumas - Eastern Plumas - Private	1 Dead Calf
28	030226-MOD	- Non-Wolf Depredation	- Modoc - Southern Modoc - Private	1 Dead Calf
27	030126-SIS	- Probable - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
26	022026-SIS	- Confirmed - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Heifer
25	021726-SIS-2	- Confirmed - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Injured Calf (Euthanized)
24	021726-SIS-1	- Non-Depredation	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
23	021626-SIS	- Confirmed - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
22	021526-SIS-2	- Probable - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
21	021526-SIS-1	- Non-Wolf Depredation (4)	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	3 Dead Alpacas, 1 Injured Alpaca (Euthanized)
20	021526-SHA	- Non-Wolf Depredation	- Shasta - Western Shasta - Private	1 Dead Ewe
19	021426-SIS	- Confirmed - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
18	021426-PLU	- Confirmed - Grizzly pack	- Plumas - Central Plumas - Private	1 Dead Calf
17	021026-LAS	- Possible	- Lassen - Western Lassen - Private	1 Dead Calf

16	020926-MOD	- Confirmed - <i>Dispersing Wolf</i>	- Modoc - Western Modoc - Private	1 Dead Calf
S15	020826-SIS	- Confirmed - Whaleback pack	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Heifer
14	020726-SIS	- Non-Depredation	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
13	020626-SIE	- Unknown	- Sierra - Eastern Sierra - Private	1 Dead Calf
12	020426-PLU	- Confirmed - <i>Dispersing wolf</i>	- Plumas - Central Plumas - Public	1 Injured Yearling
11	012826-MOD	- Non-Depredation	- Modoc - Western Modoc - Private	1 Dead Cow
10	012626-SHA	- Confirmed - Ashpan pack	- Shasta - Eastern Shasta - Private	1 Dead Heifer
9	012426-PLU	- Confirmed - <i>Dispersing wolf</i>	- Plumas - Southern Plumas - Private	1 Dead Ewe
8	012226-LAS	- Confirmed - Harvey pack	- Lassen - Northern Lassen - Private	1 Dead Calf
7	011926-SIS	- Non-Depredation	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
6	011726-SIS	- Non-Depredation (3)	- <u>Siskiyou</u> - <u>Eastern Siskiyou</u> - Private	3 Dead Calves
5	011326-LAS	- Confirmed - Harvey Pack	- Lassen - Western Lassen - Private	1 Dead Yearling
4	010526-MOD	- Confirmed - Whaleback wolves - extraterritorial foraging	- Modoc - Southern Modoc - Private	1 Dead Steer
3	010326-SIS	- Possible	- Siskiyou - Eastern Siskiyou - Private	1 Dead Calf
2	010326-MOD	- Non-Depredation	- Modoc - Central Modoc - Private	1 Dead Calf

1	010126-LAS	- Confirmed (2) - Tunnison Pack	- Lassen - Southern Lassen - Private	1 Dead Calf & 1 Injured (Euthanized) Horse
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**Livestock age-class nomenclature is determined by the investigator and may vary across investigations (e.g., heifer vs yearling)*