

# Wolf Management Update

## California Department of Fish and Wildlife

### April – June 2026

#### Important!

##### **New Wolf Identification Naming Convention:**

Previously, CDFW assigned each known wolf in California a unique identifier (ID) based on the pack in which the wolf was born (or, if its origin was unknown, the pack in which it was confirmed as a breeding animal). This naming convention used the first three letters of the pack name (e.g., “WHA” for Whaleback Pack), followed by a sequential number and the letter **M** or **F** to indicate the wolf's sex.

As California's wolf population has grown, with more packs and increased dispersal across the state, this system has become increasingly difficult for the public to interpret. Effective July 1, 2026, CDFW will use a simplified system in which wolves are assigned a unique ID in the order they are identified by CDFW, regardless of pack affiliation. This new system provides a consistent approach for identifying individual wolves in California.

*Table 1. The previous ID of each wolf mentioned in this document.*

| <b>Current ID</b> | <b>Previous ID</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| CA039             | WHA01F             |
| CA055             | LAS32F             |
| CA077             | WHA23F             |
| CA091             | BEY03F             |
| CA107             | HAR06F             |
| CA121             | WHA26F             |
| CA124             | WHA29F             |
| CA127             | WHA32M             |
| CA147             | WHA41F             |
| CA150             | HAR13F             |

## Population Monitoring

### **Packs**

#### **Ashpan pack (eastern Shasta County)**

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Reproduction:** Confirmed for 2026, with a minimum of five pups via genetic analysis.
- **Collared wolves:** CA124
- **Depredation events:** There was one confirmed and one probable depredation during the reporting period.

**Diamond pack (eastern Plumas and southern Lassen counties)**

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Reproduction:** No evidence yet in 2026.
- **Collared wolves:** No active collars.
- **Depredation events:** No confirmed or probable depredations during the reporting period.

**Grizzly pack (southern Plumas County)**

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Capture effort:** Biologists conducted nine days of ground capture operations.
- **Reproduction:** No evidence yet in 2026.
- **Collared wolves:** No active collars.
- **Depredation events:** No confirmed and one probable depredation during the reporting period.

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

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Reproduction:** Confirmed for 2026, with a minimum of four pups via genetic analysis.
- **Collared wolves:** CA107 and CA150
- **Depredation events:** There were three confirmed and one probable livestock depredation losses during the reporting period. Three of these depredations occurred in Siskiyou County, while collared animals were exhibiting extraterritorial movements. The fourth was in Lassen County.

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

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Reproduction:** No evidence yet in 2026.
- **Collared wolves:** No active collars. However, CA157 (yearling female, 2025 Ice Cave litter) has a non-functioning collar.
- **Depredation events:** No confirmed or probable depredations during the reporting period.

**Interstate pack (northern Modoc County)**

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Reproduction:** No evidence yet in 2026.
- **Collared wolves:** No active collars.
- **Depredation events:** No confirmed or probable depredations during the reporting period.

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

- **Status:** The pack is active. CA168 (a previously undetected wolf from the 2025 Lassen litter) was detected via genetic analysis.
- **Capture effort:** Biologists conducted four days of ground capture operations.
- **Reproduction:** Confirmed for 2026, with a minimum of two pups confirmed via visual observation and tracks.

- **Collared wolves:** No active collars. However, CA019 (adult female, 2018 Lassen litter) has a non-functioning collar.
- **Depredation events:** No confirmed or probable depredations during the reporting period.

**Long Valley pack** (*eastern Sierra, eastern Plumas, and south Lassen counties*)

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Reproduction:** No evidence yet in 2026.
- **Collared wolves:** No active collars.
- **Depredation events:** No confirmed or probable depredations during the reporting period.

**Tunnison pack** (*central Lassen County*)

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Reproduction:** No evidence yet in 2026
- **Collared wolves:** No active collars. However, CA055 (adult female, 2022 Lassen litter) has a non-functioning collar.
- **Depredation events:** There were two confirmed livestock depredation losses during the reporting period.

**Whitehorse pack** (*western Modoc and eastern Siskiyou counties*)

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Capture effort:** Biologists conducted five days of ground capture operations and successfully collared CA077 (adult female, 2023 Whaleback litter).
- **Reproduction:** Confirmed for 2026, with a minimum of five pups confirmed via genetic analysis.
- **Collared wolves:** CA077
- **Depredation events:** No confirmed or probable depredations during the reporting period.

**Whaleback pack** (*eastern Siskiyou County*)

- **Status:** The pack is active.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Reproduction:** Confirmed for 2026, with a minimum of nine pups confirmed via trail camera.
- **Collared wolves:** CA039, CA147, CA121, CA127
- **Depredation events:** There were four confirmed and two probable livestock depredation losses during the reporting period.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ten depredation investigations related to the Whaleback pack remained under review by CDFW and Siskiyou County at the end of the quarter. For the most up to date depredation determination data, please reference the 2026 Wolf-Livestock Depredation Report found at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf>.

### **Yowlumni pack (Central Tulare County)**

- **Status:** Disperser CA091 has been the only wolf detected in the pack territory since the beginning of the year. If additional wolves are not detected during the next quarter, this pack will no longer be considered an active pack.
- **Fieldwork:** The area continues to be monitored with camera trap deployments and ground surveys.
- **Collared wolves:** No active collars.
- **Depredation Events:** No confirmed or probable depredations during the reporting period.

### ***Areas of Wolf Activity***

Central Sierra County – Multiple adult wolves continue to be detected in this area.

### ***Dispersing wolves \****

CA091, a collared female wolf from the Beyem Seyo Pack's 2023 litter who has primarily been in Tulare and Kern counties since May 2026, dispersed through Inyo and Mono counties in April and May before returning to Tulare County in June.

CA167, an uncollared and previously unknown male, was detected by via genetics in Modoc County in April.

CA109, an uncollared male from the Harvey pack's 2024 litter, was detected via genetics in Mono County in April.

*\*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".*

### ***Public Reports of Wolf Observations***

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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/Sighting-Report)

### ***Survey for presence (areas of suspected wolf presence)***

CDFW continues to survey the presence of wolves, based on sighting reports and other signs indicating wolf activity (e.g., suspected wolf depredation, DNA, camera trap images, tracks). Survey areas include the "Areas of Wolf Activity" in Sierra and Nevada counties and several additional areas of suspected wolf presence in Butte, Kern, Modoc, Plumas, and Shasta counties.

## Livestock Depredations

### Depredation Investigations in April, May, and June 2026.

| Month        | Investigations | Probable Wolf-Livestock Losses | Confirmed Wolf-Livestock Losses |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| April        | 22             | 3                              | 5                               |
| May          | 16             | 2                              | 4                               |
| June         | 11             | 1                              | 1                               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>49</b>      | <b>6</b>                       | <b>10</b>                       |

CDFW and Siskiyou County were working together to resolve ten pending depredation investigations related to the Whaleback pack at the end of the quarter. For the most up to date depredation determination data, please reference the 2026 Wolf-Livestock Depredation Report found at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf>.

### Compensation for Livestock Losses

CDFW continues to accept WLCP applications for eligible losses (confirmed or probable wolf depredations). During the quarter, CDFW received 14 new applications for 39 eligible depredated livestock. CDFW granted \$107,661.49 to livestock producers.

Also, in support for livestock producers, CDFW awarded \$1.9 million to the California Bountiful Foundation, the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District, the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, and Working Circle. These partners will work closely with CDFW to help provide compensation for eligible losses and outreach, training, and equipment to help producers deter wolf-livestock conflict.

For more information and/or assistance with the WLCP application process, please visit the [CDFW Wolf Livestock Compensation Grants](#) or email [wolfcompensation@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:wolfcompensation@wildlife.ca.gov).

During the reporting period, CDFW continued conversations with stakeholder representatives to evaluate potential future improvements to the WLCP. CDFW welcomes input on current and potential future programs at any time at [wolfcompensation@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:wolfcompensation@wildlife.ca.gov).

### Partnership Communications

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, non-governmental conservation organizations, and the general public where known wolf activities occur. 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:

- April 2, 2026 - Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program Workshop #3 – West Sacramento, CA
- April 9, 2026 – American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Tahoe City, CA
- April 13, 2026 - Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program Workshop #4 – West Sacramento, CA
- May 4, 2026 - Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program Workshop #5 – West Sacramento, CA
- May 9, 2026 – Presentation on CA's wolves to the California Wolf Center – Julian, CA
- May 12, 2026 – Western States Wolf Network meeting – Virtual

- May 14, 2026 – Wildlife Resources Committee, Wolf Update Presentation – Sacramento, CA
- May 15, 2026 – Interagency Wolf Meeting (CDFW, USDA, USFWS) – Virtual
- May 21, 2026 – Cultivating Connectivity, Friends of Plumas Wilderness, Plumas Audubon Society – Lake Davis, CA
- May 21, 2026 – California Naturalist Certification Program Training – Beckworth, CA