



Meeting Report
Multi-stakeholder Meeting on Wolves in California
August 29, 2013

UC Davis – Kenneth L. Maddy Building
620 West Health Science Drive
Davis, CA 95616



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Meeting Objectives and Mechanics.....	3
3.0 Meeting Outputs.....	6
Agenda and Ground Rules.....	6
OR7 Update	6
Status Review Update.....	6
Operating Principles Subgroup Meeting Update	7
Revised Project Schedule Update.....	7
Revised Facilitation Contract Update	7
Expectations of Stakeholder Working Group/Final Operating Principles.....	8
California Wolf Plan Scenarios.....	8
Draft Wolf Plan BACKGROUND Chapter.....	9
Stakeholder Working Group Letter to the Public	10
Strategies for Monitoring and Managing Wolf-Livestock Conflicts.....	11
Recommending Conservation Objectives – Wolf Habitat Map	11
Wolf Management Zones	12
Future Meeting Dates and Locations.....	12
Conclusion and Wrap-up.....	13
APPENDIX A. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS	14
APPENDIX B. PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS AND COMMENTS	15
APPENDIX C. AGENDA	16
APPENDIX D. POWERPOINT SLIDES PRESENTED.....	18
APPENDIX E. REVISED DRAFT PROJECT SCHEDULE	35

APPENDIX F FINAL OPERATING PRINCIPLES.....37

APPENDIX G. CALIFORNIA WOLF PLAN SCENARIOS43

APPENDIX H. DRAFT CALIFORNIA WOLF HABITAT MAP45

APPENDIX I. LIST OF SWG COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS BY TOPIC47

APPENDIX J. SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP EVALUATION COMMENTS.....53

1.0 Introduction

On August 29, 2013 the California Wolf Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) reconvened to continue their work toward the development of a California wolf management plan. Their previous general meeting took place on March 28, 2013 at the Lema Ranch – The McConnell Foundation in Redding, California. The Operating Principles Subgroup (OPS), which was established at the March 28 meeting in Redding, convened on July 24, 2013 at the US Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region Office in Willows, CA. Reports for both of these meetings are available on the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/wolf/Stakeholders.html>. The purpose of the July subgroup meeting was to finalize the SWG Operating Principles which were drafted for discussion at the March general stakeholder group meeting. These finalized operating principles were presented at the August 29 meeting in Davis, along with several other documents for discussion among the general stakeholder group. These included the draft Background Chapter of the California Gray Wolf Management Plan, the updated wolf plan project schedule, the Oregon stakeholder working group’ letter to the public as a sample, excerpts from other states’ wolf management plans regarding wolf-livestock conflicts, the Defenders of Wildlife’s “Livestock and Wolves” brochure, and the CDFW draft wolf habitat map.

2.0 Meeting Objectives and Mechanics

The meeting was conducted at the Kenneth L. Maddy Building Conference Room, in Davis, California, and was facilitated by Ms. Carol Smith who is the Department’s Program Manager for the Office of Training and Development.

The stated purpose of the meeting was to:

Continue to engage the Stakeholder Working Group in the wolf planning process and the California Wolf Plan.

Objectives of the meeting as initially planned were to:

1. Receive an address from Chief Deputy Director Kevin Hunting (later deleted).
2. Discuss expectations of SWG members/operating principles.
3. Review California wolf plan scenarios.
4. Review and discuss Background chapter.
5. Discuss topics for SWG consideration and recommendation.
6. Calendar future meeting date and location

The meeting was attended by 17 stakeholders, 1 US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) representative, and 6 CDFW staff. Appendix A provides a list of participants, their affiliations, and their contact information. Other attendees included three legislative

representatives and 2 members of the general public. Appendix B provides a list of those individuals as well as their comments during the meeting.

The meeting agenda is provided in Appendix C of this document, and all slides presented are captured in Appendix D. The meeting began with a welcome from Ms. Karen Kovacs, Wildlife Program Manager for CDFW's Northern Region and lead for the Department's wolf plan development. Ms. Kovacs then introduced Ms. Smith who, as facilitator, presented the objectives and ground rules for the meeting.

Next Ms. Kovacs provided updates on OR-7, the male wolf from Oregon who had dispersed to California for several months in 2011-2013; the outcome of the Operating Principles Subgroup meeting in July, 2013; CDFW's efforts at contracting for facilitation of the Stakeholder Working Group's meetings; and revisions to the Wolf Management Plan project schedule (Appendix E). Dr. Eric Loft, CDFW Wildlife Branch Chief, provided an update on the gray wolf Status Review that CDFW is conducting in response to a petition to list the species under the California Endangered Species Act. Then, before the morning break, Ms. Kovacs discussed in more detail the Operating Principles (Appendix F) which had been finalized by the Operating Principles Subgroup in July.

The morning break was followed by two topics of discussion. Mr. Mark Stopher, CDFW Senior Policy Advisor, revisited a tabled discussion from the March, 2013 meeting. The purpose of this discussion was to lay out the various management components CDFW may pursue in the wolf management plan, depending upon the legal and regulatory framework in place (see Appendix G). Ms. Kovacs then elicited comments from the stakeholders on the first draft chapter of the wolf management plan, the Background chapter.

After lunch Ms. Kovacs and Mr. Stopher presented a variety of topics for the SWG to consider and/or make recommendations on, some of which it was anticipated would lead to the formation of one or more subgroups. These topics included a SWG letter to the public for inclusion in the preface of the wolf management plan; strategies for wolf-livestock conflict; and recommendations for conservation objectives, informed by habitat maps (presented by Mr. Steve Torres, CDFW Wildlife Investigations Lab Program Manager; Appendix H).

Following the afternoon break, Ms. Smith recapped the day's discussions and distributed an evaluation for stakeholders' feedback on the group's progress. After some additional discussion on forming a wolf-native ungulate subgroup, how to capture public comments at subgroup meetings, and when and where the general SWG should next meet, the meeting was adjourned.

3.0 Meeting Outputs

Agenda and Ground Rules

The ground rules as presented were:

- Seek to learn and understand each other's perspective
- Encourage respectful, candid, and constructive discussions
- Provide balance of speaking time
- Seek to resolve differences and reach consensus
- Discuss topics together rather than in isolation
- Make every effort to avoid surprises
- Limit sidebars
- Turn off cell phones/switch to non-ring mode

Updates

OR7

Since the last update to the stakeholders in March, 2013, OR-7 had left California and returned to Oregon. With the exception of a brief return in April, he has remained in southern Oregon between Jackson and Klamath counties. Interstate 5 seems to pose a barrier to his movement as he has come close to it several times but it appears he has only crossed it twice. It is likely that when he crossed the highway in California it was at a bridge over the Shasta River. The second time he is known to have crossed the highway was in Oregon, most likely at an undercrossing. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is now required to post areas of known wolf activity and has therefore created and posted a map of OR-7's whereabouts.

Status Review

Dr. Loft began by reminding stakeholders that the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) voted in October, 2012 to accept the CDFW's recommendations to move the gray wolf to candidacy for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), thereby initiating a one-year status review. CDFW is utilizing a department-wide process for status reviews that should ensure thorough oversight of all elements of such reviews. The gray wolf status review draft is thus currently being reviewed internally, after which it will be sent for external peer review, a process expected to take five to six weeks. The entire process will culminate in a recommendation to the FGC to either not list the species, or to list it as threatened or endangered. Dr. Loft also provided information to the group about a peer review process that is being developed by the Department to ensure fair and objective peer reviews. This process will be

modeled after others which have been used by the Marine Region and in the Bay Delta planning process, and will be utilized widely by CDFW. Dr. Loft will consult with the group that is drafting this process in the Department's Science Institute for support in selecting peer reviewers for the gray wolf status review.

Those potential peer reviewers will be selected from a list of 15 to 25 names that were recommended by the SWG. Once CDFW has narrowed this list to five or six reviewers, we will send them each a letter with a copy of the status review and request their comments. We will also tell them what our tentative listing recommendation is, as determined by the Director. The comments from these reviewers may or may not affect the Department's recommendations about gray wolf listing. Once those comments are incorporated we will request to be added to the FGC agenda, likely for December, 2013 at the earliest. This begins a public review period, and FGC discussion will begin most likely in February, 2014. Dr. Loft did stress that these are tentative dates, and may change due to the unusual nature of reviewing the status of a species that does not occur in the state.

Operating Principles Subgroup Meeting

Ms. Kovacs thanked the Operating Principles Subgroup for their time and effort finalizing the document. As a result of their efforts the final Operating Principles now includes a background section explaining why the SWG was formed, rearranged goals and sideboards sections to flow better, and clarification on SWG members designating an alternate should they need to miss a meeting. This group also clarified the process for public participation in the SWG process: SWG meetings are open to the public, however, there will be a 15 minute period for public comment at the end of each SWG meeting. Members of the public will be encouraged to submit written comments or questions to the facilitator during breaks, which will be discussed during the 15 minute public comment period at the end of the meeting.

Revised Project Schedule

Ms. Kovacs distributed a revised draft of the project schedule and pointed out the tentative dates for completion of different phases of the project. We anticipate completion of the preliminary draft of the plan by the end of June, 2014; and the final draft by mid-January, 2015. She pointed out however, that revisions to this schedule are likely as unexpected delays will occur.

Revised Facilitation Contract

Ms. Kovacs previously submitted a Request for Proposals (RFP) to acquire facilitation services to assist with the SWG process. There were a number of interested entities;

however none submitted proposals due to some language in the RFP which they felt disqualified them. The RFP has been redrafted and will be resubmitted soon, with the hope of having a facilitator in place before the next general SWG meeting.

Expectations of SWG Members/Final Operating Principles

Ms. Kovacs opened this section by appealing to the SWG members to provide clear and factual information about the gray wolf SWG process to their constituents. This is important due to the workload on CDFW when the public is misinformed and calls Department staff for clarification. An example was a call from a county supervisor requesting information about the upcoming SWG meeting in which there will be discussion about the reintroduction of wolves into California. This person was clearly misinformed, and Ms. Kovacs had to spend valuable time providing him with clarification. She requested that, if SWG members disseminate information, they provide a copy of the Operating Principles, and they direct people to the Department's website which provides copies of the SWG meeting notes, and explains the SWG roles.

Next Ms. Kovacs discussed the role of the SWG members as delineated in the final Operating Principles. The SWG will develop recommendations for CDFW to consider as the draft plan is developed. This will help the Department to conduct a more robust and open planning process, however all SWG recommendations will not necessarily be incorporated into the plan. CDFW will have final say on the outcome of the plan, but it is hoped that we can achieve a mutually acceptable outcome that is satisfactory to the greatest degree possible. If consensus is reached on the issues contained in the plan we will expect SWG members to support the Department with the final draft.

CA Wolf Plan Scenarios

In this section Mr. Mark Stopher revisited the wolf plan scenarios topic that was tabled during the March, 2013 meeting. This document lays out the various management strategies CDFW may pursue in the wolf management plan, depending upon the legal and regulatory framework in place when the plan is finalized. This framework will be determined in the coming months as the federal and state listing statuses for gray wolf are decided, which in turn determine which agencies have jurisdiction over the various management components for the species, and what management actions will be allowed under law. Even after the plan is completed in 2015, that framework has the potential to change, so the wolf management plan must account for a range of possible scenarios to avoid the necessity for a re-draft.

Mr. Stopher reminded the group that, at the last meeting, he explained how persuasive management strategies developed by consensus will be to the Department, and that he is looking to them to help develop strategies by consensus that can be applied under the various regulatory scenarios. The goal will be to determine standards for a

sustainable population of wolves, such that the Department will not be subject to prohibitions on take under the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or CESA, and management strategies will exist that are consistent with regulations. We are guided in this effort by Fish and Game Code §1801, which outlines the Department's obligation to manage for sustainable populations, but specific regulations do not apply to wolves. They are classified as nongame, and take is prohibited except by the Department.

In response to questions, Mr. Stopher explained what is meant by the management components listed under Scenario #2 (wolf is listed under both CESA and FESA), specifically "Enforce CESA authorities, Consistency determination and Issuance of incidental take" (See Appendix G). Under CESA, take is prohibited, however the Department has the authority to issue incidental take of a state listed species if such take is consistent with certain issuance criteria, does not jeopardize the species' continued existence, and there is adequate funding to ensure monitoring and other criteria. If the USFWS permits take of a federally listed species, such take would be prohibited if the species is also listed under CESA. However the Department can use its authority as outlined above to also authorize the take by issuing a consistency determination. One big difference between federal and state incidental take is that under CESA take has to be fully mitigated. The USFWS will issue take permit up to a certain point, but doesn't require mitigation, nor does it require the funding for monitoring that CESA requires. Another difference between CESA and FESA that was discussed was regarding take of candidate species. Under CESA take of candidate species is prohibited except as authorized by the Department, whereas the USFWS can authorize take under FESA in Sections 7 and 10. One final difference between CESA and FESA discussed was that there are no recovery standards spelled out under CESA. As Mr. Stopher explained, CESA provides a definition for conservation, which means to bring the listed species to the point at which the take prohibitions are no longer required.

This section concluded with Dr. Loft announcing the formation of a new Wildlife Resources Committee of the FGC, whose first priority will be to define predators and their management in statute and regulation so that they are current. He suggested that some stakeholders consider participating in that group, and to contact the Commission for more information if interested.

Draft Wolf Plan BACKGROUND Chapter

Ms. Kovacs presented the first draft chapter of the wolf management plan for discussion. This chapter contains the background information on wolves which will provide the foundations for the remaining chapters in the plan. The purpose of this section was to get stakeholder feedback on the general content of the plan, as opposed to specific editorial comments. To date the chapter contains the following major sections: Biology and Ecology, Taxonomy, Legal Status, and History of Gray Wolves in

California. There is also a plan to add some additional information on wolf diseases and wolf roles in ecosystems. No comments were made by stakeholders specific to whether additional sections were needed. It was agreed that any suggestions they make, or additional information they wish to have considered should be sent to Ms. Kovacs for her consideration.

In addition to presenting the draft chapter, Ms. Kovacs also provided stakeholders with some additional information regarding wolf history in California. There are four putative wolf specimens held in the UC Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The Department arranged for genetic analysis of these specimens at UCLA, and it was determined that a specimen from Lassen County in the 1920s was identified as a gray wolf; a second from San Bernardino County around the same time was identified as a Mexican gray wolf (*C. l. baileyi*); a third from Tulare County in 1962 was attributed to an Alaska type, so was probably imported from elsewhere and released or unrestrained; and a fourth from 1982 was a domestic dog. The remains of three putative wolves in a ritualized burial near San Jose have been repatriated and are therefore not available for genetic analysis.

The remaining information we have to date regarding wolf occurrence in California is anecdotal, obtained from journals of early explorers and settlers, as well as stories, language, and regalia of native people. While these sources of information are informative, they cannot be scientifically verified. However the volume of these anecdotes does lead us to deduce that wolves occurred widely in California. We will report this information in the plan and in the status review, but we will not form conclusions about them.

Topics for SWG Consideration

SWG Letter to the Public

In this section Ms. Kovacs asked the SWG members if they still wished to consider composing a letter addressed to the public in the introduction to the wolf plan. Such a letter was drafted by the Oregon wolf stakeholders, and the California SWG group had once expressed desire for composing one. There were a number of positive aspects to writing such a letter discussed by the SWG. These included conveying to the public that this document is one built through a very involved stakeholder process, that it allows the SWG members to speak directly to their constituents, and that the letter can also be a standalone document that members can distribute themselves. However it was agreed that this letter should be composed near the end of the wolf plan development, after the group has had a chance to do more work on the plan, which will influence the substance of the letter.

Strategies for Monitoring and Managing Wolf-Livestock Conflicts

Mr. Stopher opened this topic by reiterating the value of consensus-derived management strategies, especially with regard to such challenging topics as wolf-livestock conflict management. The Department's objective is to have a framework in place for a wolf-livestock management strategy in the preliminary plan. To that end he asked for volunteers to sit on a subgroup that would begin meeting very soon. He acknowledged that it would take some months to develop such a framework, so it is important to begin meeting soon. The plan will be to begin by discussing what is known about wolf-livestock conflicts, and what other strategies have been implemented. The group will eventually discuss how to integrate that information with conservation objectives for wolves in California, all of which should eventually lead to specific ideas for livestock conflict management in the state. These conversations will be influenced by the regulatory scenarios as discussed earlier. There may also be influences geographically as the habitat map is developed and the Department gains a better idea of where wolves may be likely to occur in California. This will be an iterative process, and it will be necessary to become informed and engage in dialogue about our process before we invest in a particular strategy.

After returning from lunch Mr. Stopher asked for volunteers to serve on the wolf-livestock conflict subgroup. The seven members who volunteered were: Pat Griffin, Amoroq Weiss, Pamela Flick, Bob Timm, Noelle Cremers, Lesa Eidman, and Margo Parks. They settled on September 23, 2013 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Sacramento as their first meeting date. Teleconferencing will be available for those who cannot attend in-person, however it was stressed that in-person is a much more effective means of communicating in a working group situation, and members were requested to make every effort to attend.

Recommending Conservation Objectives – Wolf Habitat Map

Before commencing with this section Ms. Kovacs asked USFWS representative Lisa Ellis to make a short announcement to the group. Ms. Ellis informed the SWG that the public comment period for the proposed federal delisting of the wolf (Federal Register 2013, 54614) has been extended for 45 days, and there will be a series of meetings held throughout the west, attended by USFWS Assistant Director Gary Frazer.

Next, Ms. Kovacs introduced CDFW Wildlife Investigations Lab Program Manager Steve Torres. Mr. Torres presented a draft wolf habitat selection map for California which he had produced based on the methodology as presented in the published article by Oakleaf, et al in 2006. Mr. Torres selected this habitat model from three models he explored because he felt Oakleaf et al employed the most rigorous approach, and made fewer assumptions relative to the other two approaches. Further, the Oakleaf team

validated their model in 2010 with respect to wolf survivorship. Mr. Torres stressed that the wolf habitat model cannot be validated for California because there are no wolves here currently, nor have there been any here for a long time, so there is a lot of uncertainty and the results must be interpreted very broadly. Another difference between California and other western states is the presence and numbers of elk. They are much more abundant in those states where the wolf habitat models were developed, so uncertainty increases in California in those areas without elk. One further qualification Mr. Torres made was that the models were developed in the context of wolf packs, not individual wolves so they are not applicable to single dispersing wolves such as OR-7.

The models that have been developed for wolf habitat suitability in other places in the west seem to be based on two primary characteristics: prey availability and percent cover of vegetation, with human factors such as road density and livestock conflicts playing negative roles. New models will likely be developed in Oregon and Washington which may be more relevant for California as those areas are biogeographically more similar.

Mr. Torres stressed that this draft map was the first iteration of a potential California wolf habitat map and that more drafts are likely forthcoming as we look at other available information and datasets.

Wolf Management Zones

Wolf management in some other western states has been divided into geographic zones. Ms. Kovacs asked the SWG to consider this possibility for California, and to think about what factors would influence how those zones are created. Because wolves are listed in Oregon and Washington, the establishment of such zones was related to population objectives and management goals for recovery. Ms. Kovacs posited such factors for California as Interstates 5 and 80, since they may pose barriers to wolf movement; human distribution in the central and southern Sierra; and percent forest cover as possible drivers of management zone establishment. The benefit to zonal management would be the ability to use translocation from a zone in which population objectives have been met, to another zone to help meet population objectives there. After some discussion, it was generally agreed that creating zones for wolf management would add a layer of complexity to the regulatory scenarios discussed earlier, and the SWG would prefer to defer the discussion about wolf management zones until a later date.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Ms. Smith queried the group about the frequency and length of meetings. In previous discussions the SWG had agreed to meet every six to eight weeks, for one day

meetings (as opposed to two days), and to alternate between Sacramento and the north state. Although that frequency was decided on when the plan completion date was much sooner, the group agreed that one day meetings at six to eight weeks was still an appropriate duration and frequency for their meetings.

Conclusion and Wrap-up

Ms. Smith began this section by re-capping the day. In general, the background chapter does its job; climate change issues may be added; SWG members will be sending some additional resources to Ms. Kovacs, particularly scientific documents; the letter to the public is a good idea but will be revisited later in the project; Mr. Stopher has formed a wolf-livestock subgroup that will meet on September 23 from 1 to 4 pm; the formation of management zones is postponed for a later time; the group would like to have more options for participation such as teleconferencing; there should be a ground rule added about returning from breaks and lunch on time.

When prompted for any further items, several SWG members requested that a wolf-ungulate interactions subgroup be formed today. Ms. Kovacs asked for volunteers, and the following SWG members responded: Mark Rockwell, Bill Gaines, Kimberly Baker, Mike Ford, and Jerry Springer. Marilyn Jasper is considering participating but may have time constraints. Dr. Loft, who will lead the subgroup, will send around a Doodle poll of schedule availabilities, and will schedule the first meeting accordingly.

Ms. Smith then inquired again about any further items before the meeting concludes, and for any comments from members about the day's progress. One comment put forward was approval for the way in which the one public comment/question was addressed. This led to a question about whether public participation will be allowed at the subgroup meetings. It was stated by several members that frank discussion is more likely to occur, and that more work is likely to get done without public presence. Further, the results of the subgroups' work will be reported to the larger SWG, at which the public is included. However it was also generally agreed that public involvement is important, and that the public elements of the Operating Principles should still apply at subgroup meetings. The meeting then concluded with SWG members handing in their evaluation forms.

APPENDIX A. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation	Email
Stakeholders		
John McNerney	The Wildlife Society	JMcNerney@cityofdavis.org
Marilyn Jasper	Sierra Club	marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org
Noelle Cremers	California Farm Bureau	ncremers@cfsf.com
Rick Gurrola	CA Ag Commission – Tehama County	rgurrola@tehamaag.net
Randy Morrison	Mule Deer Foundation	randy@muledeer.org
Robert Timm	UC Davis Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources	rtimm@ucanr.edu
Bill Gaines	California Houndsmen for Conservation	bill@outdoorheritage.org
Mark Rockwell	Endangered Species Coalition	mrockwell@stopextinction.org
Kimberly Baker	Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)	Kimberly@wildcalifornia.org
Pat Griffin	CA Ag Commission - Siskiyou County	pgriffin@co.siskiyou.ca.us
Jerry Springer	CA Deer Association	jerry@westernhunter.com
Margo Parks	CA Cattlemen's Association	margo@calcattlemen.org
Lesa Eidman	CA Wool Growers Association	lesa@woolgrowers.org
Damon Nagami	Natural Resources Defense Council	dnagami@nrdc.org
Amaroq Weiss	Center for Biological Diversity	aweiss@biologicaldiversity.org
Pat Valentino	CA Wolf Center	lauren.richie@californiawolfcenter.org
Pamela Flick	Defenders of Wildlife	pflick@defenders.org
US Fish and Wildlife Service Staff		
Lisa Ellis	Biologist - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	lisa_ellis@fws.gov
California Department of Fish and Wildlife Staff		
Eric Loft	Wildlife Branch Chief - CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	eric.loft@wildlife.ca.gov
Karen Kovacs	Wildlife Program Manager, Region 1 – CDFW	karen.kovacs@wildlife.ca.gov
Mark Stopher	Senior Policy Advisor – CDFW	mark.stopher@wildlife.ca.gov
Steve Torres	Program Manager – Wildlife Investigations Lab	steve.torres@wildlife.ca.gov
Carol Smith	Program Manager – Office of Training and Development - CDFW	carol.smith@wildlife.ca.gov
Deana Clifford	Wildlife Veterinarian – CDFW	deana.clifford@wildlife.ca.gov
Karen Converse	Environmental Scientist – CDFW	karen.converse@wildlife.ca.gov

APPENDIX B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Email
Legislative Representatives		
Brenda Haynes	U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa's Office	brenda.hayes@mail.house.gov
Ashley Adishian	CA Senator Jim Nielsen's Office	ashley.adishian@sen.ca.gov
Oliver Wu	CA Senator Jim Nielsen's Office	
Other Members of the Public		
Steve Boyd	Member of the public	
Billie Roney	California Cattlemen and rancher	bjr@billieweb.com
Public and Legislative Representatives' Comments		
Brenda Haynes	Has the SWG ever been provided with pictures and documentation of actual wolf-livestock conflicts? This group <u>must</u> know details of wolf attacks in order to reach any meaningful conclusions.	

APPENDIX C. AGENDA

California Wolf Stakeholders Meeting
UC Davis – August 29, 2013

Purpose – To continue to engage the SWG in the wolf planning process and CA wolf plan

Agenda

- Gather in the meeting room – Maddy Lab, UC Davis 8:45
- Welcome, Introductions and Changes in SWG membership 9:00
- Agenda and Ground Rules 9:05
- Deputy Director Kevin Hunting will address SWG (Q & A) 9:10
- Updates: OR7 9:40
 - Status Review/Petition FGC hearing
 - Summary of subgroup SWG meeting
 - Contract facilitation for SWG meetings/Wolf Plan
 - Revised Project Schedule
- Expectations of SWG members (based on finalized Operating Principles) 10:00
- BREAK 10:30
- Wolf Plan Scenarios 10:40
- Draft chapter of wolf plan for discussion – **Background** 11:10
- LUNCH (SWG members on their own for lunch) 11:45
- Topics for SWG consideration/recommendations – possible subgroup tasks 1:00
 - *SWG letter to the public (examples from other states) in the preface of Wolf Plan
 - *Strategies for wolf-livestock conflicts
 - *Recommending conservation objectives:
 - habitat modeling (background)
 - habitat map
 - management zones

BREAK	2:30
• Continued discussion	2:45
• Future meeting date and location for next SWG and possibly subgroup(s)	3:45
• Conclusion and Wrap-Up	3:55

Adjourn by 4:00

Attachments:

- SWG Subgroup Meeting Report July 24, 2013 (includes SWG Operating Principles)
- Project Schedule
- Draft BACKGROUND chapter of CA Wolf Plan
- SWG letter to the Commission (public) (Oregon Plan)
- Excerpts from other states wolf management plans: re: wolf-livestock conflicts
- Defenders of Wildlife handout "Livestock and Wolves"
- Draft wolf habitat map

APPENDIX D. POWERPOINT SLIDES PRESENTED

Welcome to the California Wolf Stakeholder Meeting

Maddy Lab-UC Davis August 29, 2013

Photo by Tanya Dronoff

PURPOSE

To continue to engage the Wolf Stakeholder Working Group in the wolf planning process and California Wolf Plan.

OBJECTIVES

1. Chief DD Kevin Hunting address
2. Updates
3. Discuss Expectations of SWG members/
Operating Principles
4. Review California Wolf Plan scenarios
5. Review and discussion of BACKGROUND
chapter
6. Topics for SWG consideration and
recommendation
7. Calendar future meeting, date, location

AGENDA

- Introduction and changes in SWG membership
- Roles and ground rules
- DD Kevin Hunting to address SWG
- Updates
- Expectations and Operating Principles

Break

- California Wolf Scenarios
- Draft BACKGROUND chapter discussion

Lunch

- Continue with chapter discussion if necessary
- Topics for SWG consideration/recommendations

▪ Break

- Continue discussion
- Calendar future meeting date and location
- Conclusion and wrap up

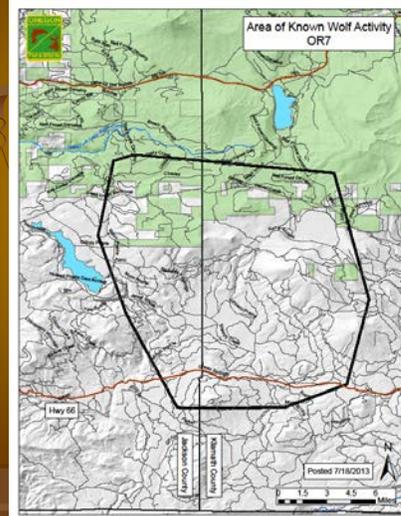
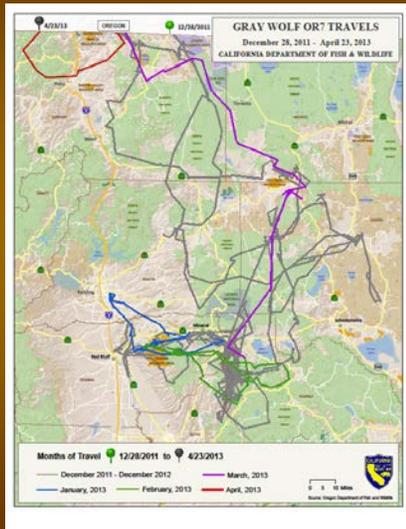
Ground Rules

- Seek to learn and understand each other's perspective.
- Encourage respectful, candid, and constructive discussions.
- Provide balance of speaking time.
- Seek to resolve differences and reach consensus.
- Discuss topics together rather than in isolation.
- Make every effort to avoid surprises.
- Limit sidebars.
- Turn off cell phones/switch to non-ring mode.

California Department of Fish and
Wildlife - Chief Deputy Director
Kevin Hunting

UPDATES

Updates – OR7 and OR Wolf Pack Numbers



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- Updates - DFW gray wolf status review/petition and Fish and Game Commission hearing

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- A faint, stylized illustration of a balance scale is visible in the background of the slide, centered behind the text.
- Gray Wolf Status Review
 - Complete internal draft
 - External peer review (5-6 week process)
 - Revise accordingly and send to Director
 - Final Status Review and Recommendation
 - Fish and Game Commission agenda

Peer Review process- guidance through SI



- Updates – Summary of July 24, 2-13 SWG subgroup meeting:
- Purpose of that meeting was to reach consensus on the language of the SWG Operating Principles
- Modifications to the OP include:
 1. Inclusion of “Background”
 2. Order reversal b/w SIDEBOARDS & GOALS
 3. Clarification on SWG member alternates
 4. Process for public participation in the SWG process

SIDEBOARDS

- 1. As populations of gray wolves continue to expand within the Pacific Northwest, the potential for additional gray wolves to enter California will increase. This planning effort will include a number of alternatives that address gray wolves within the State and because of this potential the option of planning for a future with no wolves in California is not an alternative in this plan.
- 2. The CDFW will not reintroduce wolves from another State or country into California, or introduce wolves in any way (e.g. from a captively bred California population.)
- 3. As a result of human influences and the subsequent changes in the California landscape, there is not sufficient habitat for wolves to be restored to their entire historic range. Consequently, the option of planning for a future with wolves distributed throughout the species historic range or abundance in CA is not an alternative in this Plan.

GOALS

- 1. If and when wolves establish in California, seek to conserve self-sustaining populations of wolves in the State
- 2. Manage the distribution of wolves within the State where there is adequate habitat
- 3. Manage native ungulate populations in the State to provide abundant prey for wolves and other predators, intrinsic enjoyment by the public and harvest opportunities for hunters
- 4. Manage wolf-livestock conflicts to minimize livestock losses.
- 5. Communicate to the public that natural dispersal of wolves into California is reasonable foreseeable given the expanding populations in the Pacific Northwest. Inform the public with science-based information on gray wolves and the conservation and management needs for wolves in California, as well as the effects of having wolves in the State.

- **Meeting Attendance.** Members are expected to make a good faith effort to attend all full meetings. It is expected that the group will only meet several times prior to release of a draft Plan. If a member cannot attend, he or she may designate an individual to attend in their place to represent their interests (an alternate) and fully engage on the member's behalf. The alternate should be knowledgeable about wolf issues, current on the SWG and Plan status, and the topics to be discussed at the upcoming meeting. The alternate's primary responsibility is to inform the member about the deliberations and recommendations advanced at the conclusion of the meeting. It is the responsibility of the member to prepare the alternate for the meeting by sharing background information and an overview of the deliberations leading up to the meeting.

- **Open to the Public.** All SWG meetings will be open to the public. However, the CDFW expects that the range of public perspectives will be included in the SWG process primarily through the involvement of the SWG members. As such, there will only be a 15 minute period for public comment at the end of each SWG meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments on the work of the SWG which will then be distributed to all members for consideration. Questions may be presented to the facilitator during meeting breaks for discussion at the end of the meeting.

Updates: Revised Project Schedule

Update: Revised Facilitation Contract

Expectations of SWG Members

CALIFORNIA WOLF PLAN SCENARIOS (revised September 2013)

Scenario	Criteria	DFW management components
I (Current Status)	Wolf is listed under Federal ESA	1. Support USFWS (as the lead agency) for decisions on wolf management
	Wolf is not listed under CESA	2. Exercise appropriate FGC authority ¹ 3. Develop wolf plan 4. Monitor wolf recovery
II	Wolf is listed under Federal ESA	1. Continue Scenario I actions
	Wolf is also listed under CESA	2. Enforce CESA authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency determination • Issuance of incidental take
III	Wolf is not listed under Federal ESA	1. DFW is lead management agency for wolf
	Wolf is not listed under CESA	2. Exercise appropriate FGC authority 3. Develop wolf plan 4. Monitor wolf recovery
IV	Wolf is not listed under Federal ESA	1. DFW is lead management agency for wolf
	Wolf is listed under CESA	2. Continue Scenario I (w/o item #1) and II actions
V	Wolf is delisted under CESA after meeting standards under FGC 2001	1. DFW is lead management agency for wolf
		2. Continue Scenario I (w/o item #1) and II actions (w/o item #2)
		3. Review need to revise wolf plan

¹ Fish and Game Code 1901, 2130, 2137(a), 4130 and 4132
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wolf Stakeholder Meeting March 28, 2013
Draft California Wolf Plan Scenario

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Gray Wolf Conservation Plan
Draft Table of Contents

- I. **Background**
- II. Wolf conservation
- III. Wolf-ungulate interactions
- IV. Wolf interactions with other wildlife species
- V. Wolf-human interactions
- VI. Wolf-livestock conflict

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Grey Wolf Conservation Plan
Draft Table of Contents - Continued

- VII. Land management considerations
- VIII. Information and education
- IX. Plan implementation, evaluation and reporting
- X. Research and information management
- XI. Funding opportunities

Chapter I. Background

Major Headings

- ❖ Biology and Ecology (addition of Diseases)
- ❖ Taxonomy
- ❖ Legal Status
- ❖ History in CA (addition of CA specimen data)

- From an overall perspective, does this chapter address the important issues associated with the major headings?

- ❖ Biology and Ecology (addition of Diseases)
- ❖ Taxonomy
- ❖ Legal Status
- ❖ History in CA (addition of CA specimen data)

- Where are the omissions?

Potential Topics for Stakeholder Working Group
Considerations and Recommendations

1. SWG letter to the public
2. Strategies for monitoring managing wolf-livestock conflicts
3. Setting conservation objectives
 - Management zones
4. Use of translocation to achieve conservation objectives

Potential Topics for Stakeholder Working Group
Considerations and Recommendations – Cont'd

4. Formulation of peer review panel (use of suggestions received from status review)
5. Recommendations for funding CDFW wolf program
6. Strategies for monitoring and managing wolf-ungulate interactions

Potential Topics for Stakeholder Working Group
Considerations and Recommendations

1. **SWG letter to the public**

Potential Topics for Stakeholder Working Group
Considerations and Recommendations

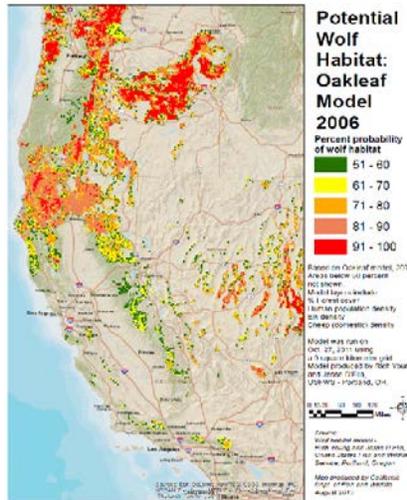
2. **Strategies for monitoring managing wolf-
livestock conflicts**

Potential Topics for Stakeholder Working Group Considerations and Recommendations

1. Setting conservation objectives

- Habitat Modeling
- Habitat Map
- Management zones

DRAFT - California Wolf Plan - Potential Wolf Habitat (August 26, 2013)



Continued Discussion

Conclusion and Wrap-Up
Evaluations

APPENDIX E. REVISED DRAFT PROJECT SCHEDULE

ID	Task Name	Resource Names	Start	Finish	2013												2014				2015		
					Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3			
1	Task 1 - Wolf Stakeholder Working Group	Kovacs,Loft,Donlan,Stoph	Tue 2/5/13	Wed 2/11/15																			
14	Task 2 - Write Preliminary Draft CA Wolf Plan	CDFW Staff	Mon 7/1/13	Mon 6/30/14																			
29	Task 3 Internal Review of Preliminary Draft	Donlan,CDFW Regional reviewers	Tue 7/1/14	Thu 7/31/14																			
30	Task 4 - Evaluate necessity for CEQA compliance	Kovacs,Donlan,Loft	Tue 7/1/14	Tue 7/15/14																			
31	Task 5 - Write Public Review Draft CA Wolf Plan	CDFW Staff	Fri 8/1/14	Tue 9/30/14																			
44	Task 6 - Select and Assemble Peer Review Panel	Loft,Kovacs,Facilitator	Mon 2/3/14	Mon 3/31/14																			
45	Task 7 - Public, SWG and Expert Panel Review of Draft Plan	Expert Panel,Public,SWG	Tue 10/21/14	Tue 12/2/14																			
46	Task 8 - Write Final CA Wolf Plan	CDFW Staff	Tue 9/23/14	Mon 12/15/14																			
58	Task 9 - Coordinate with Tribes	Loft,Kovacs	Mon 3/4/13	Mon 2/2/15																			
59	Task 10 - Coordinate with Federal Land Managers	Loft,Kovacs	Fri 8/9/13	Mon 2/2/15																			
60	Task 11 - Public release of Final Wolf Plan	CDFW	Mon 1/5/15	Mon 1/5/15																			

Project: CA Wolf Plan Concept
Date: Wed 8/28/13

Task		External Tasks		Manual Task		Finish-only	
Split Milestone		External Milestone		Duration-only		Deadline	
Summary		Inactive Task		Manual Summary Rollup		Progress	
Project Summary		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary			
		Inactive Summary		Start-only			

APPENDIX F. FINAL STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP OPERATING PRINCIPLES

California Wolf Stakeholder Working Group Operating Principles

For any collaborative process to operate smoothly, it is helpful for those involved to agree at the outset on the purpose for the process and on the procedures by which the group will govern its discussions, deliberations, and decision-making.

Background

With the arrival into the state of a naturally dispersing, radio-collared gray wolf from Oregon in 2011, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) embarked on an effort to provide outreach to the public including information on the history of gray wolves in California, basic wolf biology, legal status, etc., and of particular interest to the public the general whereabouts of the wolf while it remained in the State. CDFW also sought out those stakeholders who would be most closely affected by the potential return of gray wolves to California and began a collaborative effort to receive input on future direction of wolf management in the state.

As a result of these efforts the need to develop a plan to address wolves in California became apparent. In 2013, the CDFW initiated a process to develop a California Wolf Plan (Plan). The scope of the Plan will be constrained by the following **SIDEBOARDS**:

1. As populations of gray wolves continue to expand within the Pacific Northwest, the potential for additional gray wolves to enter California will increase. This planning effort will include a number of alternatives that address gray wolves within the State and because of this potential the option of planning for a future with no wolves in California is not an alternative in this plan.
2. The CDFW will not reintroduce wolves from another State or country into California, or introduce wolves in any way (e.g. from a captive bred California population.)
3. As a result of human influences and the subsequent changes in the California landscape, there is not sufficient habitat for wolves to be restored to their entire historic range. Consequently, the option of planning for a future with wolves distributed throughout the species historic range or abundance in California is not an alternative in this Plan.

I. Purpose of the Wolf Stakeholder Working Group

The Wolf Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) has been assembled to develop recommendations for CDFW to consider toward the first draft of the California Wolf Plan. These recommendations will help CDFW to achieve the following **GOALS**:

1. If and when wolves establish in California, seek to conserve self-sustaining populations of wolves in the State
2. Manage the distribution of wolves within the State where there is adequate habitat
3. Manage native ungulate populations in the State to provide abundant prey for wolves and other predators, intrinsic enjoyment by the public and harvest opportunities for hunters
4. Manage wolf-livestock conflicts to minimize livestock losses.
5. Communicate to the public that natural dispersal of wolves into California is reasonable foreseeable given the expanding populations in the Pacific Northwest. Inform the public with science-based information on gray wolves and the conservation and management needs for wolves in California, as well as the effects of having wolves in the State.

The Plan will address the various opportunities and limitations on authority, for CDFW to accomplish the above purposes while accounting for uncertain future listing status under the Federal Endangered Species Act and potential listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

The Director of CDFW has authorized staff to develop this Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) to guide the CDFW in developing a plan (consistent with the above **GOALS**) for gray wolves, which are expected to make their way to California from growing populations in neighboring states, particularly Oregon. The SWG will develop recommendations for the CDFW to consider as the draft Plan is developed. All SWG products will be conveyed to the CDFW; however, this does not mean that all recommendations will necessarily be incorporated in the draft or final plan. Members of the SWG represent livestock ranching and agriculture, conservation groups, biologists, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts. The composition of the SWG may change further as this process to develop a California Wolf Plan (Plan) proceeds.

II. Participation

Interests Represented. SWG members represent interests that may be substantially affected by the recovery of wolves in California. The members have a variety of interests, experience with wolf or related natural resource issues, and willingness to work together in a collaborative, consensus process. In order to foster creative problem solving, members are encouraged to voice their individual viewpoints and ideas. In order to broaden and strengthen the chances of successful collaboration for the anticipated final recommendations, members are expected to bring the perspectives of their constituent groups, as well as others with similar interests, to the SWG process.

Meeting Attendance. Members are expected to make a good faith effort to attend all full meetings. It is expected that the group will only meet several times prior to release of a draft Plan. If a member cannot attend, he or she may designate an individual to attend in their place to represent their interests (an alternate) and fully engage on the member's behalf. The alternate should be knowledgeable about wolf issues, current on the SWG and Plan status, and the topics to be discussed at the upcoming meeting. The alternate's primary responsibility is to inform the member about the deliberations and recommendations advanced at the conclusion of the meeting. It is the responsibility of the member to prepare the alternate for the meeting by sharing background information and an overview of the deliberations leading up to the meeting.

The member will strive to provide the name and background of the alternate as soon as possible, and no later than five days, in advance of the meeting. All individuals attending for members are bound by these Operating Principles. The facilitator will work with alternates to assist as needed in making their participation as constructive as possible.

Withdrawal from the SWG. Any member may withdraw from the SWG at any time without prejudice. Communication about the reasons for withdrawing, if related to the SWG process, will be appreciated. Good faith provisions apply to those who withdraw.

The decision to replace a member will depend on factors such as how far along the group is in the process, whether addition of a new member would be disruptive, and whether the loss of the interests represented by the withdrawing member creates a serious deficiency for on the SWG in terms of expertise and/or interests. Authority for decisions about replacing members rests with the CDFW Director. Any replacement member, or alternate, is expected to accept the process "as it stands" at the point in time when they first participate.

III. Organizational Structure

SWG Members. The members are working together to achieve a mutually acceptable outcome that satisfies, to the greatest degree possible, the interests of all participants. In order for the Plan to be acceptable and implementable, those involved in developing the plan agree to work together to produce recommendations that integrate the mandates, concerns, and ideas of all those significantly affected by the plan. All SWG members agree to:

- Attend meetings and follow through on promises and commitments;
- Bring concerns from their interest group or organization up for discussion at the earliest feasible point in the process;
- Share all relevant information that will assist the group in achieving its goals;

- Keep its organization's representatives informed of potential decisions and actions, in order to expedite approval for the final product;
- Support the eventual product if they have concurred in it; and
- Concur in decisions about the Stakeholder SWG process, including overseeing the implementation of the operating principles.

SWG members recognize that final decision-making authority to develop a California Wolf Plan rests with the CDFW. The CDFW is committed to developing a plan that has achieved concurrence and support from the range of stakeholders, to the extent possible.

The SWG will have assistance from CDFW staff who will attend all meetings.. While CDFW staff may sit at the table and participate in the SWG deliberations as needed, they are not SWG members. Karen Kovacs, Northern Region Wildlife Program Manager is the CDFW team leader for this effort. Eric Loft, Wildlife Program Branch Chief; Angela Donlan, Senior Staff Counsel; Mark Stopher, Senior Policy Advisor; and other CDFW staff will support the SWG.

Facilitation. CDFW prefers to use professional facilitators and is exploring the possibility of doing so for the SWG. Until that possibility is resolved, CDFW will utilize trained facilitators when possible from within CDFW. The facilitator will not take positions on the issues before the SWG. The facilitator will work to ensure that the process runs smoothly. The facilitator's role usually includes developing draft agendas, distributing meeting materials, facilitating meetings, working to resolve any impasse that may arise, preparing meeting summaries, and other tasks as requested.

Sub-Groups. As necessary, the SWG may choose to form sub-groups. The SWG will designate sub-group members as needed for any anticipated tasks and outcomes. At the direction of the SWG, sub-group members may develop draft products and make recommendations to the SWG. Sub-groups will not make decisions on behalf of the SWG. Any SWG member can be a member of a sub-group.

IV. Meetings

Open to the Public. All SWG meetings will be open to the public. However, the CDFW expects that the range of public perspectives will be included in the SWG process primarily through the involvement of the SWG members. As such, there will only be a 15 minute period for public comment at the end of each SWG meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments on the work of the SWG which will then be distributed to all members for consideration. Questions may be presented to the facilitator during meeting breaks for discussion at the end of the meeting.

Agendas. Proposed meeting agendas will be drafted by the facilitator in consultation with SWG members, circulated in advance of meetings, and approved or revised at the beginning of each meeting.

Action Item Memos. In order to assist the SWG in documenting its progress and activities, within ten business days of each meeting the Facilitator will prepare and distribute an action items memo. These memos will convey major decisions and ensure that timelines for completing agreed upon actions are clear to all participants. These will be distributed to CDFW staff and all SWG members for review prior to preparing a final memo.

Breaks and Caucuses. Meetings may be suspended at any time at the request of any member to allow consultation among SWG members. Requests should be respectful of all members' time. If the use of caucuses becomes disruptive, the SWG will revisit the process.

V. Decision-Making and Commitments

Consensus. The SWG will strive to operate by consensus. Consensus is defined as all SWG members can live with the recommendation or decision. All recommendations and materials will be reviewed and discussed by the SWG before being forwarded to the CDFW for their consideration.

Decision Making. Decisions will be made by consensus of those SWG members present at a meeting. If the members present at a meeting reach consensus on a major product, the facilitator will convey the results to those absent from the meeting and assess their ability to agree. Full consensus will not be achieved until all members have confirmed agreement.

Absence of Consensus. If full consensus cannot be reached the SWG may choose to articulate areas of agreement and disagreement and the reasons why differences continue to exist, or communicate separate sets of recommendations (i.e., majority and minority reports).

If the SWG chooses to articulate areas of agreement and disagreement, members representing the different perspectives on specific issues will be asked to prepare language reflecting their views. The language should clearly identify the issues and information needs and uncertainties. In addition, those members that support each perspective will be identified.

If separate sets of recommendations (i.e., majority and minority reports) are conveyed to the CDFW, members representing the minority point of view will be asked to prepare a communication reflecting their views.

VI. Safeguards for the Members

Good Faith. All members agree to act in good faith in all aspects of the collaborative effort. As such, members will consider the input and viewpoint of other participants and conduct themselves in a manner that promotes joint problem solving and collaboration.

Acting in good faith also requires that: specific proposals made in open and frank problem solving conversations not be used against any other member in the future; personal attacks and prejudiced statements are not acceptable; negative generalizations are not productive and have the potential to impede the ability of the SWG to reach consensus; individuals not represent their personal or organization's views as views of the SWG, and members express consistent views and opinions in the SWG and in other forums, including in press contacts.

Should a SWG member be found to be acting in bad faith the facilitator will be asked to talk with the individual(s) about the situation. A variety of approaches will be explored, accordingly, to redress the concerns. The authority to replace and/or remove a member from the SWG rests with the CDFW Director.

Rights in Other Forums. Participation in the SWG process does not limit the rights of any member. Members will make a good faith effort to notify one another in advance, if another action outside the process will be initiated or pursued, which will affect the terms of proposals, recommendations, or agreements being discussed.

Public Communications. All SWG members agree to refrain from making negative comments about or characterizing the views of other SWG members in contacts with the press, or on internet web postings, in newsletters or in email or letter communications to members of respective stakeholder groups. They also agree not to knowingly mischaracterize the positions and views of any other party, nor their own, in public forums.

VII. Process Suggestions/Ground Rules

SWG members agree to consider and apply the following process suggestions and ground rules:

- Seek to learn and understand each other's perspective.
- Encourage respectful, candid, and constructive discussions.
- Provide balance of speaking time.
- Seek to resolve differences and reach consensus.
- As appropriate, discuss topics together rather than in isolation.
- Make every effort to avoid surprises.
- Limit sidebars.
- Turn off cell phones or put them in the non-ring mode during formal meeting sessions.

VIII. Schedule

In developing its initial recommendations, the SWG will meet approximately every other month, beginning in late February 2013 and ending in July 2014. Exact dates will be determined by CDFW in consultation with SWG members. CDFW staff may also be holding public meetings during preparation of the draft plan. The CDFW is scheduled to complete its initial draft Plan by July 31, 2014. The draft will then be available for 45 days to the SWG for their review, and a panel of peer reviewers. Comments from peer reviewers and consensus comments by the SWG will be addressed by CDFW as appropriate and proposed plan revisions will be shared with the SWG. Upon completion of the draft plan, CDFW will release the plan for a 90-day public review process.

Final approval of a Wolf Plan, by the CDFW, is anticipated by December 30, 2014.

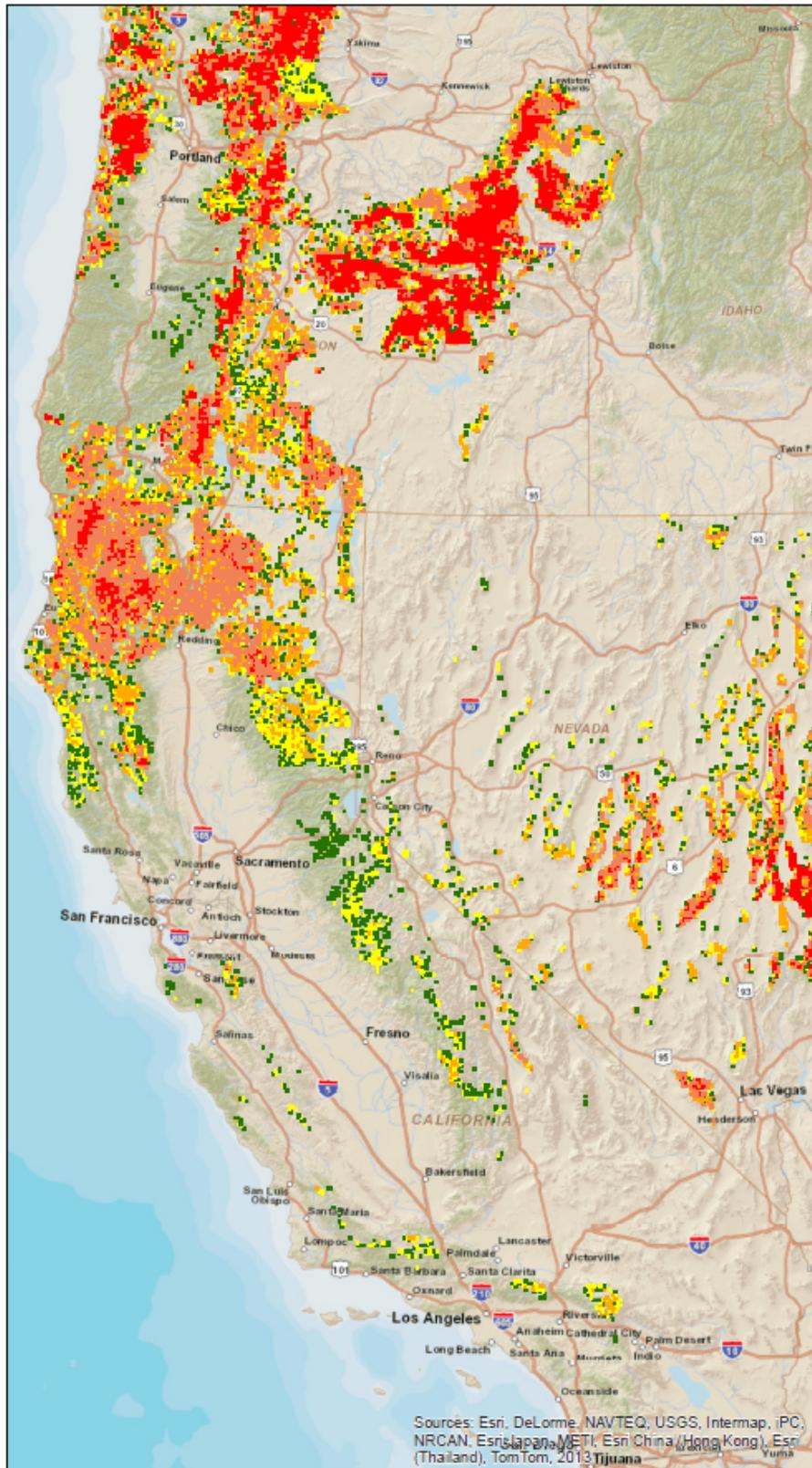
APPENDIX G. CALIFORNIA WOLF PLAN SCENARIOS

CALIFORNIA WOLF PLAN SCENARIOS
(revised September 2013)

Scenario	Criteria	DFW management components
I (Current Status)	Wolf is listed under Federal ESA	1. Support USFWS (as the lead agency) for decisions on wolf management
	Wolf is not listed under CESA	2. Exercise appropriate FGC authority ¹ 3. Develop wolf plan 4. Monitor wolf recovery
II	Wolf is listed under Federal ESA	1. Continue Scenario I actions 2. Enforce CESA authorities
	Wolf is also listed under CESA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency determination • Issuance of incidental take
III	Wolf is not listed under Federal ESA	1. DFW is lead management agency for wolf
	Wolf is not listed under CESA	2. Exercise appropriate FGC authority 3. Develop wolf plan 4. Monitor wolf recovery
IV	Wolf is not listed under Federal ESA	1. DFW is lead management agency for wolf
	Wolf is listed under CESA	2. Continue Scenario I (w/o item #1) and II actions
V	Wolf is delisted under CESA after meeting standards under FGC 2061	1. DFW is lead management agency for wolf 2. Continue Scenario I (w/o item #1) and II actions (w/o item #2) 3. Review need to revise wolf plan

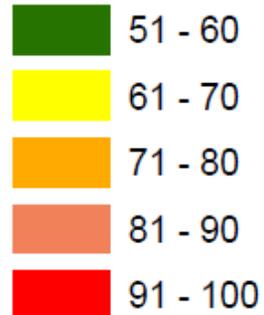
¹ Fish and Game Code 1801, 2150, 2157(a), 4150 and 4152
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wolf Stakeholder Meeting March 28, 2013
Draft California Wolf Plan Scenarios

APPENDIX H. DRAFT CALIFORNIA WOLF HABITAT MAP



Potential Wolf Habitat: Oakleaf Model 2006

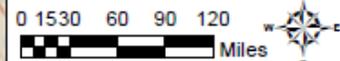
Percent probability of wolf habitat



Based on Oakleaf model, 2006. Areas below 50 percent not shown.

Model layers include:
 % Forest cover
 Human population density
 Elk density
 Sheep (domestic) density

Model was run on Oct. 27, 2011 using a 9 square kilometer grid. Model produced by Rich Young and Jesse D'Elia, USFWS - Portland, OR.



Source:
 Wolf habitat model - Rich Young and Jesse D'Elia, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon

Map produced by California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife August 2013

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

APPENDIX I. LIST OF SWG COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS BY TOPIC

Updates Discussion

ODFW is now required to post areas of known wolf activity as a result of a lawsuit
Do you detailed enough GPS to determine how close OR-7 came to the (Shasta River) overcrossing?
Is it correct to state the Department doesn't have a formalized status review process in place?
We want to feel comfortable that peer reviews are credible so we should get the opportunity to comment on the list before the public comment period

Final Operating Principles Discussion

It's a great idea that we will support the Department with the final wolf plan, but since we have no direct control it's difficult to say I will agree to something that I don't know what it is; it may end up being something different that the goals and objectives we're hoping for based on our organizations' ideas
I'm happy to send out the Operating Principles but most people won't read a 5 page document; is it okay of we send them just the first part?

California Wolf Plan Scenarios Discussion

Could you elaborate on what is meant for the management components for scenario #2?
If a federal take permit doesn't meet the standards for CESA what happens?
Do take permit standards for CESA apply to candidate species?
I thought I had heard you say as a candidate species under CA law take is prohibited and you wouldn't do a federal consistency determination or an ITP, and then it sounded like you said you could take a candidate species with authorization from the Dept.
RE scenarios 4 and 5; if not listed under feds then the Dept is lead agency but to continue scenarios 1 and 2 actions, but in 1 you say Fish and Wildlife as the lead agency
Is there a recovery standard under CESA?

Draft Wolf Plan Chapter Discussion

Would habitat requirements be under ecology? Would they go in this chapter?
How is anecdotal information being used?
The wolf has been gone nearly 100 years so not much science to base on, but cultural records do play a role in the history so I'd hate to think in this one case you're going to stick to with a science-based only
Are you distinguishing between anecdotal reports versus cultural evidence such as words for wolves or parts of wolves as regalia?

There will be some new info from a study from Sonoma State on ethnography in CA with respect to wolves, cultural language and practices; will be avail within a week or 2
Any anecdotal evidence wouldn't give any indication as to abundance, only their possible existence
You might want to contact the Karuk tribe
Have you checked with the state's repository of artifacts? Inventory may not be complete,
Just because it was written doesn't mean it was a wolf; even cats are mistaken for mountain lions; people can mistake coyotes for wolves as they can get pretty big
If we can get some tribal input they would know a coyote from a wolf or a mountain lion from a cat; I'll see if I can get my contacts to engage
What level of relationship does the Dept have with those tribes that you reached out to? Was it a cold call so to speak? I work with the Forest Service and they have tribal liaisons; I was wondering if you've reached out to any of those folks?
If we have tribal connections we could reach out to them; can you share us the letter that went out?
Some disputes in the scientific community about the Chambers et al 2010; letters I can send you from scientists who wrote to scientists on that; there should be some discussion about whether or not that's accepted
Will you include some description of climate change in the ecology section? Lots of research currently going on about elevation shifts etc in the Sierra Nevada
How would we know what climate change effects are if we don't know where they were?
What is the window on this plan? Climate change takes place over decades
In the legal status section I have a question: for the most part it addresses great lakes and northern Rockies, then at the end you add in 2012 proposal regarding the Mexican wolf; do we want to add in other steps along the way about the Mexican wolf?
Depredation usually refers to wolves preying on livestock

SWG Letter to the Public Discussion

I think it's important; I think the public may look at this and think It's an agency document and may not necessarily know that there's this whole very involved stakeholder process
In OR we felt strongly that we speak directly to the constituents in that letter
Suggest the letter be tabled until a future meeting; we've got a long way to go and the road could be bumpy and people's mindsets may be different down the road
The concept is a good one but the substance will evolve over time
People always draw conclusions quickly; getting out in front and inserting the transparency; concept good but stays on table as substance will evolve
Important letter coming from the stakeholders; comfortable to say we should have it; like the minority report idea

Strategies for Monitoring and Managing Wolf-livestock Conflicts Discussion

I'm concerned about having this discussion in a vacuum; I know it's a very complex issue and will take a while to work through, but I'm not prepared to have that conversation until more discussions about habitat and how the Department's going to manage wolves.
You can still talk about point of contact; it's iterative and evolving but some simple aspects that can be discussed
I imagine the subgroups will keep the larger group informed to make sure the info is being exchanged
I think it's important to get started on this right away so we develop a common baseline of data so were not all working on different aspects or assumptions
Can we get an idea of what all the subgroups will be so we can have an idea of what we want to be part of?
Are you anticipating a subgroup for every chapter?
What do anticipate the frequency of this subgroup to be, and also the location of meetings?
In-person meetings are better so access to Skype can be really helpful
Google meeting and other Google options; when you see who's talking it's a different experience than being on the phone
I agree that face time is better but a call-in option for those that just can't make it

Recommending Conservation Objectives Discussion

Will population numbers be included under conservation objectives?
I don't know the background of the Oakleaf model; does it accurately show where wolves are in Idaho?
There are models using deer as primary prey for wolves in the western great lakes states, and there is a human presence there and they are subsisting on deer; are you familiar with those?
What if you zoomed in to a finer resolution how focused it would be with particular lines
If you used the elk densities and not deer then how do you come up with anything in the Sierra? You must have put something else in there.
I'm just looking at other people not in this room will see that and say "oh yeah the wolves can be there" and they're not.
So what's missing is a big question mark by the title, because this is a guess
Is this going out anywhere? Posted on the website?
Where did the numbers for domestic sheep come from and how was that decided that was the livestock numbers to use?
Have you looked at the GIS modeling for wildlife corridors? New GIS software out there that looks at corridors
Do competing predators factor in?
I think the only information from USDA is at the county level
They don't want to reveal individual identity so much of the info crude – county level
The experience I've had with models in Siskiyou Co. is that the interpretation of these

models by public is problematic; people see one segment like the number of wolves that could be supported, and make conclusions that CDFW will have 470 wolves in one area; suggest to make clear headings and documentation about what these data really mean so people make no misinformed conclusions
To follow up on that point, when I got this I was looking at the layers, it would have been helpful to have clearly labeled layers positive and negative; it looks like sheep were prey source
If this is for internal use it should say not for distribution

Management Zones Discussion

I think it's premature? The presence and natural distribution of wolves should drive that mechanism
We are on the edge of the habitat and it makes sense to have it looked at statewide; it's a small area where they seem to go on the map and I'd be concerned about trying to divvy that up even smaller
What is the Dept thinking on the value of doing that by zone? We manage deer and elk by zone
What are the pros and cons from Dept's standpoint; given the extremely low population numbers currently; uncertainty of when they'll come, and the regulatory uncertainty; already have 5 scenarios, do we want 5 scenarios plus two or three or more zones; we're making more work if in zones
Do we have zonal management for other listed species so we can move them around to achieve conservation goals?
To layer on the regulatory framework I think it's a good idea not to go there; OR and WA already have to deal with the federal delisting in a third of the state so their state plans are divided, it's difficult
What is delineation in OR based on, is it geographical? Not necessarily because they were seeing similar boundaries of migratory movement of wolves?
What it came down to was what is an easy boundary that everyone can see that looks like it might be a semi-impenetrable boundary to wolves; there were two permutations of it in the final plan
Any follow-up to see if the wolves were crossing the roads?
To my knowledge there is only one instance it was OR-7's brother who moved over that boundary and ended up in the Cascades
It just indicates that having the deer data in the model would be helpful
And having the Great Lakes model would be helpful even if it might be different; I don't know that a wolf knows the difference between a mule deer and a white tail deer
I wasn't suggesting using the Great Lakes data, but the deer data from CA be integrated
Wolf hybrids were kind of a big deal; some were released; are they factored in at all?
Even if we can't think of anything right now we might come up with thoughts down the road
What about public safety? Are we going to be addressing that in the plan?

Future Meeting Dates and Locations Discussion

We thought they were going to be more frequent rather than less like every one to two months
But we moved the completion date back
I remember 6 to 8 weeks
The majority of us are from Sacramento but since the impact is more to the north we should go up there

Conclusion and Wrap-up Discussion

I would like to add a discussion item: identify members of a subgroup for ungulate wolf interactions today so we can get off the ground sooner rather than later
I think we should set up a date and time today
Ask it the other way, what didn't work?
I think the meeting notes and the compilations are really helpful especially for reference later
And you broke it into bite-sized pieces
I think that we're moving forward and not continually rehashing is great
the handouts in advance
On the public comments if you had 20 people here you would just have the cards not verbal comment?
Something that works at Board of Sups meetings is a 2 minute time limit so you count ahead and see how many people you have; they're on mike so you can just cut them off; but the cards work
Are we going to get those comments?
Can we get these maps (on wall)?
Will the subgroup meetings be open to the public; we can have a more frank discussion without the public's presence
If we report to the larger group where the public is in attendance so they can have a sense of what the discussion was at the subgroup meeting; the subgroups are where the meat of the actual plan is going to be hashed out
I personally would feel more comfortable just tossing around ideas and not wanting to held to something when we're talking about hypotheticals or being frank
Does the Brown act apply to this?
I would not make a prohibition on public attendance
Like Karen said the rules still apply so they have to submit comments and they'll be heard at the end
I imagine that the subcommittee meetings will be teleconference?
In person is quicker; too many repeats on the phone
They need to be there; if it's important to them they should be there
We've already discussed not to actively recruit our membership; if they do show them the ground rules and they will have to be stated out loud; but also if there is a facilitator will they facilitate the subgroup meetings as well?
Are we doing conference call availability at subgroup meetings?

Are you saying people from northeastern CA may be interested in telecommuting into a subgroup are you saying people other than on this committee?
Public attendance at subgroups; those reports come back to this table anyway and we discuss so we're still including the public; seems that we can challenge any argument that we're excluding the public
I might want to attend a meeting but I might not be in the subgroup so technically I'm a member of the public so I could fill out a card; the time commitment is a problem for me to be on the committee but I might want to go to that meeting but I shouldn't be allowed to jump in
How effective do we want this group to be; the ability to think aloud and not be held to every word we say; it's like agencies claim deliberative process privileges and they will say "well you can't say this stuff because we were just talking.
So will we have to go to the website for those meeting reports?

APPENDIX J. SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP EVALUATION COMMENTS

I. Meeting content

- To what extent do you feel the purpose and objectives of the meeting were met?

Well-appreciate preparation by both DFG and facilitator
Scale of 1 – 10, 10
Objectives met
I believe all were met
Met them well; I felt the “public comment” was handled well
100% Meetings are well run; I have participated in several other stakeholder meetings and this one is going well
Well. Covered all agenda items, had opportunities to make some decisions, and set subgroups
Quite well

- What topics or issues were left incomplete or unaddressed during the meeting?
- What other important issues should we address at upcoming meetings?

Data on wolf habitat relative to deer as prey species
None; form subcommittee for wolf and wildlife interaction
None – will become more of an issue later
I would like to see additional habitat modeling based on deer and competing predators (e.g. lions and bears)
None, but be flexible for more issues to pop up in future
Continued work on wolf-livestock conflicts
Nothing incomplete/unaddressed unless group agreed to hold off on specifics until later date everything not covered today! And some that were just touched upon (livestock conflicts in particular)

- What suggestions would you make to help this effort to be optimally effective and efficient?

Better idea of subgroups that are likely; work to identify what issues DFW sees needing subgroups
Good as you can regarding subject and requirements
Provide pre-information more in advance of meeting so participants can prepare more adequately – very important
Providing meetings hand-outs and materials earlier
I really like the “structure” and sticking to it
If large public attendance happens limit comments to 2 minutes per person
Keep doing what you did today with regard to public comment/participation
To meet deadline for complete draft plan, increasing agreed upon meeting frequency may be needed in the coming year; subgroups will very much help in forward progress

II. Facilitator - As facilitators, we have the goals to:

1. Create an atmosphere in which you all felt comfortable and willing to participate.
2. Be effective in the facilitation by guiding the group toward achieving your goals.
 - o In your eyes did we achieve these goals? Why, or why not? How can we improve?

Yes! Stayed on track, open for comment, reviewed ground rules
Yes – knives and guns left at the door, at least for this meeting; remind members that emailed attachments should be brought for discussion – digital or hard copy
Not balanced participation – difficult to change – nothing observed that would limit participation except dominant speakers – may need to employ methods to suppress dominant speakers which would open a space for less vocal members – more important as issues become more contentious
Yes – no improvement needed
Yes
Yes – everyone has chance to speak; people have been respectful
Yes – we were all acknowledged, given chance to speak, and topics that needed to be discussed longer were given that time
Yes. This meeting was perhaps the best facilitated of all of our SWG meetings – thanks. Very much appreciated.

III. Additional Comments? (Facility, planning, etc.)

Good with meetings moving between Sac and Redding
All good!
A 1.5 hour one way drive from Placer County is my max for a day-long meeting (I have animal commitments). So I would wish for as close to Sacto as possible and/or teleconference. Even if all I can do is listen in it would be helpful