



**Meeting Report  
Stakeholder Working Group  
Meeting on Wolves in California  
January 29, 2014**

Blood Source Meeting Room  
1880 Park Marina Drive  
Redding, CA 96001



Photo Courtesy of Gary Kramer

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

On January 29, 2014 the California Wolf Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) reconvened to continue their work toward the development of a California wolf management plan. The meeting took place at the Blood Source Meeting Room in Redding, CA. The group's previous general meeting took place on August 29, 2013 in the conference room of the Kenneth L. Maddy Building, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

## **2.0 Meeting Objectives and Mechanics**

The meeting was conducted at the Blood Source Meeting Room, in Redding, California.

The stated purpose of the meeting was to:

Continue to engage the Stakeholder Working Group in the wolf planning process and work toward the completion of a California wolf plan.

Objectives of the meeting were:

1. Introductions and changes in SWG membership
2. Roles and ground rules
3. Summary of subgroup meetings/planning
4. Walk through use of CDFW document library
5. Discuss information sources for the wolf plan
6. Review Draft Background Chapter (version 2)
7. Review of outlines for Chapters 2 (Conservation), 4 (Wolf/Other Wildlife), and 5 (Wolf-Human Interactions)

The meeting was attended by 15 stakeholders, one U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) representative, and five CDFW staff. Appendix A provides a list of participants, their affiliations, and their contact information. Other attendees included two legislative representatives, one county sheriff, one city councilman, and nine members of the general public. Appendix B provides a list of those individuals as well as the questions/comments they presented for discussion.

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. Horkey, CDFW volunteer who would be taking meeting notes and providing other assistance. Ms.

Kovacs then asked Mr. Mark Stopher to read the goals developed by the group for their principles of operation.

Next, updates were provided on SWG membership changes; attendance and participation in the SWG; OR-7; CDFW's efforts at contracting for facilitation of the SWG meetings; federal proposal for wolf delisting; take of nongame species; the status review; and revisions to the Wolf Management Plan project schedule (Appendix E).

After the updates, one member from the wolf-livestock subgroup and one member from the wolf-conservation subgroup presented summaries of their respective group's work to date. Then Ms. Kovacs presented a series of slides to demonstrate the steps for effective use of the Department's document library. Next, Mr. Stopher led a discussion of the different types of documents available to Department for development of the wolf plan, and some guidance on how to assess their scientific credibility. The remainder of the working portion of the meeting was devoted to discussing the second draft of the Background chapter, and reviewing the outlines for the chapters on wolf conservation and wolf interactions with other wildlife species and with humans.

Finally, the meeting concluded with a reading of the questions and comments submitted by members of the public, and the Department's responses to those questions and comments.

### **3.0 Meeting Outputs**

The SWG's standing ground rules are:

- 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

The SWG's operating principles goals are:

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 in 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 reasonably foreseeable given the expanding populations in the Pacific Northwest, inform the public with science-based information of gray wolves and the conservation and management needs of wolves in California, as well as the effects of having wolves in the state

## Updates

- Active participation in the SWG requires keeping up with the group's developments, fully expressing your concerns to avoid surprises later
- Margo Parks of California Cattlemen's Association has taken a position elsewhere, and that group will now be represented by Justin Oldfield
- The contract for a facilitator has had a glitch: the initial lowest bidder did not provide all necessary information so the contract was awarded to the next lowest bidder; the original lowest bidder has filed a protest so the contract is now being reviewed by the Department of General Services
- OR7 was in and out of California in December; he is currently in southern Oregon; his 3-year collar is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year; ODFW says there are still only one set of tracks where OR7 occurs; the issue of re-collaring OR7 is a matter for the USFWS since he occurs where wolves are still currently federally listed as endangered
- With respect to the federal proposal to delist wolves, the USFWS held a public comment hearing in Sacramento in December, as well as meetings in Albuquerque, NM, and Denver, CO. The public comment period ended officially on Dec. 17, 2013, but will be extended after the peer-review comments are released sometime in the next week; the public comment period will last 45 days after which the rule writers will review and incorporate the comments
- Mr. Stopher reminded the group that wolves are currently candidates for listing under CESA, which prohibits their take; in addition they are classified as a Nongame species; as he previously explained to the group, take by CDFW is allowed, but not by members of the public except as otherwise provided in regulation; however after discussion with the CDFW Office of General Counsel, it is now Mr. Stopher's understanding that take of Nongame mammals by private individuals is not prohibited if the species is not also listed or a candidate for listing under CESA; a private individual is therefore allowed to take a non-listed, non-candidate Nongame mammal if there is an immediate threat to private property; Mr. Stopher acknowledged that the immediate threat language may require further discussion by the group, depending upon the listing decision by Fish and Game Commission
- Dr. Eric Loft informed the group that the Department has completed its wolf status review and it is now on Director Bonham's desk. The document was

reviewed by seven scientific peer reviewers, some of whom were recommended by the SWG. Their comments were incorporated, and the Director will transmit the document to the Fish and Game Commission with his recommendation in February. The Commission will review the document and the Department's recommendation in March, and will discuss it and take public comment at the Ventura meeting in April. They may make a decision at that meeting, or may postpone their decision until the June meeting.

- Ms. Kovacs presented the revised schedule for wolf planning, which included proposed meeting dates. She pointed out that the schedule shows the Department's plan to have plan completed in draft form by July 1, 2014. She also explained that the peer review panel will be selected in April, but will probably not actually review the document until the end of the year, when it will also be available for the public to review. There will be public meetings scheduled during that time, but those dates and locations have not yet been determined. The Department anticipates release of the final plan in January, 2015. If CEQA compliance is deemed necessary based on the content of the plan, that date will have to be revised.

## **Summary of Subgroup Meetings**

### *Wolf-Livestock Subgroup*

Ms. Noelle Cremers explained to the SWG that the Wolf-Livestock Subgroup has met three times, and have nearly completed work on two documents that were intended to provide information from other states' experiences dealing with wolf-livestock interactions. The first is a compilation of lessons learned relative to a number of aspects of such interactions. One example is that where wolves and livestock are sympatric, depredations are a consistent result. The other document is a chart that compares information relative to wolf management in the five western states currently managing wolves. The next step will be to determine which management tools will be allowed in California. Mr. Stopher, chair of the Wolf-Livestock Subgroup, then reminded the group that getting consensus on managing this and other challenging topics will be very compelling to the Department to include in the wolf management plan, and he is optimistic about that possibility because the dialogue of this group has been very constructive.

### *Wolf–Ungulate Subgroup*

Mr. Jerry Springer explained that the Wolf-Ungulate Subgroup has met once, and at this stage the members have more questions than answers. Because wolves will likely prey primarily on deer in California, members expressed concern about wolf effects on an already declining deer population. The group wondered what flexibility the Department

will have toward managing wolves should it be determined that they are having a negative impact on the deer population. Mr. Springer encouraged folks to read the meeting report which lists the various questions generated by the group. The next meeting in March will be an opportunity to start working on answering those questions. Dr. Eric Loft, chair of the Wolf-Ungulate Subgroup, explained that his staff are currently developing revised deer and elk plans, which will help to inform this subgroup's work. In addition, for a number of reasons the Department has not actively surveyed deer for several years. This year they will be actively surveying deer which will provide much needed information about the size of the herds, which translates to the amount of biomass available for wolves and other predators. The deer and elk plans should be available by spring of 2014.

### **CDFW Document Library How-to**

Ms. Kovacs led the SWG through a brief walk-through of the CDFW document library, in which is housed the journal articles, reports, and other documents the Department has been collecting in support of developing the wolf plan. She explained how to create an account, and how to most effectively locate specific documents and/or documents with a topic area. The instructions she provided are captured as slides within the larger presentation in Appendix D.

### **Information Sources for Wolf Plan**

Mr. Stopher then described how the Department evaluates the utility and credibility of different sources of information. He began by describing the scientific method, and how its different stages are incorporated into peer-reviewed scientific journal articles. The Discussion section of these articles is where authors provide some speculation about the results of their findings, and these speculations are sometimes cited as fact in subsequent papers by the same or other authors. He explained the importance and challenge of following up on these citations to confirm their validity. Mr. Stopher also provided a list of reference types in decreasing order of credibility: peer-reviewed articles in well-established and less well-established journals; books; grey literature and raw data; newspapers, magazines, news, brochures, websites, trade publications, newsletters, advocacy organizations, blogs; and action alerts by organizations requesting money.

### **Review of Chapter 1 (Background) Version 2**

Next, Ms. Kovacs led the group in discussing any questions or concerns they have with respect to the version 2 of the Background chapter of the wolf plan. She read the headings and subheadings in order, and solicited any thoughts with respect to actual content, and not typing, punctuation, or spelling errors. Further, Ms. Kovacs pointed out some new information in the document with respect to the museum wolf specimens.

Genetic testing identified one specimen from Lassen area as a gray wolf, and a second was determined to be a Mexican gray wolf. The other two specimens were determined to be a dog, and an Alaskan gray wolf, most likely someone's pet. She also explained that efforts to solicit tribal involvement from northern and Sierran tribes have not been successful, and that in the absence of any genetic testing of tribal regalia attributed to wolves, we cannot with certainty state that those wolf hides are from locally occurring California wolves.

Below is a list of the questions and concerns proposed by members, and the responses provided by Ms. Kovacs and other Department staff.

- I question the effects on packs of loss of alphas; there is documentation from the Lamar Valley and Denali National Park in which loss of an alpha female led to the packs falling apart; can some recent data be added to address these negative effects to provide balance to this section? (*Kovacs: noted*)
- Earlier Dr. Loft mentioned the Dept. was going to model biomass needs for wolves; how will that influence this section? (*Loft: it will provide more information than this in terms of what an individual adult wolf needs energetically; will have to see what is in the literature*)
- This says that where livestock and wild game coexist, wolves are known to kill livestock. It sounds like when livestock are present that's what wolves eat. That should be re-worded. (*Loft: we could add the word "also" to clarify*)
- Is this a good place to define what actually constitutes a population or a pack? (*Loft: we do need to define these terms; Kovacs: we are developing a glossary*)
- In the mortality section there are number of bacterial diseases of concern to the livestock community. Can we discuss that issue in the livestock subgroup? (*Stopher: will you bring that up in our next meeting?*)
- There is a recent paper by Eisenberg et al (2013) that responds to some of the concerns expressed by Mech (2012) and discusses the importance of context in trophic cascades and the complexity of teasing apart the various factors that may influence ecosystems. It would be nice to reference that document in this section on ecosystem dynamics. (*Kovacs: we can look at the document and determine if it's applicable. In the chapter we talk about the differences of opinion over trophic cascades in the wolf ecosystem discussion. Our purpose is to bring out the issues that have been raised. Mech makes the point that only 10% of wolf habitat is in National Parks where many of the studies have been conducted. Land ownership and land use affect how trophic cascades play out or not*).
- I didn't see anything about hunting of wolves within the mortality section. (*Kovacs: we do say "humans are the single largest cause of mortality"*)
- In the Community and Ecosystem Dynamics section it says "willow production was seven times higher as a result of reduced browsing" but in the Mech paper



you provided us it said that it can't be attributed to a decline in browsing but could be due to an increase in beavers so I think it's not safe to have that stated that way. (*Kovacs: noted*).

- Where it talks about indirect and direct effects of apex predators, the focus is on potentially beneficial effects, but effects on livestock would be negative so I think some balance is needed here. (*Kovacs: I will have another look at this to see if we can address the concern in a way that still meets the intent of the section*).
- Since the plan will have various chapters devoted to different topics, and we all have concerns about them being balanced and accurate, I'm concerned about making statements about potentially harmful impacts of wolves on livestock in a chapter about wolf biology and ecology. Does that mean that we have to include potentially positive impacts of wolves on livestock in the livestock chapter such as fewer wild ungulates with which to compete for browse? (*Stopher: it raises a question as to the function of the background chapter. This is a high level overview that doesn't resolve all the questions. There are many other chapters to cover these details*).
- Since 10% of occupied wolf habitat is parks, when we talk about cascading ecosystems, how can we avoid including the human influence on the ecosystem? One of California's differences is we don't have those vast wildernesses. (*Kovacs: one of that last sentences in this section says "The effects of wolves on ecosystems are complex and are further complicated by interactions with humans (i.e. via wolf harvest and land ownership), with other predators, where alternate prey species are available, and by effects on habitat conditions for prey species due to weather, fire, fire suppression, etc. These factors must all be considered before any predictions can be made about the effects of wolves on prey populations as well as wolf effects on ecosystems."*)
- Looking at the draft outline for the whole plan, and there is an introduction section about purpose and need. Maybe that can be where we lay out the function of the document and a reference to the types of issues we are trying to address. (*Kovacs: I've been holding off writing the introduction until later; and remember the idea of a Stakeholder letter to the public and we wanted to table that to the end. If we want to start an introduction we can put that as an agenda item for a future meeting*).
- I want to mention that the Chambers et al 2012 paper is in dispute; was self-published by the USFWS in a journal that hasn't been published in for 20 years. After the USFWS proposed delisting wolves in reliance on the Chambers et al paper several scientists wrote letters, one of which stated disagreement with the taxonomic structure proposed. I suggest there should be a statement mentioning the scientific disagreement over the paper. (*Stopher: in terms of staff effort for revising this document, we will focus on things that are important with respect to*

*consequences of wolves in California, such as the likelihood of trophic cascades. With respect to the controversy over Chambers et al, that won't affect management of wolves in California; Kovacs: in the status review we talk about the taxonomy but for our purposes in California it's Canis lupus; Loft: one of the peer reviewers is a geneticist and weighed in and we incorporated his thoughts, but we've spent lots of time agonizing over something that is unresolved; I am more interested in the trophic cascades - we have brought up trophic cascades as an important topic with respect to how wolves operate in an ecosystem but we need to distinguish between park-like systems versus managed forests and ranges. We need to look for any research on wolves in those systems).*

- The ethnographic and Native American evidence is contained within the subsection on anecdotal observations. It would be more appropriate for the ethnographic information to be contained in its own subsection. It is a different quality of information than the anecdotes. Cultural values and cultural evidence can be distinguished; cultural values should be in their own subheading and the Newland and Stoyka paper should be cited (*Donlan: can we have a traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) section; this is a term that most tribes have adopted; Kovacs: I anticipate adding another heading after legal status called Social and Cultural Values in the West where I anticipated including more of the Native American traditions and culture; in the status review we don't refute Native American cultural values and understanding of wolves in California; some of what we know about wolf presence and distribution is based on Native American history so we're not refuting it; we can provide a separate section that includes the cultural values in Native American culture and would perhaps address the TEK; please provide me with your comments in writing so I can better understand your concerns and recommendations*)
- When working on the conservation goals, what weight would (Native American values of wolves) be given? I like the statement on the previous page that says "It is, however, unlikely that we will be able to ascertain true historic gray wolf abundance, and will instead base goals for contemporary wolf abundance on contemporary habitat constraints." I'm not concerned about including tribal values if that statement is true. (*Kovacs: noted*)
- Hopefully when the tribes review this they will agree with what we've said. Having a separate section for tribal history and the inclusion of tribal documentation is important so they will see that they are recognized and part of this effort (*Kovacs: noted*)

## **Review of Chapter 2 (Conservation) Outline**

To begin discussion of the Conservation chapter, Mr. Stopher presented a comparison table that lists the wolf federal and state listing status, approximate wolf population size,

and population objectives for wolves in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, and Oregon. Mr. Stopher explained that in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho where wolves are federally delisted, they are managed as either big game, trophy game, or predatory animals. Wolves were introduced into those states as part of the federal reintroduction program in the mid-1990s. Oregon and Washington were not part of that program, but wolves have dispersed there and are now managed under their state endangered species programs. It is a reasonable expectation that wolves will reach California in a similar manner, which is why we are planning for wolf management now.

The parameters that states find most useful for wolf management are approximate wolf population and number of breeding pairs. Packs are a less useful parameter to monitor because of their dynamic nature. A pack is defined as two animals within a defined territory, except in Idaho where it's four wolves in a defined territory. Breeding pairs are at least one adult male and one adult female and two pups that survive until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Packs can reproduce but if the young don't survive they would not be considered a breeding pair. With respect to approximate population size, the numbers are minimum estimates. The larger the population the more difficult it is to measure, because the best estimates derive from collared wolves, and this becomes time and cost prohibitive with larger populations.

The population objectives for Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming are based on the federal minimum objectives to avoid relisting the species. The states intend to manage at higher levels as a buffer, but they do not have specific numbers developed. Oregon and Washington have established more complex management goals because wolves are state listed as endangered there. Both states are partitioned into recovery regions and each region has separate objectives.

California was also included in the table, but the population objectives are yet to be determined. Those objectives will be developed by a new subgroup that will be established today. Mr. Stopher presented a preliminary list for that group to consider. They were:

- Distribution and abundance of suitable habitat
- Distribution and abundance of wild ungulates
- Population levels scaled to habitat and prey
- Habitat connectivity
- Population viability
- Public policy (e.g. CESA, Fish and Game Code, etc.)
- Conflicts

Next Mr. Stopher solicited volunteers to form the Conservation Subgroup. SWG members who volunteered were Pam Flick, Amaroq Weiss, Jerry Springer, Randy

Morrison, Damon Nagami, Noelle Cremers, Lesa Eidman, and the group's Wildlife Society members, Linda Leeman and/or John McNerney. Finally, Mr. Stopher displayed a schedule of upcoming meetings for the various subgroups, and proposed the first meeting for the Conservation Subgroup will be on the afternoon of February 19<sup>th</sup>, following the Wolf-Livestock Subgroup that morning. The location is yet to be determined, but will be in the Sacramento area.

#### **Review of Chapter 4 (Wolf Interactions with Other Species) Outline**

Ms. Kovacs explained that much of what will go into Chapter 4 is fairly well-documented and can be gleaned to a large part from existing literature and other management plans. The first three sections listed in the draft chapter outline will provide discussion about the potential impacts of wolves on particular groups of wildlife. The carnivores of interest for this chapter are mountain lions, black bears, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, mustelids, and raptors. The chapter will provide some information on the similarities and differences in prey preferences, habitat preferences, etc., and how any intersections in life histories between wolves and other carnivores may lead to impacts. Scavengers of interest include vultures, raptors, and corvids (jays, ravens, crows, magpies, etc.), and there is some literature describing the benefits of wolves to those taxa. However this may be tempered by the fact that deer will likely be wolves' primary prey, and there will likely be little left for these scavengers given deer's small size.

Special status species include listed species (Sierra Nevada red fox, pika, some kangaroo rats, desert tortoise), fully protected species (e.g. ringtail, wolverine, greater sandhill crane), and species of special concern (Humboldt marten, pacific fisher, pygmy rabbit, Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare, burrowing owl). Ms. Kovacs specified that she tried to focus on those special status species that are primarily ground-dwellers and therefore more likely to be impacted by wolves. In addition, if considering the potential future reestablishment of Mexican wolves, she wanted to include terrestrial special status species in Southern California that are most likely to be impacted by wolves.

Management implications in the draft chapter outline refers to considerations for how the Department will manage potential impacts to other species discussed above. For example what measures could be taken if wolf presence leads to mountain lions shifting to higher elevations, and putting additional pressure on Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep populations. Ms. Kovacs felt that information for this chapter did not warrant formation of a specific subgroup, and the group generally agreed but suggested that the volume of information for the management implications section is very large and that the group may be of help if needed.

## **Review of Chapter 5 (Wolf-Human Interactions) Outline**

As with Chapter 4, information for this chapter can be gleaned to a large extent from other plans, and how it translates to California. The six sections proposed for the chapter are: Human Safety, Interactions with Humans, Interactions with Domestic Canids (domestic dogs, wolf hybrids, and pet wolves), Disease Transmission and Wolves, Human-caused Mortality, and Strategies to Address Negative Wolf-Human Interactions.

Ms. Kovacs provided some detail on her thoughts for this chapter. There is some good current information on wolf and human mortality and human safety. With respect to human safety her goal is to list activities that have been documented recently, especially in the west. She mentioned two recent incidents of human mortality, one in Alaska which is likely wolf-caused, and a second in British Columbia which has been attributed to wolves but may have also been caused by a black bear. Ms. Kovacs intends to put human safety relative to wolves in context with other risks. For example public safety with respect to mountain lions and bears will be mentioned. Deer are a source of significant numbers of injuries to humans, as are domestic dogs.

Land ownership will likely be a significant factor in human interactions with wolves, since those who live or spend time in rural or wilderness areas are more likely to have some form of contact with wolves, and are therefore more at risk. Chapter 5 will address this, and will also include information on how to minimize conflicts, as well as what measures to take if attacked.

Domestic dogs may be at risk from wolves, especially working and hunting dogs. The chapter will include information about the regulations relative to the importation and possession of wolves and wolf hybrids, as well as who regulates domestic dogs with wolf DNA. Human-caused mortality will include information on vehicle strikes, illegal hunting and trapping, and poisoning.

SWG members questioned the necessity of singling out pet wolves in Chapter 5 since they are illegal. Ms. Kovacs explained that it is important to give information about existing regulations in California. The SWG suggested that the title of the chapter suggests that the content of the chapter will be about interactions, and that discussing laws and regulations may be more appropriate in another chapter.

The group decided that it may not be necessary to form a subcommittee for Chapter 5 except perhaps to discuss Section F which will discuss strategies to address negative Wolf-Human interactions.

## **Review of Tabled Items From Previous Meetings**

Tabled item 1 (strategy for determining goals for wolf population) was removed from the table because this is now an item for discussion within the Wolf Conservation subgroup. The second item (differences between FESA and CESA) will remain on the table until Ms. Donlan, CDFW legal counsel, is available to address the group with that information.

## **Conclusion and Wrap-up**

The date for the next SWG meeting is February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area. Hopefully the contract issues will be resolved and a facilitator will be in place to help with that meeting.

Finally, public comments and questions were read from index cards provided at the beginning of the meeting. Those comments and the Department's responses are captured in Appendix B.

## **Action and Table Items**

1. Add page numbers to the Background chapter
2. Ms. Weiss will provide the titles to the Rutledge et al (2010) paper and the Haber and Holleman book, both of which discuss negative effects on wolf packs after loss of alpha members
3. Add population and pack to the glossary
4. If wolves are federally delisted, need to consider how to address the immediate threat issue
5. Discuss likelihood of designation of wolves in California
6. Ms. Cremers will introduce the concerns about bacterial diseases in the next livestock subgroup meeting
7. Look for research on wolf ecosystem dynamics in managed forests and rangelands to include in the Background chapter
8. Ms. Weiss will provide her comments about different qualities of evidence from California Native Americans in writing to Karen Kovacs to help explain what her concerns and recommendations are.
9. Consider where it would be appropriate to address other small opportunistically taken prey species such as snowshoe hare (suggestion for a separate section in Chapter 4 called Wolves and other prey)
10. Consider including information from New Mexico and Arizona in Chapter 5
11. Some negative human interactions relate to leaving out pet food, including cats; consider adding some language about other pets in Chapter 5
12. Consider adding a chapter or section within a chapter addressing laws and regulations relative to owning wolves and wolf hybrids

13. Discuss the impacts of potential future litigation so that SWG efforts are not wasted; consider strategies for limiting potential litigation risks so that SWG members time is not wasted
14. Ms. Baker will provide a copy of USFWS Climate Adaptation Strategies document to Ms. Kovacs for consideration in the Conservation chapter
15. Dr. Loft will provide links to the State Wildlife Action Plan and USFWS/Cal Trans connectivity documents for consideration in the Conservation chapter

## APPENDIX A. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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Mark Stopher	Senior Policy Advisor – CDFW	<a href="mailto:mark.stopher@wildlife.ca.gov">mark.stopher@wildlife.ca.gov</a>
Angela Donlan	Senior Staff Counsel - CDFW	<a href="mailto:angela.donlan@wildlife.ca.gov">angela.donlan@wildlife.ca.gov</a>
Pete Figura	Environmental Scientist – Region 1 - CDFW	<a href="mailto:pete.figura@wildlife.ca.gov">pete.figura@wildlife.ca.gov</a>



## APPENDIX B. PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS AND COMMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Email
<b>Legislative Representatives</b>		
Erin Ryan	Congressman Doug LaMalfa's Office	<a href="mailto:ErinMarie.ryan@mail.house.gov">ErinMarie.ryan@mail.house.gov</a>
Ashley Adishian	CA Senator Jim Nielsen's Office	<a href="mailto:ashley.adishian@sen.ca.gov">ashley.adishian@sen.ca.gov</a>
<b>Other Members of the Public</b>		
Howard Covington		
Harold and Lydia Reed		
Margie Jennings		
Lynn Shaw		
Jan Hanks		
Sylvia Milligan		
Chuck Desporeve		
Ann Meyer		
Siskiyou County Sheriff Jon Lopey		
Redding City Councilmember Gary Cadd		

## Why do we need wolves in California?

Can you keep them (wolves) in a specific area or do you eventually see them in the Sierra Nevada mts, Calif. National Parks - like Yosemite, Lassen, Pacific Crest Trail, Trinity Alps Wilderness?

And CA. Fish & Wildlife must give All Citizens in U.S.A. a guarantee that any wolf will stay & move only in the corridors that are planned (I've seen the maps) for animal movement. Can you say this will be done?

- ① With the layers & layers of minutia being ~~on~~ forced on the American people Why are we going out and looking for controversial issues to stack another layer on them??
- ② If the wolf was allowed to develop according to Nature the money being spent here could be put to much better use. What do you estimate this is going to cost the already overburdened tax payer?

1. Why! go to all the expense & time spent on a single wolf, let the Fish & game planning on introducing a female wolf?  
all this time & money to tax people and the wolf dies of old age.  
Calif is broke!!

We can't hear back here!

What kind of studies have you done on the social & economic impact of wolves in the rural areas?

If "eminate danger" is the only way a person is allowed to eliminate a wolf, who is the decision maker of "is this eminate danger"?

If we eventually have wolves in CA let it occur by nature and deal with any problems that occur - don't look for problems by forcing nature and introducing them!

It appears there has been a lot of time, energy & funding already ~~been~~ expended on this very important issue. Has your group coordinated with the local governments and NGOs as required by federal & state government and under EC 13575? - what is the participation/funding from federal agencies in this "mgt. plan"?

Printed

I would like a list of recognized stakeholder groups and the contact point for each.

Thank you

Lynn Shaw

lynnshaw@packbell.net

## Wildlands Map - Act

Idea: bring back species + provide Corridors that restrict human activity.

What wolf species is considered, has this group reviewed scientific evidence from Idaho, Washington, Montana, Wyoming studies on the devastating results wolf reintroduction has had to those states?

Wolves do not eat ~~anything~~ ~~they kill~~ ~~do they?~~ 2000 lbs required food/wolf/year.

1. There has not been wolves in QA for many years. Why do we need them now?
2. I resent the public input has not happened. Why have we not been informed?
3. They multiply like rabbits & Kill for sport.
4. The money would be better spent elsewhere. How much tax payer money is being spent?
5. Why are we disturbing the balance of nature? (Over →)

Have any of you seen the "Cry wolf movie" or visited the website -

Cry Wolf Movie.com?

6. It has been proven in MT the wolf has affected their whole economy. Less game, less guides, ranchers losing livestock etc.

7. The public was not able to hear or see the information that was displayed.

## **APPENDIX C. AGENDA**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Wolf Stakeholders Working Group (SWG) Meeting  
Blood Source Meeting Room, Redding – January 29, 2014

**Purpose** – To continue to engage the SWG in the wolf planning process and work towards the completion of a California wolf plan

**Agenda**

- Gather in the meeting room – Headquarters Building 8:45
- Welcome, Introductions and Changes in SWG membership 9:00
- Agenda and Ground Rules 9:10
- Updates: 9:15
  - 1. SWG attendance and participation
  - 2. Contract facilitation for SWG meetings/Wolf Plan
  - 3. OR7
  - 4. Federal proposal for delisting (Lisa Ellis)
  - 5. “Take” of nongame species designation (Mark Stopher)
  - 6. Status Review/Petition and FGC hearing (Eric Loft)
  - 7. Dates for future SWG meetings
  - 8. Revised schedule for plan completion
- Summary of subgroup SWG meetings/planning 10:00
  - Wolf-Livestock Report – Nov 2013 (Noelle Cremers/Mark Stopher)
  - Wolf-Ungulate Report – Oct 2013 (Jerry Springer/Eric Loft)
- Walk Through the DFW Document Library for Access to Documents 10:30  
(Karen Kovacs)
- Information Sources for Wolf Plan (reports, published papers, etc.) 10:45  
(Mark Stopher)
- BREAK 11:00
- Review of Chapter 1 (Background version 2) 11:15
- LUNCH (SWG members on their own for lunch) 11:45

• Review of Chapter 1 (Background version 2) Continued	1:00
• Review of Outline for Chapter 2 (Conservation) Subgroup formation	1:30
• Review of Outline for Chapter 4 (Wolf Interactions with Other Wildlife Species) Need for subgroup?	1:45
• Review of Outline for Chapter 5 (Wolf Human Interactions) Need for subgroup?	2:00
BREAK	2:30
• Review of Tabled Items (from prior meetings) 1. Strategy for determining goals for wolf population ((Chapter 2 -where, how many) 2. Differences between ESA and CESA	2:45
• New Action Items from Today's Meeting	3:00
• Future meeting date (February 26, 2014) and location for next SWG meeting	3:15
• Conclusion and Wrap-Up	3:30
Adjourn	4:00

#### **Attachments:**

Chapter 1 (Background v. 2)

Subgroup Reports:

Wolf-Ungulate Meeting (Oct 21, 2013)

Wolf-Livestock Interactions v.2 (Nov 12, 2013)

Outlines for Chapters 2, 4, and 5

Revised Wolf Plan Schedule



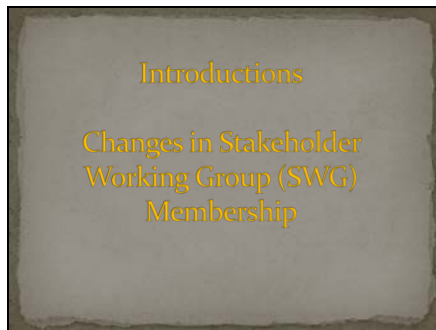
## **APPENDIX D. POWERPOINT SLIDES PRESENTED**

## Slides Presented by Ms. Kovacs

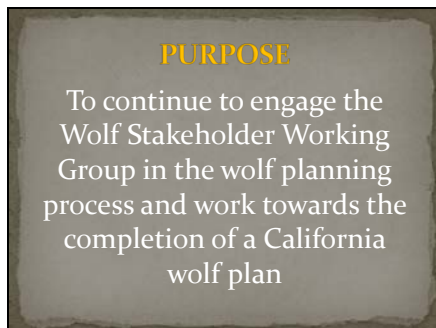
Slide 1



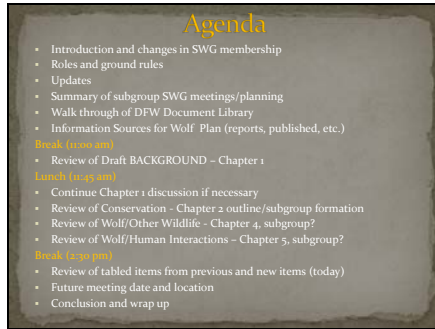
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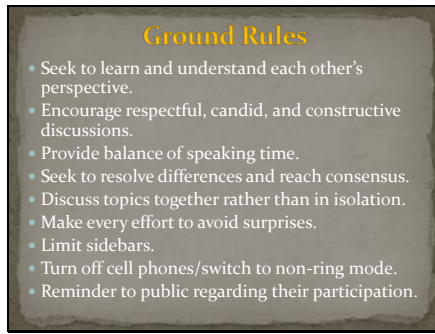
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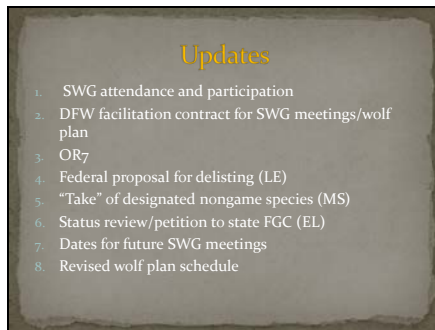
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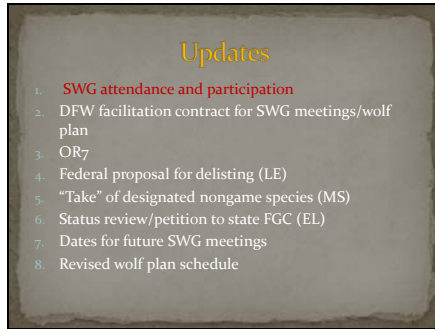
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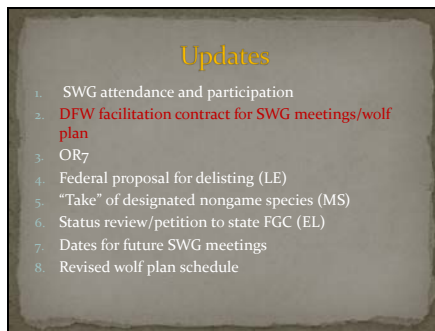
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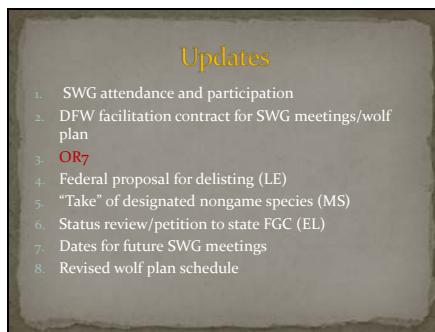
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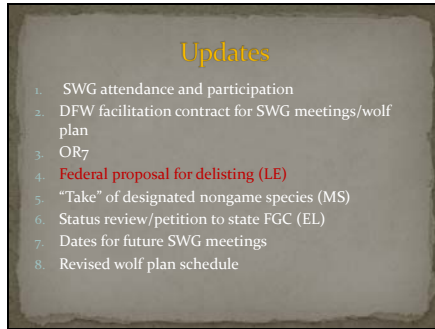
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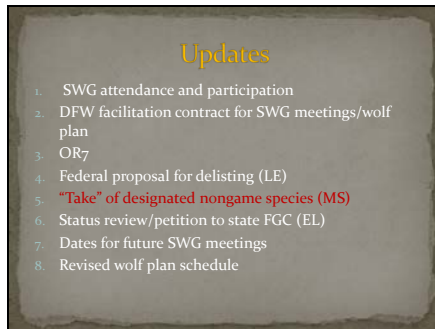
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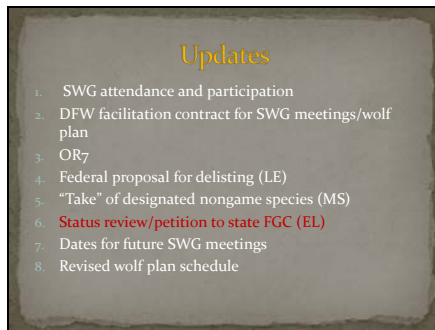
Slide 10



Slide 11



Slide 12



Slide 13

### Updates

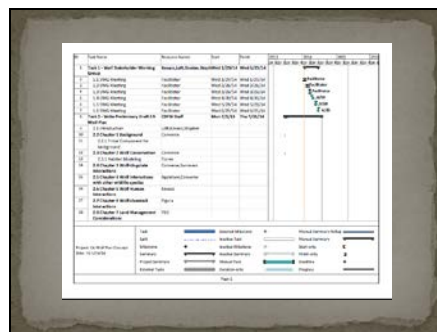
1. SWG attendance and participation
2. DFW facilitation contract for SWG meetings/wolf plan
3. OR7
4. Federal proposal for delisting (LE)
5. "Take" of designated nongame species (MS)
6. Status review/petition to state FGC (EL)
7. **Dates for future SWG meetings**
8. Revised wolf plan schedule

Slide 14

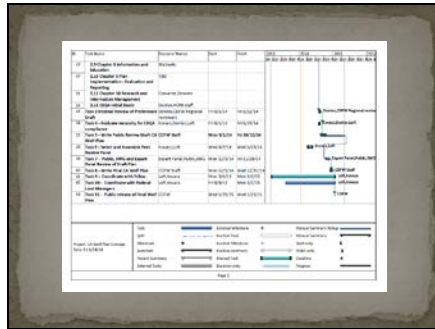
### Updates

1. SWG attendance and participation
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3. OR7
4. Federal proposal for delisting (LE)
5. "Take" of designated nongame species (MS)
6. Status review/petition to state FGC (EL)
7. **Dates for future SWG meetings**
8. **Revised wolf plan schedule**

Slide 15



Slide 16



Slide 17

### Summary of SWG Subgroup Meetings/Planning Efforts

- Wolf-Livestock Conflicts – Chapter 6

Subgroup Report – November 2013  
 Chaired by Mark Stopher (Noelle Cremers)

The slide features a title in yellow text, a bullet point listing 'Wolf-Livestock Conflicts – Chapter 6', and the report title and chair information. Below the text is a small image of the report cover, which includes a logo and a photograph of a wolf's head.

Slide 18

### Summary of SWG Subgroup Meetings/Planning Efforts

Wolf-Ungulate Interactions – Chapter 3  
 Subgroup Report – October 2013  
 Chaired by Eric Loft (Jerry Springer)

The slide features a title in yellow text, the report title, and the chair information. Below the text is a small image of the report cover, which includes a logo and a photograph of a wolf's head.

Slide 19

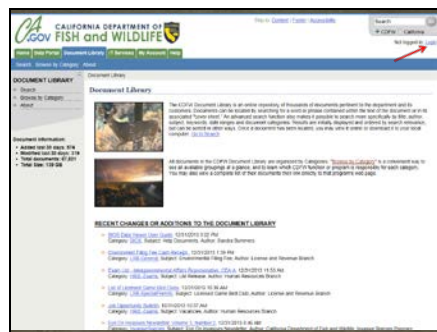


Slide 20



From the CDFW home page click on “Document Library”

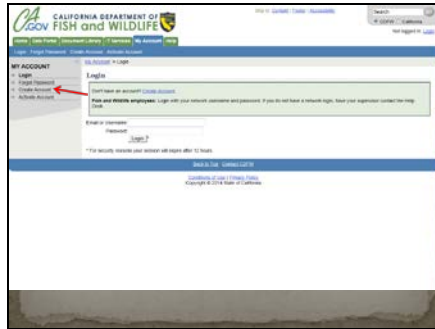
Slide 21



You must create an account before you can access the Wolf Management Planning documents  
To do this click on Login on the Document Library main page



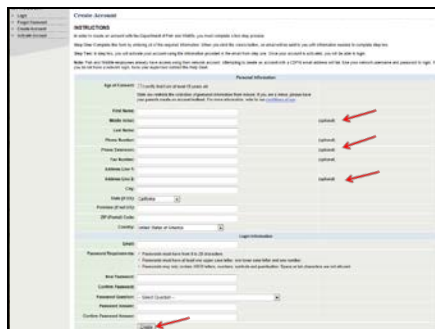
Slide 22



If you have already created an account you can enter your email and password to access the documents.

If you have not already created an account, click on “Create Account”

Slide 23



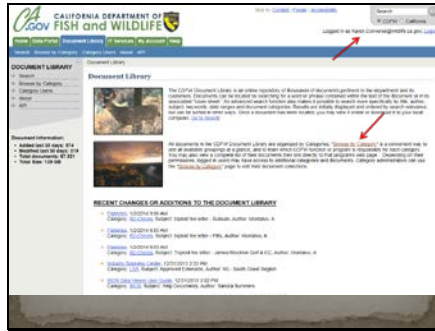
Complete the form and click “Create”  
Notice that only confirmation of age, first and last names, email address, and password are required  
Please be sure to send Karen Converse an email  
(karen.converse@wildlife.ca.gov) to let her know you’ve created an account.  
You will not be able to log in until Karen adds you to the list of “Readers.”

Slide 24



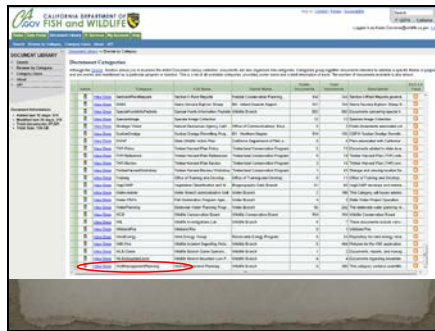
After Karen sends you an email confirming that you have been added as a reader, return to the Document Library main page and click Login. Enter the email and password you created and click Login.

Slide 25



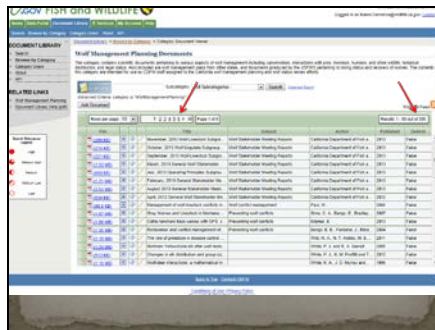
Once you are logged in your name should appear at the top right corner. The easiest way to narrow your search to only Wolf Management Planning documents is to click on “Browse by Category”

Slide 26



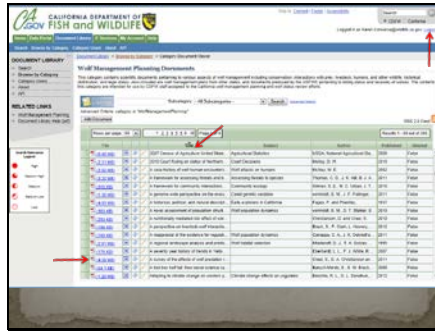
This brings you to a list of all CDFW categories that contain documents to which you have access. They are listed in alphabetical order. Scroll down to the Wolf Management Planning category and click “View Docs”.

Slide 27



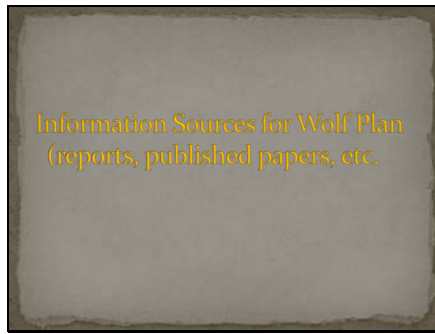
This brings up all Wolf Management Planning documents deposited in the library to date (295). Note that there are multiple pages.

Slide 28



You can sort each of the columns by simply clicking on the column heading box. In this case the “Title” column is sorted alphabetically. To open a particular document, click on the “File” and the document will open in PDF format. You can then save a copy to your computer. Be sure to “Logout” when finished.

Slide 29



Slide 30



Slide 31



Slide 32



Slide 33



Slide 34



Slide 35



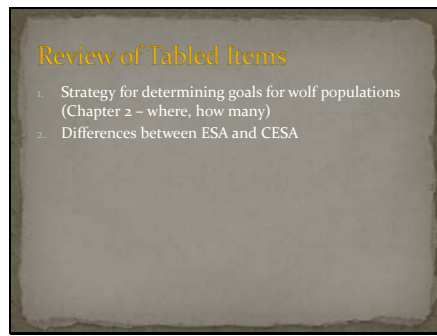
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Slide 37



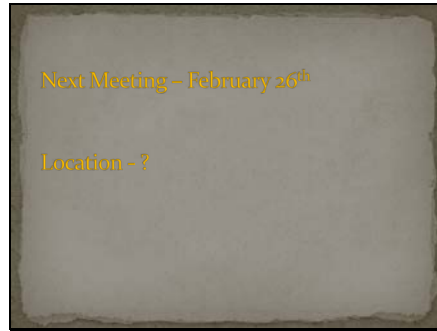
Slide 38



Slide 39



Slide 40



Slide 41

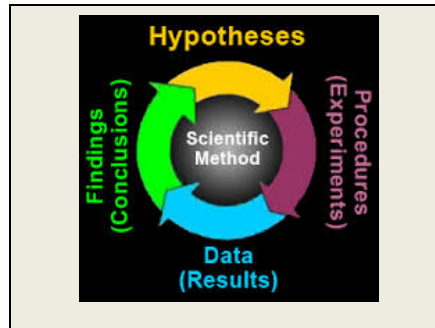


# Slides Presented by Mr. Stopher

Slide 1

## Information Sources for Wolf Planning

Slide 2



Slide 3

## Reporting of Research

- **Introduction** – is a clear hypothesis stated?
- **Methods** – described in a way that others can reproduce the experiment
- **Results** – what do the data show and with what confidence?
- **Discussion** – communicate what the results mean and what new hypotheses might be suggested by the results.
- The **Discussion** is where both thoughtful discussion, new hypotheses and (sometimes) speculation are presented. Frequently these will be framed as “The results suggest”, “It seems likely”, “While the results are not statistically significant, they indicate that” etc. These possibilities are then sometimes cited in a subsequent paper in a way that infers that the hypothesis is a fact



#### Slide 4

Reference Types:  
In Generally Decreasing Order of Credibility

- Peer reviewed articles in well established journals
- Peer reviewed articles in less established journals
- Books
- Grey literature, raw data
- Newspapers, magazines, television/radio news, brochures, websites, trade publications, newsletters, NGO and industry advocacy organizations, blogs
- Action alerts, by any organization, accompanied by a request for \$\$

#### Slide 5

Consider

- Has the publication been peer-reviewed?
- Were the peer reviewers involved in any way with the research?
- What are the qualifications of the authors?
- Have the authors been cited in other peer-reviewed literature within the subject area?
- Who funded the research?

#### Slide 6

A spurious relationship (or correlation) is one in which two events or variables have no direct causal connection, yet it may be wrongly inferred that they do, due either to coincidence or the presence of a third unseen factor (i.e. a “confounding” factor)

Slide 7



Slide 8

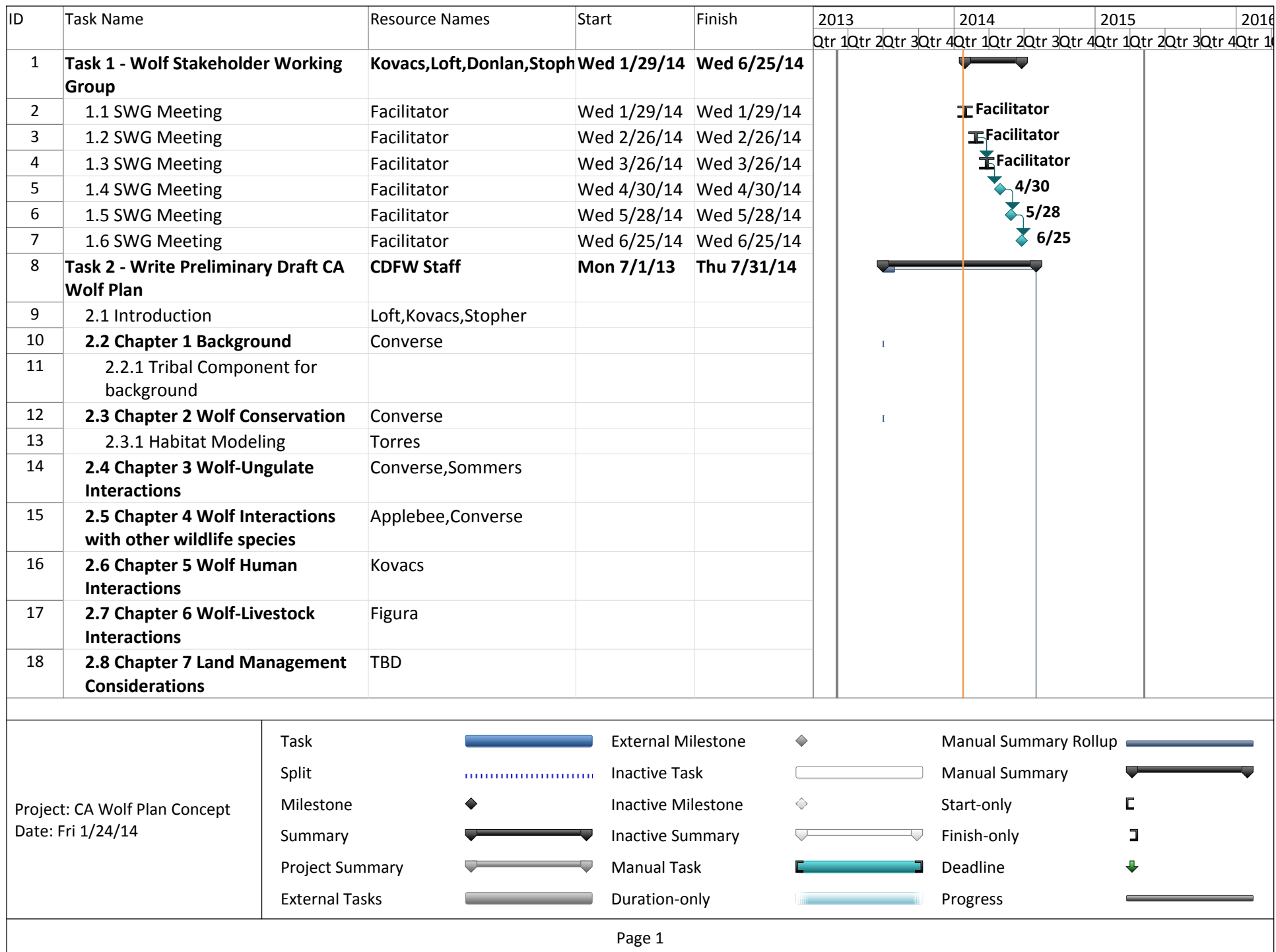
**Proposed Schedule**

	TRG	Wolf-Ungulate	Wolf-Livestock	Conservation
January 25	Redding			
February 1		Sacramento		
February 15			Sacramento (morning)	Sacramento (afternoon)
February 25	Sacramento			
March 15				Sacramento (afternoon)
March 25		Sacramento		
March 30	Sacramento			
April 5			Redding (morning)	Redding (afternoon)
April 25				TRG (afternoon)
April 30	TRG			
May 15	TRG			
June 15	TRG			

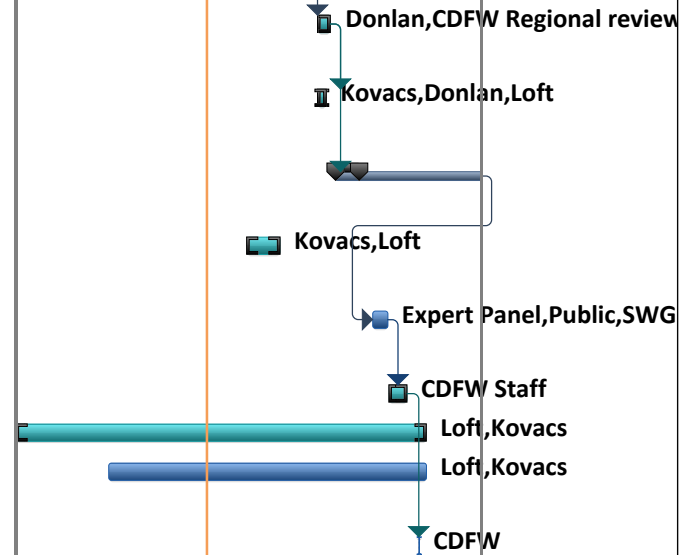
Slide 9

- Preliminary Considerations for California Wolf Conservation Objectives**
- Distribution and abundance of suitable habitat
  - Distribution and abundance of wild ungulates
  - Population levels scaled to habitat and prey
  - Habitat connectivity
  - Population viability
  - Public policy (e.g. CESA, Fish and Game Code, etc.)
  - Conflicts

## **APPENDIX E. CALIFORNIA WOLF PLAN PROJECT SCHEDULE (1/24/14 VERSION)**



ID	Task Name	Resource Names	Start	Finish	2013				2014				2015				2016
					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
19	<b>2.9 Chapter 8 Information and Education</b>	Michaels															
20	<b>2.10 Chapter 9 Plan Implementation - Evaluation and Reporting</b>	TBD															
21	<b>2.11 Chapter 10 Research and Information Management</b>	Converse,Stowers															
22	<b>2.12 CEQA Initial Study</b>	Donlan,HCPB staff															
23	<b>Task 3 Internal Review of Preliminary Draft</b>	Donlan,CDFW Regional reviewers	Fri 8/1/14	Fri 8/22/14													
24	<b>Task 4 - Evaluate necessity for CEQA compliance</b>	Kovacs,Donlan,Loft	Fri 8/1/14	Fri 8/15/14													
25	<b>Task 5 - Write Public Review Draft CA Wolf Plan</b>	CDFW Staff	Mon 9/1/14	Fri 10/10/14													
38	<b>Task 6 - Select and Assemble Peer Review Panel</b>	Kovacs,Loft	Wed 4/2/14	Wed 5/28/14													
39	<b>Task 7 - Public, SWG and Expert Panel Review of Draft Plan</b>	Expert Panel,Public,SWG	Mon 11/3/14	Fri 11/28/14													
40	<b>Task 8 - Write Final CA Wolf Plan</b>	CDFW Staff	Mon 12/1/14	Wed 12/31/14													
41	<b>Task 9 - Coordinate with Tribes</b>	Loft,Kovacs	Mon 3/4/13	Mon 2/2/15													
42	<b>Task 10 - Coordinate with Federal Land Managers</b>	Loft,Kovacs	Fri 8/9/13	Mon 2/2/15													
43	<b>Task 11 - Public release of Final Wolf Plan</b>	CDFW	Wed 1/21/15	Wed 1/21/15													



Project: CA Wolf Plan Concept Date: Fri 1/24/14	Task		External Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup	
	Split		Inactive Task		Manual Summary	
	Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Start-only	
	Summary		Inactive Summary		Finish-only	
	Project Summary		Manual Task		Deadline	
	External Tasks		Duration-only		Progress	

## **APPENDIX F. CHAPTER 2 (WOLF CONSERVATION) OUTLINE**

## **Draft Outline for Chapter 2 of California Wolf Plan**

### **Wolf Conservation**

- A. Wolf Distribution
- B. Future of Wolves Inhabiting California
- C. Objectives for California
- D. Management Phases and Population Objectives
- E. Monitoring Wolf Populations
- F. Monitoring Wolf Diseases and Health
- G. Coordination with Other States and Agencies
- H. Conservation and Management Based on United States Fish and Wildlife Service actions
- I. Timelines for Progress

**APPENDIX G. COMPARISON TABLE OF WOLF LISTING STATUS, APPROXIMATE  
POPULATION SIZE, AND POPULATION OBJECTIVES FOR WESTERN U.S.  
STATES**



Row	Element/State	Montana	Idaho	Wyoming	Oregon	Washington	California
1	Federal Listing Status	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Endangered in western 2/3 of the state. Unlisted in eastern Oregon (east of Hwys 395/78/95)	Endangered in western 2/3 of the state. Unlisted in eastern Washington	Endangered
2	State Listing Status	Designated as a "Species in need of Management)	Designated as a big game species	Trophy game animal in NW part of State. Predatory animal in balance of State (some seasonal overlap exists)	Special Status Game Mammal and Endangered Oregon Plan divides state into eastern and western management zones defined by Hwys 97/20/395	Endangered	Nongame mammal CESA Candidate
3	Approximate Wolf Population Size (Jan 1, 2013)	625 (minimum) with $\geq 147$ packs 37 breeding pairs. <sup>i</sup>	Estimated at 683 with $\geq 117$ packs <sup>ii</sup> 35 breeding pairs.	277 (minimum) with $\geq 43$ packs Breeding pairs: Yellowstone NP = 6 Balance of state = 15	46 (minimum) in 6 known packs. 6 breeding pairs.	51 (minimum) in 9 known packs. Estimated population is 101 wolves. 5 breeding pairs.	One animal No packs
4	State wolf population objectives	Minimum Objectives: Population: 150 Breeding Pairs: 15	Minimum Objectives: Population: 150 Breeding Pairs: 15	Minimum Objectives: Yellowstone NP and Wind R. Reservation: Population: 50 Breeding Pairs: 5	Phase 1 – Conservation Population Objective: 4 breeding pairs for three consecutive year in both E.	Established 3 recovery regions (RR). Reclassify to Threatened: 2 breeding pairs in each RR for 3 consecutive	TBD

Row	Element/State	Montana	Idaho	Wyoming	Oregon	Washington	California
				Balance of State: Population: 100 Breeding Pairs: 10 <sup>iii</sup>	and W. Oregon. Phase II - Management Population Objective (delisted) 7 breeding pairs for three consecutive years in both E. and W. Oregon Phase III -- maintenance objective: TBD <sup>iv</sup>	years. Reclassify to Sensitive: 4 breeding pairs in each RR for 3 consecutive years. Delist: 4 breeding pairs in each RR for 3 consecutive years, and 3 more breeding pairs anywhere. <sup>v</sup>	

<sup>i</sup> A breeding pair is ≥1 adult male and ≥adult female in a pack producing ≥2 pups that survived through December 31.

<sup>ii</sup> Idaho determines a pack based on four animals using a defined home range, other states use a threshold of two animals

<sup>iii</sup> In Wyoming, the State and Yellowstone NP are separately responsible for meeting their respective population and pack objectives.

<sup>iv</sup> If delisted based on meeting the standard in the eastern part of the State, wolves in western Oregon will be managed as if they were listed until the western Oregon wolf population reaches four breeding pairs.

<sup>v</sup> Washington has established an alternative set of objective for delisting from state sensitive, which is met by 4 breeding pairs in each of the three recovery regions and 6 additional breeding pairs anywhere in the state. Under the alternative delisting criteria, the 3 consecutive year criterion is not required.

**APPENDIX H. CHAPTERS 4 (WOLF INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES) AND 5 (WOLF-HUMAN INTERACTIONS) OUTLINES**

## **Draft Outline for Chapters 4 and 5 of California Wolf Plan**

### **Chapter 4. Wolf Interactions with Other Wildlife Species**

- A. Wolves and Other Carnivores
- B. Wolves and Scavengers
- C. Wolves and Special Status Species (listed, fully protected, species of special concern)
- D. Management Implications

### **Chapter 5. Wolf-Human Interactions**

- A. Human Safety
- B. Interactions with Humans
- C. Interactions with Domestic Canids
  - a. Domestic dogs
  - b. Wolf hybrids and pet wolves
- D. Disease Transmission and Wolves
- E. Human Caused Mortality
- F. Strategies to Address Negative Wolf-Human Interactions