



LASSEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1415 Sheriff Cady Lane Susanville, CA 96130

Administration

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Adult Detention Facility

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Fax (530) 251-5243

John McGarva
Sheriff - Coroner

To: Lassen County Board of Supervisors

From: John McGarva, Sheriff-Coroner

RE: Gray Wolf in Lassen County

Agenda Date: April 8, 2025

Subject: Overview and update concerning the gray wolf in Lassen County.

Discussion: The discussion regarding the gray wolf in Lassen County has been a concern since 2016. The County has been involved with discussions with California Department of Fish and Wildlife since that time. Public hearings were held regarding the concerns of Lassen County residents, especially from the agricultural community on multiple occasions. Director Chuck Bonham appeared virtually and residents were able to address concerns and issues they have experienced.

On October 16, 2018, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution #18-070 requesting assistance from the CDFW to expedite implementation strategies and reduce the adverse effects of the gray wolf in California (see attached). The resolution outlined the impacts and concerns about the conservation plan issued in 2016 and the concerns about the decisions made at that time regarding keeping the gray wolf listed on the California Endangered Species Act. The Resolution was passed unanimously.

On April 21, 2020, the Board of Supervisors sent a letter to several officials for the CDFW and the California Fish and Wildlife Commission stating the concerns about the gray wolf and its presence in the Lassen County (see attached). The Board raised concerns about the classification of the gray wolf as an endangered species is being conducted without a scientific basis for the determination.

The concerns have only escalated over the next few years. The presence of wolves in Lassen County have reached a point that it has become a viable threat to the safety of the citizens of Lassen County. The Dixie Valley Ranch has experienced close encounters with wolves in their area. They have come within fifteen yards of one residence, attempted to gain access to food containers and other activity described as atypical for wolf behavior. The areas included a sandbox used by young children as a play area and the area of a fort the children had built. They have begun eating items that would be considered outside of normal behavior including human trash and waste. This shows these wolves are becoming conditioned to a human scent being a reward. Residents of nearby ranches are seeing wolves becoming more aggressive. Residents have videos showing wolves attempting to charge them in an aggressive manner. While I understand this may be a protective action by the wolf, this behavior is causing a growing concern that the wolves will escalate their behavior and possibly start attacking the residents of the local ranches.

The residents have used the suggested mitigation or hazing techniques to try and get the wolves. The residents have used fladry, electrified their fences and the use of noise making devices designed to deter or scare the wolves away from the area. While they work for a short period of time (approximately one week), the wolves become desensitized to the devices and they no longer work. The wolves continue to return to the area causing the death of livestock and the threat to those who live in the area. The wolves are no longer concerned about the presence of humans in the area.



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John McGarva

Sheriff - Coroner

On March 22, 2025, I attended the Fall River-Big Valley Cattlemen's Dinner and Business Meeting. United States Congressman Doug LaMalfa, California Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick, Supervisor Albaugh, Modoc County Sheriff Tex Dowdy and Sierra County Sheriff Mike Fisher. We discussed how delisting the wolf is pending at the federal level and what we are doing at the state and local level concerning the wolf.

On March 24, 2025, I sent a letter to Director Bonham expressing my concerns about the increasing threat to public safety being posed by the gray wolf in Lassen County (see attached). I requested a meeting with Director Bonham to address these concerns. While I have not heard from Director Bonham, I have met with other CDFW officials and spoken with Mike Senn of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Senn informed me that the state had taken the lead in the management of the gray wolf. I mentioned to Senn that the state places this in the charge of the Federal Government as their position. Senn asked to be a part of any formal meetings moving forward. I have not been contacted to schedule a meeting with Director Bonham. Since the letter issued to Director Bonham, additional wolf kills have been reported in the Willow Creek Valley area. There have been two calves killed owned by an area rancher. This brings the total to eight depredations in the past month.

In 2016, the California Fish and Game Commission developed and implemented the conservation plan for the gray wolf. This laid the plan out in three phases. We are still in Phase I. Based on meetings held previously, CDFW does not have an accurate count on breeding pairs to be considered for movement from Phase I to Phase II of their conservation plan. This has left any possibility of moving the plan forward at a standstill. For any progress to be made, CDFW needs to be at the table. The proposed outcome would be to come to an agreement that is beneficial to all who are affected by the introduction of gray wolves into Lassen County.

Recently, resolutions have been passed in Modoc and Sierra Counties declaring a state of local emergency regarding the presence of the gray wolf (see attached). Additional wolf sightings and depredations have been made in Plumas County and Sierra County.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact as this is an informational report to the Board.

Recommendation: 1) Receive Informational Report and/or 2) Provide Direction to Staff.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-070

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES TO AVOID AND REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE GRAY WOLF IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the gray wolf, an apex predator, is listed as endangered throughout portions of its range, including California, under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973; and,

WHEREAS, in 2011 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) organized working group meetings for preparing a plan for management of wolves in California; and,

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2012, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) received a Petition to List the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) as Endangered as submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity, Big Wildlife, the Environmental Protection Information Center, and the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center; and,

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2012, the Commission voted to accept the Petition and initiate review of the species' status in California; and,

WHEREAS, the CDFW is responsible for administering, implementing and enforcing policies and regulations set by the California Legislature and Commission, as well as for providing biological, scientific information and expertise to inform the Commission's decision making process; and,

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2014, Charlton H. Bonham, Director of CDFW wrote in his memorandum to Sonke Mastrup, Commission's Executive Director, "based upon the best scientific information available to the Department, listing the gray wolf as threatened or endangered is not warranted;" and,

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2014, when the Commission voted to approve listing the gray wolf as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act there were no known wolves in California. Commissioners Richard Rogers, Jack Baylis and Michael Sutton voted affirmatively for listing, while Commissioner Jacque Hostler-Carmesin voted no. Commissioner Jim Kellogg was absent; and,

WHEREAS, in December 2016, CDFW issued a Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission's terrestrial predator policy is that "human-predator conflict resolution shall rely on management strategies that avoid and reduce conflict that results in adverse impacts to human health and safety, private property, agriculture, and public and private economic impacts;" and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Plan says that "a primary challenge for CDFW in developing and implementing the [Conservation] Plan is that state and federal listing of wolves as an endangered species affects the state's ability to manage the species with respect to any possible use of lethal take for management. It is reasonably foreseeable that some forms of

RESOLUTION NO. 18-070

aversive condition and lethal take to protect human safety, to reduce livestock depredation, or to mitigate risks of substantial effects on native ungulates, may become warranted;" and,

WHEREAS, in January 2017, the Pacific Legal Foundation, representing the California Cattlemen's Association and the California Farm Bureau, filed suit against the Commission, challenging the Commission's 2014 decision to list the gray wolf; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 and 2018, the presence of the gray wolves in Lassen County and Plumas County is resulting in wolf-livestock interactions involving the slaughter/depredation of livestock and those killings have been corroborated by evidence collected by CDFW staff, including data from satellite GPS tracking indicating that wolves were in the vicinity of the killing; and

WHEREAS, the wolf's legal status prohibits the implementation of a Commission policy that "in the event that some birds or mammals cause injury or damage to private property, depredation control methods directed toward offending animals may be implemented;" and,

WHEREAS, a violation of a wolf's legal status may result in criminal and civil fines of up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is appreciative of the State organizing working group meetings for preparing a plan for the management of wolves in California; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is supportive of the Commission's policies that avoid and reduce conflicts that results in adverse impacts to human health and safety, private property, agriculture, to reduce livestock depredation, public and private economic interests, or to mitigate risks of substantial effects on native ungulates (e.g. deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk populations); and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors agrees with the Department's Conservation Plan statement that "a primary challenge for CDFW in developing and implementing the [Conservation] Plan is that state and federal listing of wolves as an endangered species affects the state's ability to manage the species;" and,

WHEREAS, it is the Board of Supervisors' opinion that the Commission's 2014 split-decision to list the gray wolf as endangered was and still is a baseless and premature decision that is preventing the implementation of the Commission's own policies for protecting human health and safety, to reduce livestock depredation, and to mitigate risks of substantial effects on native ungulates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen urge the Commission to reconsider the listing of the gray wolf based upon the Department's recommendation of February 5, 2014, that "based upon the best scientific information available to the Department, listing the gray wolf as threatened or endangered is not warranted."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission should delist the gray wolf as threatened or endangered and direct CDFW staff to apply for a Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit to allow the take of wolves that would involve both lethal and nonlethal control for individual wolves for the

RESOLUTION NO. 18-070

protection of human health and safety, and individual wolves involved in depredating livestock, livestock guard animals, pets, and for mitigating risks of substantial effects on native ungulates.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the county of Lassen, State of California, held on the 16th day of October 2018 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Gallagher, Teeter, Hemphill, Albaugh and Hammond.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.



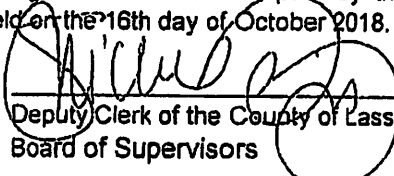
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:
JULIE BUSTAMANTE
Clerk of the Board

BY: 

MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board

I, MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board of the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the said Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting thereof held on the 16th day of October 2018.



Deputy Clerk of the County of Lassen
Board of Supervisors

Tony Shaw

From: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 6:41 AM
To: Tony Shaw
Subject: Re: Lassen County Board of Supervisors
Attachments: PETITIONFORM 2012.doc

Dear Mr. Shaw,

The criteria and process for listing, downlisting or delisting a species as candidate, threatened or endangered are outlined in the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code Sections 2050, et seq.) and Section 670.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR). And I've attached the required CESA petition form that must be completed before the California Fish and Game Commission can begin its review process.

Upon completion of the CESA Petition you may email it to FGC@fgc.ca.gov, and mail it to:

Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

The following represents a basic **minimum** timeline from receipt of a petition to the effective date of the listing/uplisting/downlisting/delisting of the species as threatened or endangered.

- **Day 1:** The petition to list, uplist, downlist or delist a species is received in the Commission office, and is reviewed by Commission staff for proper format and for the presence or absence of the required information.
- **Day 10:** An incomplete petition will be returned to the petitioner within 10 days. An accepted petition will be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) within 10 days and a notice of receipt of the accepted petition will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register (Notice Register) and mailed to interested and affected parties.
- **Day 100:** The Department will evaluate the petition according to the criteria listed subsection 670.1(d)(1), Title 14, CCR, and will provide its evaluation report to the Commission within 90 days of receiving the petition from Commission staff; however, the Department may request a 30-day extension.
- **Day 130:** The Commission will take action on the petition at its next available meeting after the Department's evaluation report has been available to the public for 30 days. At the meeting, the Commission will make a finding on whether or not the petition contains sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted. If the Commission finds there is sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted, the Commission will designate the species as a candidate species (Section 2068, Fish and Game Code).
- **Day 146:** A notice of the Commission's findings will be published in the Notice Register and mailed to interested and affected parties. If the Commission finds there is not sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted, the process ends. If the Commission finds there is sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted, the process continues.

- Day 511: Within 12 months of the date of publication of the "candidacy" notice, the Department will prepare and submit a Status Report to the Commission.
- Day 541: The Commission will receive the Department's Status Report at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
- Day 601: Final consideration of the petition will be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting after official receipt of the Status Report. At this meeting, the Commission will make a finding of whether or not the petitioned action is warranted. Ratification of the findings will be scheduled for a future meeting. If the Commission finds that the petitioned action is not warranted, the process ends and the species will be removed from the list of candidate species. If the Commission finds that the petitioned action is warranted, a rulemaking process to add the species to the list of threatened and endangered species in Section 670.2 (plants) or Section 670.5 (animals) will begin.
- Day 617: Notice of Findings and, if applicable, Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations published in the Notice Register and mailed to interested and affected parties.
- Day 664: Adoption of regulations.
- Day 674: Regulations filed with the Office of Administrative Law.
- Day 719: Regulations filed with Secretary of State.
- Day 739: Effective date of Regulation.

If you have any additional concerns or questions please feel free to contact our staff attorney, Mike Yaun at 916-653-4899.

Sincerely,

Jon Snellstrom
Fish and Game Commission - Staff

From: Tony Shaw <TShaw@co.lassen.ca.us>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 03:00 PM
To: FGC
Cc: COAdmin
Subject: Lassen County Board of Supervisors

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see the attached correspondence from the Lassen County Board of Supervisors to the California Fish and Game Commission for their consideration.

To what address should I send the hard copy original?

Thank you

Tony Shaw
Deputy County Administrative Officer
County of Lassen
Office: (530) 251-8333

County of Lassen
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



CHRIS GALLAGHER

District 1

DAVID TEETER

District 2

JEFF HEMPHILL

District 3

AARON ALBAUGH

District 4

TOM HAMMOND

District 5

County Administration Office
 221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4
 Susanville, CA 96130
 Phone: 530-251-8333
 Fax: 530-251-2663

April 21, 2020

Charlton Bonham, Director
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 P.O. Box 944209
 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
 Natural Resources Agency
 1416 9th Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
 California Fish and Game Commission
 P.O. Box 944209
 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Eric Sklar, President
 California Fish and Game Commission

Dear Mr. Crowfoot, Mr. Sklar, Ms. Miller-Henson and Mr. Bonham:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this letter is for following-up with regarding our October 2018 Resolution that was provided to the Commission.

Since 2018, we have been waiting patiently for your response. If you did respond, please resend it to us. Commission staff did simply reply by sending a blank California Endangered Species Act (ESA) petition application to the County. Other than Commission staff's email reply, the County is not aware of ever having received an official response from the Agency, Department or Commission.

The State of California may not have reintroduced these animals. However, the State or the Commission also did not evaluate if the animal is likely to cause environment harm as an introduced, invasive, and noxious pest.

We find it impossible to support the Commission's position that the animal is in its natural habitat of California and that it is endangered; which are details that do not seem to be true or scientifically proven. The State has not established how a non-native animal that has dispersed from another state is a "native animal species" to California. Please validate your assumptions that this animal's original and natural habitat is California. We respectfully disagree with the Commission's decision naming this animal as an endangered species under the ESA. The State has not defined and confirmed that a "wolf" is substantially genetically matching to the State's original-native-wolf-species.

California's Department of Fish and Wildlife's current plan for these animals does not have a provision for compensation or appropriate methods to protect Californian's and their property. The State has not kept its promise to develop a compensation plan and budget. How does the State plan on recompensing Californians, ranchers and others for the losses of property and income from the devaluation of property and permits, and depredation attacks and killing caused by these State protected animals? What are the economic impacts on rural areas from allowing these introduced, invasive, and noxious pests to remain and multiply in California pursuant to California Endangered Species Act?

In closing, we also respectfully request that you publically disclose how many taxpayer funds has been spent by State for conservation and management of these animals. Specifically, how much has the State spent investigating: wolf-animal deaths, impacts on native ungulates, and depredation attacks and killing on private and public lands? What is the State's plan and budget to reduce or counteract the impacts of these animals on Californians, ungulates and livestock?

In closing, I would like to express the Board's appreciation to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for allowing State DFW's staff to present information to us at public meetings.

We look forward to receiving your responses.

Sincerely,

DAVID TEETER, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Assemblywoman Megan Dahle
Senator Brian Dahle



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Sheriff - Coroner

For Immediate Release-North County Gray Wolves

March 24, 2025

On March 20, 2025, Sheriff McGarva attended a meeting at the Dixie Valley Ranch which included local area ranchers, District Four Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, representatives from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Senator Megan Dahle's Office and Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick's office. The discussion surrounded the increasing threat of the gray wolf to Lassen County ranchers as cattle losses were being felt across the county. The focus of this meeting was on the Harvey Pack.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife discussed the use of hazing and mitigation measures. There is a growing concern about their limited effectiveness in the community. The wolves are displaying behavior that is atypical. They are coming around residences, not fazed by the deterrent measures taken and are overall unconcerned or threatened by human presence. The concern had become a threat to the safety of those that live in the area due to the impact of the wolves living in the area.

On March 22, 2025, Sheriff McGarva, Modoc County Sheriff Tex Dowdy and Sierra County Sheriff Mike Fisher attended the Cattlemen's Dinner and Business Meeting in McArthur. Congressman Doug LaMalfa and Assemblywoman Hadwick were present as well. Those in attendance were able to provide concerns and encounters they experienced. Congressman LaMalfa and Assemblywoman Hadwick spoke about actions being taken at the Federal and State levels while each Sheriff spoke about what they were doing in their counties. All are committed to finding a solution to the growing public safety threat caused by the wolf population.

On March 24, 2025, Sheriff McGarva sent a letter to Director Bonham at the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the public safety threat the wolves are demonstrating in Lassen County asking for his assistance in coming to a solution that will benefit all parties involved. For those who are interested, letters can be sent to the following address:

Charlton "Chuck" Bonham, Director

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

A copy of the letter sent by Sheriff McGarva is attached to this release.

John McGarva, Sheriff-Coroner



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John McGarva
Sheriff - Coroner

March 24, 2025

Charlton "Chuck" Bonham, Director

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Director Bonham:

I am writing to bring a situation to your attention that is causing a public safety threat in Lassen County. Gray wolves have been a concern for the agricultural community in Lassen County since the first one was identified in California. Since 2016, their presence has become even more invasive and the threats to the ranching community are known and well documented. However, with the Harvey Pack, there is a greater concern for the safety and impact to the residents. In the month of March, there have been six calves reported to have been killed by this pack in the Big Valley area.

The Dixie Valley Ranch has experienced close encounters with wolves in their area. They have come within fifteen yards of one residence, attempted to gain access to food containers and other activity described as atypical for wolf behavior. The areas included a sandbox used by young children as a play area and the area of a fort the children had built. They have begun eating items that would be considered outside of normal behavior including human trash and waste. This shows these wolves are becoming conditioned to a human scent being a reward. Residents of nearby ranches are seeing wolves becoming more aggressive. Residents have videos showing wolves attempting to charge them in an aggressive manner. While I understand this may be a protective action by the wolf, this behavior is causing a growing concern that the wolves will escalate their behavior and possibly start attacking the residents of the local ranches.

The residents have used the suggested mitigation or hazing techniques to try and get the wolves. The residents have used fladry, electrified their fences and the use of noise making devices designed to deter or scare the wolves away from the area. While the work for a short period of time (approximately one week), the wolves become desensitized to the devices and they no longer work. The wolves continue to return to the area causing the death of livestock and the threat to those who live in the area. The wolves are no longer concerned about the presence of humans in the area.

The residents have informed you and your department of the problems caused by the wolves at community meetings and through County, State and Federal Representatives on numerous occasions since 2016. The community at large feels that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is more concerned about the continued population of wolves and other apex predators than the safety of the residents in these areas.

Based on the activities of the Harvey Pack, it has clearly become a threat to the safety of the general public and their livestock. California Fish and Game Code Section 4801 allows for local agencies responsible for public safety to remove or take any mountain lion perceived to be an imminent threat to public health or safety. While I am aware there is not a similar provision in the Fish and Game Code for the gray wolf, I believe it is time to explore the options provided by the



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John McGarva
Sheriff - Coroner

Federal Government for the depredation of the wolf in the case it become a public safety threat. This was done in Southern Oregon recently with OR-158¹. In that situation all other traditional means for hazing or deterring the animal were undertaken and were unsuccessful. Based on the reports of those who work and reside in the area, I believe the same situation exists in Lassen County.

I already reached out to those in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in an attempt to get this process started under Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations 17.21(c)(3)(iv) which states:

"Remove specimens that constitute a demonstrable but nonimmediate threat to human safety, provided that the taking is done in a humane manner; the taking may involve killing or injuring only if it has not been reasonably possible to eliminate such threat by live-capturing and releasing the specimen unharmed in an appropriate area."

Based on the factors I have described in this letter; I believe we have reached the threshold to meet this section. The members of the public have been advised that if they feel they are in imminent danger from a gray wolf to themselves or to other people, there is legal recourse to defend themselves under the law. Under *United States v. Wallen*², while discussing the defense against a Grizzly Bear, the courts have upheld that defense of others is a justifiable reason for the killing of an endangered species. The situation in Lassen County has reached a boiling point, I am asking for your assistance in helping the citizens of Lassen County.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I look forward to additional opportunities to discuss this with your office and other stakeholders in the hopes that a solution can be achieved that is beneficial to all concerned.

Sincerely,

John McGarva, Sheriff-Coroner

Lassen County Sheriff's Office

Cc: Doug LaMalfa, California Congressman 1st District

Megan Dahle, California Senator 1st District

Heather Hadwick, California Assemblywoman 1st Assembly District

Tom Neely, Chairman of the Board, Lassen County

Maurice Anderson, County Administrative Officer, Lassen County

¹ Kyle Odegard, "Authorities Kill Wolf Responsible for Eight Livestock Depredations," March 4, 2025, March 22, 2025, <http://capitalpres.com/2025/03/04/authorities-kill-wolf-responsible-for-eight-livestock-depredation/>

² *United States v. Wallen* (D. Mont. Jul. 10, 2018)

RESOLUTION # 2025-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF MODOC
CONFIRMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN
MODOC COUNTY DUE A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO
PUBLIC SAFETY DUE TO DEPREDAATION BY GRAY WOLVES
IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO RURAL RESIDENTS**

WHEREAS, the Modoc County Board of Supervisors declares a local emergency concerning the presence of gray wolves in the county. Since December 23, 2024, Modoc County livestock producers have lost six (6) cattle and one (1) sheep to wolf attacks. DNA tests have confirmed that wolves killed four (4) cattle and the one (1) sheep, with two (2) more cattle deaths pending DNA results but likely attributed to wolves. These killings have occurred close to rural residents, posing a significant threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, these wolves have shown a lack of fear towards humans, attacking livestock near homes where both adults and children are present. Recent incidents have shown that the wolves killed cattle without feeding on them, suggesting reasons beyond hunger. This behavior poses an imminent danger to local livestock producers and the families living and working on affected properties; and

WHEREAS, no effective means to protect the public or livestock from these wolves currently exists; and

WHEREAS, the County of Modoc finds the following threat to public safety:

Extreme peril to the safety of persons and property has arisen due to the presence of gray wolves posing an emergency threat to public safety.

Persistent wolf attacks have led to devastating losses for livestock producers.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that a local emergency exists throughout Modoc County due to a significant threat to public safety due to depredation by gray wolves in close proximity to rural residents within the County of Modoc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Modoc County is requests the intervention of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Services, to address this rapidly evolving issue. Authorities are requested to consider euthanizing or relocating problem wolves to prevent livestock losses and ensure the safety of the general public in affected communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Modoc, State of California, on the 11th day of March, 2025 by the following vote:

Motion Approved:

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Geri Byrne, Supervisor District V

SECONDER: Shane Starr, Supervisor District II

AYES: Ned Coe, Supervisor District I, Shane Starr, Supervisor District II, Kathie Rhoads, Supervisor District III, Casey Cockrell, Supervisor District IV, Geri Byrne, Supervisor District V

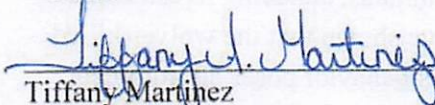
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF MODOC**



Ned Coe

Chair of the Board

ATTEST:



Tiffany Martinez

Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SIERRA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE
PRESENCE AND IMPACT OF GRAY WOLVES IN SIERRA COUNTY**

Resolution 2025- 030

WHEREAS, the Sierra County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of wildlife conservation and balanced environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the reintroduction and continued expansion of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) into Northern California has resulted in significant adverse impacts on rural communities and livestock producers, including confirmed depredations in Plumas, Lassen, Siskiyou, and Modoc, Counties; and

WHEREAS, the presence of gray wolves in and around Sierra County has been confirmed, with documented depredations of sheep and cattle occurring within miles of the county line, signaling an imminent threat to local livestock and public safety as cattle return to pasture, particularly in the Sierra Valley; and

WHEREAS, the increase in gray wolf populations in the region has led to higher predation on big game species, resulting in reduced wildlife populations, which negatively impacts local tourism, particularly hunting, a crucial source of economic revenue for our rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the legal protections afforded to the gray wolf under both state and federal law have created a significant imbalance, whereby rural residents, touring recreationists, and livestock producers have little to no recourse to protect their property, livelihoods, or safety without risking criminal or civil penalties; and

WHEREAS, wolves have been reported approaching homes, outbuildings, corrals, and rural residents now hesitate to perform routine tasks such as checking livestock at night due to fear of wolf encounters; and

WHEREAS, this change in wolf behavior, including an apparent loss of natural fear of humans, creates a serious public safety risk to families, workers, and visitors in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Sierra County has already experienced a tragic human fatality involving a black bear, underscoring the need for proactive wildlife management policies that prioritize human safety; and

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that without timely, practical, and locally informed solutions, individuals may feel compelled to take unregulated actions to protect their property and safety, jeopardizing both wildlife and public trust; and

WHEREAS, empowering locally elected officials, specifically county sheriffs, to assess and respond to specific wildlife threats provides a responsible, accountable, and community-based approach to managing these risks; and

WHEREAS, current California law allows for the removal of specific black bears and mountain lions that pose a public safety threat, and similar authority should be extended for the gray wolf.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sierra County Board of Supervisors hereby declares a Local State of Emergency due to the public safety and economic threats posed by the growing presence of gray wolves in and around Sierra County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board respectfully requests that the California Fish and Game Commission, in coordination with the Governor of California and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, initiate immediate regulatory changes to grant sheriffs the authority to investigate wolf incidents and declare a specific gray wolf a public safety threat, thereby authorizing its removal under clearly defined and lawful procedures; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board respectfully requests that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the President and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, initiate immediate regulatory changes to grant sheriffs the authority to declare a specific gray wolf a public safety threat, thereby authorizing its removal under clearly defined and lawful procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is not a call for widespread lethal control, but a request for the establishment of reasonable, focused tools that allow rural communities to respond to legitimate threats in a responsible and lawful manner.

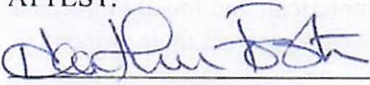
ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sierra on the 1st day of April 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	Supervisors Heuer, Roen, LeBlanc, Dryden and Adams
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

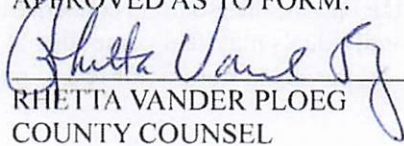
COUNTY OF SIERRA



LEE ADAMS, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:


HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK TO THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


RHETTA VANDER PLOEG
COUNTY COUNSEL