



Mike Fisher

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Sheriff-Coroner
County of Sierra
State of California

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Wade Crowfoot
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Urgent Request for In-Person Meeting on Public Safety and Gray Wolf Depredations in
Sierra, Plumas, Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou, Shasta, and Tulare Counties

Secretary Crowfoot,

On behalf of myself and the undersigned, we Sheriffs of Sierra, Plumas, Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou, Shasta, and Tulare Counties, together with the Boards of Supervisors from Sierra, Plumas, Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou, Shasta, and Tulare Counties submit this letter to express our collective concern regarding the growing presence and impacts of gray wolves within our jurisdictions.

We are writing to express our deepening concern over the escalating impacts of gray wolf activity within our counties. These rural, agriculture-dependent regions are facing a disproportionate and unsustainable burden from repeated and aggressive wolf depredations on livestock and now wildlife within residential areas causing a public threat.

Over the past several weeks, the Sierra Valley has experienced a surge in confirmed wolf attacks. Livestock producers have reported multiple calves killed or severely injured, with incidents occurring even while game wardens were actively present on a ranch patrolling/hazing. These events underscore the ineffectiveness of current hazing policies on large ranches and highlight the urgent need for a more responsive management framework.

Most alarming, however, are recent and unprecedented events that occurred in Sierra, Plumas, and Lassen Counties that clearly demonstrate a serious public safety dimension to this crisis:

- **Sierra County:** On April 26, 2025, a wolf was reported by a resident in the Sierra Brooks subdivision in Loyalton attacking a deer inside a fenced side yard, well within the bounds of a neighborhood consisting of hundreds of homes and families. The Sierra County Sheriff's Office and CDFW personnel located tracks consistent with a wolf and CDFW has confirmed this as a probable wolf attack.



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- Sierra County: On April 27, 2025, a separate incident involved two wolves attacking a mature elk on the front porch of a residence on the southern side of Sierra Valley. The attack was violent and occurred literally on the home's front porch while the resident was home.
- Plumas County: On April 26, 2025, a Sierra Valley rancher had a BBQ for family and friends in the Beckwourth area. During the BBQ the kids were playing hide and seek around the home. The following morning fresh wolf tracks were seen throughout the kids' footprints. The wolf tracks were within 20 feet of the house.
- Lassen County: In March of 2025, CDFW confirmed that wolves were on the porch of a Dixie Valley ranch house. Additionally, wolf tracks were also located walking through a kid's fort and sand box near the house.

These incidents are not hypothetical threats; they are documented realities. Residents are increasingly fearful of allowing their children to walk in their neighborhoods or recreate near their homes. Livestock producers are suffering repeated losses and facing growing financial instability, with no effective recourse. Just this past weekend, May 3 and 4, ranchers in the Sierra Valley experienced two more confirmed calf kills. To make matters worse, we have learned that the USDA Trapper is no longer able to assist Plumas or Sierra Counties to confirm depredations due to budget constraints.

We respectfully urge your office and the Newsom Administration to take the following actions:

- Facilitate enhanced coordination and *real-time tracking data* sharing between local law enforcement, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and USDA Wildlife Services.
- Develop and implement clear protocols for identifying and managing individual wolves that have been confirmed to cause repeated depredations or exhibit behavior that poses a threat to public safety.

With the disproportionate and growing burden being placed on our counties, the long-term success of predator conservation depends on maintaining public trust, something that is rapidly eroding in our communities.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person and/or host a field visit to the Sierra Valley to share firsthand the impact we are all facing.



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Sincerely,

Sheriff Mike Fisher
Sierra County Sheriff

Sheriff Todd Johns
Plumas County Sheriff

Sheriff Tex Dowdy
Modoc County Sheriff

Sheriff John McGarva
Lassen County Sheriff

Sheriff Jeremiah Larue
Siskiyou County Sheriff

Sheriff Michael Johnson
Shasta County Sheriff

Sheriff Michael Boudreaux
Tulare County Sheriff

Supervisor Paul Roen
Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Dwight Ceresola
Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Ned Coe
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Tom Neely
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Nancy Ogren
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Corky Harmon
Shasta County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Dennis Townsend
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

CC:



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Director Chuck Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Doug LaMalfa, U.S. Representative, 1st Congressional District of California

Kevin Kiley, U.S. Representative, 3rd Congressional District of California

Megan Dahle, California State Senator, 1st Senate District

Heather Hadwick, California State Assemblymember, 1st Assembly District