

Gray Wolves in California



California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region



Overview

- Key challenges
- Ongoing key management strategies
- Multi-agency non-lethal assistance
- Clarifying hazing and harassment
- Summary of known wolf activity
- Next steps
- Questions

Key challenges of wolf management

- **Wolf-livestock conflict**

- It occurs and will continue
- How to effectively minimize conflict
- CESA status prohibits lethal take of offending wolves

- **Deer and elk conservation**

- CDFW responsible for conserving both wolves and native ungulates
- CDFW must collaborate with others to provide conditions that will support resilient populations



Ongoing key management strategies

Wolf-Livestock Conflicts

- **Communication:** CDFW regularly communicates with livestock producers, landowners, and community and ag leaders
- **Funding:** Evaluating possible funding programs for affected producers
 - Cost-sharing for non-lethal practices
 - Loss and/or presence compensation
- **Voluntary agreements with assurances** (PLM, Safe Harbor, CEs, etc.)



Ongoing key management strategies

Multi-agency non-lethal assistance

- **Non-lethal techniques and tools** to minimize depredation
 - Equipment setup and maintenance,
 - Increased human presence, etc. (e.g., camping/night vigilance)
- **Non-lethal supplies** available for loan from WS and NGOs
 - Turbo fladry (6 miles, including posts, chargers, etc.)
 - Foxlights
 - Radio Activated Guard boxes and other electronic scare devices (planned)
- Third-party assistance (e.g., Working Circle)
- Difficult to implement on grazing allotments, large ownerships

Ongoing key management strategies, contd.

Deer and elk

- Monitor populations
- Improve habitat conditions – work with various agencies and partners
- Actions to enhance populations identified in Elk Management Plan
- Willing landowners improving forest management/habitat enhancement



Logging: Summer 2011



Prescribed burns: Fall 2013



Clarify hazing/non-injurious harassment

- Non-injurious harassment is allowed when wolves are encountered within 0.25 mi of livestock or 100 yards of buildings and facilities
- OK to... confront/scare off wolves
 - Human approach, loud noises, spotlights, etc.
- Not OK to... injure, physically contact, or pursue wolves with a vehicle or any other means

Currently known wolves in California

- Lassen Pack
 - Pups in 2017, 2018, 2019
 - Apparent current status:
 - 2 adults
 - 1 yearling
 - 1-3 pups
- OR54
 - From Oregon
 - Travels widely in California
 - Last two summers mainly in Plumas and Sierra counties
- Trail camera photos suggest other dispersing/individual wolves



Next Steps

Continue to Communicate

- Monitor localized wolf activity
- Communicate high wolf activity management concerns
- Map general activity on CDFW website

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – January 2020

Approximate Area of Gray Wolf Activity, January 2020



This map displays the approximate boundaries of known resident California wolf territories based on the best data available (e.g., tracks, trail camera images, confirmed sightings, and GPS collar data). The locations of dispersing wolves are not included, as dispersing wolves travel widely, and their movements are unpredictable. This map will be updated quarterly or as warranted by new data.

Next Steps

Increased Local Engagement

- Ramp up Executive level engagement
- Gauge interest in compensation programs for loss and/or presence
 - Propose meeting with local Cattlemen's Assoc and Farm Bureau
 - FGC, others?
- Cost share for deterrents
- Safe Harbor Agreements or Voluntary Local Programs
- USFS, private partners habitat enhancement projects

Thank you!

- Questions?