



Project Updates & Preliminary Findings

The purpose of this handout is to provide a snapshot of current efforts. We will be able to provide more polished results in our January 2026 annual report and our 2026 talks and publications.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Our initial efforts are focused on establishing crucial research baselines for wolf ecology and wolf-human interactions. This includes sharing findings widely with affected stakeholders.

- Home range and habitat use
- Occupancy predictions
- Prey and diet analysis
- Wolf relationships with prey and competitors
- Deer and elk habitat selection
- Livestock depredation patterns
- Evaluation of conflict reduction and compensation programs

WOLF, NATIVE UNGULATES & OTHER CARNIVORES

CAMERA TRAPPING

- Over 200 cameras in Northern CA (Figure 2)
- Partnership with UC Davis
- 2.8 million photos IDed as of mid-July 2025
- 96 records of wolf total (including first photo of Diamond Pack)

CDFW GPS COLLARS

9 historical collars and 14 current collars

- Current collared wolf packs - Beyem Seyo, Harvey, Whaleback, Yowlumni
- Calculated 51 home ranges across 7 individuals across three phases each year (Figure 3)
 - Denning (1 April to 31 July)
 - Post-denning (1 August to 30 November)
 - Non-denning (1 December to 31 March)

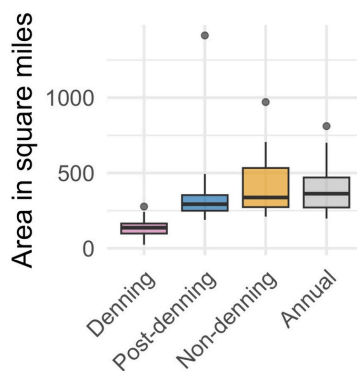
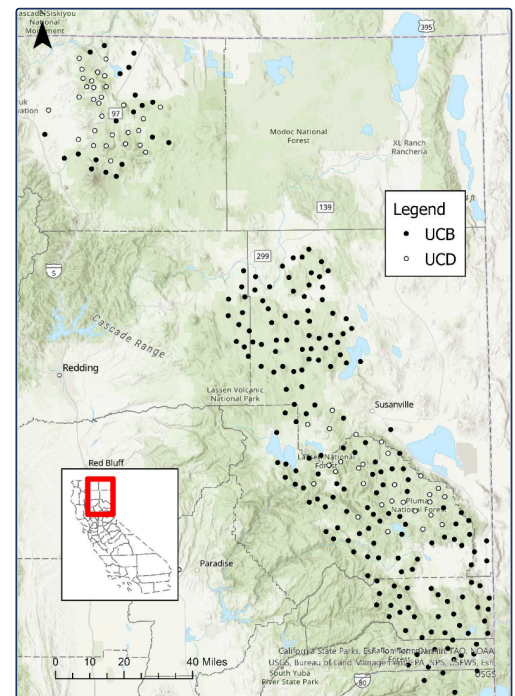
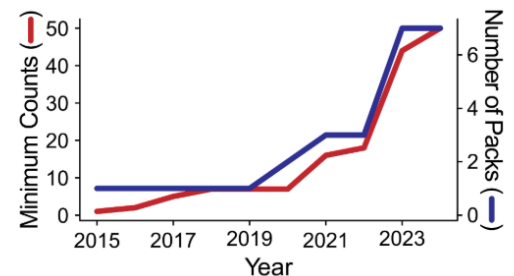


Figure 2 (right): Camera trap locations across northern California

Figure 3 (left): Home range size across phases

Figure 1 (below): Minimum counts and number of packs from 2015 - 2024

CALIFORNIA'S WOLVES IN BRIEF



DIET

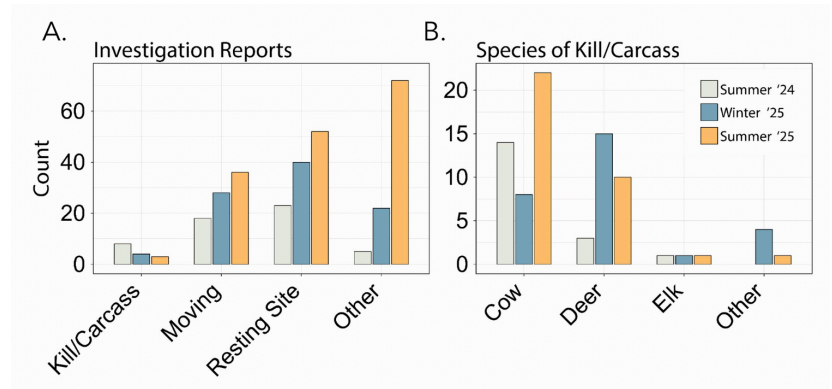
SCAT

- 379 summer 2024 and 239 winter 2025 samples submitted for DNA metabarcoding to analyze diet
- High proportion of cattle for all collared packs in summer 2024

CLUSTER INVESTIGATIONS

- We did not participate in cluster investigations for the Beyem Seyo pack this summer
- We have visited 541 clusters, resulting in 311 cluster investigations, included 264 clusters this summer
- This summer, 100 clusters occurred on private timber and 57 occurred on individual private property
- Carcasses during summer primarily occurred in wetlands and mixed conifer/hardwood forests
- Kills during winter primarily occurred in open habitats

Figure 4 (below): (A) Determination of clusters investigated by CAWP (B) Count of species found at carcasses



LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION PATTERNS

*AVAILABLE DATA THROUGH JULY 31, 2025

- 213 confirmed and probable depredation events resulting in 251 dead livestock
- Evaluating how deer and cattle density influences depredations over each biological wolf season

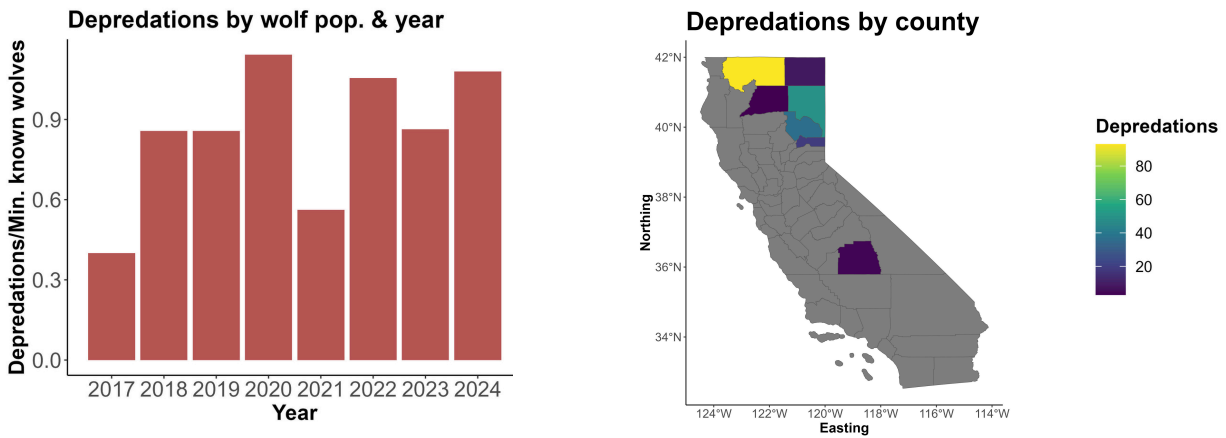


Figure 6 (above):

(LEFT) Depredations by wolf population per year using CDFW minimum counts. Note: counts only available to 2024. (RIGHT) Depredations by county using data until July 31, 2025.

COMPENSATION SURVEY

- Evaluated perceptions in the compensation pilot program, trust in CDFW, and effectiveness of conflict reduction efforts
- 26 of 36 participants responded
- Key points:
 - Nonlethal deterrence helped reduce conflicts and increase resilience (73% and 77% of respondents respectively), pay for presence reduced conflicts (60%) but did not increase resilience (44%)
 - Trust of CDFW was low across various metrics, while trust of wolf conflict mitigation information from other institutions was higher, with UC-Cooperative Extension the highest

STORYTELLING & OUTREACH

- Presentations given at various Fish and Game Commission meetings, including Siskiyou and Plumas counties
- Tabling at stakeholder events like California Cattleman’s Annual Convention and international wildlife conferences
- ‘Resources’ tab on website and e-newsletter used for sharing various tools, opportunities, and events
- *Living with Wolves* interview series featuring livestock producers and other personnel launching this winter on Youtube
- DSLR camera traps deployed for high quality documentation of wolf behavior

Funding from NGS and CDFW lapses June 2026.
 We are seeking partnerships and funding to continue our work.