

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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May 13, 2025

Director Charlton H. Bonham
California Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244

RE: Gray wolves in Shasta County Threatening Public Safety, Livestock, and Property

Dear Director Bonham:

On behalf of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors (Board), I write to express our growing concern regarding the emergence and proliferation of gray wolves in eastern Shasta County. These wolves, which show no regard for human presence or basic deterrence measures, have already killed livestock, threatened local agriculture, and members of our ranching community.

Neighboring counties, including Lassen, Modoc, and Sierra, have declared states of emergency regarding these same wolves and the threat they pose to those respective jurisdictions, including territories within Shasta County.

Consistent with the goals stated in the 2016 gray wolf conservation plan, the Board requests the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) assist ranchers and members of the public in every way possible to protect their livestock, property, and personal safety in the burgeoning presence of wolves.

Even if CDFW allows new and more assertive hazing tactics that may be helpful, the Board believes more aggressive action may be necessary. Based on local observations, the Board further posits that wolves are proliferating faster than CDFW is willing to admit, endangering both livestock and members of the public in the most rural areas of the state.

Shasta County requests the direct intervention of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to relocate problem wolves to prevent livestock losses, collaborate with local property owners to legally protect their children, livestock, and property, and continue to actively monitor the status and proliferation of wolves throughout northern California, and has declared a state of emergency in solidarity with our neighboring rural counties.

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We appreciate CDFW's time and attention on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Crye, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Shasta

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
Senator Megan Dahle
Assemblymember Heather Hadwick
County of Lassen, Board of Supervisors
County of Modoc, Board of Supervisors
County of Sierra, Board of Supervisors
Shaw, Yoder, Antwih, Schmelzer & Lange