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## Wildlife officials investigate if endangered gray wolf was illegally killed in Shasta Co.

by Courtney Kreider, KRCR Staff  
Friday, February 7th 2020



*Female wolf OR-54, descendant of the famous OR-7, the first wild wolf in California in nearly a century. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife says the 3- to 4-year-old female dubbed OR-54 was found dead on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, in Shasta County. Courtesy California Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

December 2, 2018. The endangered animal was found dead one week later along County Road  
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Since the gray wolf have been back in California, they have been a battle for ranchers and their livestock. Reports dating back to 2015 include witness sightings of wolves on several Northern California county ranches and several cattle which have turned up dead or been killed by these endangered animals.

A [Livestock Loss Determination report](#) follows the investigation into the 2018 killing of OR-59. It includes witness statements that a wolf had been feeding on the carcass of a 3 1/2-month-old calf earlier on the same day OR-59 was killed. Though the male wolf was tracked nearby, the investigation concluded the wolf likely did not kill the calf. The report says the carcass was only about 10% consumed, leaving most of the calf for state officials to examine. They said there were no bite marks, scrapes or punctures found on the calf. State officials seemed to believe the calf may have died from pneumonia as much of its lungs were filled with fluid.



Adult dark gray wolf spotted trotting in Lassen County, September 26, 2018. Courtesy CDWF L. Sandberg.



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under both the Federal Endangered Species Act as well as the California Endangered Species

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wolf population in California.

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launched an investigation into whether the female wolf, which made the Northstate her home,  
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The 3 to 4-year-old female wolf, OR-54, made the Northstate her home nearly two years ago. A radio-collar placed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) showed the animal covering thousands of miles first crossing through eastern Siskiyou County, then making her way through Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Lassen, Nevada and Plumas Counties. However, game officials said her radio collar appeared to cease functioning in December of 2019.

### Gray Wolves in California: female, yearling and pups



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