

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 112718-LAS

Date Investigated: 11/27/18

General Area: Western Lassen County, private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of November 27 a livestock producer found a dead calf and reported it to USDA Wildlife Services (WS) and CDFW personnel, who were working in the area to remove fladry. Due to the logistics of preparing to ship cattle to winter range, the producer had removed the cattle from the fladry the previous day. The carcass of the approximately 70-pound calf had not yet been consumed or scavenged, and WS and CDFW personnel investigated the carcass that morning.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Multiple bite punctures with associated tissue hemorrhage. The hemorrhage was evidence of predation as it indicated that the animal was alive when the bites occurred.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The location of the bite marks on the animal (both rear legs, chest behind both front legs, neck and throat) was consistent with a wolf attack on live prey.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Wolf tracks were found in mud near the carcass. Additionally, the tracking collar worn by the Lassen Pack's breeding female indicated she was in the immediate area the two days prior to the attack. There was no satellite location data available on the day of the attack.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: The most recent confirmed depredation occurred on September 19, approximately 18 miles away.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The calf was estimated to have died early in the hours of November 27. The nature and location of the bite marks and associated hemorrhaging were consistent with how wolves typically attack cattle and confirm this incident as a wolf depredation.