



## **LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION**

### **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Investigation ID:** 120919-LAS

**Date Investigated:** 12/09/2019

#### **Cause of Death:**

- ☐ Confirmed Wolf
- ☐ Probable Wolf
- ☐ Possible Wolf
- ☐ Non-Wolf Depredation
- ☒ Non-Depredation
- ☐ Unknown

**General Area:** Western Lassen County, private land

**General situation and animal information:** On December 9, a livestock producer found a dead adult cow in a livestock pasture and suspected wolf depredation. A USDA Wildlife Services specialist and CDFW staff investigated the carcass that day. The carcass was approximately one-half consumed at the time of investigation.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** None. No bite marks, scrapes, or subcutaneous hemorrhage were found on the portions of the carcass that remained. No evidence of a chase or kill site was observed.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** N/A

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Due to recent cold/freezing weather, the investigators were unable to estimate the date of the cow's death. The pasture is in an area regularly used by the Lassen Pack. However, no wolf tracks or scat were found at or near the site and there have been no GPS locations in the pasture from the pack's collared wolf since November 13.

**Summary:** There was no evidence of predation at the site or on the remaining portion of the carcass (including a front leg and rear leg and flank). While the ultimate cause of the cow's death was unknown, the investigators concluded it was not predated. Coyote tracks and scat and birds at the site suggested the carcass has been scavenged for some time prior to its discovery. There was no evidence of wolves at the site.