

# LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

## California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Investigation ID:** 093017-LAS-3

**Date Investigated:** 9/30/2017

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

**General situation and animal information:** On 9/27/2017 CDFW staff called a livestock producer to report several GPS-collar locations from the female wolf LAS01F on the producer's property, in close proximity to an area of concentrated cattle use. The producer reported finding two calf carcasses that day near the locations in question. The producer was not able to schedule an investigation of the carcasses until 9/30/17. CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services staff investigated the two carcasses (this investigation and 093017-LAS-2) on 9/30, as well as a third carcass that the livestock producer found on 9/29 (093017-LAS-1).

The carcass was that of a small calf (approximately 100-150 lbs.) and it had been largely consumed by the time of investigation. Only bones, hide, and some connective tissue were present. Investigators searched the carcass site and surrounding for predator sign and evidence of a struggle/kill, and closely examined the remaining carcass.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** No evidence of a chase or kill scene was observed. Despite thorough examination of the hide and remaining parts of the carcass, only one ¾" scrape on the front leg was found, and there was no sign of subcutaneous hemorrhaging beneath that scrape.

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

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Based on GPS-collar locations, LAS01F was first recorded near the site at midnight on 9/27.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** None. However, the livestock producer has stated to DFW staff several times that he is missing several newborn calves in the area.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** The cause of death is unknown, and there was no specific evidence indicating the animal was attacked or killed by a predator. However, because so little of the carcass remained by the time of investigation, it could not be determined whether or not the animal was attacked or killed.