

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 011918-PLU

Date Investigated: 1/19/18

General Area: Northern Plumas County, private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of January 19 a dead calf was found in a pasture and reported to the cattle owner by a neighbor. Both the neighbor and cattle owner notified CDFW. The calf was reported to have been alive the previous evening. CDFW staff and USDA Wildlife Services specialists investigated the carcass that afternoon. The calf was approximately two days old and weighed approximately 55 pounds. While the animal's vital organs and flanks had been consumed prior to the investigation, most of the hide and muscles on the legs, back, neck, and head were present.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: There was no evidence of predator attack. No chase, struggle, kill area were observed. There was no subcutaneous hemorrhaging found anywhere on the carcass (i.e., all four legs, flank, back, neck). The hide was near completely whole, and no subcutaneous hemorrhaging was found on the hide.

The only external marks found on the carcass were four parallel scrapes on inside right thigh at the groin. The marks were not paired with marks on the other side of the thigh to indicate an animal bite grasp. Additionally, there was no subcutaneous hemorrhaging associated with these marks.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: There was no evidence of predation by any species.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Based on GPS-collar locations, wolf LAS01F was near the area about 0.3 miles to the north from 1/18 2000 – 1/19 0500. The tracks of at least two wolves were found around the carcass.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The calf died of natural causes. There was sufficient carcass left to investigate both typical and atypical wolf and other predator attack points and there was no hemorrhaging anywhere on the carcass indicating attacking, biting, grasping by a wolf or any other predator.