

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 052618-LAS-01

Date Investigated: 05/26/18

General Area: Southern Lassen County, private land

General situation and animal information: On May 26, a livestock producer encountered three calf carcasses, dispersed in different locations within two grazing leases, and suspected wolf depredation. The producer contacted USDA Wildlife Services and staff from Wildlife Services and CDFW investigated the carcasses that afternoon. The determination for the first carcass is included in this report, while the second carcass is addressed in investigation report 052618-LAS-02. The producer ultimately decided the third carcass had not likely been killed by wolves, so it was not further investigated.

The carcass in question was that of an approximately 300 lb. calf that was estimated to have died two days earlier. It was found in a wet meadow. Prior to the investigation, nearly all of its organs and muscles had been consumed. Approximately 60% of its hide remained. Considerable bear sign was present at the site and the carcass had sign of bear feeding.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: No evidence of a predator attack was observed. No chase or kill scene was observed, and no subcutaneous hemorrhaging was found on the remaining portion of the hide. Much of the portion of the hide that covered the calf's legs and flanks (places that wolves typically bite) was present and available for examination.

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

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: The nearest satellite GPS locations from a collared wolf were from approximately one mile away on May 22.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The calf appeared to have died of natural causes. The carcass was fed on extensively by a bear or bears.