

# LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

## California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Investigation ID:** 052618-LAS-02

**Date Investigated:** 5/26/18

**General Area:** Western 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 second carcass is included in this report, while the first carcass is addressed in investigation report 052618-LAS-01. 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 250 lb. calf that was estimated to have died four days earlier. It was found within a wet meadow. Prior to the investigation, all of its organs and muscles had been consumed and only about 30% of its hide remained. Considerable bear, eagle, and raven sign was present at the site. The carcass had evidence of bear feeding over an extended period of time.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** No evidence of a chase or struggle was observed. A thorough investigation of the carcass was precluded by its advanced state of decay and consumption.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** There was no evidence of predation. However, carcass condition was too poor (e.g. there was not enough to examine and what remained was too old) to conduct a thorough examination.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** There was no evidence of wolf presence at the carcass. The closest wolf satellite GPS locations in a several day period around the estimated time of death were 2.2 miles away on 5/22/18.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** None

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** Due to the condition of the carcass, the cause of death could not be determined. Little carcass remained, and what did remain was too old to yield useful information about potential predation. No secondary evidence, including wolf sign or satellite GPS locations, indicated recent wolf presence near the carcass.