

# LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

## California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Investigation ID:** 061018-LAS

**Date Investigated:** 6/10/18

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

**General situation and animal information:** On the afternoon of June 9 a ranch hand received a report of a wolf feeding on the carcass of an approximately 450 lb. calf. The ranch hand notified USDA Wildlife Services and Wildlife Services staff investigated the carcass and surrounding area the following morning.

At the time the investigation was conducted, the calf's internal organs and most muscle tissue had already been consumed. Some rib bones showed evidence of chewing. However, most of the hide remained intact, including the portions from the flanks and legs.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Investigators did not find evidence of a predator attack. No bite marks were observed on the hide, and there was no hemorrhaging observed on the underside of the hide. No sign of a chase or struggle was observed.

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

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** On June 9, one wolf was observed feeding on the carcass. When the investigators arrived on June 10, two wolves were observed approximately 200 yards from the carcass.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** A probable wolf depredation occurred 4.7 miles away approximately 12 days earlier (CDFW investigation LAS-060118).

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** The cause of the calf's death was not predation. While most of the muscle and organs had been consumed prior to investigation, nearly the entire hide was intact and thoroughly investigated. No external bite marks or scrapes or internal hemorrhaging was observed on the hide.