

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 081518-LAS

Date Investigated: 8/15/2018

General Area: Private land, western Lassen County.

General situation and animal information: On the morning of August 15, a livestock producer encountered multiple wolves in a pasture near an adult cow. The producer notified USDA Wildlife Services (WS), who notified CDFW.

WS and CDFW staff investigated the carcass and site on August 15. The WS wildlife specialist arrived at the site first and observed the adult cow and wolves. He also located a dead calf. Nine wolves were ultimately observed near the carcass and the cow, including two adults, two yearlings, and five pups. The dead calf was approximately one week old and weighed approximately 100 pounds. Based on the condition of the carcass it had died early in the morning on August 15.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Multiple bite wounds with associated hemorrhage.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Wounds and hemorrhage in locations typically attacked by wolves (multiple bites on both hind legs; also bites to nose, jaw, side of face and throat).

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Wolves were observed at the calf carcass and interacting with the adult cow, which was attempting to protect the carcass. Satellite GPS locations for the wolf LAS01F indicate she was within 250 feet of the carcass site at 9 p.m. on August 14, and at midnight, 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. on August 15.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Probable depredation of a cow on June 1, 2018 approximately six miles away.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The nature and location of the calf's injuries, as well as the presence of wolves at the carcass site near the estimated time of the calf's death, confirm the incident as a wolf depredation.