

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 090718-LAS

Date Investigated: 9/7/18

General Area: Private land, western Lassen County.

General situation and animal information: On the morning of September 7, a livestock producer found a dead calf in a meadow. He suspected wolf depredation and notified USDA Wildlife Services (WS) and CDFW.

CDFW and WS staff investigated the carcass and site that afternoon. The dead calf was approximately 6 months old and weighed approximately 450 pounds. Based on the producer's statement that he had seen the calf alive the previous day and the condition of the carcass, it was estimated to have died on the night of September 6.

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

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Bite wounds and hemorrhage in locations typically attacked by wolves (multiple pre-mortem bites on right front and left hind legs).

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: The meadow the carcass was found in is frequented by the Lassen Pack, and during the investigation wolf tracks were observed on nearby roads. Although the pack's satellite-collared female wolf was 8-10 miles away from the site on the night of September 6, trail camera photos and satellite collar data indicate that local wolves are sometimes miles from each other. No evidence of other large carnivores was observed at the site.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Confirmed depredation of a calf on August 15, 2018 approximately 15 miles away.

Cause of death/injury:

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Confirmed Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Probable Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Possible/Unknown	<input type="radio"/> Other
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Summary: The nature and location of the calf's injuries were consistent with those typically observed when wolves prey on cattle and confirm this incident as a wolf depredation.