

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 091418-LAS

Date Investigated: 09/14/18

General Area: Western Lassen County, private land

General situation and animal information: A member of the public found the remains of a cow carcass in a meadow on September 13 and notified the Lassen County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office contacted CDFW and the livestock owner. CDFW investigated the carcass on September 14.

The carcass was that of an approximately 1100-pound adult cow. It was nearly completely consumed and was estimated to have died between two and seven days prior to discovery. No muscle tissue or vital organs remained, and the skeleton was largely disarticulated. Portions of the hide remained.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: No evidence of a predator attack was observed. However, a thorough investigation of the cause of death was precluded by the advanced state of consumption and deterioration.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: No evidence of wolf predation was observed.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: The cow was estimated to have died sometime in the week preceding September 13. Wolf tracks and scat, as well as bear scat, were observed near the carcass. The single wolf in the Lassen Pack wearing a satellite tracking collar was approximately four miles from the site on September 12 and was at the site at 3:00 AM the day the carcass was discovered.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: There was a confirmed depredation 11 miles away on 9/7/18, and a confirmed depredation 3 miles away on 8/15/18.

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.