

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 092718-PLU

Date Investigated: 9/27/2018

General Area: Northern Plumas County, private land

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer discovered a dead calf on September 27 and suspected wolf depredation. He contacted a neighbor, who contacted CDFW. CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services staff investigated the site and the carcass that morning. The producer noted he was also missing two other calves.

The calf was approximately five weeks old and weighed approximately 90-100 pounds. Its condition suggested it had been dead for 1-2 days. The carcass was almost entirely intact, allowing investigators to conduct a thorough assessment of whether it had been attacked by a wolf or other predator.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None. The carcass was found on its side in a natural position, with no evidence of a chase or struggle nearby. When the carcass was skinned, no premortem bites, scrapes, or punctures were found. A bite mark (with no associated hemorrhage) and a small hole in the abdomen indicated some postmortem scavenging had occurred, apparently by birds and possibly a coyote.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: None

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Wolves killed a calf approximately 13 miles away on August 15, 2018.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible Wolf

Other

Unknown

Summary: No evidence indicated the calf had been attacked by a wolf or another predator.