

# LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

## California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Investigation ID: 071319-LAS

Date Investigated: 7/13/2019

### Cause of Death:

- Confirmed Wolf
- Probable Wolf
- Possible Wolf
- Non-Wolf Depredation
- Non-Depredation
- Unknown

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

**General situation and animal information:** At approximately 2:00 PM on July 13, a ranch hand observed a wolf feeding on the carcass of an approximately 550-pound yearling cow. USDA Wildlife Services (WS) was notified, and CDFW and WS staff investigated the carcass at 4:30 that afternoon. At the time of investigation, the carcass was largely intact.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** External scrapes with significant subcutaneous hemorrhage were found on both rear legs and the left side of the yearling's back. Significant subcutaneous and muscular hemorrhage was also observed on the right flank, although no external scrapes or punctures were found in that area. The hemorrhage indicated the injuries occurred while the animal was alive, and the wounds were consistent with a predator attack.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** The location and nature of the wounds are consistent with those typically found when wolves attack livestock.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** The breeding female of the Lassen Pack was observed feeding on the carcass at 2:00 PM. The wolf departed as a ranch hand approached but had returned and was again feeding on the carcass when investigators first arrived at approximately 4:00 PM. Wolf tracks were found near the carcass.

**Summary:** Investigators conducted a thorough investigation and found the carcass to have wounds typical of those sustained in a wolf attack. Based on the condition of the carcass, the yearling was killed by a wolf or wolves earlier on July 13.