

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Investigation ID: 082819-PLU

Date Investigated: 8/28/19

Cause of Death/Injury:

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

General Area: Plumas County, public land

General situation and animal information: On 8/28 CDFW notified a livestock operator of clustered wolf (OR-54) GPS locations in an area of concentrated livestock. The operator contacted a USDA WS specialist to survey the area.

During this survey, the specialist discovered a fresh calf carcass and began investigation. The approximately 200 pound carcass was partially consumed and had bruising on the throat and on the right front leg.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The calf carcass had muscle hemorrhaging at two locations on its throat and around its right leg indicating that the animal was alive when injuries took place. No puncture wounds or scrapes were located on carcass.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The wounds observed were not clearly indicative of a wolf attack, as a smaller predator such as a coyote could have bitten the calf on the neck and leg. However, wolf tracks and scat were observed near the calf carcass. No evidence of other predators was observed.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: GPS locations from OR-54's satellite collar indicated she was near the carcass on 8/28.

Summary: A calf carcass was discovered near a cluster of satellite collar locations on 8/28. The carcass was partially consumed and investigators lacked sufficient evidence to determine the cause of death. However, the hemorrhagic evidence present indicates that a predator attacked the calf while alive. Combined, the nearby satellite collar locations of OR-54, and the evidence of pre-mortality hemorrhaging on the carcass suggests a probable wolf attack.