



## LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

### California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Investigation ID:** 033020-PLU

**Date Investigated:** 3/30/20

#### **Cause of Death:**

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

**General Area:** Eastern Plumas County, private land

**General situation and animal information:** Early on the morning of March 30, a livestock producer observed a three-day-old injured calf. He notified USDA Wildlife Services, and WS and CDFW staff investigated the calf that day. Due to its extensive injuries, the calf was humanely euthanized, which allowed for a thorough examination. The wounds were swabbed for DNA since there were tracks of several predator species in the area and since the calf was found injured (therefore only DNA from the attacking animal, rather than scavengers, would be present)

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** External bite marks present on the throat and an extensive open wound on the back. Extensive hemorrhage was found around the throat and the entire back and sides of the calf as well as on back legs and back of the front left leg.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** The location and nature of the injuries, including extensive hemorrhage to the legs and around the calf's neck were consistent with an attack by a canid.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** The producer saw an uncollared gray wolf on his ranch two weeks earlier and neighboring ranches had also reported sightings of a wolf. Older tracks of a single wolf were located on trails within 1 mile of attack.

**Summary:** The pattern of injuries was consistent with a canid attack. DNA analysis revealed that the bite wounds were caused by a male coyote.