



LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 051420-MOD

Date Investigated: 05/14/2020

Cause of Death:

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

General Area: Northern Modoc County, private property

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 5/13/20 a ranch employee reported that he witnessed a wolf attacking a 250 lb. calf by its throat. The wolf left and the calf died as the employee approached. CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services staff investigated the carcass the following day.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Premortem bite marks and some subcutaneous hemorrhage to the throat.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Because bite marks and hemorrhage were not extensive and did not clearly implicate a wolf, genetic samples of saliva were taken from the bite wounds and calf hide. Those samples revealed the DNA of a male wolf.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Eyewitness account, DNA of one male wolf, wolf tracks on nearby roads.

Summary: The only premortem bite marks on the calf were on the throat, and the extent of the injuries were significantly less than a typical throat kill. This is notable because these indicators suggest that the wolf approached the calf, grabbed it by the throat and was able to kill it easily and quickly. Investigation of the calf's chest cavity revealed significant blood in the lungs, which suggested the animal may have had pneumonia and been in a weakened condition prior to the attack.