



## LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 103020-LAS

Date Investigated: 10/30/20

### Cause of Death:

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

**General Area:** Lassen County, private grazing allotment

**General situation and animal information:** On the morning of 10/30, a producer found the carcasses of an adult cow and an unborn calf and suspected they may have been killed by wolves during calving. The producer notified staff from CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services, who investigated the scene later in the morning.

**Physical evidence of wolf predation:** No bite marks or subcutaneous hemorrhage were found on the intact portions of the cow carcass. However, all areas around the abdomen that may have been the focus of an attack during calving were consumed.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Lassen wolf LAS09F's GPS collar was located near the carcass at 2:00 a.m. on 10/30.

**Summary:** During the investigation, the cow carcass was still slightly warm, indicating it had most likely died the night before. The largely consumed, unborn calf found nearby had a swollen head indicating there were likely complications during calving. While there were no premortem bite marks found on the remaining portions of the cow carcass, much of the abdominal area (where some organs had been consumed and the calf had been removed) was fully consumed. If the wolves had attacked the cow during a complicated birth, they may have focused their efforts on the cow's abdomen (as they seem to have largely done during a 10/31 depredation of a calving cow in the same pasture). The similarity of this event to the 10/31 event and the presence of a wolf at the site near the time of the cow's death suggest the wolves may have killed the cow. However, no physical evidence of an attack was observed, and the cow may have died while calving and then been scavenged by wolves. The cause of death is unknown.

