

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 060821-SIS

Date Investigated: 06/08/21-06/12/21

Cause of Death or Injury:

- Confirmed Wolf
- Probable Wolf (2 calves)
- Possible Wolf
- Non-Wolf Depredation
- Non-Depredation
- Unknown

General Area: Northeastern Siskiyou County, public land

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer found an injured calf (Calf A) on a grazing allotment on May 31. Due to the extent of its injuries, the approximately 300 lb. calf was euthanized that day. The producer observed two more similarly sized injured calves (Calves B and C) in the same general area on June 2. A Siskiyou County Predatory Trapper notified CDFW of the incidents on June 3. CDFW contacted the producer the same day, met with the producer on June 4, and scheduled a field investigation for June 7. Unfortunately, the producer was unable to locate the injured calves on June 7 but did locate Calf B and treat its injuries on June 11. CDFW obtained several photos of Calf B's wounds that day. Calf C was not found that day. The producer observed another injured calf (Calf D) in the same general area on June 12, but it was not photographed or available for examination.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: By the time the field investigation occurred on June 7, the carcass of Calf A had been extensively scavenged and the extent and cause of injuries could not be assessed. However, the producer shared a photograph of the posterior part of the carcass, taken soon after the calf was euthanized. The photo showed substantial lacerations on the rear of both rear legs above the hocks, in areas typically attacked by wild canids. No other injuries were evident in the photo.

The June 11 photos of Calf B showed significant and deep open wounds on its upper rear legs and showed part of its tail was missing.

Since the injuries to both Calf A and Calf B were not closely investigated for bite marks and scrapes, they could not be confirmed as caused by a predator.

The producer reported observing injuries to the rear legs of Calves C and D. However, neither the animals nor photographs of the injuries were available for examination.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The photographed injuries of Calf A may have been bite wounds, and the photographed injuries of Calf B appeared likely to be bite wounds. In both animals, the injuries were in portions of the rear legs typically attacked by wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Satellite collar data indicated at 8:00 AM on 5/31, OR-103 was 400-500 hundred feet from where Calf A calf was initially found. OR-103 remained in the general area where all three calves were found through June 14.

Summary: Based on available wound photographs, CDFW believes the injuries to Calf A might have been canid bites and the injuries to Calf B were likely canid bites. The nature and extent of the injuries to both photographed calves, the approximately 300-pound size of both calves (larger than those typically attacked by coyotes), the spatial and temporal proximity of both calves to one another, and the known localized presence OR-103 indicate Calf A and Calf B were probably attacked by a wolf. Because they were not relocated or photographed post-injury, CDFW was unable to assess the likelihood that the injuries to Calf C and Calf D were wolf-caused.