California Department of Fish and Wildlife



LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

Investigation ID: 110521-SIS
Date Investigated: 11/05/21
Cause of Death:
 □ Confirmed Wolf □ Probable Wolf □ Possible Wolf □ Non-Wolf Depredation □ Non-Depredation □ Unknown

General Area: Eastern Siskiyou County, private land.

General situation and animal information: An adult cow with an injured tail was observed by ranch employees feeding cattle. Wolf depredation was suspected and CDFW was notified. CDFW staff visited the site later that day. Although the cow was not captured, CDFW was able to observe the cow from a short distance and photograph the wound.

Physical evidence of wolf predation: The cow's tail had a significant injury on its upper half that included a several-inch section area of damaged/missing hair and hide. Dried pus and other discharge obscured some of the wound. Wolves are known to bite and damage the tail.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Satellite tracking collar data indicated OR103 spent much of November 3 and 4 in the area where the cow was found.

Summary: While the injury could not be closely examined, its location and appearance were consistent with attack by a wolf or large canid. The nature of the injury, the presence of OR103 in the immediate area during the days preceding the discovery, and the lack of any evidence of free-ranging dogs in the area are sufficient for this incident to be considered a probable wolf depredation.