LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

Investigation ID: 111121-PLU
Date Investigated: 11/11/2021
Cause of Death:

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

General Area: Northern Plumas County, private timberland.

General situation and animal information: CDFW notified a livestock producer of clustered GPS points from LAS09F's satellite tracking collar. The producer investigated the site on November 11 and found the largely consumed carcasses of an adult cow and an approximately 550-pound calf. The carcasses were approximately 75 yards apart. Wolf depredation was suspected and USDA Wildlife Services staff investigated that day.

Physical evidence of wolf predation: While nearly all muscle on both animals had been consumed, sufficient hide remained for identification of premortem bite wounds on both carcasses. The cow carcass had bite marks with subcutaneous hemorrhage on both of its rear legs above the hocks, its front right leg near the elbow, and its right side behind the front right leg. The calf had bite marks with subcutaneous hemorrhage on both hind legs, a front leg and its neck, throat and jaw. The wounds on both carcasses were in areas typically attacked by wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: LAS09F's tracking collar indicated she was at the site from 3:00 a.m. November 8 through November 10. Tracks of multiple wolves were found near the site. The cow was likely depredated on November 7 when a cluster of points developed in the vicinity of the location. Based on field observations the calf was likely depredated a couple of days later. Bear presence was also noted near the carcass.

Summary: The nature and location of the wounds on both animals and the presence of LAS09F at the site at or near the estimated time of death confirm this incident as a Lassen Pack depredation.

Figure 1: Front side of hide of calves' rear leg. (orange due to focused light on area of attack)

Figure 2: Back side of the hide from same calf.