



LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

Investigation ID: 030623-LAS

Date Investigated: 3/6/2023

Cause of Death:

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

General Area: Northern Lassen County, private land, Unknown wolf pack area

General situation and animal information: Ranch personnel discovered a 650 lb. injured yearling heifer on March 5 that was later euthanized. USDA Wildlife Services investigated the carcass the next day. Wolf tracks were observed in the area and hair, scat, and carcass swabs were collected for genetic analysis. All samples came back consistent with the Whaleback pack and specifically two 11-month pups and one yearling – all males.

Physical evidence of wolf predation: The tooth marks size and location on the carcass were consistent with wolf attack.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Tracks of three wolves were observed in the area, and DNA from hair, scat, and carcass swabs were all of Whaleback pack wolves.

Summary: Evidence indicated that the calf was injured by Whaleback wolves on the morning March 5. Wolves WHA07M, WHA11M, and WHA13M were all identified through DNA to be at and around the carcass area. This area is about 85 miles outside of the normal Whaleback pack area.

