

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 032524-BUT

Date Investigated: 03/25/2024

Cause of Death:

- Confirmed Wolf
- Probable Wolf
- Possible Wolf
- Non-Wolf Depredation – Mountain Lion
- Non-Depredation
- Unknown

General Area: Eastern Butte County, private property

General situation and animal information: A sheep carcass was found on the morning of March 23 and was investigated by CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services on March 25. A large canid print on a neighboring property prompted the potential wolf-livestock depredation investigation.

Physical evidence of wolf predation: There was no evidence of wolf predation.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: There was no evidence of wolf presence.

Summary: Bite mark measurements and carcass caching behavior indicated the sheep was killed by a mountain lion. The canid print found in the neighboring pasture was determined to be that of a livestock guardian dog and not a wolf.