

LIVESTOCK LOSS DETERMINATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Investigation ID: 072624-SIE

Date Investigated: 07/26/24

Cause of Death:

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

General Area: Eastern Sierra County, public property, not a known pack area

General situation and animal information: An injured calf was reported to CDFW on July 22. CDFW coordinated with the owner to investigate the live calf on July 26. Upon arriving with the owner to investigate the calf, it was found dead at the site.

Physical evidence of wolf predation: Pre-mortem photos of a wound on the left hindquarters of the calf suggested a potential predatory attack. However, predation could not be confirmed during the investigation because the carcass had been fed on significantly prior to it being located.

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

Summary: During the investigation of the injured calf, CDFW planned to swab the wound (if it appeared to be a potential wolf attack) to determine if wolf DNA was present. However, prior to the investigation the calf had died, and the wound site had been significantly fed upon. The carcass was sampled anyway and yielded DNA from a male Whaleback pack wolf (WHA08M). However, because it could not be determined whether the wolf was involved in the initial injury or had only fed on the carcass, the cause of death was unknown.

