

Predator Depredation Carcass Disposal Plan

Lassen County

For Non-Diseased Livestock Carcasses Suspected or Confirmed - Predator Kills

1. Purpose and Scope

This plan outlines standardized procedures for the safe, legal, and environmentally responsible removal or burial of livestock carcasses killed by predators (wolves, bears, mountain lions, etc.) in Sierra and Plumas Counties. It is intended for use by landowners, ranch hands, local law enforcement, and collaborating wildlife agencies to:

- Mitigate disease, odor, and scavenger risks
- Prevent additional predation
- Ensure compliance with state and local laws

2. Legal Compliance

- California Food & Ag Code §19348(c): Allows on-site burial of livestock carcasses within 3 miles of death if animal was not diseased.
- Local County Ordinances (Lassen §8.08.090): Carcasses must be disposed of promptly and sanitarily.

3. Documentation Process

1. Secure the site. Keep scavengers, domestic dogs, and bystanders away
2. Photograph carcass before moving or disturbing it (multiple angles)
3. Complete the Livestock Depredation Report

4. Removal Protocol

Equipment Needed

- Front loader, ATV or Side by Side with trailer
- Tarp or plastic sheeting
- Lime (calcium oxide or hydrated lime)
- Backhoe or excavator (for burial)

Transport Guidelines

- Wrap carcass in plastic to prevent leakage
- Avoid dragging carcass across open pasture when possible

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- Transport carcass to burial site immediately after investigation is complete

5. Disposal Protocol

1. Owners Property
2. Authorized Alternative Burial Site
3. Reno Rendering Facility, Reno Nevada (Approximately \$250.00)

Burial Requirements

- Pit depth: 4 to 6 feet (enough to ensure 3 ft of soil cover above carcass)
- Pit width: Wide enough for full livestock body without crowding
- One large carcass per pit is recommended
- Lime application:
 - Optional but recommended for odor and pathogen control
- Backfill: Compact soil firmly to prevent scavenger access

Additional Burial Pit Requirements:

- 100 ft from water sources (wells and ditches)
- 25 ft from embankments or property lines
- Outside floodplains and drainage paths

Recordkeeping:

- Complete and retain the Livestock Depredation Report

6. Burial Site

- Inspect burial area for signs of disturbance (e.g., digging by scavengers)
- Apply additional soil or lime if needed

7. Off Site Carcass Removal

If landowner does not have suitable burial location:

- Contact Lassen County Sheriff's Office (Lassen County Ranchers)

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- Reno Rendering
 - Ranchers are authorized to use Reno Rendering as an alternative carcass disposal site.

8. Additional Considerations

Winter Conditions

- Frozen ground may prevent immediate burial; temporarily store carcass in tarp or shed and freeze naturally until ground softens
- Utilize Reno Rendering during winter months when ground is frozen

9. Outreach and Training

Ongoing Training for Local ranchers:

- Identification of predator depredation vs. natural mortality
- Safe carcass handling
- Documentation for compensation programs
- Best practice for carcass disposal

10. Program Maintenance

Annual review of:

- Legal changes
- Approved disposal sites
- Equipment and supply needs