ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 5/15/2013
County: Wallowa
General Area: Hayden Creek Area -- Private Land

Situation: A livestock producer found the carcass of a yearling cow in a grassland pasture on the morning of 5/15/2013. Wolf depredation was suspected as the area is a frequently used by the Imnaha Pack and has experienced wolf depredation in the past. ODFW investigated the same day.

ODFW finding: Confirmed wolf

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: Radio-collar data showed that wolf OR4 had been present at site of the dead cow from 09:00 am on 5/14/2013 until 03:00 am on 5/15/2013. Numerous wolf tracks were observed at the scene, and sizes of tracks indicated that at least two wolves had been present. Fresh wolf scat was also observed near the carcass.

Summary of evidence: The cow was estimated to have died 1 day prior to the investigation and the carcass was mostly consumed. However, the hide from upper right rear leg, right flank, and right front leg was still present. Canine tooth bites on upper right rear leg (rump area), and associated subcutaneous hemorrhage on underside of the hide indicated the animal was attacked and not just scavenged. Multiple canine tooth bite wounds were also observed in the udder area.