



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 131121 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 11/21/2013

General Area: Morgan Ridge area - public and private land.

General situation and animal information: On November 20, a livestock owner found an adult cow in the lower portion of a pasture walking a fence line along the Imnaha River. The cow had injuries on both hind legs. That evening the cow was brought into a corral near the ranch house. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the cow the following morning on November 21. The injuries on the live cow were estimated to be 10 – 14 days old, and the animal was otherwise healthy. The pasture that the cow was in had a mixture of both public and private land.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Numerous bite wounds were found on both the right and left rear legs below the vulva and above the hocks. Large tooth scrapes were also found on the upper hind portion of the udder and on the tail.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Observed 12 mostly vertical tooth scrapes approximately ½ to 3 inches long on the medial portion of the right hind leg; 5 horizontal scrapes approximately 1 to 2 inches long, and one vertical scrape approximately 5 ½ inches long on the medial portion of the left hind leg. One large vertical scrape approximately 10 inches long on the right side of the tail below vulva. Two mostly vertical scrapes approximately 3 inches long on the upper medial portion of the udder. The size and location of the bite wounds (upper medial hind legs, tail, and udder) are at similar locations where bites have been observed on previously confirmed wolf depredations.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: The specific location within the pasture where the cow received its injuries is unknown. However, GPS collar data indicate that wolves of the Snake River pack were in the general area where the cow was being pastured during the estimated time period of the injury.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Two calves were previously confirmed attacked by Snake River wolves on 10/16/13 and 11/04/13 approximately 4.0 and 2.5 miles north of this area.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: ODFW examined the cow and found bite wounds on the right and left rear legs, tail, and udder; the appearance and location of the bite wounds are very similar to those observed on previously confirmed wolf depredations. The Snake River pack members were known to be in the area during the estimated period of injury. This information indicates that this cow was attacked by wolves of the Snake River pack.