

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 9/05/11

County: Umatilla

General Area: Little Seven Mile Creek Area (private land)

Situation: A livestock producer found a dead calf near a creek on the afternoon of Sept. 4, 2011. He also found what he believed was a wolf track about 50 yards from the carcass. The carcass was examined by ODFW early the next morning. Several pairs of livestock were present in the pasture where the calf was found. The other cows and calves appeared to be relaxed and spread out on the morning of Sept. 5.

ODFW findings: Possible wolf/Unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area?

No wolf tracks or scat were found at or in the area of the dead calf.

Summary of evidence:

The calf's death was estimated to be early in the day on Sept. 4, 2011. The carcass was relatively fresh, scavenging had only occurred one night, and no maggots had hatched. The area immediately around the dead calf was searched for tracks, hair, blood, and signs of a struggle. No sign of predation was detected. Bear tracks were observed in a dusty bank leading off the hill down to where the carcass was initially found. The remaining hide on all quarters of the carcass and the neck was skinned and examined for sign of attack. No evidence of pre-mortem bite marks or subcutaneous hemorrhage existed. No evidence of predation was found during the investigation. Due to the lack of predation, samples of lung, rumen wall, spleen, and liver were taken both fresh/frozen and fixed in formalin. No hepatic, or mesenteric lymph nodes, intestine, or kidney samples were taken due to damage to abdominal tissues from scavenging.