

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 9/15/11

County: Wallowa

General Area: Kinney Lake area (private land)

Situation: On 9/14/11 a calf was found dead and mostly consumed. The owner brought the carcass to the ranch house. ODFW was notified the next morning and examined the carcass and the pasture where the calf was found at 7am on 9/15/11. The calf's estimated date of death was 9/12/11 at 1 - 4 days of age; no mother cow had been identified as missing a calf.

ODFW findings: Possible wolf/unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? No. There was no evidence (tracks or scat) of wolves at the scene. GPS collar data show no use of the site by collared Imnaha wolves since 5/30/11. The radio collar data (every 3 hours) showed the radio collared wolf OR4 was as close as 3 miles on the night of 9/12/11.

Summary of evidence: Carcass was mostly consumed, only rib cage, partial spine, and hind leg bones were present. No evidence of pre-mortem trauma or hemorrhage was observed to indicate predation. There was no evidence of an attack or struggle site implicating a predator. There were fresh coyote scats and evidence of coyote scavenging on the carcass but the cause of death of the calf is uncertain.