

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 10/8/11

County: Wallowa

General Area: Threebuck Creek Drainage (private land)

Situation: On 10/8/11 a dead calf was found on private land east of Joseph, OR. Wolves were suspected and ODFW examined the calf the same day. The carcass was mostly consumed and was examined for evidence of wolf attack.

ODFW findings: Confirmed wolf kill

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? The calf carcass was estimated to have been 48 hours old. A wolf track was found in the area near the carcass. GPS-radio collar data shows that the wolf OR-4 was not present in the area of the depredation. This area has a history of regular wolf activity.

Summary of evidence: ODFW observed evidence of a struggle from a bed area under a nearby tree to the carcass (approx. 15 yard distance from carcass). A fresh wolf track was observed near the carcass. Deep wounds (pre-mortem) in left shoulder muscle tissue that were bloody and matched scrapes believed to be wolf bites on the hair side of the hide. Bite marks on remaining hind-leg hide and also on the front shoulder showed 1 1/2" canine tooth spacing. Though evidence of coyote scavenging was observed, no other large carnivore sign was found and the carcass was largely consumed in a relatively short time period.