

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 11/07/11

County: Umatilla

General Area: Bradley Flat (private land)

Situation: A calf was found dead and partially consumed on 11/3/11 on private land in the Bradley Flat area (headwaters of Bridge Creek in the west Birch Creek system). ODFW was notified on 11/7/11 and was asked to examine the animal for possible wolf predation. ODFW responded the same day and the carcass was collected (it had already been moved away from the scene). It was examined on 11/8/11.

ODFW findings: Possible wolf/unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? No. Some unconfirmed sighting reports of wolves have occurred in the area but no evidence of wolf presence has been found at the site or surrounding area. One wolf sighting report was approximately 10 miles to the east of the carcass location in late August. Numerous site visits by ODFW personnel could not confirm wolf presence. Additionally, several rumors of wolves being sighted within 2 miles of the carcass location in the Whittaker Flat area have persisted for 2 years.

Summary of evidence: Areas on the carcass not impacted by scavenging were skinned and there was no evidence of sub-dermal or intramuscular hemorrhage except in a small area on the right side of the neck near the ventral center line at about mid-neck. This hemorrhage extended into the muscle and appeared to have been caused by some blunt force trauma from a medium to small sized singular object. The hemorrhage associated with this wound would not have been sufficient to cause serious injury or loss of life to the animal. No other significant injury or hemorrhage was found on the portion of the animal available for examination.

There was a bear scat at the site of the death of the calf. Both coyote and 1 set of cougar tracks were observed in the snow near the site of death. The only bite marks found on the animal were on the side facing up after death. Additionally, the bite marks were in a region disturbed by feeding activity. The bites were consistent with postmortem activity (scavenging) and were likely caused by a small to medium sized bear.