

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 11/08/11

County: Umatilla

General Area: Government Mountain (private land)

Situation: On 11/08/11 two live cows (cow and calf, not paired) with injuries were found on private forest land east of Milton-Freewater, OR. Wolves were suspected and the owners of the animals contacted ODFW and asked for a determination. ODFW examined the animals on the same day.

ODFW findings: Possible wolf/unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? Yes. Radio collar information and tracks observed by ODFW on 11-05-11 shows that Walla Walla pack wolves were in the location where the cattle were pastured.

Summary of evidence: There were wounds on the cow and scratches on the calf. However, the marking patterns and locations were inconsistent with any of the three predators capable of cattle predation (cougar, wolves, black bear) in this area.

Cow: Had one puncture wound on the neck oozing puss indicating the wound was not fresh. A second wound was on the right cheek of the animal and was a shallow puncture that seemed to cause some damage to the underlying bone indicating the wound was created by applying a large amount of force. No other marks were observed on the animal. The front and backs of all four legs, hips, and flanks were felt in an attempt to locate underlying hemorrhage, but none was found.

Calf: There were dermal injuries found on both the right and left hip of the animal. Additionally, a single mark was found on the right cheek of the calf. Scratches were found on both hips and were wide enough to be from teeth marks. The scratches did not always come parallel to each other, but when they did they were approximately 1 inch apart. The marks were in locations not likely to be used by attacking wolves due to their dorsal location on the body. Additionally, no underlying hemorrhage could be felt at the touch on the body either at wound sites or at any other location. All legs, hips, and flanks were examined.