

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 11/26/11

County: Wallowa

General Area: Pine Creek area of Zumwalt prairie (private land)

Situation: On the afternoon of 11/25/11, a dead 2 year old heifer was found on private rangeland in the northern Zumwalt prairie area. Wolf sign was seen in the area and ODFW examined the carcass the next morning.

ODFW findings: Confirmed wolf kill

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? The cow was estimated to have died after the snow that fell the early morning of Nov 25. On Nov 25, GPS radio-collar locations (collected every 3 hours) place the alpha male of the Imnaha pack within 200 yards of the cow at 5 am, then about 800 yards away at 8am. Numerous fresh wolf tracks were found near the carcass in the snow placing multiple wolves at the site. The livestock owner reported seeing 5 wolves near the carcass on the morning of Nov 26.

Summary of evidence:

The scene around the cow carcass showed extensive cattle disturbance and fresh wolf tracks in snow intermingled with running cattle. There was blood in the snow up to 50 feet from carcass. The remaining cattle were bunched in a tight group near ranch house. There were multiple bites on the flank area and behind front leg below shoulder. These are characteristic wolf attack locations. There were massive hemorrhage areas deep in the muscle under these bite marks – indicating pre-mortem attack. The evidence on the scene and the carcass show that the cow's death was a result of a wolf attack.