

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: January 7, 2012

County: Wallowa

General Area: Kinney Lake area (private land)

Situation: A livestock producer found a dead yearling heifer in a small feeding pasture on 1/7/12 at 5:20AM. The remaining cattle in the pasture were agitated and wolf tracks were observed. Wolves were suspected and ODFW examined the heifer early the same morning.

ODFW findings: Confirmed wolf

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? Multiple wolf tracks were observed in snow around the carcass indicating several wolves were present. In addition, data from the GPS collared wolf (OR4) showed this wolf to have been located 200 yards east of the dead cow at 5:00 am on the same morning. This clearly shows that the Imnaha pack was present at the site of the investigation.

Summary of evidence: This animal showed clear evidence of attack. A very high number of pre-mortem bite wounds were observed on the hind end of the cow and most were between the tail and hocks of both legs. Canine tooth bite marks on left flank which could be measured showed 1 1/2" spacing. Pre-mortem bites were also located just behind the front left shoulder. Evidence of multiple wolves present at the time the animal was attacked, the location of bites, and the high number of bites with subcutaneous hemorrhage and tissue damage clearly showed that the cow died as a result of wolf predation.