

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 1/10/12

County: Wallowa

General Area: Grouse Creek (private land)

Situation: On approximately 12/15/11 a sick adult cow was discovered on private land in the Grouse Creek drainage. The cow was observed to be weak, not eating normal amounts, and not wanting to get up. It was treated with antibiotics but the cow continued to lose weight and decline in body condition. The owner euthanized cow on 1/09/12 and at that time a variety of exterior injuries to the cow were observed. Wolves were suspected as a possible cause of the injuries and ODFW examined the carcass on 1/10/12.

ODFW findings: Possible Wolf/Unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: Radio-collar data showed that wolf OR-4 was in the same general area of the cow on 12/8, 12/9, 12/11, 12/14/2011. In addition, two confirmed wolf depredations occurred in the Grouse Creek drainage less than 1.5 miles from where cow was being pastured, on December 11 and 14, 2011.

Summary of evidence: Several sores were observed on the skin of the right hip (2 x 3 inch diameter), the upper right rear leg (1 x 2.5 inches diameter), the right rear leg (1.5 inch diameter), above the right-side ribs (1 inch diameter), and on the left hip (2 x 2 inch diameter). All of these sores appeared to be result of the cow lying down for long periods of time. Four scrapes (1/4 - 3/8 inch diameter) were observed on the hide of the right front leg between the ankle and knee. There was no matching hemorrhage observed under the scrapes or in the associated muscle tissue. The scrapes appear to be the result of contact with a hard object. Nine circular marks were observed under the skin covering the right rib cage ranging from 1/4 - 1/2 inch in diameter with some sign of associated hemorrhage. These could possibly be a result of bites or contact with a pointed object. Matching tissue under the marks/skin showed yellow liquid in surface tissue over the muscle indicating possible healing from injury. No bruising or hemorrhage was observed on the associated rib muscles.

The sores on the skin of the cow appeared to be the result of continual lying on the ground. The marks under the skin covering the right rib cage are possible canine bites, but this is difficult to confirm due to age of wounds. It is unknown if the observed wounds or other unknown factors caused the cow to become sick and decline in body condition.