

## ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

**Date:** 1/10/12

**County:** Wallowa

**General Area:** Grouse Creek (private land)

**Situation:** A mature bull with injuries was brought from rangeland in the Grouse Creek drainage on 1/8/12. The producer observed injuries below the tail on both hind legs of the bull. Wolves were suspected and ODFW was called and examined the live animal on 1/10/12.

**ODFW findings:** Probable Wolf

### **Evidence of wolf presence in the area?**

Radio-collar data showed that wolf OR-4 was in the same general area of the bull on 12/8, 12/9, 12/11, 12/14, 12/17, and 12/18/2011.

### **Summary of evidence:**

There was no scene to investigate, the bull was brought to the ranch stockyard and examined. The bull was alive and appeared otherwise healthy with no sign of limping. The injuries were mostly healed and estimated to be 2-4 weeks old. There was a minimum of 7 vertical and horizontal cuts (1 - 4 inches long, 2/16-3/16 inch diameter) on the skin of left hind leg between the hock and tail that appeared to be the result of bites. There was a minimum of 6 mostly vertical cuts (2 - 4 inches long, 2/16-3/16 inch diameter) in the skin of right hind leg between the hock and tail that appeared to be the result of bites. However, the healing of the injuries made it difficult to confirm the cause. The injuries appeared to be the result of canine teeth and were in body locations characteristic of wolf attack. Imnaha pack wolves were known to be in the area during the month of December and were involved with 2 ODFW confirmed cattle depredations during the estimated time the bull received its injuries. Though we cannot be certain of the source of these wounds, the nature and location of the wounds do indicate the possibility of predation and, combined with evidence of wolf presence and a history of recent depredations of livestock in the area, a determination of probable is warranted.