

## ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

**Date:** 01/14/12

**County:** Wallowa

**General Area:** Deadhorse Ridge (private land)

**Situation:** On the afternoon of 1/13/12 the carcass remains of a mule were found on private rangeland east of Joseph, OR. Wolves were suspected and ODFW examined the carcass early the following morning. Some portions (legs) of the carcass were frozen during the initial investigation. They were later thawed and then examined on 1/16/12.

**ODFW findings:** Probable Wolf

**Evidence of wolf presence in the area?** Wolf tracks were observed in the snow near the carcass. Data from the collared wolf OR4 showed that he was located 3.0 miles northeast of the investigation site on 01/09/12 and 01/10/12. He was also located 1 mile west of site on 01/13/12.

**Summary of evidence:** The carcass was mostly consumed and there was clear evidence of feeding by coyotes, wolves, ravens, and eagles. A blood stain in the grass near the carcass suggested that the mule was bleeding at or near the time of death. Two bite marks with 1½” spacing on the limited remaining lower leg tissues showed some evidence of pre-mortem bites (bruising on underlying tissue) and that wolves were present at or near the time of death. These bites do not show the cause of death of the mule. However, they do suggest 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.