

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 3/8/12

County: Wallowa

General Area: Threebuck Creek (private land)

Situation: While checking cattle a livestock producer found several injured adult cows on the morning of 3/8/2012. Wolves were suspected and the injured cattle were gathered and brought into a holding pen for further examination. ODFW examined the cattle the same day.

ODFW findings: Confirmed wolf (three)

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? Unknown. The Threebuck Canyon area is regularly used by Imnaha Pack wolves. The injuries were estimated to be two to five days old and it is unknown exactly where the cattle were at the time injuries were sustained.

Summary of evidence: As a result of the severity of injury, one of the three injured cows was euthanized by a veterinarian at the time of the investigation. The other two injured cows were immobilized and examined while alive. All three cows had multiple bite wounds, primarily on the hind end. The dead cow had puncture holes on its hind end (above udder) with spacing and location consistent with wolf bites. This same area and the area of the left flank also had hundreds of bite wounds which varied in width from one-eighth inch to one quarter inch each. The wounds are consistent with wolf bites, based on size, location, and the large number of bites. This depredation was confirmed based on physical evidence of wolf attack.

The remaining two live cows showed similar wounds as the dead cow, though less severe. One had multiple bite wounds on its right hind leg above the hock which appeared similar to the bite marks on the dead cow. The other showed bite marks on the base of tail and wounds near the anus which appears to be a result of bites. The location and nature of these wounds is consistent with a wolf. Similar wounds were observed on the front left leg and brisket. In addition this animal showed a number of scraped areas (left hip and lower right leg) and though they may not be bite-caused, they did appear to be injuries sustained at the same time as the other injuries observed. One of the live cows had recently calved and the calf is missing. Confirmation of depredation is made on these two live cows based on the similarity of wounds (though less severe), and the knowledge that all three cows were in the same area at the time the injuries were sustained.