

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 7/01/12

County: Wallowa

General Area: Marr Flat

Situation: On the morning of 7/1/12, ODFW received a report of a dead cow in a grassland pasture. No other stock was in the pasture. Wolves were suspected and ODFW investigated the same morning.

ODFW findings: Other

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? No tracks or sign of wolves was found at the scene of the dead cow. No GPS-collared wolf locations have occurred at this site in 2012. The area is within the Imnaha Pack homerange. No radio-collared wolf signals were detected in the area at the time of the investigation.

Summary of evidence: The carcass was in a natural position and an advanced state of decomposition. No soft tissue remained – only hide, bones, and maggots. Based on this decomposition the cow was estimated to be dead two to three weeks. All bones were present and articulated. The hide was intact except the area around the anus and brisket which appeared to be a result of scavenging. Stomach contents were intact. No evidence of bites or scratches was observed on the hide. Tooth wear on the cow indicated that it was quite old. Only coyote and magpie sign was observed at and around the carcass.