

## ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

**Date:** 8/5/12/12

**County:** Wallowa

**General Area:** Zumwalt Prairie – Private Land

**Situation:** On the morning of 8/5/12 ODFW received a report of a dead calf at a water pond on private land in the Zumwalt prairie area. Wolves were suspected and ODFW investigated the same morning.

**ODFW findings:** Possible/Unknown

**Evidence of wolf presence in the area?** None found upon examination of the carcass or surrounding area. The area has been used in the past by wolves, though primarily during winter and spring months. There was no radio collar data indicating that Imnaha Pack wolves were in the area.

**Summary of evidence:** The carcass scene had been modified by other investigators prior to ODFW arrival and the carcass of the calf was reported to have been in the water of the pond. The calf was estimated to be dead 1-2 days and was partially consumed. It also had been partially skinned by other investigators prior to ODFW arrival. No evidence of a chase or struggle was observed. All bite marks observed on the bones were consistent with coyote teeth. The only sign of injury observed were two minor hematomas on the lateral side of the left front leg in the area of the knee. One was associated with a small scrape on the hair side of the hide. Other scratches on the same leg were not associated with hematoma on the inner side of hide and were considered to have occurred post-mortem. While it is possible that other injuries occurred on areas consumed, the head, neck, back, and other three lower legs showed no sign of predation. The only tracks found in the area were from coyote, cattle, and humans.