

## ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

**Date:** 9/13/12

**County:** Wallowa

**General Area:** Tucker Down Road – Private Land

**Situation:** On the afternoon of 9/13/12 ODFW received a report of a dead calf in a grassland pasture near Tucker Down Road. Wolves were suspected and ODFW investigated the same evening.

**ODFW findings:** Other

**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 Imnaha Pack 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 dead calf was reported to about 10 days old and was estimated to have weighed approximately 120 lbs. Some membrane remained on the bottom of the calf's hoof. Very little muscle remained on the skeleton and only in hard to reach locations between bones. All soft tissue was consumed, except skin of both lower hind legs and a small skull cap of skin. Vertebral column was intact, but many ribs were chewed off. Left hind leg bones were attached to pelvis by a small tendon and right hind leg was nearby, but unattached. Front legs were both missing except for one scapula located about 8 m east of the carcass. One lower mandible was separated from the skull, but near carcass. The second lower mandible was located about 30 m west of the carcass.

Nasal bones and cartilage were chewed and nasal passage tissues appeared to be very red/inflamed. It is undetermined, but possible this is a result of trauma. No significant pre-mortem hemorrhaging was found on small area of remaining skin. Many bones had been chewed on and cartilage removed. Two small canine tooth holes were found on one lower mandible. All predator sign found on the carcass and in the area was of coyotes. Though it is unknown if coyotes killed this calf, it is possible. Numerous small tooth marks on the carcass remains and the scatter of bones around the scene suggest that this calf was consumed by more than one coyote.