

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 9/14/12

County: Wallowa

General Area: Rail Canyon area – Private Land

Situation: On 9/14/12 a rider found a dead calf while checking the herd. Wolves were suspected and ODFW investigated the same day.

ODFW findings: Probable Wolf

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? During the investigation, two partial wolf tracks were found about 80 feet uphill from the carcass. A fresh set of tracks from a single wolf was observed approximately ¼ mile away on 9/11/12. There was no GPS radio collar or telemetry data indicating that the 2 radio-collared members of the Imnaha Pack were in the area.

Summary of evidence: The carcass of the 550 pound calf was almost completely scavenged and estimated to be 5 days old. The only hide and tissue left on the carcass was below the knees and hocks and above the nose and forehead. The front legs were found downhill from the carcass. No evidence of premortem trauma was found on the carcass, however the majority of the carcass was consumed. A small area of dried blood was found 20 feet from the carcass on dried grass and sticks. It is possible that this area of blood was from an attack and with wolf tracks nearby the dead calf was determined to be a probable wolf kill.