

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 10/15/2012

County: Baker

General Area: Doe Creek Area – Public Land

Situation: A livestock producer found the remains of a dead cow in a forested pasture on 10/14/12. The carcass was reported to be fairly old, but the area is on the edge of the Imnaha Pack home range and ODFW was asked to look at the carcass. The carcass was investigated the following afternoon.

ODFW finding: Other

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: No sign of wolves was observed at or near the scene. Though the area is near the edge of the recorded homerange of the Imnaha pack, there has been no data of radio-collared wolves in the area.

Summary of evidence: No sign of a struggle or kill scene was found during the investigation. The carcass was very decomposed and it appeared that substantial time had passed between death and discovery of the animal. Bear tracks and scat found near the carcass. Carcass was scattered and consisted of clean bones and rotted hide. No chewed bones were evident upon inspection. No muscle or organs were present. The tissue that remained on the carcass at the time of the investigation was very decomposed and contained mature maggots. Rumen contents were present slightly up slope of the carcass. Some rib bones were present with the rumen contents while the rest occurred down slope with the hide. Due to decomposition of the carcass and the rotted nature of the hide no marks could be observed. The left rear leg was broken above the knee joint. Close inspection of the broken bone revealed no bite marks or abrasions around the break. This carcass appears to have rotted in place. The lack of chew marks on the bones suggests that substantial decomposition occurred before scavenging. There is no evidence of predation of this cow.