

## ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

**Date:** 10/17/2012

**County:** Wallowa

**General Area:** Little Sheep Creek Area – Public land

**Situation:** A livestock producer found the carcass of a calf in a forested pasture on 10/16/12. The calf had been dead for some time and ODFW was asked on 10/17 to investigate the remains for signs of wolf predation. ODFW responded the same afternoon.

**ODFW finding:** Other

**Evidence of wolf presence in the area:** No sign of wolves was observed at or near the carcass. However, the area has been periodically used by the Imnaha Pack over the past month as indicated by radio-collared wolf (OR4) locations in the general area. There is no location data which puts OR4 within a mile of the carcass itself.

**Summary of evidence:** The carcass was mostly consumed and very decomposed. No sign of a struggle or kill scene was observed. Hair tufts and dark staining on sod from body fluids at the base of a spruce tree suggests the carcass began to decompose prior to scavenging. The bones were disarticulated and a small portion of the hide attached to right hind leg was peeled back – characteristic of black bear feeding. Small bite marks on skull, rib, and leg bones indicate scavenging of the carcass by coyotes. Unable to determine any pre-mortem injuries due to the advanced state of decomposition. No indication of predation was observed.