

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 12/3/2012

County: Wallowa

General Area: Elk Mountain Area – Private land

Situation: A livestock producer found the carcass of an adult cow in a grassland pasture late in the afternoon of 12/2/12. The livestock had been checked 10-14 days earlier. ODFW was asked to investigate the remains for signs of wolf predation. ODFW responded early the next morning.

ODFW finding: Other

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: No tracks or physical evidence on carcass to indicate that wolves were present at the site. OR4 (Imnaha pack) has not been within 13 miles during the last 8 months.

Summary of evidence: The estimated date of death was 11/25/12. There was no sign of a struggle or kill scene observed. The carcass muscle tissue was completely consumed, no organs remained, and both front legs, shoulders, and sternum were missing. There was rumen material on the ground 10 yards up slope of the carcass. The femur bones and the ends of all rib bones and lateral processes had been chewed by scavengers. No hide was present except on the lower 10 inches of both hind legs. The subcutaneous tissue under the hide and surrounding bones of both lower hind legs was mostly white and normal in appearance with no sign of premortem bites or bruising. No physical evidence of predation was found on the carcass.