

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 1/28/2013

County: Wallowa

General Area: Three Lakes Country -- Private Land

Situation: A livestock producer found the carcass of an adult cow in a grassland pasture on the morning of 1/28/13. At the time of discovery wolves were observed at the scene of the carcass and were suspected in killing the cow. ODFW was asked to investigate the remains for signs of wolf predation and investigated the same morning.

ODFW finding: Confirmed wolf

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: Upon discovery, the livestock producer reported observing wolves at the site of the carcass. GPS collar data confirmed the report and shows that OR4 (Imnaha pack) was at the site and in the area of the carcass from 11PM the evening prior to 8AM the morning of discovery. In addition, the very high number of tracks found at the scene suggests the pack was present.

Summary of evidence: The estimated time of death of the cow was early the morning of 1/28/13. A clear struggle scene was observed in the snow which showed multiple wolf tracks and large amounts of blood scattered over a large area of the carcass. Though partially consumed, ample carcass remained for investigation. The cow had suffered multiple bites in the typical wolf attack areas – behind the front shoulders, in front of the front shoulders and brisket area, groin and anterior portion of hind legs, and rump/udder area. Bites clearly showed heavy internal hemorrhage indicating pre-mortem attack. The fetus of the cow had been removed and mostly consumed – similar to past confirmed depredations of adult cows by the Imnaha Pack. All evidence (wolves present at scene, bite marks and locations, struggle scene with multiple wolf tracks, and internal hemorrhage) indicates wolf attack.