

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 4/18/2013

County: Union

General Area: Pumpkin Ridge Area – Private land

Situation: A livestock producer found the carcass of a young steer in the top corner of a grassland pasture late in the afternoon of 4/18/13. The steer was reported to have been seen alive 3 days earlier. Wolves were suspected and ODFW was asked to investigate. ODFW responded the same evening.

ODFW finding: Possible/Unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: No tracks or physical evidence on carcass to indicate that wolves were present at the site. Two wolves were reported to have been seen early in the week in the nearby area.

Summary of evidence: There was no sign of a struggle or kill scene observed. The carcass muscle tissue and organs had been consumed by scavengers (bird droppings, coyote feeding, tracks and scat were observed). The hind legs and ribs were attached to the skeleton, the front legs were unattached and one was missing. The hide was skinned from the top of the tail and 3 lower legs. The subcutaneous tissue under the hide 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.