



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 130719 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 07/19/2013

General Area: Lower Big Sheep Creek drainage -- private land.

General situation and animal information: On 07/18/2013 the owner was gathering cattle to move to a new pasture and observed an adult cow with injuries on the right hind leg and vulva. Wolf attack was suspected and ODFW was asked to examine the cow on 07/19/2013. The owner had moved the cow with other cattle to a corral with a squeeze chute for examination. The cow was alive in good condition at the time of examination, and injuries appeared to be approximately 2-3 weeks old.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: One vertical scrape 8 inches long and 1/8 inch diameter on the skin of the upper right rear leg which could possibly be the result of a bite from a large canine tooth, but with no matching or parallel tooth mark it is likely the result of a scrape against a sharp object. One long vertical scrape on the upper portion of the tail could be a result of a bite, but there were no matching tooth marks or scrapes on underside of the injury.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None determined.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: No known presence of wolf or wolves in the immediate area where the cow was being pastured. Radio-collared Imnaha pack wolves were approximately 13 miles southwest of area where cow was pastured at estimated date of injury.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: One yearling cow was confirmed killed by Imnaha wolves on 5/15/13 approximately 11.5 miles southwest of this site.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW was not able to confirm that the injuries on this cow were the result of canine tooth bites due to the age and healing of injuries, and the lack of matching or parallel scrapes which would normally suggest canine teeth. However, the location (hind-end area) of these injuries is similar to those observed on confirmed Imnaha pack depredations, and warrants a finding of possible/unknown.