



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 130809 Union

**Date Investigated:** August 9, 2013

**General Area:** Stubblefield Mountain area – Private land

**General situation and animal information:** The landowner found an 8 year old dead cow and reported the loss to the owner of the cow on 8/3/2013. The carcass was found ¼ mile from the house on forested rangeland. The livestock producer reported seeing the cow alive in mid or late June. Wolves were suspected and ODFW was asked to investigate on 8/9/2013.

The carcass was estimated to be between 4 to 6 weeks old. Only bones and the hide remained when the investigation was conducted. There was a substantial amount of coyote and bear scat in the vicinity. One or more bears had disturbed much of the woody debris near the carcass. The site had a substantial amount of cattle use. Postmortem bite marks were found on the skin on the forehead and the outer edge of the upper scapula. The paired bite punctures were 1 inch apart.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** No definitive sign of a chase or struggle was found. Due to its age and lack of flesh on the carcass, it was not possible to detect if the cow was attacked by a predator.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** There was no evidence of predation.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** GPS location data shows that a radio-collared Minam Pack wolf had been in the area of the dead cow on 6/21, 6/22, 6/24 and 7/02.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** None

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** Very little carcass remained as the carcass had been heavily scavenged – likely by at least the three species known to be present (coyotes, bears and wolves). As a result, there was no evidence to determine if the death of the cow was caused by a predator or other causes. A determination of possible/unknown is appropriate.