



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDEATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 131015 Wallowa

**Date Investigated:** 10/15/2013

**General Area:** Freezout Saddle Area – public land

**General situation and animal information:** On October 14, a livestock producer was checking cattle in a forested allotment and observed a cow moving quickly down a hill. Shortly after, the producer reported observing 4 wolves (3 black, 1 gray) immediately upslope of where the cow had just been running. He immediately hazed the wolves away from the area by making loud noises. The following morning (10/15) the producer returned to the area to check cattle. He reported the cows were very agitated and one injured calf was found. The calf was loaded and taken to the ranch house where its injuries could be examined and treated if necessary. Wolf predation was suspected and ODFW investigated the calf's wounds on the evening of October 15<sup>th</sup>. The 250 lb calf was alive at the time of the investigation and its wounds were estimated to have occurred the previous night.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Numerous deep bite-caused wounds to the rear legs resulted in severe damage to the underlying muscle tissue. Several of the wounds on the hind-right leg showed clear evidence of opposing teeth which indicated a large jaw clamping over the leg. Multiple, gaping holes in the hide and muscle tissue (approximately 1cm in diameter) appeared to be from large canine teeth.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** A high number of bite wounds on the hind end of the animal were observed on both the inguinal area, and the medial and lateral portion of the leg and with clear opposing bites. Bite wounds were a result of large carnivore teeth (size of the wounds). In addition, the location and high number of bites were similar to other confirmed wolf depredations.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** GPS collar data shows that on the night of 10/14-15, both OR15 and OR18 of the Snake River pack were in the specific area of the calf at the time of its injury.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** No confirmed depredation by the Snake River pack has been documented to date.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf       Probable Wolf       Possible/Unknown       Other

**Summary:** ODFW was able to determine the cause of injury to this calf. The multiple, large bite wounds on the hind end and inguinal area of the calf, the known location of the two collared wolves of the Snake River Pack, and the agitated behavior of the remaining cattle are adequate evidence to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation. Though the wounds were severe, the fate of the injured calf was unknown at the time of the investigation.