



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 131104 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 11/04/2013

General Area: Upper Freezeout Creek – public land

General situation and animal information: On October 30, a livestock owner was checking and gathering cattle in a forested area and observed a 5-month old calf with injuries to the hind legs and flank. Two days later the calf was captured and taken to a barn near the ranch house. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the calf on November 4. The injuries on the live calf were estimated to be approximately 12 – 16 days old, and the animal appeared otherwise healthy.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: A large bite wound was observed on the right flank, and large bite wounds on both hind legs above the hocks indicate the animal was attacked by a predator. Both of the hind leg wounds showed large tooth scrapes near the edges indicating large carnivore attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: There was a large, open hole (approximately 4 inches across) in the muscle tissue of the right flank, and a large open wound (approximately 4 x 3 inches) on the medial portion of the left hind leg, and a large open wound (approximately 3 x 2 inches) on the medial portion of the right hind leg. Three parallel scrapes (each 2 inches long, ¼ inches wide) were observed at the edges of the wounds indicating predator bites with large teeth. The location of the bite wounds (flank and upper medial hind legs) are at similar locations where bites have been observed on previously confirmed wolf depredations.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: The specific location where the calf received its injury is unknown. However, GPS collar data indicate that wolves of the Snake River pack frequented the general area of the pasture where the calf was found during the estimated time period of injury.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: One calf was previously confirmed attacked by Snake River wolves on 10/15/13 approximately 1.5 miles north of the site where this injured calf was found.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: ODFW examined the calf and found a large bite wound on the right flank along with large bite wounds (with large tooth scrapes) above the hocks on medial portion of both hind legs – the location and appearance of the bite wounds are very similar to those observed on previously confirmed wolf depredations. In addition, Snake River pack members were known to be in the area during the estimated period of injury. These factors combined are indicators that this calf was attacked by wolves of the Snake River pack.