



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140616 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 06/16/2014

General Area: Big Sheep Cr. Area – Private land

General situation and animal information: On June 15, 2014 a local stockowner was working in the Big Sheep Creek area and observed a coyote and several ravens near a lone adult cow in a pasture. He approached the cow and found a dead calf with muscle tissue on both hind legs mostly consumed. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the calf carcass the following morning on June 16, 2014. It was estimated that the calf had died early in the day on June 15, 2014.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None observed. Canine tooth marks were found on the hide behind and above the left front shoulder. The marks were made postmortem with no associated subcutaneous hemorrhage or muscle tissue damage observed – this indicated scavenging. Bite marks were small (1/16 inch in diameter) which is significantly smaller than wolf bites. One parallel set of tooth marks above the left front shoulder measured less than 1 ½ inches apart which is smaller than canine tooth spacing of most wolves. No evidence of struggle or kill scene.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: No known reports of wolf activity in the vicinity, nearest GPS wolf collar location was approximately 5.7 miles southwest of calf carcass on June 15, 2014, and no wolf tracks were observed.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: No confirmed wolf depredations in the same or nearby area in recent months.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the calf carcass and found postmortem canine tooth marks near the front left shoulder, indicating the carcass had been scavenged. The appearance and small size of the tooth scrapes are very similar to those biologists have observed on coyote depredations on other wildlife prey species. Cause of death could not be determined and no other injuries were found on carcass remains.