



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140709 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 07/09/2014

General Area: Carol Creek area – Wallowa Whitman N.F.

General situation and animal information: On 07/09/2014 a local stockowner was checking water and cattle and found a partly consumed calf carcass inside a fenced enclosure near a stock pond. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the calf carcass the same day. The calf was estimated to have been dead approximately 5-6 days.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None observed. Minor hemorrhaging was observed underneath skin in subcutaneous tissue of the left front leg and over the left rib cage, but there was no evidence to indicate the hemorrhaging was the result of predator bites. One set of canine tooth marks were found on the hide covering the right ribs. The tooth marks were made postmortem with no associated subcutaneous hemorrhage or muscle tissue damage observed – this indicated scavenging. The parallel set of tooth marks over the right ribs measured approximately 1.5 inches apart which is smaller than canine tooth spacing of most wolves. There was 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: Most recent GPS wolf collar location near the site was approximately 1.6 miles northeast of calf carcass on July 4, 2014. No wolf tracks were observed at the site.

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 minor hemorrhaging underneath the skin at 2 locations, near the knee of the left front leg and over the left ribs. There was no evidence to indicate the hemorrhaging was the result of predation. Postmortem canine tooth marks over the right ribs indicated the carcass had been scavenged. The size of the tooth marks was smaller than those biologists have observed on other confirmed wolf depredations. Thus, the cause of death is unknown.