



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140722 Baker

Date Investigated: 7/22/14

General Area: Lee Creek- Private Land

General situation and animal information: On 7/22/2014 a landowner found a dead horse in a fenced pasture in the southeast corner of the Keating Unit. The horse was an adult mare about 10 years of age and had been on the property for the last month, but moved to this pasture only last week. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated on the same day. There was clear evidence that the horse had run through the fence and caught its hind foot in the fence, and had been down and thrashed about for some time before it died. The fence was a field fence with two strands of barbed wire on top. The horse was last seen on 7/19/2014 and it was estimated that the horse died sometime around 7/20/2014. The carcass was about 90% intact with the eyes, tongue, udder and front shoulder having been scavenged.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: No evidence of attack by a predator. Tracking conditions were good and there were tracks from other cattle and coyote in the area. Bird droppings on the hide of the horse and coyote tracks up to the carcass were abundant. There was one post mortem bite mark near the front right shoulder which measured about 1 ¼ inches across. There was bruising on the front legs and chest of the horse, likely a result of the horse running through the fence. The only bite evidence on the carcass was of post mortem scavenging.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: N.A.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: No known wolf activity near the area where the horse had died. No wolf sign observed in the area of this horse.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the horse remains and the area and found no sign of wolf presence or evidence of any type of predation. It appears that the horse became spooked and ran through the fence where it became tangled and eventually died.

Addendum 7/29/2014 – A correction per the horse owner, the mare had only been present on the property since 7/3/ 2014.