



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140827 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 08/27/2014

General Area: Lostine River Drainage – Private land

General situation and animal information: On August 25, 2014 a neighbor found a dead cow and reported it to the owner. The stock owner located and checked the carcass the following day. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW was called and examined the cow carcass on August 27. It was estimated that the cow had died on August 24, 2014. The cow was intact except for hide removed from the left side of the head and a 9 inch diameter hole under the tail with some tissue missing. No known reports of wolf activity in the vicinity in recent months.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None observed. One parallel set of canine tooth marks were found on the hide near the base of the tail. The marks were made postmortem with no associated subcutaneous hemorrhage or muscle tissue damage observed – this indicated scavenging. Distance between tooth marks measured 1 3/8 inches, 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: N/A

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: No wolf sign was observed. This area is not within a designated Area of Known Wolf Activity.

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 cow carcass and found one parallel set of postmortem canine tooth marks near the base of the tail, indicating the carcass had been scavenged. The tooth marks were similar in size and appearance to those biologists have observed on coyote depredations on other wildlife species. Cause of death could not be determined, but was not the result of predation.