



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140918 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 9/18/2014

General Area: Skookum Creek near the Imnaha River – public land

General situation and animal information: On 9/18/2014 a rancher reported a dead calf in a timbered area within the Imnaha Unit. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The dead calf was examined and estimated to have died 2 nights previous. Much of the carcass had been consumed, including entrails, most of the muscle tissue, and some of the hide.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Bite marks were observed on the hide of the calf (back, upper and lower hind leg). Upon skinning, pre-mortem hemorrhage and tissue damage was found on back and hind leg of the calf. Blood splatter and other body fluids were found within 15 and 35 feet of the carcass. The carcass was situated in an unnatural position in a creek bed.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Paired bite wounds which could be measured had a spacing of 2". The locations of the bite wounds on the hind leg of the dead calf are commonly observed attack points for wolves. Wolves of the Imnaha pack were confirmed to be in the area (see below) during the time the wounds were made.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: A collared Imnaha wolf (OR25) had multiple GPS locations within 50 feet of this site during each of the previous 4 nights. Multiple wolf tracks were observed at the site of the carcass.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None in the last 6 months.

Cause of death/injury:

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Confirmed Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Probable Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Possible/Unknown	<input type="radio"/> Other
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Summary: The location and appearance of the bite wounds noted above are similar to those observed on other confirmed calf depredations by wolves. This combined with the presence of blood spatters and collared wolf locations in the area proximal to the time of death were adequate evidence to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation by a wolf or wolves of the Imnaha pack.