



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 141030 Jackson

Date Investigated: 10/30/2014

General Area: Prospect area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 10/29/2014 a livestock owner found a dead adult cow in a small grass pasture in the northern portion of the Rogue Unit. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW and USFWS examined the dead animal the following morning. A small portion of the carcass had been consumed but was approximately 85% intact upon examination – the entrails were still present in the carcass. The cow was estimated to have died between 10/24 -26/2014 based on larval stages of maggots observed, decomposition, and ambient temperatures.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The entire carcass was skinned and no premortem bite wounds were observed. Extensive lividity (blood pooling) was observed in the right brisket and neck, back of right front leg, front of right hind leg, dorsal side of rump, right dorsal side, and front of left back leg (a result of decomposition and large size of the animal) but no point-source trauma or hemorrhage was detected. The hide (including the entire down side of the carcass), was examined and no punctures, scrapes, or lacerations were observed that indicated bite wounds. There was evidence of scavenging and this includes scavenging by birds. No struggle, chase, or kill scene could be detected.

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

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: The area (and pasture) has been frequented recently by wolves and GPS locations of collared wolf OR7 show that he was at or near this pasture on 10/19, 10/27, and 10/28. On the day of the investigation, OR7's radio signal was detected in the area and fresh wolf tracks were observed in the area of the carcass.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW and USFWS examined the cow remains and the area and found no evidence of predation. Though some portions of the carcass were missing (consumed), most of the hide was available for examination, including the entire down-side of the animal, and no bite wounds or hemorrhage was observed. Feeding/scavenging was clearly documented and wolves are known to have been present since the death of this animal. However, consumption was relatively light considering the time the carcass had been available, and the entrails were still present. The cause of this cow's death is unknown.