



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150102 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 1/2/15

General Area: Wildhorse Lane – Private land

General situation and animal information: On 1/2/15 a landowner found a dead horse just outside its fenced pasture in the northern portion of the Mt Emily Unit. The horse was an adult mare and was reported by its owner to be pregnant and about 2 months from foaling. Wolf depredation was suspected by the owner and ODFW investigated on the same day. The mare was last observed by its owner on 12/31/15. The carcass was in a natural position on deep snow, and was mostly intact but with some consumption; left side abdominal cavity entry, stomach and intestines partially consumed, rumen contents exposed, and area around anus partially consumed. All thoracic cavity organs remained, and exposed left side ribs were minimally consumed.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: No evidence of attack by a predator was detected. No struggle or kill scene was observed in the snow and behavior of other horses in the pasture was normal. No bite marks, scratches, cuts, or scrapes were observed on the exterior of hide on the left (up side). Skinned portions of the carcass showed no bite marks, though one small hematoma (source unknown) was observed measuring ½" across on the horse's left flank– it did not appear to constitute a serious injury. Consumed portions of the carcass appeared to be caused by a scavenging small canid.

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

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: None. Tracking conditions were good and there were numerous small canid tracks measuring 1 ¼" x 2" and with a stride length of 12" at the carcass. No wolf sign was present and GPS collar data showed no Umatilla River Pack locations closer than 4.7 miles (on 12/30) from this carcass.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None since August 2014

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the horse remains and the adjacent area and found no predator-caused wounds. The carcass had been partially scavenged by smaller canids (coyotes or small dogs), but the cause of death of this animal was something other than predation.