



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150425 Malheur

Date Investigated: April 25, 2015

General Area: Cow Hollow – public land

General situation and animal information: On April 24, 2015 a livestock producer found a dead 2 year old cow in a grass pasture on a BLM grazing allotment. The cow was moved to this new pasture approximately 1½ weeks prior to the date of field investigation, which was the last time this cow was seen alive. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the following day. The carcass was intact except for scavenging on the head and anus. Ravens were seen on the carcass as well as coyote tracks within 50 yards of the carcass.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None. No chase, struggle, or kill scene was observed. Scavenging was observed in the area of the right eye, lower jaw, tongue, and anus area. Several longitudinal marks of missing hair without associated pre or postmortem hemorrhaging were observed on the right rear leg. No scratches, marks, or holes were identified on the left side (the side in contact with the soil) of the carcass. A 3” diameter hole near the sternum at the right front shoulder was also found, but due to carcass deterioration, the cause was undetermined. Due to suspicion that the hole in the right front shoulder could have been caused by a bullet and then enlarged by scavenging, OSP visited the site on 4/27/15 with a metal detector to check for presence of a bullet or bullet fragments. The metal detector did not indicate the presence of a bullet.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. There was no sign at the scene or on the carcass to indicate that a wolf had attacked or scavenged the cow.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: No evidence of wolf presence was detected at the carcass, however OR22 (a dispersing Umatilla River wolf) has been in this area since 4/15/2015. Its GPS location at 7am on 4/25/15 was less than ¼ mile from the site.

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 dead cow and found no evidence that it was killed by a predator. The areas of feeding, the type of marks on the hide and lack of premortem hemorrhaging indicates that the cow died of causes other than predation and was scavenged by coyotes or domestic dogs and ravens.