



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150513 Wallowa

Date Investigated: May 13, 2015

General Area: Upper Imnaha River Road – Private Land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of May 13, 2015 a livestock producer found an injured calf as she was checking cattle in a 400 acre grassland pasture near her ranch. The producer reported that the calf was approximately 4-5 weeks old, weighed about 175 lbs., and was last observed on May 12th. The calf was reported to have been alive at the time the producer found it, but died shortly thereafter due to its injuries. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the carcass on the same day.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: A pool of dried blood and fecal material was found near the calf and the area had been trampled by cattle. A set of tracks made by a running calf ended about 20 feet from the pool of blood and feces. Many bite marks that showed pre-mortem hemorrhaging were found on the skin of the left shoulder, left rib area, sternum, groin, left hind quarter. All bite marks were 1/8” in diameter and tooth scrapes were 1/16” wide. Most tooth mark pairs were 1 to 1 1/4” apart. One set of tooth scrapes found on the right hip near the tail was separated by 1 7/8”, however these tooth scrapes had no pre-mortem hemorrhaging.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Twelve -15 wolf tracks were found near the carcass. All wolf tracks were of the same size, indicating there may have only been 1 wolf present. A similar number of coyote tracks were also found in the area. Although all identifiable tooth marks indicated a coyote was biting the calf prior to its death, the locations of most of the wounds were consistent with wolf predation.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: GPS radio collar data indicated wolf OR33 was about 1/3 mile away about 1 hour before the calf was found and fresh wolf tracks were present near the scene.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: A calf belonging to this producer was confirmed to have been depredated by the Imnaha pack about 15 miles south of this area on September 18, 2014, and an adult cow was confirmed to have been killed in the same pasture about 3 years earlier.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the dead calf and found evidence of small canid depredation consistent with coyote or domestic dog, and further that this calf had scours and was very dehydrated prior to being attacked. However, while all identifiable pre-mortem tooth marks on the calf were consistent in size with coyote, it was apparent from tracks and GPS collar location data that a wolf (or wolves) was present near the kill site at or very near the time of the attack.