



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150710 Baker

Date Investigated: 07/10/2015

General Area: Balm Creek Area – private land

General situation and animal information: On 07/10/2015 a landowner discovered a dead calf in a hayfield near his house at 11:20 am. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the incident the afternoon of the same day. The calf had been heavily fed on and all major muscle masses were absent. The remaining portions of the calf were examined and the front shoulders and legs were absent and only small amounts of muscle and hide were present on the remaining skeleton. The calf was reported to have been observed alive the previous afternoon.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Multiple coyote bite marks and tooth scrapes were observed and most appeared to have occurred post-mortem during feeding of the carcass. One area on the hind leg, however, did indicate pre-mortem trauma. One larger pair of bite marks on the remaining hide measured 1 ¾ inches on the hind leg and it appeared to be pre-mortem. One section on the area of the calf's ribs (approximately 8" across) showed a general bruising which was even observed within the rib bone. No evidence existed to indicate cause of bruising.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The lack of remaining carcass and the lack of definitive pre-mortem bite wounds make the cause of death uncertain. However, the single apparently large pre-mortem bite mark does bring the possibility of wolf or other large carnivore. All of the feeding activity was from coyote.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: None. Tracking conditions were poor, though some coyote tracks were observed. Last confirmed wolf activity in the area was a picture of a single wolf on April 22, 2015. The area is not currently known to have wolf activity.

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 calf carcass and did not observe evidence of wolf predation and no wolf activity is currently known in this area at this time. However, little remained of this carcass as it had been heavily consumed by coyotes. One apparent large bite mark brings the possibility of a larger carnivore, though this did not appear to have been sufficient to cause the calf's death. A larger but general bruising on the calf's side ribs indicates the possibility of injury not related to predation. Though coyote feeding was observed, the cause of this calf's death is unknown.