



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

**Investigation ID:** 150918 Wallowa

**Date Investigated:** 9/18/2015

**General Area:** Upper Imnaha River – Private Land

**General situation and animal information:** At about 11:30 AM on 9/18/2015 2 elk hunters found a dead horse as they were returning to their vehicle. The horse was in a 20 acre dry grassland pasture on private land. The 2 horses in this pasture had last been checked on 9/17/2015 in the afternoon. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the carcass on the same day. The stock owner was not present, but a local rancher on the scene estimated that the horse was approximately 12 years old and weighed about 1250 pounds. The horse carcass was intact except for a piece of intestine that was found on the ground about 40 yards away.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** None.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** None.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** None.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** On 5/13/2015 a probable wolf kill of a calf was found in a pasture about 1.5 miles north of this site.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** ODFW examined the dead horse and found evidence that the horse had died of internal blood loss resulting from a single wound caused by a large object that had stabbed into the groin area on the left side of the horse and ruptured a major blood vessel. Scrape marks on the animal's side above the groin wound and elk tracks found at the site suggested that the horse had been gored by a bull elk. The horse had been fed on only by scavenging birds.