



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 151027 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 10/27/2015

General Area: Needham Butte Area – private land

General situation and animal information: On 10/27/2015 a rancher reported a dead calf in a grassland area. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The remains of the dead calf were examined and it was estimated to have died during the night of 10/24-25/2015. A large amount of the muscle and tissue had been removed by feeding; the majority of the hide was present.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Numerous pre-mortem bite marks were observed on the hide of the calf. Pre-mortem hemorrhage and tissue damage was found on the rear of both hind legs in the thigh area and behind the right elbow of the calf. Blood was found mixed with rumen material at the kill site. Three sets of wolf tracks were found that were running parallel to each other and in line with a calf track that slid in loose soil for about 3 feet near the kill site.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Paired bite wounds which could be measured had a spacing of 2 inches. The locations of the bite wounds on the hind leg and behind the elbow of the dead calf are commonly observed attack points for wolves. Wolves of the Imnaha pack were confirmed to be in the area (see below) during the time the wounds were made.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: A collared Imnaha wolf (OR33) had 2 GPS locations in the area with 1 being only 20 feet from the carcass. A second wolf (OR4) was also located nearby with conventional radio telemetry. Numerous wolf tracks were observed at the site of the carcass which had been made both before and after a rain the previous night.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: There was a probable depredation on May 13, 2015 five miles away.

Cause of death/injury:

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Confirmed Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Probable Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Possible/Unknown	<input type="radio"/> Other
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Summary: The location, as well as the number, size and spacing of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on other confirmed calf depredations by wolves. This combined with the presence of wolf tracks made over several days and collared wolf locations in the area proximal to the time of death were adequate to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation by a wolf or wolves of the Imnaha pack.