



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160309 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 3/9/2016

General Area: Upper Swamp Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 3/9/2016 a livestock producer reported that a dead steer calf had been found in a grassland pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The calf was examined and it was estimated to have been killed during the night of 3/7-3/8/2016. The calf was estimated to have weighed approximately 500 lbs. and the skeleton and hide were mostly intact. All internal organs and nearly all muscle tissue had been consumed.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Numerous pre-mortem bite wounds were found on the hide of both hind quarters of the calf. A kill scene which extended at least 25 yards upslope was observed along the adjacent barbed-wire fence with scattered blood drops and evidence of disturbance indicated the animal had been preyed on.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Multiple large tooth scrapes 1/8"-3/8" wide and 1-3" long, with associated hemorrhage, were observed on both hind legs above the hocks upward nearly to the rectum. This, combined with an observed struggle scene, wolf tracks and scat (see below) clearly indicate wolf predation.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: One wolf scat and numerous wolf tracks were found in an area about 30 yards around the carcass. Two wolves were reported observed by the livestock producer about 400 yards from the carcass. The wolves were in the process of leaving the area and this report was corroborated later in the day when 4 wolves of the Imnaha Pack were aerially observed by ODFW approximately 3 miles from the dead calf.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The location, as well as the number and size of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on other confirmed cattle depredations by wolves. This combined with the presence of wolf tracks and a clear disturbance/kill scene, and observed presence of Imnaha Pack wolves in the area were adequate to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation.