



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160415-B Wallowa

Date Investigated: 4/15/2016

General Area: Little Sheep Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 4/15/2016 the range rider reported that two dead calves had been found in a draw near a feedlot. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. This report covers the calf that was estimated to have died late in the day on 4/14/2016. The calf was estimated to weigh approximately 140 lbs, the tissue from the thoracic cavity, abdomen and hindquarters was gone. The other calf is covered under Investigation 160415-A Wallowa.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Bite marks and extensive subcutaneous hemorrhaging were found at the throat, rear of both shoulders, and both lower rear legs just above the hocks. Blood was found soaked into the soil at a struggle scene indicating that the calf was alive when it was attacked.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: GPS location data and VHF telemetry indicated that OR38 was within 150 yards of this carcass at 6AM on both 4/14 and 4/15/2016.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Several confirmed calf and domestic sheep depredations occurred from 3/9/2016 to 3/28/2016 about 8-9 miles west of this location that were attributed to different wolves.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The location and size (1/8 inch wide and 1 to 1 1/8 inch spacing) of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on depredations by coyotes. This combined with the presence of coyote tracks and a disturbance/struggle scene were adequate to classify this incident as a coyote depredation.