



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160509 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 5/9/16

General Area: Buford Creek Drainage – private land.

General situation and animal information:

Early on the morning of 5/9/16 a local stockowner was checking his livestock and found a dead llama with muscle tissue from the flank and abdominal area consumed. Most of the internal organs were on the ground adjacent to the carcass. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the calf carcass the same morning on 5/9/16. Livestock were last checked the previous evening on 5/08/16. It was estimated that the llama had died 4-5 hours earlier that morning on 5/9/16.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator:

Pre mortem bite wounds with associated hemorrhaging were observed on the llama's upper left hind leg, posterior part of the left jaw and esophagus, indicating the animal was alive when attacked. These injuries are clear indicators of predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf:

Bite wounds and severe tissue damage were observed on the left hind leg and throat area of the llama. The location of the bite wounds are commonly observed attack points for wolves. Pre mortem hemorrhage to underlying tissue and canine marks of 1/4 inch diameter in the hide is similar to other wolf depredations.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:

Fresh wolf tracks were observed approximately 200 yards away in the same pasture of the carcass, as well as a wolf track approximately 10 yards from the carcass. Collared wolf OR23 was located 1.5 miles southwest of the carcass site, 6 days prior, on 5/3/16.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary:

The locations and associated pre mortem hemorrhaging and deep muscle tissue damage of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on other confirmed livestock depredations by wolves. This combined with the presence of wolf tracks at the carcass site, are adequate to confirm the cause of death as wolf depredation.