



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160516 Wallowa

**Date Investigated:** 5/16/2016

**General Area:** Chesnimnus Creek area – private land

**General situation and animal information:** On the evening of 5/15/2016 a livestock producer reported that a dead calf had been found in a grassland pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the following morning. The calf was estimated to weigh approximately 200 lbs, the muscle tissue from the abdomen, left front leg, and internal organs was missing. Both rear legs were missing entirely. The calf was estimated to have died on the night of 5/13/2016.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Premortem bite marks with subcutaneous and intra-muscular hemorrhaging were found at the throat, below the ear, top of the neck, and top of the back over the shoulders.

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

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Heavy rain occurred the day after the calf died, consequently the only track evidence found was post-mortem. This included numerous wolf tracks in mud showing that at least one wolf had visited the carcass, though no sign of wolf feeding was observed.

**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 15 miles southwest of this location. Those depredations were attributed to wolves that have been lethally removed.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** The 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. The location of bite marks on the throat, neck and below the ear are consistent with coyote depredation. The bites to the top of the back were not a typical coyote bite location and more like where a bear or wolf would bite a small calf, but the lack of severe tissue trauma under the bite marks indicates that the attack was not caused by a wolf or bear.