



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160523 Wallowa

Date Investigated: May 23, 2016

General Area: Mud Creek drainage – private land

General situation and animal information: On 5/23/16 a landowner was checking cattle in the Mud Creek area and found the remains of a mostly consumed dead calf. The calf was reported to be alive the previous evening. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the calf carcass the same day on 5/23/16. It was estimated that the 6-week-old calf had died late the previous evening 5/22/16 or early morning on 5/23/16.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Blood stains in grass indicating an attack scene covered a linear distance of approximately 10 yards, and were located approximately 70 yards from the carcass. The grass was matted down or disturbed at the site of blood stains. The tip of the calf's tail (approx. 6 inches long) was found near the blood stains.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: No clear evidence confirming that the animal was attacked by wolf(s). However feeding on bones of rib cage, vertebrae, and small parts of leg bones scattered at the site indicate predator with large teeth. The approximately 150 lb calf was consumed in one night and the remains appear similar to other calves consumed by wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: GPS coordinates show that 2 Shamrock Pack wolves were in the area. Collared wolf OR23 was located 0.6 miles north of carcass site at 7:00 am on 05/23/16. Collared wolf OR41 was located approximately 3.0 miles north of carcass site at 6:00 pm on 05/22/16.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the remains of the calf carcass, investigated the surrounding area, and found a linear trail of blood stains on the ground indicating an attack scene. The crushing of carcass bones, along with the large amount of carcass material consumed in a short period of time is similar to that observed on other confirmed livestock depredations by wolves. This combined with the known presence of collared wolf OR23 0.6 miles north of the carcass the same morning the carcass was found, are adequate to indicate the probable cause of death as wolf depredation.