



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160628 Wallowa

**Date Investigated:** 6/28/2016

**General Area:** Kuhn Ridge area – public land

**General situation and animal information:** On the morning of 6/28/2016 some firewood cutters found a calf dead on a USFS grazing allotment. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The 4-month-old calf was determined to have died the night of 6/27/2016. The carcass was mostly intact, but some muscle tissue of the right hind leg and most of the internal organs had been consumed.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Pre-mortem bite marks and severe subcutaneous and intramuscular hemorrhaging were found on the rear of the upper hind legs on both sides, as was also found on the neck, throat, and ears. A few pre-mortem bite wounds were also found on the rib areas behind both front elbows.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** Several paired bite wounds which could be measured had a spacing of 1-1/2 to 2 inches. Numerous bite scrapes on the hide were 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide and up to 4 inches long. The locations of the bite wounds on the hind leg and behind the elbow of the dead calf are commonly observed attack points for wolves. There was deep tissue shredding under the bite marks on the hindquarters and neck.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Numerous fresh wolf tracks were observed for an area of 20x60 yards around the carcass. Two wolves of the Shamrock Pack were confirmed by GPS radio collar data to have been either at the site of the carcass or in the area during the time the calf died. OR23 was within 50 yards of the carcass at 10pm and midnight on 6/27/2016 and OR41 was 1.7 miles away at 6pm on 6/27/2016.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** A llama was confirmed killed by the Shamrock Pack 15 miles north of this site on 5/9/2016.

### Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf       Probable Wolf       Possible/Unknown       Other

**Summary:** The locations, as well as the number, size and spacing of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on other confirmed calf depredations by wolves. This combined with the presence of wolf tracks and GPS radio collar data made proximal to the time of death were adequate to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation by multiple wolves of the Shamrock Pack.