



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160813 Malheur

**Date Investigated:** 8/13/16

**General Area:** North Side of Castle Rock - public land

**General situation and animal information:** The dead cow was observed from the air by the owner on 8/12/16 and checked from the ground on 8/13/16 by ranch staff. The owner suspected wolf depredation and ODFW investigated the same day. The carcass was a 6 year old black angus cow. The carcass was intact except for minor postmortem scavenging at the anus and a tear in the hide on the lower right rear leg. The time of death was several days prior and decomposition was advanced. The cow was in an unnatural position at the time of discovery, it was sternal with the rear legs extended to the rear. Closer examination revealed that the cow had died on its left side and shifted downhill to the sternal position several days after death. Numerous coyote tracks and scat were located.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** None. An external examination of the entire carcass found no bite marks or scrapes indicative of predator attack. The right rear leg was skinned and no bite marks or pre-mortem damage or hemorrhage was found in the tissue. There was some ground disturbance in the area including small branches broken off a juniper, 2-3 rolled rocks and 2-3 crushed decadent sage but was not indicative of a struggle, chase or kill scene.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** N/A

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** None. This is not an area of known wolf activity.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** None

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** There was no evidence of attack by a predator on the intact carcass, resulting in a determination that the death was not wolf related.