



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160820 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 8/20/2016, 8/22/2016

General Area: Meacham Creek - private land.

General situation and animal information: An employee of the cattle operator observed a 450 lb calf laying partially under water in a pond on a forested cattle pasture on 8/20/2016. The employee tried to save the calf, but it died on the bank a few minutes later. The employee noticed marks on the calf and saw open wounds between the udder and anus. ODFW was contacted and arrangements were made to examine and remove the calf from the scene. The calf carcass was skinned by ODFW on 8/22/2016.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: There were numerous marks consistent with canine bite marks in the area between the udder and anus, as well as in the flank near the front shoulder. There was hemorrhage under the marks in the hide.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Numerous wolf tracks were observed around the edge of the pond where the calf was found. Although the number of bite marks made pairing marks for measurement difficult, a couple of the paired marks exceeded 1 ½ inches in width. There was deep tissue trauma under the bite marks. The locations of the bite wounds between the hind legs and behind the elbows of the calf are commonly observed attack points for wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Numerous fresh wolf tracks along the pond edge where the calf was found had not been disturbed by cattle use, indicating they had not been there for a long time before the calf was discovered.

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

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW investigated and determined a wolf attack had occurred through physical evidence. The numerous bite marks on the carcass with measurements consistent with those of wolf teeth, as well as the severity and locations of the injuries, and a large number of wolf tracks as the only predator evidence at the scene warrant a designation of confirmed depredation. This depredation happened within the Meacham pack area.