



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160906 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 9/6/2016

General Area: Devils Run Creek drainage – public land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 9/4/16 an archery hunter heard an unusual bawling sound and walked toward it. Shortly afterward, at approximately 7:15 AM, he observed 6 wolves jumping around something on the ground. Returning to the site with a camera at about 7:30 AM, the hunter found a dead 1-month-old domestic calf where the wolves had been. The livestock owner and ODFW were contacted 2 days later and ODFW investigated the site that day. No carcass was found for examination, but drag marks showed that it had been moved to another location and consumed. ODFW received the photographs taken by the archery hunter on 10/4-6/16. The photos showed 1 gray wolf walking near a group of bunched-up cows and close-ups of the dead calf with minimal feeding in the flank area. The location of the photographs was corroborated by ODFW.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Seven separate blood stains were found on the ground 8-15 yards east of where the archery hunter found the carcass, indicating a struggle site where the calf was bleeding prior to death. In addition, the photographs show bloodstaining in the jaw and throat area with no apparent open wound or feeding activity, which would indicate a premortem injury.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The hunter observed 6 wolves at the site of the carcass within minutes of hearing the calf bawling. Wolf tracks were observed at the struggle and carcass sites.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Wolf tracks. GPS radio collar data for collared wolf OR42 shows a location approximately 600 yards east of carcass site at 3:00 am on 9/4/16, approximately 350 yards northwest of site at 6:00 am on 9/4/16, and approximately 600 yards east of site at 9:00 am on 9/4/16.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: Testimony and photos provided by the archery hunter showing hemorrhage on the neck, coupled with blood stains indicating a struggle site with wolf tracks, and the GPS radio-collared wolf locations provide adequate evidence to confirm the death as wolf depredation.