



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160928 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 9/28/2016

General Area: Harl Butte area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 9/28/16 a local stockowner was checking cattle and found a dead calf. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the calf the same day. Wolf tracks were observed at the site of the carcass. The entire carcass was intact and it was estimated that the calf had died 3 days earlier.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Numerous bite wounds were found behind the left front leg, on the left flank, and left hind leg. Underlying tissue damage was evident with associated hemorrhaging. These pre mortem injuries are clear indicators of predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Bite wounds and severe underlying tissue damage were observed behind the left front leg, on the left flank, and left hind leg above the hock; commonly observed attack points for wolves. The bite scrapes in the hide were up to ¼ inch wide and up to 4.5 inches long, paired scrapes had a 1 ¾ inch spacing.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Wolf tracks were observed at the carcass site.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: ODFW confirmed a wolf attack on a live calf on 7/15/16, approximately 8 miles southwest of this site.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The locations, size, spacing and number of bite wounds found on this calf, coupled with associated underlying tissue damage are similar to those observed on other confirmed livestock depredations by wolves. This evidence is adequate to confirm the death as wolf depredation.