



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 161012 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 10/12/2016

General Area: Big Sheep Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 10/12/2016 a livestock producer found a cow dead under a tree by a stream in a meadow pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The cow was estimated to have died between 10/5 and 10/7/2016. The carcass was mostly intact, but most muscle of right hind leg, right ribs, and all of the internal organs had been consumed. A group of 12 wolves was reportedly seen by a deer hunter about 1/2 to 1 mile north of this site on 10/10/2016.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None. The right side of the cow was skinned and the left side was examined visually, but no bite marks or pre-mortem hemorrhage was found to indicate a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: N/A

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Several wolf tracks were observed within 200 yards of the carcass, which were made after the cow had died.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: ODFW has confirmed 3 wolf depredations in recent months; 1) 7 miles away on 7/15/16 (injured calf); 5 miles away on 9/28/2016 (dead calf); and 3) about 5 miles away on 10/6/2016 (injured calf).

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: Lack of pre-mortem bite wounds or tissue hemorrhage indicate that this cow was not predated, but was scavenged primarily by coyotes.