



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 161121 Wallowa

**Date Investigated:** 11/21/2016

**General Area:** Crow Creek area – private land

**General situation and animal information:** On the morning of 11/21/2016 a range rider found agitated cows and an injured calf in a grassland pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The 8-month-old calf was estimated to have been injured the evening of 11/20/2016. The calf was alive and mobile, but severe tissue damage was found around the rectal area. The calf was euthanized on 11/22/16.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Numerous tooth scrapes and bite wounds were found on the left hindquarter of the injured calf.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** Several paired bite wounds on the rump which could be measured had a spacing of about 2 inches. Numerous bite scrapes on the hide were 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide and up to 6 inches long. The locations of the bite wounds on the hindquarter above the hock and rectal area of the calf are commonly observed attack points for wolves. There was deep tissue shredding under the bite marks on the rectal area.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Three fresh wolf tracks were observed at a gate and fences that the cow herd had broken down while running. GPS collar data from OR41 (Shamrock Pack) indicated that he was less than 1/2 mile from the cows at 5am on 11/21/16. His collar did not download location data at 5pm on 11/20/16.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** A calf was confirmed killed by the Shamrock Pack 13 miles northwest of this site on 6/28/2016. Another calf was confirmed killed by the Chesnimnus Pack 13 miles northeast of this site on 9/4/2016.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf       Probable Wolf       Possible/Unknown       Other

**Summary:** The locations, as well as the number, size and spacing of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on other confirmed calf depredations by wolves. This combined with the presence of wolf tracks in a chase scene and GPS radio collar data were adequate to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation.