



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170406 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 4/6/2017

General Area: Flora area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 4/5/2017, livestock owners heard a disturbance among their cattle in a hay field near their residence. The next morning they found a dead 3-week-old calf that weighed about 120 lbs. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The calf was intact with minimal tissue consumed. The calf was estimated to have died during the night.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The calf was skinned. Several small (less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep) premortem bruises were located on the hind quarters, ribs, and neck of the calf that appeared to be from large claws. On the left hind leg the bruises formed an arc with the spacing consistent with the claws on a cougar. There were also two areas (up to 3 inches across, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep) of premortem hemorrhaging in the neck and throat area and the throat appeared to have been crushed.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: No wolf sign found at the carcass site. GPS collar data and VHF radio signals indicated that OR23 and OR41 (Shamrock Pack) were about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east of this site at 6AM and 6PM on 4/6/2017.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: The most recent depredation by the Shamrock Pack was domestic fowl about 2 miles southeast of the site on 3/23/2017.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The location and characteristics of the premortem injuries with an attack pattern consistent with cougar depredation were sufficient to classify this incident as not wolf related.