



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170508 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 5/8/2017

General Area: Chesnimnus Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 5/6/2017, hikers saw a “dark gray dog” running away from a group of cattle in a grass pasture on private land. When they checked the area they found an intact “still warm” dead calf with minimal missing tissue and wolf tracks in the immediate area. The remains of the almost completely consumed calf carcass were picked up by the stockowners on the morning of 5/7/2017. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated on 5/8/2017. The two-month old calf was estimated to have died near noon on 5/6/2017.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The photographs taken by the hikers and the remaining hide when examined showed no bite scrapes or injury to the hindquarters, back, neck or behind the right front elbow that would indicate predator attack. The remaining carcass was skinned and mostly shaved. All marks were postmortem except for several small premortem tooth scrapes found around the right eye with associated hemorrhaging (1 inch by 2 inches wide and ½ inch deep). The tooth marks and chipped bone around this eye also showed hemorrhaging. A second area of hemorrhaging (1 inch wide, 1/2 inch long and 1/4 inch deep) was found just below the right eye over the upper jaw bone.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. Premortem bite marks near the right eye were too small to have been wolf caused, but appeared to be coyote bites.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: On 5/8/2017, ODFW found about 25 wolf tracks as close as 5 feet to where the calf died. On 5/6/2017, GPS collar data indicated that at 6AM OR49 (Chesnimnus Pack) was about 40 yards from where the calf died and OR44 was about 8 miles away at 6AM and 6PM .

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: The most recent depredation by the Chesnimnus Pack was a calf that was injured and later euthanized about 6.5 miles away on 11/21/2016.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The evidence from the carcass indicated that the premortem injuries were too small to have been caused by a wolf. This was sufficient to classify this incident as not wolf related.