



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170708A & B Umatilla

Date Investigated: 7/8/2017

General Area: Reservation Mountain - Tribal land

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer reported finding 2 dead calves (150lbs and 350lbs) within the same fenced pasture 700 yards apart from each other while gathering cattle during the morning of 7/8/17. He suspected it was wolf related and ODFW investigated the same day. The 150lb calf had all internal organs consumed, as well as some muscle tissue from the neck and upper portions of all four legs. The carcass was intact except one rear leg was located 60 yards away. The 350lb calf had a small amount of scavenging in the areas of the brisket and anus and some scrape marks, but otherwise the carcass was untouched. The calves were estimated to have died 2 days earlier in unrelated events.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: No evidence of a chase or struggle was found at either scene. The carcass of the 150lb calf was skinned and exhibited signs of attack by a predator. The neck was broken in two places with associated bone fragmentation. There was no evidence found to suggest predation on the 350lb calf. The intact carcass was skinned in areas that appeared to have scrape marks with no underlying tissue damage or pre-mortem hemorrhaging observed in these areas. The scrape marks were made postmortem.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. The neck injuries and the entry hole through the rib cage on the 150lb calf were similar to other predations by cougars. No bite trauma was found in muscle areas where wolves usually attack.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: None.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined both carcasses and the surrounding areas and found no evidence of wolf predation. Evidence found on the 150lb calf remains suggests that it was predated by a cougar. The absence of bite wounds on the intact carcass of the 350lb calf was adequate to determine that the death was not wolf-related.