



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170717 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 7/17/2017

General Area: Howard Butte area - Private Land

General situation and animal information: A livestock owner was informed of a sick calf found by hikers on 7/15/17 in a large forested pasture. The live calf was located and euthanized by the producer at 10:00am on 7/17/17. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the carcass the same day. The carcass was intact with visible puncture wounds to the neck and back.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: While skinning the entire carcass, several premortem bites were identified. Bite trauma was located on the lower neck and along the top of the neck to just behind the front shoulders. Significant premortem hemorrhage and severe tissue damage were present. Bite depth was greater than three inches in places and contacted neck vertebra in at least one location. Canine tooth spacing was approximately two inches.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. No bite trauma was found on the hindquarters, flanks, or elbows; areas where wolves usually attack. The wounds indicate that the calf was attacked by a bear.

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: There was sufficient evidence to confirm that the calf was attacked by a predator. Based on the size, depth and location of the bite marks on the carcass, the wounds were caused by a bear. The death of the calf was not wolf-related.