



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170726 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 7/26/2017

General Area: Harl Butte area – public land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/26/2017 a livestock producer found a calf dead on a USFS grazing allotment. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The 4.5-month-old calf weighed 400-500 pounds and was estimated to have died between 7/20/2017 and 7/22/2017. The carcass was mostly consumed with only the skeleton and about half of the hide remaining.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Pre-mortem bite marks were found on the hide behind both front elbows and on the rear of both hind legs on inner and outer surfaces above the hocks.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Several paired bite wounds had a spacing of 1-3/4 to 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 hind legs and behind the elbows of the dead calf are commonly observed attack points for wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Numerous fresh wolf tracks were observed in an area of 20x60 yards around the carcass and on a nearby dusty cow trail. OR50 of the Harl Butte Pack was located by GPS radio-collar data within 200 yards of the carcass four times between 7/21 and 7/25/2017.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: There have been 6 calf depredations attributed to the Harl Butte Pack between 7/15/2016 and 7/22/2017. All occurred within seven miles of this site.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The locations, number, size, and spacing of the bite wounds are indicative of wolf attack. These combined with the presence of wolf tracks and GPS radio-collar data made proximal to the time of death were adequate to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation by one or more wolves of the Harl Butte Pack.