



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170813 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 8/13/17

General Area: Sheep Creek – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/13/17 an employee of the livestock producer found a dead 550 lb. calf within a 4,000 acre forested pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated that afternoon. The eight month old steer was found on its back with the left front leg removed, all internal organs gone, and muscle tissue missing from the ribs, flanks, and front of upper hindquarters. It is estimated that the calf died on or about the evening of 8/11/17.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Premortem bite punctures and scrapes with associated underlying muscle tissue damage were found above both hocks. Blood was found on the ground 40 feet from the carcass that was not associated with feeding activity. This is evidence of an attack by a predator.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Numerous bite scrapes (greater than 50 in a 5x14 inch area) on the hide measuring 3/16 to 1/4 inch wide and 2 to 3 inches long were found on the inside of the left and right legs above the hocks. All of these bite scrapes had associated premortem muscle tissue damage ranging from 1/2 to 2 inches in depth.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Wolf scat and wolf tracks were present within 75 yards of the carcass and are estimated to have been deposited prior to the morning of 8/12/17.

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

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The number, locations, size, and spacing of bite punctures and scrapes in the hide with associated underlying muscle tissue damage are characteristic of wolf attacks. These injuries are adequate to confirm this incident as wolf depredation likely by wolves of the Meacham Pack.