



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170816 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 8/16/2017

General Area: Marr Flat area – private land

General situation and animal information: At 6:15AM on the morning of 8/16/2017, a volunteer range rider found a 450 lb. dead calf in a large open-land pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The calf was estimated to have died 1-2 hours earlier. The intact carcass had a small amount of feeding on the rear of the hindquarters and the abdominal cavity was exposed but nothing was missing.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Over one hundred pre-mortem bite marks were found on the hide behind the left front elbow, both flanks, and on both hind legs on the inner and outer surfaces above the hocks. These scrapes were associated with severe tissue trauma in the muscle. This is clear evidence of a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The number, width (up to 3/16 inch), and length (up to 5 inches) of the bite scrapes combined with severe tissue trauma and the locations of the bite wounds on the hind legs, flanks, and behind the elbow of the dead calf are commonly observed attack injuries from wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Several fresh wolf tracks were observed at and around the carcass. OR50 of the Harl Butte Pack was located by GPS radio-collar data at the location of the carcass at 6:00AM on 8/16/2017.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: There have been seven calf depredations attributed to the Harl Butte Pack between 7/15/2016 and 7/26/2017. All occurred within nine 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 multiple wolves of the Harl Butte Pack.