



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170819 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 8/19/2017

General Area: Sheep Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/19/17 an employee of a livestock producer found the carcass of a 500 lb. calf within a 4,000 acre forested pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The calf carcass was almost entirely consumed except for the vertebrae with attached ribs, pelvis and intact tail. Rumen contents and the lower jaw were found nearby. It is estimated that the calf died between 8/16/17 and 8/17/17.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: A 150 foot chase scene extending uphill was identified that contained a wolf track, several 1-2 inch deep calf hoof marks into the soil, and one area where dry dirt was propelled downhill 3-4 feet from a calf hoof print. All tracks were leading uphill toward and terminating at an initial feeding site. Blood drops, splattering and smearing on the top and sides of four different logs were observed within this scene. Several of the blood drops were splattered in a trajectory towards the feeding site indicating the calf was moving that direction while bleeding. Premortem hemorrhaging was found in the muscle tissue on the tail. This is sufficient evidence that the calf was attacked by a predator.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: A wolf track was seen in the 150 foot chase scene. A bite scrape, measuring 1 3/4 inches long by 1/16 inch wide, was observed along the ventral side of the tail with associated premortem hemorrhaging measuring 2 inches long by 3/4 inch wide and 1/8 inch deep. Blood drops and splattering indicate the calf was moving while being attacked. These are characteristics observed in other confirmed wolf attack scenes.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: A 2-3 day old wolf track was seen at the beginning of the 150 foot chase scene. Two similarly aged wolf tracks were found within 200 feet of the carcass, rumen contents, and blood on the logs.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Three wolf depredations were confirmed within the previous week in the same private-land pasture.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: ODFW observed a wolf track, calf tracks, and blood drop splatter leading to a feeding location indicating a chase and struggle scene. This scene is similar to other confirmed wolf depredations. The attack/chase scene, premortem hemorrhaging, and three previously confirmed wolf depredations in the same pasture within the last seven days provide evidence to confirm this incident as wolf depredation by a wolf or wolves of the Meacham Pack.