



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170921 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 9/21/2017

General Area: Birch Creek Area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 9/21/17, a livestock producer found a dead, four-year-old, 1,300 lb. cow in a creek bottom within a 1,000 acre fenced pasture of open fields with densely vegetated draws and creek bottom. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The cow was partially consumed with evidence of feeding at the anus, abdominal cavity, neck, and both front and rear right legs. It is estimated that the cow had died on or before 9/18/17. Numerous bear and coyote tracks were found in the immediate area of the carcass. The livestock producer reported that several wolves were seen within a mile of the investigation two days earlier.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The carcass was skinned and examined. Premortem hemorrhaging measuring 1/8 inch deep was found in the muscle tissue on the top of the front right shoulder and the top of the neck where it meets the shoulder. These injuries are clear indicators that the cow was attacked by a predator.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. The areas typically observed in wolf attacks were examined and no evidence of a wolf attack was observed.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: None.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Wolf depredation attributed to the Walla Walla Pack was confirmed on 8/14/17, approximately four miles to the southeast.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The death of the cow is not wolf-related. The shallow premortem hemorrhaging found on the top of the neck and shoulders provided enough evidence to show that this incident is likely bear depredation.