



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170925 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 9/25/2017

General Area: North Fork Walla Walla River area – private land

General situation and animal information: On 9/24/2017 a livestock producer found a dead 1,200 lb., adult cow in a river bottom on their grazing pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and the landowner scheduled ODFW to investigate the following day. The cow had all of the entrails and muscle tissue missing, with only the skeletal system and hide remaining. It is estimated that the cow died on or about 9/22/2017. Numerous piles of bear scat were observed as well as bear hair found on a barbed wire fence 15 yards from the carcass. Coyote tracks were observed on a nearby trail above the carcass.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None. The lower portion of all four legs were skinned down to the hooves and no evidence of premortem hemorrhaging was found. All bite marks, scrapes, and claw marks observed were postmortem. There was no chase, struggle, or kill scene observed and no evidence of attack by a predator.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: N/A

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 3 miles to the northeast.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the skeleton, hide, and scene and found no evidence of a predator attack. The remaining carcass did not provide enough evidence to determine if the death was wolf-related, so possible/unknown is the appropriate determination.