



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170928 Grant

Date Investigated: 9/28/2017

General Area: Lockhart Crossing area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 9/28/17, a livestock producer found a dead, 600 lb. calf in a wet meadow, sagebrush pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The calf was partially consumed with evidence of feeding at the left front quarter, left flank, left hind quarter, and right wither. It is estimated that the calf had died sometime on 9/27/17. The livestock producer reported finding fresh wolf scat two months prior, ¾ mile away from where the carcass was located.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The entire carcass was skinned and examined. Two punctures in the hide (approximately 2 ¼ inches apart and ¼ inch diameter) along with premortem hemorrhaging in the muscle tissue measuring approximately 6 ½ inches wide, 7 inches long, and ½ inch deep was found on the neck near the right shoulder. Three unpaired premortem puncture marks, ¼ inch diameter, were also located along the right side of the neck. These injuries are clear indicators that the calf 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: None.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The death of the calf was not wolf-related. The pre mortem puncture marks and hemorrhaging found on the neck provided enough evidence to show that this incident was likely bear or cougar predation.