



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 171019 Malheur

Date Investigated: 10/19/2017

General Area: Beulah Reservoir area – private land

General situation and animal information: While checking cows on 10/19/17, a producer found a seven-month-old, approximately 625 pound, steer calf dead in an irrigated pasture. Ranch staff suspected wolf depredation and ODFW investigated the same day. The carcass was found in a small water hole/spring that was four feet in diameter and over two feet deep. The carcass was intact with the exception of scavenging on the left cheek and tongue and two areas of hair were missing on the left side of the calf. The calf was estimated to have died 24 to 36 hours prior to being investigated.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None. Once the carcass was removed from the water the entire carcass was skinned and examined. At the top middle of the back on the right side there were two parallel scrapes 1.5 inches long, 2 inches apart and .5 inches wide. There were two corresponding 3/8 inch marks in the muscle tissue with 1/8 inch deep bruising. On the right side behind the jaw were four marks on the skinned hide that did not puncture the hide. The marks were .5 inches wide, 1.5 inches apart and 3.5 inches between upper and lower marks. The corresponding muscle tissue had minor surface bruising.

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: None.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: The intact carcass was skinned and examined, there was no evidence of wolf-related premortem bite wounds or hemorrhage. An internal examination showed mud in the calf's trachea and main bronchi of the lungs, most likely the cause of death. There was no evidence the cause of death was wolf-related.