ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 180406 Baker

Date Investigated: 4/6/2018

General Area: Fourmile Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On 4/6/18, riders found one dead calf and two injured calves in a large rangeland pasture. ODFW was notified and investigated the same day. It was two days after the cows and their one-month-old calves had been moved to the pasture. Wolves were reported at the location of the dead calf and one of the injured calves. The dead calf was estimated to have died earlier the same morning. One of the injured calves died before the examination, the other injured calf was not located until 4/7/18 and is included on the 180407 Baker investigation report.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Both carcases were skinned and examined. Premortem bite marks were found on the right front shoulder, across the top of the back, and on the back of the hind legs. These bite marks were associated with severe hemorrhaging and muscle tissue trauma, and are clear evidence of a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The bite marks, measuring approximately 1 ½ -2 inches, on the hide and muscle tissue of both calves were associated with the severe hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage found across the back in front of the hips, on and behind the front shoulders, and the back of the hind legs above the hock, which is similar to other observed wolf attack injuries on calves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Fresh wolf tracks were found at each carcass and intermixed with running cattle tracks in chase scenes leading to the carcass sites. GPS-collar data from OR50 and OR57 of the Pine Creek Pack showed locations within a half mile of both carcass sites at 6:00am on 4/6/18.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None.

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed Wolf

Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The locations and size of the premortem bite wounds were indicative of wolf attack. These combined with the presence of wolf tracks on the scene were adequate to confirm this incident as a depredation of two calves by wolves of the Pine Creek Pack.