



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 180407 Baker

**Date Investigated:** 4/7/2018

**General Area:** Fourmile Creek area – private land

**General situation and animal information:** On 4/7/18, riders found five injured calves and one injured cow in a large rangeland pasture. One injured calf was euthanized due to its injuries. ODFW examined the calves the same day. The producer reported seeing wolves near the cattle that morning. Some of the injuries to the calves were estimated to have occurred the night before and at least one was estimated to have occurred the previous night. The cow was observed to have a limp during the investigation, but investigators were unable to closely examine the cow for wolf-caused injuries. ODFW will work with the producer if the cow can be examined later.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Bite marks were found on the inside and outside of the back of the hind legs of all four injured calves. The dead calf had bite marks on the hind legs, over the center of the back, and on the front shoulder and severe tissue damage to the back of the hind legs. These bite marks and premortem trauma are clear evidence of a predator attack.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** The bite marks on the back of the hind legs above the hock of all of the calves had spacing measuring approximately 1½ - 2 inches. The dead calf had premortem bite marks and associated muscle tissue damage on the back of the hind legs above the hock. The location of the bite marks and associated hemorrhage are similar to those found on other confirmed attacks by wolves.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** The exact location of most of the injured calves when attacked is unknown. Seven wolves of the Pine Creek Pack were observed at 7:30pm on 4/6/18 in the same pasture as the calves. GPS-collar data from OR50 (Pine Creek Pack) showed locations within two miles of the area at 6:00am on 4/7.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** Two calves were confirmed to be depredated by the Pine Creek Pack on 4/6/18 in the same pasture.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

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