



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 180415 Baker

Date Investigated: 4/15/2018

General Area: Pine Valley area – private land

General situation and animal information: On 4/15/18 a dead, 1 ½-month-old, 125-pound calf was found in a 70-acre grass pasture. ODFW was notified and investigated the same day. Wolves were reported seen at the location of the dead calf that morning. The carcass was mostly intact with part of both hind legs above the hock and the right front shoulder being consumed. The internal organs and rumen had been consumed. The dead calf was estimated to have died the evening of 4/14/18.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The entire carcass was skinned and examined. Premortem bite marks were found on the rear of the right and left hind legs. These bite marks were associated with hemorrhaging and muscle tissue trauma, and are clear evidence of a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Numerous premortem bite marks on the hide and muscle tissue with associated hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage were found on the back of both hind legs above the hock. These were similar to other injuries observed in wolf attacks. A 30-yard-long chase scene of running, turning, and sliding cattle tracks was found in the soft soil and areas of bare ground. Blood was found in the cattle tracks in the grass and disturbed soil. Wolf and cattle tracks were found at the fence line, 15 feet from the blood.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Fresh wolf tracks were found at the carcass and intermixed with running cattle tracks in the chase scene near the carcass. GPS-collar data from OR50 and OR57 of the Pine Creek Pack showed locations approximately one mile from the carcass at 6:00am on 4/15/18.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: Two calves were confirmed killed on 4/6/18 and four calves were confirmed injured and one killed on 4/17/18, both by wolves of the Pine Creek Pack.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable 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 at the carcass and in the chase scene were adequate to confirm this incident as a depredation by wolves of the Pine Creek Pack.