



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

June - August 2018

This document lists livestock depredation investigations completed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since June 1, 2018. Investigations are done at the request of the owner of injured or dead livestock when they suspect wolf depredation. The goal of these investigations is to determine if the livestock was attacked by a predator and if that predator was a wolf. The goal is not necessarily to determine the cause of death, as in some cases that would require a veterinary pathologist (e.g. illness, injury, age, poisonous plants). In some areas of Oregon, USDA Wildlife Services assists ODFW when wolves are suspected and is the lead agency to investigate when other predators such as coyotes, bear, or cougar are suspected. In areas where wolves are federally protected, the USFWS may choose to assist at investigations. In some counties, the local Sheriff's office deputies also attend investigations. ODFW needs to make the determination for lethal removal of chronically depredating wolves to be considered or if the livestock producer wants financial compensation from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

There is information about methods to minimize conflict at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/non-lethal_methods.asp. The investigation determination criteria and previous investigations are listed at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/depredation_investigations.asp. Additional information about Oregon wolves and answers to frequently asked questions are provided at www.odfw.com/wolves.

August 20, 2018 – Wallowa County (Joseph Creek area)

Date Investigated: 8/20/18

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/20, a range rider found a dead, five-month-old, 300 lb. calf on a large timbered USFS allotment. All internal organs, the right eye, the majority of muscle tissue on the left front leg and left rear leg, and some muscle tissue from the right rear leg had been consumed. The calf was estimated to have died during the night of 8/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The entire carcass was skinned and examined. A total of five tooth puncture wounds through the hide on the back of the hind legs measured 1/4-3/8 inches across and were associated with premortem hemorrhaging under the skin. Two of these canine punctures between the anus and the hock were paired with a spacing of 2 inches and had associated hemorrhaging of 1 1/2 inch depth into the muscle tissue. A total of three premortem tooth scrapes 3/4-2 inches long and 1/8 inch wide with associated hemorrhaging under the skin were found on the back of the hind legs. Wolf tracks and scat were found at and around the carcass. There have been four confirmed wolf depredations in the area since mid-June. The puncture size, canine spacing, depth, and location of the injuries were similar to other confirmed wolf attack injuries on calves. This attack was attributed to the Chesnimnus Wolves.

August 14, 2018 – Malheur County (Little Malheur River area)

Date Investigated: 8/14/2018

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/14/18, a livestock producer found a dead 5-month-old, 500 lb. calf in a private-land irrigated pasture. The carcass was intact with exception of post-mortem scavenging around the anus. Estimated time of death was less than 24 hours.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was skinned and examined. There were no bite scrapes or punctures on the hide or bite-caused hemorrhage or muscle tissue trauma indicating a predator attack. The cause of death was not related to wolf predation and thus categorized as “Other”.

August 8, 2018 – Baker County (Lake Fork Creek area)

Date Investigated: 8/8/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 8/7/18 a trail crew found a dead adult cow. The livestock owner was notified that evening and ODFW investigated the next day. The cow was on a large forested public land allotment. The carcass of the cow was intact with minimal tissue missing from the groin, front right leg below the elbow, nose, lower jaw, and both ears. The date of death was estimated to be 8/4/2018.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Most of the carcass was skinned. There were no premortem bite marks on the hide or hemorrhage in the tissue. There were postmortem bite marks on the right elbow, left rear leg and the left front leg. There was no evidence of predator attack on the carcass or the scene. The cause of death was not determined but was not related to wolves.

August 5, 2018 – Wallowa County (Threebuck Creek area)

Date Investigated: 8/5/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/5, while checking cattle, an employee found a dead adult cow in a large private rangeland pasture with other cattle. Light scavenging was evident around the anus on the intact carcass. It was estimated that the cow died in the evening on 8/4.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Most of the carcass was skinned and parts of the hide were clipped and examined. No bite marks, scratches, scrapes, or holes were found on the hide. Several large shallow bruises were observed in the muscle tissue on parts of all four quarters of the adult cow. The muscle tissue did not have tears or similar damage which is found when predators bite. There was no evidence of a predator attack on the carcass or the scene. The death of the cow was not wolf related.

August 2, 2018 – Wallowa County (Cougar Creek area)

Date Investigated: 8/2/18

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 8/1, a livestock producer found an injured 4-month-old, 350 lb. calf on a large timbered USFS allotment. The calf was hauled to a veterinary clinic for care on 8/2. The producer reported seeing wolf tracks on the morning of 8/1. The injuries to the calf had begun to heal and are estimated at one week old.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Both rear legs of the calf were shaved above the hocks. More than 15 canine tooth scrapes were found on the outside and rear of both hind legs measuring up to ¼ inch wide and 4 inches long. There were five puncture wounds measuring up to ¼ inch wide. A large open wound between the rear legs behind the scrotum measured about 8 inches long, 2.5 inches wide, and at least 2 inches deep. The location, size, and extent of the premortem injuries are sufficient to confirm this incident as wolf depredation by the Chesnimnus Wolves. The calf was found about three miles from where three calves were injured in June by the same wolves.

July 31, 2018 – Lake County (Chewaucan River area)

Date Investigated: 7/31/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 7/30, a rider found an injured adult cow outside the fence of the 2000-acre private-land pasture she should have been in. An injury was observed in the cow's right armpit. While locating the cow for ODFW examination on 7/31, the riders found a dead 5-month-old, 450 lb. calf. Both livestock are covered in this report. The calf was intact skeletally, but most internal organs and most of the hindquarter muscle tissue was missing. The hide was missing from the abdominal area, right flank, and front of the right hind leg. It was estimated that the calf died on 7/29.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Evaluation of the injury sustained to the adult cow revealed two cuts between 3 and 5 inches long, of varied widths, and of unknown depth into the right armpit. The wound was determined to be greater than a week old and of a type and shape consistent with injury, not predator attack. The cow was shaved on the hindquarters, flanks, and behind elbows; no bite marks were found. ODFW determined the injury was not wolf related.

There was no evidence of a predator attack at the scene of the dead calf. Carcass remains were shaved, skinned and examined. There were no premortem bite marks on the hide or signs of predator attack on the carcass. The right ear and an area of skin approximately 6 inches in diameter around the ear had been scavenged, and upon skinning back the remaining hide, a void of muscle tissue with necrotic margins and large, third instar stage maggots were observed. No evidence was found to suggest that predation occurred or that the death was wolf related.

July 31, 2018 – Umatilla County (Upper Dry Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/31/2018

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: While checking cattle on the afternoon of 7/31, a livestock producer found a dead 3-month-old, 250 lb. calf in a dried up creek bottom within a privately owned grazing pasture. The calf was intact except for an 8 inch by 4 inch piece of hide missing from the right side between the last rib and pelvis where part of the entrails had been removed. It was estimated that the calf died earlier the same day.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was shaved, skinned, and examined. No premortem bite marks, scrapes, or punctures were found. Multiple 1/16 to 1/8 inch postmortem bite marks were found on the hide in the area it had been scavenged. A paired postmortem bite mark with spacing measuring 1 1/8 inch was observed on the rump. There was no evidence of a predator attack on the carcass or the scene. The death of the calf was not wolf related.

July 27, 2018 – Lake County (Chewaucan River area)

Date Investigated: 7/27/18

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: Midday on 7/27, a livestock producer found a dead 5-month-old, 450 lb. calf in a 400-acre open land pasture on private land. The calf had been scavenged with little tissue remaining behind the ribs. The hide was missing on the left side behind the ribs and on the back of both hindquarters. It was estimated that the calf died on 7/25.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There was no evidence of a predator attack on the scene. The remaining calf carcass was skinned and examined. There were no bite punctures, bite scrapes on the hide, or signs of predator attack on the carcass. There was significant swelling of unknown cause under the lower jaw and on the throat with no marks on the outside of the hide. An area on the upper neck had advanced tissue decomposition and possibly muscle trauma, but there were no marks on the hide. No evidence was found to suggest wolves were in the area or that the death was wolf-related, but due to the lack of hide and muscle tissue on the hindquarters and tissue decomposition the determination is possible/unknown.

July 24, 2018 – Umatilla County (Government Mountain area)

Date Investigated: 7/24/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/24, a livestock producer found an injured 14-month-old 1,200 lb. bull in a 7000-acre open grass land pasture with timbered draws on

private land. The bull had a one inch hole on the right side of the mouth. The bull was taken to a veterinarian for treatment and diagnosed with a broken jaw. The bull was later euthanized then examined by ODFW for any signs of wolf depredation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The bull carcass was shaved and skinned. There was no bite scrapes on the hide, bite-caused hemorrhage, or tissue trauma indicating a predator attack. A puncture hole measuring ½" wide x ¾" deep was found on the right rump directly above the pelvis. Both sides of the lower jaw were broken. There was no evidence of a predator attack on the carcass.

July 23, 2018 – Umatilla County (Ruckel Ridge area)

Date Investigated: 7/23/18

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: A sheep herder reported a wolf-sheep dog conflict that happened at about 3am on 7/23/18 near the sheep band he takes care of on a USFS grazing allotment. The herder heard wolves howling outside his camp, then witnessed the six livestock guard and herding dogs engage two wolves approximately 60 yards from the sheep night pen. The wolves retreated and one guard dog continued to chase after them through the timber. Approximately twenty minutes later the dog returned to the camp severely injured. ODFW investigated the same day, but was unable to examine the dog closely. The guard dog died the following night and ODFW completed the examination of the 80 lb. male guard dog on 7/25/18.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was shaved, skinned, and examined. Multiple paired canine punctures with spacing ranging from 1 ¾" to 2" were observed around the neck, right armpit, and lumbar vertebra. Numerous bite marks (¼" to ⅜" wide) were also found on the top, bottom, and both sides of neck, rear of the right hind leg, right flank, and abdomen. Premortem hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage was observed in all of the above mentioned areas, as well as the inner portions of both hind legs, and left ear. A radio-collared Ruckel Ridge wolf had a GPS location about ½ mile from the sheep band at 2am on 7/23/18. The size, number, and locations of the bite marks with the associated muscle trauma are sufficient to attribute the death of this livestock dog to a wolf or wolves of the Ruckel Ridge pack.

July 22, 2018 – Wallowa County (Harl Butte area)

Date Investigated: 7/22/18

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 7/22, a livestock producer found a dead two-month-old 225 lb. calf on a forested USFS cattle allotment. The producer reported seeing two wolves in the vicinity just prior to finding the calf. The carcass was partially consumed with tissue removed from the hindquarters, abdomen, and right shoulder. The death of the calf was estimated to have occurred early that morning on 7/22.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was shaved and skinned revealing multiple canine tooth scrape marks on the hide of the right hind leg, back, and left front leg. Premortem

hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage from canine bites were present on the upper left front leg, left elbow, both hind legs above the hocks, and the lower left side of the back. The size of the tooth scrapes, the location of the injuries, and the severity of the trauma was similar to other confirmed wolf attack injuries on calves. The location of the confirmed wolf attack was within the Harl Butte Pack AKWA.

July 22, 2018 – Wasco County (Juniper Flats area)

Date Investigated: 7/22/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/22/18, a livestock owner found three dead and 1 injured sheep in his seven-acre, private-land pasture about 400 yards from his house. The carcass of one ewe was intact but most tissue behind the front legs had been consumed, the two dead lambs were uneaten. The sheep had died that morning. The injured ewe was euthanized the same day.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: All four carcasses were skinned and examined. There were bite punctures and premortem hemorrhage on all four sheep indicating they had been attacked by a predator. Paired canine punctures had 1 1/8 to 1 3/8 inch spacing consistent with coyote bite spacing. The locations of the hemorrhage in tissue on the throat just behind the lower jaw, back of the hindquarters, and behind the elbows was consistent with coyote attack locations on sheep. The sheep deaths were not wolf related.

July 13, 2018 – Umatilla County - A (Government Mountain area)

Date Investigated: 7/13/18

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/13/18 a livestock producer found the remains of a 5-month-old 300 lb. calf in a fenced 1,200 acre private-land pasture. On the way to this investigation, an additional calf carcass was discovered and that calf is covered in report 7/13/18 Umatilla County - B. Muscle tissue was consumed above the hocks, on the pelvis, and ribs. Internal organs were consumed in the abdominal cavity. The right rear leg was found detached and 30 feet from carcass. The date of death was estimated to be 7/11/18.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was skinned and examined. There were no bite scrapes on the hide or bite-caused hemorrhage or muscle tissue trauma indicating a predator attack. Several coyote and wolf tracks were found near the carcass. Evidence typical of scavenging by small predators, such as coyotes and birds, were observed on the carcass. No evidence was found to suggest the death was wolf related. Due to the lack of hide and muscle tissue on the hindquarters, the determination is possible/unknown.

July 13, 2018 – Umatilla County - B (Government Mountain area)

Date Investigated: 7/13/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/13/18, while investigating a dead calf found by a livestock producer (report 7/13/18 Umatilla County - A), ODFW discovered the remains of a 3-month-old 200 lb. calf about 75 yards away in the same private-land pasture. The carcass was intact with all muscle tissue on the hindquarters above the hocks consumed as well as all the abdominal organs. The hide was missing only on the abdomen and inside of the hind legs. The date of the death was estimated to be 7/12/18.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was shaved, skinned and examined. The right side of the neck and shoulder exhibited two bite marks with 1 ¼ inch spacing with associated shallow muscle tissue damage measuring 1/8 inches in depth. Although the calf's death is not wolf related, it is unknown if the calf died from a coyote attack or other causes.

July 10, 2018 – Wallowa County (Howard Butte area)

Date Investigated: 7/10/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer found a dead adult cow on 7/10/18 in a large, forested, private-land pasture. The entire cow was intact except for some missing skin on the right side of the abdominal area. It was estimated that the cow died on 7/8/2018.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There were two bite marks on the right elbow that were determined to be made postmortem once the area was skinned. There was no evidence of predator attack on the carcass or the scene. The cause of death was not wolf-related.

June 20, 2018 – Klamath County (Sprague River Valley area)

Date Investigated: 6/20/18

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: The livestock producer found a dead 5-day-old calf on 6/19 in a 55-acre grass pasture about one half mile from the residence. (Added on 7/13/18: The pasture was on private land.) The calf was last observed on 6/17 and appeared weak and sedentary compared to other calves in the pasture. The carcass had been heavily scavenged with the majority of tissue consumed/missing. All bones were present and intact with the exception of the posterior ribs. The hide was mostly all present and attached to the carcass. Estimated date of death is 6/18 pm.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There was no evidence of predator attack on the carcass or the scene. The remaining carcass was skinned and partially shaved. No premortem bite marks were found on the hide. One premortem injury was observed on the back near the spine approximately ½ inch diameter and ½ inch into muscle tissue. The remaining muscle and soft tissue contains no pre mortem hemorrhage. The cause of death is unknown, but was not wolf-related.

June 19, 2018 – Crook County (Mill Creek area)

Date Investigated: 6/19/18

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer discovered a dead adult cow on the evening of 6/18/18 in a 500-acre pasture on private land. He requested an investigation because he could not explain the cause of death. The carcass had been heavily scavenged. The skeleton was intact, but most hide and tissue from the left side behind the shoulder and tissue from both hindquarters was gone. The hide on the right side of the cow was intact except for the inside of the right hind leg. The date of death was estimated between 6/12/18 and 6/14/18.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The remains of the cow carcass was skinned and examined. There were no bite scrapes on the hide, and no bite-caused hemorrhage or muscle tissue trauma to indicate predator attack. There was no evidence of attack by a predator on the carcass. There were broken branches and disturbed ground within 15 yards of the carcass possibly indicating the cow struggled at some point while dying. No evidence was found to suggest the death was wolf-related, but due to the the lack of hide and tissue the determination is possible/unknown.

June 14, 2018 - Wallowa County (Joseph Creek area)

Date Investigated: 6/14/18

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the late afternoon of 6/13, an approximately 190-pound injured calf was found in a creek-bottom pasture on private land. The calf had injuries on the hind legs, similar to two injured calves found in the same pasture earlier in the day and previously investigated. This calf was taken to a veterinarian for treatment and ODFW's investigation on 6/14. The injuries to the calf were estimated to have occurred during the day on 6/13.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The injured calf was shaved revealing multiple canine punctures and tooth scrape marks to both rear legs above the hocks that were clear evidence of a predator attack. A large open wound with multiple bite marks and severe muscle trauma was present above the hock on the left rear leg. There were paired bite punctures and scrapes with two inch spacing. The canine spacing, location of the injuries, and the severity of the trauma was similar to other confirmed wolf attack injuries on calves. The location of the attack was within the Chesnimnus Pack AKWA.

June 13, 2018 - Wallowa County (Joseph Creek area)

Date Investigated: 6/13/18

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On 6/13, a livestock producer found two injured four- to six-week-old, 200 lb. calves in a large creek-bottom pasture on private land. The producer reported seeing a wolf near the livestock on 6/12 and 6/13. Both calves had multiple open wounds on the hind legs. The calves were taken to a veterinarian for treatment and ODFW's investigation the same day. The injuries to

the calves were estimated to have occurred during two different events between 12 and 48 hours earlier, based on the age of the injuries.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Both live calves were shaved around the injuries and examined. Bite marks and large open wounds were found on the inside, back, and outside of the rear legs above the hocks and had muscle tissue trauma associated with the bite marks. These injuries are clear indications of predator attack. Multiple tooth scrapes, up to 1/8 inch wide and up to four inches long, were found parallel and leading into the large open wounds on the rear legs of each calf. The location, muscle tissue trauma, and severity of the injuries are similar to those observed in other calves attacked by wolves. The pasture where both depredation events occurred is within the Chesnimnus Pack AKWA.

June 12, 2018 – Investigation in Wallowa County (Reagin Gulch area)

Date Investigated: 6/12/18

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On 6/12/18 a four-month-old, 350-pound injured calf was found in a large rangeland pasture on private land. The calf had injuries on the hind legs. The calf was brought to a veterinarian for examination. The injuries to the calf were estimated to have occurred four to five days earlier.

Physical evidence and summary of cause of death: The live calf was examined and the hair was shaved around the injuries. Bite marks were found on the inside, rear, and outside of both hind legs above the hocks. These bite marks were associated with muscle tissue trauma, and are clear evidence of a predator attack. The size, number, and locations of the bite injuries are similar to injuries observed in calves attacked by wolves. Although individual wolves have been documented, there is no known pack currently using this area. ODFW will continue to monitor wolf activity in the area.