



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

January - May 2019

This document lists livestock depredation investigations completed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since January 1, 2019. 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.

May 14, 2019 – Baker County (North Pine Creek area)

Date Investigated: 5/14/19

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 5/14/19 a livestock producer found a dead 3-month-old 300-pound calf in a 200-acre private-land pasture. The carcass had been mostly consumed. Some hide and muscle tissue remained below the hock on the rear legs and below the elbow on the front legs. The calf was estimated to have died early on 5/11/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The lower legs were shaved and skinned for examination. Premortem canine bite marks, with 1 ½" spacing, and hemorrhaging were found on the lower right rear leg below the hock. A chase scene was found starting approximately 170 yards from the carcass. Cattle and wolf tracks were found leading to an area of trampled ground and disturbance, a stump had been partially broken. A trail of disturbed vegetation led downhill to another area of disturbance where blood and hair was found. GPS collar data puts OR50, the breeding male, at the attack scene at the estimated time of death of the calf. The size of the premortem bite marks on the carcass as well as the presence of a chase and attack scene are clear evidence of a confirmed depredation by members of the Pine Creek Pack.

May 9, 2019 – Jefferson County (Ashwood area)

Date Investigated: 5/9/2019

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 5/8/19, a livestock owner found a dead 2-week-old, ninety-pound calf in a ten-acre, private-land pasture about 100 yards from the house. The carcass was intact except for hide and viscera from the abdomen and tissue from the inside of the hindquarters had been removed. The calf was estimated to have died less than 27 hours prior to being placed in the freezer prior to investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was skinned and examined. There was no premortem hemorrhaging, bite marks, or scrapes on the carcass. There was no sign of attack by a predator. The death of the calf was not wolf related.

April 16, 2019 – Baker County (North Pine Creek area)

Date Investigated: 4/16/19

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 4/16/19 a livestock producer found an injured adult cow in a 300-acre private-land pasture. The producer reported seeing two wolves, one of which was radio-collared, as they rode into the area to check the cows at approximately 7:30 am. The injured cow had an open wound near the tail and was found later at approximately 8:30 am. The cow was euthanized due to the severity of the injuries. The injuries were estimated to have occurred the night of 4/15/19 or early on 4/16/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The hindquarters were shaved and examined. A piece of flesh was missing from next to the anus that was approximately 8 inches in length and 4 inches across. Multiple tooth scrapes up to 2 inches long and 1/8 inch wide were found near the base of the tail at the edge of the open wound showing clear evidence of attack from a predator. Paired bite marks with approximately 1 7/8 inch spacing were also found. A chase scene was found less than 1/2 mile away from where the cow was first located. Running/sliding/whirling cow tracks were found in the wet soil accompanied by wolf tracks. Blood was found on the ground and vegetation at the attack site. The number and canine spacing of the bite marks, the location of the injury, and the wolf tracks present in the attack scene are clear evidence of a confirmed depredation by wolves of the Pine Creek Pack.

March 28, 2019 – Union County (Cove area)

Date Investigated: 3/28/19

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: The evening of 3/27/19 a livestock owner found an injured 3-week-old, 90 lb. calf in a private-land calving pasture, approximately 350 yards from a residence. The calf was depressed, walking stiffly, with several hairless areas on the hindquarters and a partially scabbed injury to the left front knee.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: No chase or struggle scene was found. The area surrounding the bald sections of the hindquarters was partially shaved and the entire calf was examined. No bite marks, tooth scrapes, or punctures were found. The calf's condition and observed injuries are not consistent with a predator attack. The cause of injury was categorized as "Other".

March 23, 2019 – Jackson County (Boundary Butte area)

Date Investigated: 3/23/2019

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: At about 7:00 am on 3/23/2019, a livestock producer found a dead, 5-month-old, 400 lb. calf in a private-land grass pasture. Most muscle tissue of the hindquarters and internal organs were gone, but the remainder of carcass and hide were largely intact. The calf was estimated to have died within the last 24 hours.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was shaved and skinned. There were premortem tooth scrapes that were as wide as 1/4" and as long as 4" on the hide on the inside and outside of both hind legs above the hock, with premortem hemorrhage on the remaining muscle tissue on the left leg above the hock. There were also bite wounds and associated premortem hemorrhage and tissue damage behind both elbows and on the back above the shoulder. The premortem hemorrhage and muscle tissue trauma are clear signs of predator attack and the size, number, and location of the bite injuries are similar to injuries observed on other calves attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

March 18, 2019 – Jackson County (Mosser Mountain area)

Date Investigated: 3/18/2019

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: At 3:40 pm on 3/18/2019, a livestock owner found a newborn calf dead on private property. The carcass was intact with multiple puncture and scrape wounds above the midline on the lower back. The calf was estimated to have died less than 24 hours prior.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The entire carcass was shaved and skinned. Multiple premortem tooth punctures and scrapes up to 1/8" wide and 1" long were found above the midline on the back as well as on the shoulders, head, and near the elbows. Associated premortem hemorrhaging and tissue trauma extended up to 1/2" into underlying tissues. The premortem bites and muscle tissue trauma is a clear sign of predator attack but the size of scrapes and punctures and severity of trauma are not consistent with injuries observed on other calves attacked by wolves. The premortem bites and trauma are consistent with a coyote attack.

March 15, 2019 – Jackson County (Boundary Butte area)

Date Investigated: 3/15/2019

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: At 9:00 am on 3/15/2019, a livestock owner found one of his 16-week-old mastiff-mix pups dead approximately 400 yards from his residence on the industrial timber land neighboring his property. He had last seen the dog alive at midnight that morning when he had gone outside to turn on Air Dancer wolf deterrent devices after being awakened by his dogs barking incessantly.

The carcass was intact except for a section of spinal column missing from the lower back, missing tissue from the upper flank area, and missing abdominal organs.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The dog was shaved and skinned. There was premortem hemorrhage on the back and sides in front of the missing lower back area. There were bite puncture wounds on the upper and lower neck with associated premortem trauma. The scene around the carcass had multiple bloody spots, a short drag mark in the snow, and at least two sets of wolf tracks. The wolf tracks, severity of the trauma, location of bite wounds and partial consumption of the carcass is adequate physical evidence to confirm that this domestic dog was attacked by a wolf or wolves. This depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

March 7, 2019 – Baker County (Posy Valley area)

Date Investigated: 3/7/19

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 3/6/19, a livestock producer found the remains of an approx. 40 lb. calf in a 60-acre private-land pasture about 400 yards from his residence. ODFW was notified on 3/7/19 and investigated the same day. The carcass had been heavily scavenged with the front legs and one hind leg missing. Most of the hide and almost all of the muscle tissue had also been consumed. The date of death was estimated to be 3/5/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was examined and the surrounding area searched for tracks in the snow. There were no bite scrapes on the remaining hide. There was not sufficient muscle tissue remaining to assess presence of bite-caused hemorrhage or muscle tissue trauma indicating a predator attack. However, snow conditions allowed for determination of animals present since time of death and no wolf sign was found. Although the calf's death was not wolf related, it is unknown if the calf died from a coyote attack or other causes.

March 4, 2019 – Curry County (White Mountain area)

Date Investigated: 3/4/19

Cause of death/injury: Probable

General situation and animal information: Between 2/23/19 – 3/4/19, a producer and a USDA Wildlife Services specialist discovered 23 dead sheep in a partially fenced pasture on private property. After the discovery of four dead lambs on 3/4/19, ODFW was notified of the situation by USDA Wildlife Services and investigated the same day. The three carcasses available for examination were intact, however the organs and most of the muscle tissue from the flanks on one sheep had been consumed. Two additional carcasses from previous incidents were examined on 3/5 that had wounds similar to the most recently killed animals.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: No chase, struggle, or kill scene was found. The majority of each carcass was skinned and examined. On the first carcass, premortem tooth punctures, hemorrhaging, and tissue trauma were observed along the upper ribcage, on the sides of the rear legs, and on the flanks. On the second carcass, premortem tooth punctures, hemorrhaging, and tissue trauma were observed

behind the left front leg and along the upper ribcage. On the partially consumed carcass, probable hemorrhaging was observed on the hide near an apparent break in the spine. The premortem trauma and attack locations on all three carcasses are consistent with a wolf attack, but lack diagnostic evidence to clearly differentiate between wolf and domestic dog. The cause of death/injury was categorized as “Probable”. This determination may be changed if additional evidence is collected during ongoing monitoring.

February 21, 2019 – Crook County (Crooked River Valley area)

Date Investigated: 2/21/19

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 2/21/19, a livestock producer found the remains of two approx. 100 lb. calves in a 40-acre private-land pasture. The producer removed both calves after discovery. Both carcasses were intact with muscle tissue consumed from the upper hindquarters and neck. The internal organs of one calf were consumed as well. The calves were estimated to have died between the morning of 2/20/19 and the morning of 2/21/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Both carcasses were skinned and examined. There were no premortem bite scrapes on the hide or bite-caused hemorrhage or muscle tissue trauma indicating a predator attack. The carcasses had been scavenged by coyotes and birds. Snow conditions allowed for determination of animals present since time of death and no wolf sign was observed. The deaths were categorized as “Other”.

February 17, 2019 – Baker County (Officer Butte area)

Date Investigated: 2/17/19

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 2/17/19, a livestock producer found the remains of a 1-day-old, 30 lb. calf in a fenced 100-acre private-land pasture. The carcass was almost completely consumed. The calf was estimated to have died the evening of 2/16/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: No hide or muscle tissue remained to assess presence of premortem bite scrapes or bite-caused hemorrhage or muscle tissue trauma indicating a predator attack. However, snow conditions allowed for determination of animals present since time of death and no wolf sign was found. Although the calf’s death was not wolf related, it is unknown if the calf died from a coyote attack or other causes.

February 12, 2019 – Baker County (Bearwallow Gulch area)

Date Investigated: 2/12-13/19

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 2/12/19, a livestock owner found a dead, two-day-old, 60 lb. calf in an 80-acre private-land pasture. The owner removed the calf and plowed the pasture shortly after discovery. ODFW investigated the same day, and completed the investigation on 2/13 after thawing the carcass. 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 intact other than portions of the abdomen and inside of the hind legs. The date of death was estimated to be between the afternoon of 2/10/19 and the evening of 2/11/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was shaved, skinned and examined. There were no premortem bite scrapes on the hide or bite-caused hemorrhage or muscle tissue trauma indicating a predator attack. The carcass had been scavenged by both wolves and birds, however no evidence was found to suggest the death was wolf related. The death was categorized as “Other”.

January 18, 2019 – Union County (Catherine Creek area)

Date Investigated: 1/18/19

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: The carcass of an 11-month-old, 500 lb. steer was discovered by the owner's brother at daybreak on 1/18/19 in a private-land pasture. He reported hearing four wolves howling at 3:00 am. Later that day, district ODFW staff contacted the owner about a wolf GPS radio-collar location in his pasture at 5 am on 1/18, which generated the request for an investigation. Most of the internal organs and abdomen were consumed, but the remainder of the carcass and hide were largely intact. The death of the calf was estimated to have occurred less than 24 hours prior.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The entire carcass was skinned. Multiple tooth scrapes were found on the hide of the neck, left front quarter, and hindquarters. Associated premortem hemorrhage and tissue trauma extending at least 2” in depth was found on the posterior portion of the hind legs and the left front leg behind the elbow. The premortem muscle tissue trauma is a clear sign of predator attack and the size, number, severity, and location of the bite injuries are similar to injuries observed on other calves attacked by wolves. The depredation was attributed to one or more wolves from the Catherine Pack.

January 18, 2019 – Jackson County (Boundary Butte area)

Date Investigated: 1/18/19

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: Just after midnight on 1/18/19, a livestock owner, while responding to wolves howling and his dogs barking, found an injured, 4-month-old, 180 lb. calf in his private-land pasture. The owner euthanized the animal at that time. There were extensive tooth scrapes and puncture wounds on the rear half of the animal and intestine protruding from the anus. ODFW was notified and examined the carcass later that morning.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The entire carcass was shaved and skinned. Multiple tooth scrapes up to 1/2” width and 4” length were found on the hide of the neck, front quarters, abdomen, and

hindquarters. Associated tissue trauma extending up to 3” in depth was found on the inside of the hind legs from the groin to the tail. The premortem muscle tissue trauma is a clear sign of predator attack and the size, number, and location of the bite injuries are similar to injuries observed on other calves attacked by wolves. The Rogue Pack has previously depredated on this property.

January 1, 2019 – Jackson County (Boundary Butte area)

Date Investigated: 1/1-2/19

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 1/1/19, a livestock owner found an injured, 5-month-old, 235 lb. calf in a private-land pasture. An approximately 2-foot length of intestine was protruding from the anus with tissue trauma evident on the hindquarters and abdomen. The injuries were estimated to have occurred less than 12 hours earlier. The animal was euthanized on site, the carcass was brought to an ODFW office, and the examination was completed the morning of 1/2/19.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The entire carcass was shaved and skinned. More than 100 tooth scrapes from 1/16 to 1/4 inch width were found on the hide of the neck, abdomen, flanks, and hindquarters. Associated trauma extending up to 1 1/2 inches into muscle tissue was found on the inside of the hind legs from the abdomen back to the tail and down the legs to within 3 inches of the hocks. The premortem muscle tissue trauma is a clear sign of predator attack and the size, number, and location of the bite injuries are similar to injuries observed on other calves attacked by wolves. The Rogue Pack has previously depredated on this property.