



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

January - March 2020

This document lists livestock depredation investigations completed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since January 1, 2020. 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.

March, 9 2020 – Baker County (Immigrant Gulch area)

Date Investigated: 3/9/20

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 3/8/20 a livestock producer found an injured 2-day-old calf on a fenced 350-acre private land pasture. The livestock producer scheduled ODFW to examine the live calf the following morning. The calf was able to stand and walked stiffly. The calf was more lethargic than the other calves in the field. The calf was estimated to have been injured approximately 3 days before.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf sustained numerous bite marks to the rear of both hind quarters above the hock, and to the groin that were clear evidence of attack by a predator. The rear legs and groin area were shaved for examination. The left rear leg was hot and swollen with multiple tooth scrapes. Shallow wounds had begun to form scabs and the deeper wounds were still weeping. There were paired canine bite punctures near the pelvis and scrapes on the right rear leg with approximately 1 7/8 inch spacing. Several of the tooth scrapes were >1/8" in diameter. The canine spacing and location of the injuries were similar to other confirmed wolf attack injuries on calves. The location of the attack was within the Cornucopia Pack AKWA.

February 28, 2020 – Union County (High Valley area)

Date Investigated: 2/28/20

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 2/28/20, a livestock producer found a dead approximately 1-day-old, 60 lb. calf in a private-land pasture about 400 yards from the nearest house. Most muscle tissue behind the shoulders, and all entrails had been consumed. The calf was estimated to have died the previous night.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was skinned and examined, and the surrounding area searched for an attack scene. A struggle scene approximately 40 yards in length containing significant blood splatter on rocks and vegetation and coyote tracks was found. There were pre-mortem bites with associated tissue hemorrhaging up to ¼” deep on the legs, top of shoulders, head, and face. Paired canine puncture spacing ranged from 1” to 1 ¼”. The attack scene, location and depth of hemorrhaging, and the tooth spacing of bite marks are consistent with coyote predation. The death of this calf was not wolf related.

February 16, 2020 – Baker County A, B (Eagle Creek area)

Date Investigated: 2/16/20

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed (1), Probable (1)

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 2/12/2020 five cattle (3 bulls, 1 cow, and 1 2019 calf) were found stranded on a private timbered parcel. The livestock producer had been unable to find them when gathering his livestock off his USFS allotment in the fall. A friend returned on 2/15/2020 to trail the cows out and found the dead yearling steer and an injured 2-year-old bull. ODFW was contacted on 2/16/20. Fresh wolf tracks were found at the scene. The steer was largely consumed and only a small piece of the hide, skull and pelvis remained. The bull was euthanized due to its injuries and examined.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The remains of the steer were examined. It was estimated to have died 3-4 days prior. The steer had been mostly consumed and no muscle tissue remained. Numerous wolf tracks were found by the carcass and the hide that remained had numerous tooth scrapes that measured up to 1/4” in diameter and up to 3 inches long, that appeared to be postmortem. The bull was estimated to have been injured 3-4 days prior. Numerous pre-mortem bite scrapes were found behind both front elbows, the rear and sides of both hind legs from the anus to just above the hock, the groin, and the lower right flank. The bite scrapes measured up to ¼ inch across and up to 5 inches long. The muscle tissue underneath the bites on the rear legs showed areas of associated trauma up to 9 by 6 inches across and 3” in depth. Due to the time since the attack and the recent snowfall no attack scene was found for either animal. The number, location and direction of the bites and the associated depth of injuries on the bull are consistent with other confirmed wolf attack injuries on cows and is a confirmed wolf depredation. The steer died at the same location and time as the injuries to the bull occurred, and is a probable wolf depredation. This event is attributed to the Keating Pack.

January 7, 2020 – Union County (Hilgard area)

Date Investigated: 1/7/20

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: On 1/7/20, the partial remains of an adult llama were found in a small pasture on private land. Portions of the hide from the hind legs and back were present, but the remaining bones and hide were scattered over a large area and had been heavily scavenged by wolves and coyotes with all muscle tissue consumed. The death was estimated to have occurred two to three days earlier.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The area where the llama remains were found was searched, but no attack scene was located. The remaining hide and bones were examined. There were no pre-mortem injuries found on the carcass remains. Due to the missing muscle tissue and hide, the investigation determination is possible/unknown.