



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDEATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

January - April 2022

This document lists livestock depredation investigations completed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since Jan. 1, 2022. 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 injured or killed by a wolf or wolves. The goal is not to determine the cause of death, as in some cases that could require a veterinary pathologist (e.g., illness, injury, age, poisonous plants).

In some counties in 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 some counties, 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.

April 28, 2022 – Wallowa County (Crow Creek area)

Date Investigated: 4/28/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 4/27/22, a livestock owner found the remains of a six-week-old calf in a partially timbered 1200-acre pasture on public land. The carcass had been largely consumed, with only part of the spine, a few ribs, and the pelvis with some hide remaining. This carcass was located approximately 90 yards from the carcass of the second confirmed depredation in this pasture and is estimated to have died near the same time as that calf (see April 27, 2022 – Wallowa County [Crow Creek area]).

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There were trails of heavily trampled ground where the herd of cows had traveled quickly down a ridge to the creek bottom where the carcass remains were found. Wolf tracks were also found in the trails mixed with the cow tracks. The remains of the calf were skinned and examined. Pre-mortem hemorrhaging measuring one inch long and ½ inch deep was evident in two areas near the tail and one area near the spine. This bruising, combined with the disturbed ground, and the nearby confirmed depredation, allows for using reasonable inference to confirm the death of this calf as wolf-caused. This depredation is attributed to the Chesnimnus Pack.

April 27, 2022 – Wallowa County (Crow Creek area)

Date Investigated: 4/27/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 4/26/22, a livestock owner saw eight wolves around the remains of a six-week-old, 180 lb. calf in a partially timbered 850-acre pasture on public land. The carcass was intact and the majority of the hide was present; most of the tissue was missing. The calf was estimated to have died within 24 hours of the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was shaved, skinned, and examined. There were at least 20 pre-mortem bite scrapes on the hindquarters up to ¼ inch wide and two inches long. There were pre-mortem tooth scrapes and punctures on the hide near both elbows, including pre-mortem hemorrhage and torn muscle 1¾ inches deep in the corresponding tissue. The size and location of bite wounds and severity of trauma are similar to those observed in other calves attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to the Chesnimnus Pack.

Addendum (4/29/22): The pasture where this investigation occurred was 1200 acres, not 850 acres as previously reported.

April 25, 2022 – Wallowa County (Crow Creek area)

Date Investigated: 4/25/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 4/25/22, a livestock owner found the remains of a 2-month-old, 170 lb. calf in a privately owned 850-acre pasture. The carcass was intact except for feeding at the stomach. The calf was estimated to have died 24-48 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was shaved, skinned and examined. There were more than 20 pre-mortem tooth scrapes on the hindquarters and below the anus up to ¼ inch wide and 2½ inches long. Underlying tissue trauma and hemorrhage extended up to an inch deep. There were pre-mortem tooth punctures on shoulders and elbows, including tissue damage 1¾ inches deep. The size and location of the bite wounds and severity of trauma are similar to those observed in other calves attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to the Chesnimnus Pack.

Addendum (4/28/22): The carcass was found on public land, not on private land as previously reported.

Addendum (4/29/22): The pasture where this investigation occurred was 1200 acres, not 850 acres as previously reported.

March 29, 2022 – Baker County (Ruckles Creek area)

Date Investigated: 3/29/22

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 3/28/22 a producer found an adult, approximately 130 lb. alpaca injured within its enclosure. The producer euthanized the alpaca and moved it away from other stock. ODFW was contacted and inspected the carcass on 3/29/22; the injuries were estimated to be from the day prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The intact carcass was shaved, skinned, and examined. One premortem bite puncture was observed on the side of the head, and a single premortem bite tear was observed on the top of the head, with associated muscle tissue trauma in both locations. There was muscle trauma on the left side of the neck and bruising in the hide, but no observable tooth scrapes on the hide in this location. There was also a single premortem tooth scrape on the back of the right hind leg near the anus with shallow associated tissue bruising. The location and number of tooth marks are not consistent with wolf attack injuries on livestock.

March 16, 2022 – Grant County (Bear Valley area)

Date Investigated: 3/16/22

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 3/16/22 a livestock producer found the remains of a one-day old calf in a private land pasture. The carcass was mostly consumed with the hind quarters missing from the scene. The calf had died the preceding night.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The remaining hide on the head, front quarters, back, and flanks were shaved and skinned. There were no premortem wounds indicating a predator attack. Evidence typical of scavenging by coyotes was observed on the carcass. No evidence was found on the scene or carcass to suggest the death was wolf related. Due to the lack of hide and muscle tissue on the carcass, the determination is possible/unknown.

March 16, 2022 – Baker County (Halfway Valley)

Date Investigated: 3/16/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 3/15/22 a producer found his 40-pound heeler wounded and bloody on his property. The dog was seen by a veterinarian but had to be euthanized. ODFW inspected the carcass on 3/16/22; the injuries were estimated to be from early morning on 3/15/22.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The remains were skinned, examined, and the hair was shaved around the injuries. There were premortem bite punctures to the head and throat with associated muscle tissue trauma. Bruising of the hide and muscle trauma were found on the back, hips, and groin. The location and size of the tooth marks are consistent with wolf attack injuries on dogs. One collared male yearling from the Cornucopia Pack had radio-collar locations ½ mile north of the ranch yard at 2 a.m. and 5 a.m., and south at 8 a.m. The depredation is attributed to the Cornucopia Pack.

March 9, 2022 – Union County (Cabin Creek Area)

Date Investigated: 3/9/22

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 3/9/22, a livestock producer found the carcass of a four-year-old cow and a leg from a calf on a 680-acre partly forested private land pasture. The 1,500-pound cow carcass was intact with a tear in the hide at the vulva. The cow died less than 48-hours prior to investigation, the calf appeared to have died prior to the cow.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There was no chase scene. The cow carcass was shaved and skinned; there was no premortem bite marks on the hide and no premortem bite trauma in the tissue. There were wolf tracks at the cow and ¼ inch wide postmortem bite scrapes at the vulva. Clean/soft hooves and advanced decomposition of the hide of the calf indicate the calf was not born alive. The cow and calf were not killed by wolves.

February 9, 2022 – Wallowa County (Enterprise Area)

Date Investigated: 2/9/22

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 2/8/22, a landowner found an injured 5-year-old mare in their approximately 8-acre grass pasture. The mare had sustained a compound fracture to its left hind leg and was euthanized later that morning. That evening, the landowner discovered scratches on the hind legs of two additional horses and requested an investigation the next morning.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There was no chase or attack scene located near where the mare was initially discovered. No wolf tracks were identified in the snow within the pasture or along the outside perimeter of the pasture. Neither the wounds sustained by the euthanized mare nor the live animals were wolf related.

February 5, 2022– Union County (Meadow Creek Area)

Date Investigated: 2/5/22

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 2/5/22 a livestock producer found the carcass of a 10-month-old 375-lb heifer calf on a 350-acre private land pasture. The hide and tissue were scavenged on the upper left rear quarter and anus. The calf died the night of 2/4/22 or early morning of 2/5/22.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There was no chase or struggle scene and no wolf tracks in the snow. The entire carcass was shaved, skinned, and examined. There were no premortem bite marks on the hide and no premortem bite trauma in the tissue. The death of the calf was not wolf related.

February 3, 2022 – Grant County (Izee area)

Date Investigated: 2/3/22

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 2/3/22 a passing motorist observed two wolves feeding on a dead cow in a 30-acre private grass pasture. The 900-pound, 8 or 9-year-old cow was known to be lame and being doctored for hoof rot. The cow was observed alive the previous afternoon and died sometime during the preceding night. The carcass had feeding on the front left shoulder and hind end.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: No attack scene was found. The entire carcass was skinned, and most of the hide was shaved. No premortem bite scrapes, wolf bite hemorrhaging or tissue trauma were observed on the carcass. The hide was present in most areas where wolves attack, but the hide was missing from the front left shoulder, and some of the rear of the hindquarters below and around the anus. There was no evidence on the carcass that wolves caused the death of the cow, but since some hide and tissue was missing, the determination is possible/unknown. Additional monitoring will be done to learn more about the wolves in this area.

January 27, 2022 – Lake County (Summer Lake area)

Date Investigated: 1/27/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: A local resident found a mortally wounded ~800-pound 11-month-old heifer on the morning of 1/27/22 in a 60-acre feedlot. The heifer was euthanized due to the extent of the injuries on its hindquarters. The injuries were estimated to be from the night of 1/24/22.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The majority of the carcass was shaved and skinned. There were over 50 pre-mortem bite scrapes up to four inches long and ¼ inch wide on both hindquarters, a large open wound with necrotic tissue on the underside of the right thigh, and an open wound on the left flank. Beneath the bite scrapes there was pre-mortem hemorrhaging up to two inches deep. The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes and severe underlying muscle tissue trauma are consistent with wolf attack injuries. The depredation of this calf is attributed to two wolves (LAS13 and OR115).

January 25, 2022 – Baker County (Tucker Creek area)

Date Investigated: 1/25/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 1/25/22, a livestock producer found a dead 500-pound year-old calf in a 25-acre grassland private pasture. The carcass was mostly intact but the organs and most of the hide and muscle tissue from the hindquarters had been consumed. The calf had died during the preceding night.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There was a struggle scene in an area of disturbed snow about 20 yards in diameter with fresh calf and wolf tracks and blood. The calf carcass was shaved, skinned, and examined. Multiple premortem tooth scrapes were found on the remaining hide on the left rear leg above the hock with associated muscle tissue trauma. Premortem tooth scrapes with associated muscle tissue trauma were also found on the throat and back of the calf. Tooth scrape size and location of the injuries are consistent with wolf attack injuries on calves. The location of the attack was within the Keating Pack AKWA, though no radio-collared Keating Pack wolves were present in the area near the time of the calf's death. Additional monitoring will be done to assess if new wolves are using the area.

January 22, 2022 – Union County (Union area)

Date Investigated: 1/22/22

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 1/22/22, a livestock owner found a dead 10-month-old steer carcass in their 9-acre private grassland pasture. Most of the hide and skeleton remained, but the muscle tissue was mostly consumed. The steer had died approximately 3-5 days prior to examination.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The hide was shaved and the remains of the carcass were skinned. There was no evidence of predation on the scene and no premortem bite scrapes or hemorrhage on the carcass. The death of the steer was not wolf related.

January 20, 2022 – Jackson County (Boundary Butte area)

Date Investigated: 1/20/22

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 1/20/22, a livestock owner found a 327-pound five-month-old steer dead in his private grassland pasture about 300 yards from his home. The carcass was mostly intact.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was shaved and skinned. There was scavenging around the face and tailhead as well as some older wounds that were starting to heal over. No additional scrape marks were found on the hide and no premortem hemorrhaging was found anywhere on the carcass. The cause of death is not wolf related.

January 19, 2022 – Jackson County (Boundary Butte area)

Date Investigated: 1/19/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: In the afternoon of 1/19/22, a livestock owner found his dead mixed breed livestock guardian dog inside of his electric wolf resistant fence in his private grass pasture

about 600 yards from his home. The carcass was mostly intact. The dog died sometime during the previous night.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was shaved, skinned, and examined. There were bite punctures and premortem hemorrhage indicating it had been attacked. The location and severity of wounds are consistent with a wolf attack on a dog and include punctures up to ¼” wide and multiple areas of premortem hemorrhage and torn muscle tissue up to one inch deep. There were wolf tracks near the carcass and at least four sets of wolf tracks entered and left the electric fence about 300 yards from the carcass. This depredation is attributed to members of the Rogue Pack.

January 16, 2022 – Baker County (Middle Bridge Loop Area)

Date Investigated: 1/16/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: After being notified of wolves in close proximity to their house on 1/15/22, a livestock producer noticed the carcass of his 40-pound Kelpie herding dog 150 yards from their house on the morning of 1/16/22. The carcass had been scavenged and most of the muscle tissue and organs were missing. The dog was estimated to have died on the night of 1/14/22.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The remains were examined, and the hair was shaved around the injuries. There were over 15 premortem bite punctures approximately 1/8 inch in diameter, as well as tears at least 1/8 inch wide and up to 1/2 inch long on the back and inside of the right front leg. The location, size, and number of tooth scrapes are consistent with wolf attack injuries on dogs. The depredation is attributed to the Keating Pack.

Correction: ODFW spoke with the livestock producer about the wolves at 9pm on 1/14/22.

January 14, 2022 - Union County (High Valley area)

Date Investigated: 1/14/22

Cause of death/injury: Possible/unknown

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer found the remains of a deceased calf on the morning of 1/14/22 in a privately-owned 70-acre pasture near his residence. The carcass was completely scavenged with only the skull, one scapula, and the backbone with ribs attached. The calf was estimated to have died about 24 hours earlier.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: No evidence of a chase or kill scene was found. The bones of the carcass were examined. No evidence was found on the carcass to suggest the death was wolf related, but due to the lack of muscle tissue and hide the determination is possible/unknown.

January 7, 2022 – Jackson County (Lodgepole Rd area)

Date Investigated: 1/7/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: A local resident found a mortally wounded 225-pound calf on the morning of 1/7/22 in an open area on a privately-owned industrial timber land allotment. The calf died shortly after being found. The carcass was largely intact with one open wound in the left flank and one where the tail had been removed. Fresh wolf tracks were found in snow at the carcass.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The majority of the carcass was shaved and skinned. There were over one hundred pre-mortem bite scrapes up to four inches long and ¼ inch wide on both hindquarters, as well as injuries on the head, elbows, flanks, and groin. Beneath the bite scrapes there was pre-mortem hemorrhaging up to two inches deep. The death of this calf is attributed to the Rogue Pack.

January 5, 2022 – Jackson County (Fredenburg Butte area)

Date Investigated: 1/5/22

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: A local resident found the carcass of a newborn calf at 5:00pm on 1/4/22 in a large industrial timberland pasture. The carcass was largely intact with the exception of scavenging on the front left shoulder, several ribs, and thoracic organs. It is estimated the animal died within 12 hours of being located.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The majority of the carcass from the ears back was shaved and skinned. There was minor bruising in three locations on the right side of the carcass and minor bruising at and below the hocks of both hind legs. There were no pre-mortem bite marks or scrapes on the hide. There was air in the lungs and capsules on the hooves of the calf indicating it was alive for a very short time after birth but had never stood. There was no sign of a chase or struggle at the scene. Based on the evidence, the calf was not killed by a wolf.