



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDEATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

July - December 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.

July 12, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/12/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/12/22, a livestock owner found a dead 11-month-old, 775 lb. cow in his 400-acre, private-land pasture. The carcass was mostly intact with some consumption of tissue on the rear hindquarters. It was estimated that the cow had died the night prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There were more than 60 pre-mortem bite scrapes near the left elbow and on both hindquarters above the hock and at the groin, measuring up to three inches in length and 1/4 inch in width. Pre-mortem hemorrhaging and associated tissue trauma up to two inches deep was found underlying these bite scrapes. The location and severity of injuries are consistent with wolf attacks on yearlings and the determination of this investigation is "Confirmed". This depredation is attributed to the Rogue Pack.

July 6, 2022 – Wallowa County (Grouse Flats area)

Date Investigated: 7/6/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed (1),
Possible/Unk (2)

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/6/22, agents of a livestock producer found the carcasses of three yearling cows in a 160 acre, private-land pasture. Two of the carcasses

consisted of scattered bones and were estimated to have died approximately 1 week prior to the investigation. The third carcass was mostly intact, with one leg and most of the tissue on the hindquarters and torso missing. It was estimated that the yearling had died approximately 36 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There was insufficient evidence remaining at the scene or on the bones for two of the yearlings to determine whether they had been attacked by a predator. As such, the determination for these animals is "Possible/Unknown". More than 100 pre-mortem bite scrapes, measuring up to 3 inches long and 3/16 inches wide, and associated underlying pre-mortem hemorrhaging and tissue trauma with a depth of up to 1 ½ inches were found on the hindquarters of the intact carcass. The severity and locations of injuries are consistent with wolf attacks on yearling cattle and this confirmed depredation is attributed to the Grouse Flats Pack.