



QUALIFICATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 131121 Wallowa

Investigation ID# 131121 Wallowa was confirmed by ODFW as a wolf-caused depredation incident on November 21, 2013 by Snake River wolves. Because this depredation resulted in injury to an adult cow which was discovered at a later date, the cows' exact location at the time of depredation is unknown. However, all evidence indicates that the cow was west of the Area of Depredating Wolves (ADW) boundary for the Snake River pack (posted October 31, 2013). Based on the injuries of the cow, the depredation was estimated to have occurred during the time period of November 8-12, 2013. However, the location data of collared Snake River wolves in the area gives a more precise estimate of November 9th or 10th. This is the third confirmed depredation incident associated with the Snake River Pack; the first was confirmed on October 16, 2013. Following the first incident, ODFW developed and posted an ADW and an Area-Specific Conflict Deterrence Plan (Deterrence Plan) on the ODFW wolf web page on October 31, 2013.

Unnatural Attractants: On November 27 the affected ranch provided a written statement that that there was "no bone piles or anything that would bait the wolves". Likewise, ODFW has been working (with wolf non-lethal measures) with this ranch for several years and is not aware of any unnatural attractants in this area. For the purpose of OAR 635-110-0010(8) the '**no unnatural attractant**' requirement is met.

Non-lethal Measures: On November 4, in response to proximity of both Imnaha and Snake River packs, ODFW provided this ranch with three radio-activated guard (RAG) units. The purpose of the units was to deter wolf use of the lower river bottom pastures, and to alert ranch personnel of wolf presence anywhere within the river canyon. Since initial delivery, ODFW has assisted the ranch with setup and operation of the units, and they were known to be in-use during the estimated period of depredation. ODFW is also aware that the ranch has regularly used a handheld telemetry receiver (issued by ODFW) for the purpose of detecting radio-collared wolves when in the area.

On the written statement referenced above, the affected ranch also provided the following information:

- Cattle were turned into the pasture where the depredation occurred on November 1
- ODFW-issued RAG units were received on November 4 and subsequently set up.
- November 1-9; daily and nightly checks of cattle were conducted by looking for wolves, tracks, scat, and listening for wolf howls and distressed cattle. The handheld telemetry device was also used to detect wolves.
- November 9-11; after receiving email notification of wolves in the area, increased checks (doing the same things as previously stated) to 3 times per day and 2 times each night

In this case, the verified use of RAG devices, nightly telemetry monitoring for signals within the canyon, and increasing human presence in response to email notifications are all appropriate measures. The depredated animal was on open pasture, but is believed to have been in relatively close proximity to the river-bottom pastures (within the immediate Imnaha River canyon). The depredation likely occurred outside the ADW boundary, but for the purpose of qualifying this depredation under OAR 635-110-0010 the extensive use of non-lethal measures by this ranch renders the exact location irrelevant.

Qualification Status: This confirmed incident of depredation **qualifies** under OAR 635-110-0010(8).

Correction (12/3/2013): A date in the first paragraph (10/8-12/2013) was incorrect when first posted. It is now corrected to read "November 8-12, 2013".