



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 171011 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 10/11/2017

General Area: Harl Butte area – public land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 10/11/2017, an ODFW employee found a 550 lb. dead calf in a large rangeland pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and the calf carcass was examined the same morning. The calf was estimated to have died earlier the same morning. The carcass was about 50% consumed with all entrails, both hindquarters, and most of the right front shoulder tissue missing.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The remaining carcass was skinned and examined. Premortem bite marks were found behind the left ribs, between the shoulders, the right brisket, and under the jaw. These bite marks were associated with severe hemorrhaging and muscle tissue trauma, and are clear evidence of a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The areas of bite marks found on the carcass measured up to 8 inches long, 6 inches wide, and 1.5 inches into the muscle tissue. These combined with the severe hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage found behind the ribs, between the shoulders, and under the jaw are similar to other observed attack injuries from wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: OR50 of the Harl Butte Pack was located by GPS radio-collar data at the location of the carcass at 6:00AM on 10/11/2017.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: There have been ten calf depredations attributed to the Harl Butte Pack between 7/15/2016 and 10/01/2017. All depredations occurred within nine miles of this site.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The locations, and size of the premortem bite wounds are indicative of wolf attack. These combined with the GPS radio-collar data made proximal to the time of death were adequate to confirm this incident as a depredation by a wolf or wolves of the Harl Butte Pack.