



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

January 2021

This document lists livestock depredation investigations completed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since January 1, 2021. 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 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.

January 17, 2021 – Baker County (Foster Gulch area)

Date Investigated: 1/17/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed as wolf-caused

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 1/16/21, an approximately 1100 lb. 3-year-old injured cow was found on public land adjacent to a large private rangeland pasture. The cow was euthanized because it could not get up or walk. The carcass was partially skinned and examined by the ranch manager, and then buried to eliminate the predator attractant. Photographs of the injuries and an approximately 18x18-inch section of hide were provided to ODFW for examination. The injuries to the cow were estimated to have occurred late on 1/15/21 to early on 1/16/21.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The pictures showed evidence of attack by a predator, with pre-mortem tissue damage and bleeding around the anus and on the tail, and pre-mortem tooth scrapes with associated muscle tissue bruising on the right hind leg. The section of hide from above the right hock was shaved and examined. There were more than 30 pre-mortem tooth scrapes that were up to 1/4 inch wide and 3 inches long with bruising apparent on the inside of the hide. Paired canine tooth scrapes were measured at approx. 1 7/8 to 2 inches. The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes and underlying muscle tissue trauma are consistent with wolf attack injuries to adult cows. The incident was wolf-caused but it may not meet the Wolf Plan definition of depredation (lawfully present livestock on public land). This attack is attributed to the Cornucopia Pack.