



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

July – August 2021

This document lists livestock depredation investigations completed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since July 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.

August 11, 2021 – Union County (Indian Lake area)

Date Investigated: 8/11/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/10/21 a producer found an injured 450 lb., 6-month-old calf on a forested public land allotment. The animal was euthanized by the owner and transported to an ODFW office where an investigation was performed the following morning. Open wounds were observed on both rear legs between the anus and hock, the left flank, and the left shoulder. The estimated date of injuries was 7-14 days prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The entire carcass was shaved and skinned. Numerous pre-mortem tooth scrapes ranging from 1/8-3/16 inch in width and up to 6 inches long were found on both hind legs above the hocks as well as the groin, adjacent to the observed open wounds. Depth of tissue trauma under the tooth scrapes and within the open wounds was up to 2 ½ inches. The pre-mortem bite wounds are a clear sign of predator attack. The location and severity of the injuries is similar to injuries observed on other calves attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to the Ukiah Pack.

August 4, 2021 – Baker County (First Creek area)

Date Investigated: 8/4/21

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 8/3/21 a livestock producer found an adult cow that had injuries to its udder on a large private rangeland pasture. The cow was moved into a corral and examined the morning of 8/4/21. The injury was estimated to have occurred 1 to 2 weeks before examination.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The areas around the right rear leg and right front elbow were shaved and the entire cow was examined. There were rub marks in the hide in the arm pit area on both sides of the cow. There was an approximately 5-inch-long open wound to the underside of the udder. No marks were found around the injured area. There was no evidence of bite marks or predator attack on the cow. The cause of the wound is unknown but was not wolf related.

August 1, 2021 – Baker County (Fivemile Creek area)

Date Investigated: 8/1/21

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: On the night of 7/31/21, a livestock owner found a dead approximately 1.5-year-old, 150 lb. ewe on public land. The carcass was mostly intact with a small area of scavenging around the anus and upper hind legs. The sheep was estimated to have died between the night of 7/30/21 and early afternoon of 7/31/21.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The carcass was skinned and examined. There were pre-mortem bite scrapes and punctures 1/16-1/8 inch wide and up to 1 ½ inch long above the hocks on the hind legs, on the upper back in front of the hips, and in the left front leg armpit. Associated tissue trauma was 1/4-3/4 inch deep. There were also several canine tooth tears in the hide of the throat up to 3/16 inch long with associated tissue trauma approximately 1/2 inch deep. The pre-mortem bite wounds are a clear sign of predator attack but lacked diagnostic evidence to differentiate between coyote and domestic dog. The ewe's death was not wolf related.

July 30, 2021 – Baker County (Sisley Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/30/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 7/26/21 a livestock producer, while checking cattle, found an injured 6-month-old, 325 lb. calf in a 1900-acre private-land pasture. The calf was moved to a corral on 7/29/21 and examined by ODFW on 7/30/21. The calf was estimated to have been injured approximately 3 weeks before the examination.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf was examined, and the hair was shaved around the injuries. The calf had over 30 tooth scrapes at least 1/8 inch wide and up to 4 inches long on the rear of the hind legs above the hock and on the tail. There was also an approximately 7 inch by 3 inch area of missing hide and muscle tissue on the inside of the left hind leg above the hock. The location, size, and number of tooth scrapes and associated tissue trauma are consistent with wolf attacks on calves. The depredation is attributed to the Lookout Mountain Pack.

July 26, 2021 – Umatilla County (Spring Mountain area)

Date Investigated: 7/26/21

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 7/24/21, a livestock producer discovered a dead 3-month-old, 65 lb. lamb on the public land grazing allotment. The carcass was collected and brought to an ODFW office cooler, and the examination was performed on 7/26/21. The carcass of the sheep had been mostly consumed, leaving only the head, neck, one front leg, rib cage and hind legs. It was estimated that the lamb died within 24 hours prior to the carcass being collected.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The lamb was skinned and examined. There was pre-mortem hemorrhaging and tissue damage on the throat approximately 1 ½" wide x 3 ½" long x ½" deep. There was pre-mortem hemorrhaging to the front right leg above the elbow measuring 1" x 2 1/4" x 1/16" deep. The pre-mortem injury to the throat is consistent with predation injuries on lambs but lacked diagnostic evidence to differentiate between carnivore species. The determination is possible/unknown.

July 26, 2021 – Baker County (Manning Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/26/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 7/25/21 a livestock producer, while checking cattle, found an injured 850 lb., 1.5-year-old steer on a 3000+ acre private-land pasture. The steer was moved to a squeeze chute for examination by ODFW the next morning. The steer was estimated to have been injured 10-12 days before the examination.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The steer was examined, and the hair was shaved around the injuries. The steer had parallel pre-mortem tooth scrapes on the rear of both back legs above the hock. There were over 40 bite scrapes at least 1/8 inch wide and up to 4 1/2 inches long above the left hock associated with deep tissue trauma and missing tissue. There were numerous similarly sized tooth scrapes to the left and right flanks, right rear leg above the hock, and behind the right shoulder. The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes are consistent with wolf attack injuries on adult cattle. The depredation is attributed to the Lookout Mountain Pack.

July 23, 2021 – Baker County (Nodine Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/23/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/23/21 a livestock producer, while checking cattle, found a dead 850 lb., 1.5-year-old heifer on private public land within a 3200+ acre mixed public/private land pasture. The carcass was intact and complete, except for scavenging on the upper hindquarters, groin, right flank, and some organs. The majority of the hide remained. The heifer was estimated to have died late in the day on 7/22/21 or in the early morning of 7/23/21.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: A struggle scene was found approximately 50 yards from the carcass, and a blood trail that led from the struggle scene to the carcass. Blood on the ground and on overhanging branches was from a standing animal, and wolf tracks were found along the trail. The hair was shaved around the front and rear right legs, and the entire carcass was skinned. There was pre-mortem hemorrhaging and muscle tissue trauma on the inside and back of the left rear leg from below the hock to the groin, as well as to the left flank. Tissue trauma extended up to 1 inch deep. The right rear leg had numerous pre-mortem tooth scrapes to the rear and inside of the leg above the hock. The tooth scrapes were up to 3/16 of an inch wide and ranged from 5/8 of an inch to over 3 inches long. The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes are consistent with wolf attack injuries on adult cattle. The depredation is attributed to the Lookout Mountain Pack.

Addendum (7/29/21): The carcass was found on public land, not on private land as previously reported.

July 23, 2021 – Umatilla County (Meacham area)

Date Investigated: 7/23/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: While checking cows a livestock producer's range rider found the remains of a dead 5-month-old, 300 lb. calf late in the morning of 7/23/21 in a 4000-acre forested private-land pasture. Most muscle tissue was consumed except for below the elbow and stifle joint, back of the neck, and head. Hide remained on the rear legs below the mid-point of the shank bone, on the front legs below the mid-point of the forearm, on the dorsal side of the head, and areas that covered the back, neck, and shoulders. The calf was estimated to have died the morning of 7/22/21.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: A kill scene was found with disturbed soil and blood from a standing animal. The legs of the calf were shaved where muscle tissue remained, and all remaining hide was skinned. Numerous pre-mortem tooth scrapes and punctures up to 3/16 inch wide and 3 inches long wide were found on both rear legs above the hock as well as on the inside of each front leg between the knee and elbow. Underlying pre-mortem hemorrhaging and/or muscle trauma was observed in all areas with bite scrapes. The calf had pre-mortem bite wounds indicating it was attacked by a predator. The size, number, and location of wounds are consistent with wolf attacks on calves. This depredation event is attributed to the OR30 Wolves.

July 21, 2021 – Umatilla County (Meacham area)

Date Investigated: 7/21/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer's range rider found the remains of a dead calf on the morning of 7/21/21 in a 4000-acre forested private-land pasture. The calf was approximately 5 months old and weighed around 300 lbs. The carcass was mostly intact. Tissue from the inside of both hind legs and part of the right side of the neck and jaw had been consumed, but the majority of the hide remained. The calf was estimated to have died the evening of 7/20/21 or the morning of 7/21/21.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: One side of the calf was shaved and both sides were skinned. Pre-mortem tooth scrapes and punctures up to 1/4 inch wide were found on the spine, both hind legs above the hock, both front legs above the elbow, the brisket, and on the right side of the rump just forward of the tail. Underlying pre-mortem hemorrhage and muscle trauma was extensive in all areas that showed bite scrapes and was up to 3 inches deep. The calf had pre-mortem bite wounds indicating it was attacked by a predator. The size, number, location, and severity of wounds were consistent with wolf attacks on calves. This depredation event is attributed to the OR30 Wolves.

July 21, 2021 – Baker County (Manning Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/21/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 7/20/21 a livestock producer, while checking cattle, found an injured 950 lb., 1.5-year-old steer on a large 2500+ acre private-land pasture. The steer was trailered to a corral the evening of 7/20/21 and examined on 7/21/21. The steer was estimated to have been injured 3-4 days before the examination.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The steer was examined, and the hair was shaved around the injuries. The steer had parallel pre-mortem tooth scrapes on the rear of both back legs above the hock, and in front of the left front leg. There were at least 30 bite scrapes about 3/16 inches wide and up to 4.5 inches long above the left hock. The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes are consistent with wolf attack injuries on adult cattle. The depredation is attributed to the Lookout Mountain Pack.

July 17, 2021 – Morrow County A&B (Butter Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/17/21

Cause of death/injury: Other (2)

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/15/21, a livestock producer found two dead calves while moving cattle in a forested private-land pasture. ODFW was contacted the evening of 7/16/21 and the investigation was conducted the next morning. Both carcasses were intact. Calf A was a 5-month-old 400 lb calf. The carcass had minor scavenging, the tissue was mostly consumed by maggots, and all of the hide was present except at the groin. Calf B was a 5-month-old 250 lb calf, that was scavenged at the abdomen, right front leg and inside of left hind leg. It was estimated that calf A died between 7/13/21 and 7/14/21, and calf B died approximately 7/12/21.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The left shoulder and left rear leg of calf A were shaved and both calves were skinned and examined. No pre-mortem injuries were found on the hide or in the remaining muscle tissues of calf A. The cause of death of calf A is unknown, but was not wolf related. Calf B had an area of pre-mortem hemorrhaging approximately 3 inches by 6 inches near the base of the skull and jaw on the right side of the head. The spinal column was severed immediately behind the location of the hemorrhaging. Calf B died from a severed spinal column and was probably killed by a cougar. There were no pre-mortem injuries in the areas associated with wolf attacks on calves, and the death was not wolf-related.

July 14, 2021 – Baker County (Manning Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/14/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 7/14/21 a livestock producer, while checking cattle, found a dead 5.5-month-old calf in a 3500+ acre public land allotment. The calf carcass had been heavily fed upon with little remaining muscle tissue, but the majority of the hide remained. The calf was estimated to have died approximately 36 hours before the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The calf carcass was skinned, partially shaved and examined. The calf had numerous parallel pre-mortem tooth scrapes up to 5 inches long and 1/4 inch wide with associated bruising under the hide on the rear of both back legs above the hock. There were additional pre-mortem tooth scrapes at the right front elbow. The location, size, number, and direction of tooth scrapes are consistent with wolf attack injuries on calves. A collared Lookout Mountain Pack wolf was present at the carcass location at the approximate time of death. The depredation is attributed to the Lookout Mountain Pack.

July 13,2021 – Baker County (First Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/13/21

Cause of death/injury: Other

General situation and animal information: A ranch hand found a dead calf on 7/13/21 in a large, private-land pasture near several watering holes. The carcass was intact except for scavenging of internal organs and portions of the right ribs, right shoulder, and anus. It was estimated that the calf had died within the last 12 hours.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The entire carcass was skinned. No pre-mortem bites, scratches, cuts, scrapes, or punctures were found on the hide. The underlying muscle tissue showed no evidence of hemorrhage or tissue damage. There was no evidence of predator attack on the carcass or the scene. The cause of death was not wolf related.

July 4, 2021 – Union County (Kamela area)

Date Investigated: 7/4/21

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed (9)

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/4/21, a herder notified a ranch hand that sheep had scattered from around their bedding area near his trailer the previous evening. That same morning, a member of the public found two dead ewes and one dead lamb on the same large, timbered private-land pasture and notified the ranch hand. The ranch hand found an additional three dead lambs, one dead ewe, and two injured lambs. One of the injured lambs was not relocated until 7/7/21. Of the dead sheep, one was mostly consumed, two were completely intact, two were mostly intact, and two were partially consumed. All animals were estimated to have been injured or killed on the evening of 7/3/21.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: A GPS location from a radio-collared Ukiah wolf around the time of the sheep injuries and mortalities was within 150 yards of three of the sheep carcasses. Tracks of multiple wolves were also found near several of the carcasses. One injured lamb and one dead ewe were examined on site on 7/4/21, the remaining dead sheep were partially shaved/skinned and examined on 7/6/21. The dead sheep had pre-mortem tooth punctures up to 3/8" in diameter on the neck, throat, groin, and/or hindquarters. Associated hemorrhage and tissue trauma extended up to 2" deep. One injured lamb had an open bite wound on the backside of the right hindquarter above the hock with exposed tissue damage. The other injured lamb had a bite wound to the throat. All sheep had pre-mortem bite wounds indicating they were attacked by a predator. The size, location, and severity of wounds were consistent with wolf attacks on sheep. This depredation event is attributed to the Ukiah Pack.

July 1, 2021 – Umatilla County (Meacham area)

Date Investigated: 7/1/21

Cause of death/injury: Possible/Unknown

General situation and animal information: A livestock producer's range rider found the remains of a dead calf on 7/1/21 in a 4000-acre forested private-land pasture. The calf was approximately 4 months old weighing 325 lbs. and had been nearly consumed with only the head, portions of both front legs and scapula, and pelvis with attached vertebrae remaining. The calf was estimated to have died 2-3 days prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The remaining hide was shaved and skinned with no pre-mortem bite marks, scrapes, or muscle trauma found. No evidence was found to suggest the death was wolf related. Due to the lack of hide and muscle tissue on the calf, the determination is possible/unknown.