



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION 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 21, 2022 – Umatilla County (Kamela area)

Date Investigated: 7/21/2022

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the afternoon of 7/20/22, an ODFW employee was checking trail cameras in an 8000-acre, private-land pasture. On the morning of 7/19/22, the camera had taken photos of wolves harassing a 450-lb calf for several minutes, while its mother was present. The livestock owner was unable to find the calf when he searched on 7/20/22 and 7/21/22.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: The photographs showed fresh bite scrape injuries on the calf's left hindquarter above the hock. This depredation is attributed to the Ukiah Pack.

July 17, 2022 - Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/17/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/17/22, a livestock producer found a dead, approximately 950 lb., yearling steer in a large private-land grass pasture. Portions of the hindquarters and neck had been consumed with the remaining tissues intact. It is estimated that the steer died 36-48 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Multiple pre-mortem tooth scrapes were observed up to three inches long and 1/8" wide around the left shoulder. Areas of pre-mortem hemorrhage and soft

tissue trauma were observed near both elbows and the neck. The pre-mortem bite scrapes and tissue trauma are clear signs of a predator attack. The injuries are consistent with injuries on other cattle attacked by wolves in this area. This depredation is attributed to the Rogue Pack.

July 17, 2022 – Union County (Five Points Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/17/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: A ranch manager found a 900-lb, injured, yearling heifer in an 1100-acre private forested pasture on 7/17/22. The estimated time of the injuries were 12-24 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Tooth scrapes up to 1/4-inch wide were found on both hind quarters above the hock to the tail, left flank, and behind both elbows varying in length from two to six inches. There were punctures in the hide on the rear of both hindquarters including a one-inch tear. The location and size of injuries are consistent with wolf attacks on cattle. This depredation is attributed to the Five Points Pack.

July 15, 2022 – Union County (Palmer Junction area)

Date Investigated: 7/15/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/15/22, a livestock owner found three dead goats on his 44-acre, private-land pasture about 300 yards from his house. The goats ranged in size between 40 and 120 pounds. The carcasses of two goats were intact; one goat had entrails removed. The goats had died during the previous night.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: There were ¼ to 3/8-inch-wide bite punctures and tooth scrapes with up to 2 ½ inch deep pre-mortem hemorrhage and tissue trauma on all three goats. Bite locations included neck and hindquarters. The locations and size of bite marks and depth of associated trauma is consistent with other confirmed wolf attacks on goats. The depredation event is attributed to the Balloon Tree Pack.

July 15, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/15/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General Situation and animal information: On 7/15/22, a ranch manager found an injured, 800 lb., yearling steer in a private land grass pasture. Due to the severity of the injuries, the steer was euthanized. It is estimated the steer was injured approximately 12 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Numerous pre-mortem tooth scrapes were observed on the hide on both hindquarters and groin measuring up to four inches in length and ¼ inch in width with associated pre-mortem hemorrhage and trauma to underlying tissues. There was a large open wound with missing muscle tissue on the right hindquarter above the hock. The injuries are consistent with injuries on other cattle attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to the Rogue Pack.

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.