



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORTS

July - December 2022

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

August 1, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 8/1/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On 8/1/22, a livestock producer found an injured, approximately 700 lb., 11-month-old heifer in a 375-acre private-land grass pasture. The animal was euthanized by the livestock producer due to the severity of its injuries. We estimated that the injuries to the heifer occurred within 24 hours of the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: More than 50 pre-mortem bite scrapes measuring up to three inches long and 1/4-inch wide were documented on the left and right hindquarters of the cow with associated tissue damage up to four inches deep. The severity, size, and locations of these wounds are consistent with injuries to cattle attacked by wolves. As such, this depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

August 1, 2022 – Umatilla County (Ruckel Ridge area)

Date Investigated: 8/1/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed (4)

General situation and animal information: On the night of 7/31/22, a herder located one injured lamb and euthanized it. On the morning of 8/1/22, the livestock owner found two additional dead lambs. While ODFW was investigating, one more dead lamb was located. We estimated that the injuries to these animals occurred on the afternoon or evening of 7/31/22.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Lamb 1 had pre-mortem bite scrapes on the neck measuring up to 1 ½ inches long and 3/8 inches wide with extensive underlying tissue trauma. There was also evidence of multiple tears in the hide and pre-mortem hemorrhaging and tissue trauma on the back and sternum of the lamb. Lamb 2 had multiple pre-mortem tears in the hide and punctures of ¼ inch diameter on its throat associated with extensive underlying tissue trauma. Additional pre-mortem injuries and hemorrhaging were evident on the elbow, hindquarters, and groin of this lamb. Lamb 3 had pre-mortem bite scrapes, ¼ inch diameter punctures, and associated underlying tissue trauma on the throat. Additional pre-mortem hemorrhaging was present on the sternum and right front leg of the animal. Lamb 4 had pre-mortem bite scrapes and tissue trauma on its neck similar to the other three lambs examined. The severity and size of these wounds are consistent with wolf attacks on lambs. Due to these injuries and other evidence present at the scene, these depredations are confirmed with the attack on these lambs attributed to the Ruckel Ridge Pack.

July 31, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/31/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the night of 7/30/22, a livestock producer found an injured, approximately 650 lb., yearling steer in a 240-acre private-land grass pasture. The animal was euthanized by the livestock producer due to the severity of its injuries. We estimated that the injuries to the steer occurred approximately 12 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: More than 90 pre-mortem bite scrapes measuring up to three inches long and 1/4-inch wide were documented on the left and right hindquarters and groin of the steer. Underlying the bite scrapes, associated tissue trauma measured up to two inches deep. The severity, size, and locations of these wounds are consistent with injuries to cattle attacked by wolves. As such, this depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

July 31, 2022 – Union County (Lake Creek area)

Date Investigated: 7/31/22

Cause of death/injury: Other (1),
Possible/Unk. (1)

General situation and animal information: On the night of 7/30/22, a band of sheep on a Forest Service grazing allotment were scattered by an unknown disturbance. The following morning, the shepherd and a Wildlife Services agent found the remains of a dead ewe and a lamb. The carcass of the lamb was mostly intact with some organs removed. The carcass of the ewe was missing its left front leg and all muscle tissue and organs. We estimated that the deaths of the two animals occurred within 24 hours of the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: One pre-mortem ¼ inch diameter tooth puncture was found on the underside of the neck of the lamb with associated tissue trauma up to a depth of 1 ½ inches indicating that the lamb was killed by a predator. However, the manner in which the rumen and organs were removed, and the location and severity of the observed injuries are consistent with the manner in

which cougars kill sheep. As such, the determination for the lamb is “Other”. Evidence of pre-mortem hemorrhage was found on the underside of the hide on the neck of the ewe. No other bite marks, scrapes, or punctures were found. Given the missing tissue and organs there was a lack of evidence available to examine to determine if wolves were involved in the death of the ewe. As such, the determination for this ewe was “Possible/Unknown”.

July 30, 2022 – Klamath County B (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/30/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On 7/29/22, a livestock producer found an injured, approximately 600 lb., yearling heifer in a 200-acre private-land grass pasture. The animal was euthanized on 7/30/22 by the livestock producer due to the severity of its injuries. We estimated that the injuries occurred approximately 48-72 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Large areas of muscle trauma measuring up to 4 inches deep were present on the inside of both hind legs and in the groin area and more than 20 bite scrapes were observed near the anus and vulva of the cow. The severity of the wounds and their location are consistent with injuries to cattle attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

July 30, 2022 – Klamath County A (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/30/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On 7/30/22, a livestock producer found a dead, approximately 650 lb., yearling steer in a 240-acre private-land grass pasture. The carcass was mostly intact with some muscle tissue missing from the upper hindquarters near the tail. We estimated that the steer died approximately 8 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: We observed >40 pre-mortem bite scrapes measuring up to three inches long and 1/4 inch wide with associated pre-mortem hemorrhaging and tissue trauma up to 2.5 inches deep were observed on the flanks and hindquarters of the carcass. The wound measurements, severity, and location are consistent with injuries to cattle attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

July 27, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/27/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On 7/27/22, a livestock producer observed an injured, approximately 700 lb., yearling steer in a 200-acre private-land grass pasture. The steer was brought to a corral where ODFW personnel examined it. We estimated that the injuries occurred approximately 30-40 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: More than 50 bite scrapes measuring ½ inch to six inches long and up to ¼ inch wide were observed on the hindquarters of the steer. The size, locations, and severity of these bite scrapes are consistent with injuries to live cattle attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

July 26, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/26/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On 7/26/22, a livestock producer found a dead, approximately 750 lb., yearling steer in a 200-acre private-land grass pasture. The carcass was mostly intact with some muscle tissue missing from the upper hindquarters. The steer died approximately 72 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Multiple pre-mortem bite scrapes measuring up to four inches long and ¼ inch wide with associated pre-mortem hemorrhaging and tissue trauma up to an inch deep were observed behind the elbow and on the right hindquarter of the carcass. The bite mark measurements and their location are consistent with injuries to cattle attacked by wolves. While these injuries are not believed to have been severe enough to have caused the death of this cow at the time of the attack, these injuries provide evidence that this animal was attacked by wolves prior to its death. As such, this depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

July 23, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/23/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/23/22, a livestock producer found a dead, approximately 825 lb., yearling steer in a large private-land grass pasture. Portions of the hindquarters and intestines had been consumed with the remaining tissues intact. It is estimated the steer died approximately 36 - 48 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Multiple pre-mortem tooth scrapes measuring up to three inches long and ¼ inch wide were observed on both hindquarters. There were areas of pre-mortem hemorrhage and soft tissue trauma up to 1.5 inches deep observed on the neck/brisket and both hindquarters above the hock. The injuries are consistent with injuries on other cattle attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

July 22, 2022 – Klamath County (Fort Klamath area)

Date Investigated: 7/22/22

Cause of death/injury: Confirmed

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 7/22/22, a ranch manager found a dead, 850 lb., yearling steer in a large private-land grass pasture. Most of the rear half had been consumed; the

front quarters and neck remained intact. It is estimated the steer died approximately 36 hours prior to the investigation.

Physical evidence and summary of findings: Pre-mortem tooth scrapes measuring up to 2 inches long and ¼ inch wide were observed behind the elbow on one front quarter. Areas of pre-mortem hemorrhage and trauma to underlying soft tissues were observed near both elbows. The injuries are consistent with injuries on other steers attacked by wolves. This depredation is attributed to wolves of the Rogue Pack.

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.