



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160328-B Wallowa

Date Investigated: 3/28/2016

General Area: Upper Swamp Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 3/28/16 a livestock producer reported finding 2 dead calves in a grassland pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated that morning. The first calf was examined and determined to have died on the morning of 3/28 (still warm) and was intact with limited feeding. It was estimated to have weighed approximately 700 lbs. The second calf was determined to have died during the night of 3/26-27/16 and is explained in investigation 160328-A Wallowa as a separate event.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The calf had numerous premortem bite scrapes found on the hide of the hind quarters and the shoulder of its front left leg.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: Multiple large tooth scrapes 3/16 inch wide, 1/8 inch deep and 1/4 - 3 inches long were observed on the right hind leg above the hocks nearly to the rectum and on the shoulder of the front left leg of the calf. There was premortem hemorrhage and severe damage to underlying tissue similar to other wolf depredations. The location of the bite wounds are commonly observed attack points for wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: At the time of the investigation, there were wolf tracks in fresh snow at the carcass. GPS radio-collar data of 2 Imnaha Pack wolves indicated that OR4 and OR39 were in the immediate area on the morning of 3/28. On the morning of 3/28/16, OR39 was about 350 yards away from the calf carcass at 3am, then both OR4 and OR39 were about 250 yards away at 6am.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: ODFW confirmed a calf depredation in this same pasture on 3/9/16. A sheep was confirmed depredated about 3 miles away on 3/25/2016. On the night of 3/26/16 two calves were attacked (1 killed, 1 injured and later euthanized) in this pasture; they were confirmed as wolf depredation on 3/28/16. All depredations were attributed to Imnaha Pack wolves.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The locations, as well as the number and size of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on other confirmed cattle depredations by wolves. This combined with the presence of wolf tracks and confirmed presence of Imnaha Pack wolves at the site were adequate to confirm the calf as a confirmed wolf depredation.