



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160328-A Wallowa

Date Investigated: 3/28/2016

General Area: Upper Swamp Creek area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 3/28/2016 a livestock producer reported finding 2 dead calves in a rangeland 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 and is explained as a separate event in investigation 160328-B Wallowa. The second calf was determined to have died during the night of 3/26-27/2016 and is covered in this investigation report. The skeleton and hide of the dead calf was partially intact, but nearly all muscle tissue had been consumed. In the afternoon on 3/28/2016 a calf was found in the same pasture with numerous wounds and was examined by ODFW. Injuries on the live calf were determined to have been received on the night of 3/26-27/2016, so it is included in this report as the same event. Both heifer calves weighed approximately 700 lbs.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The majority of the dead calf was consumed; however, hemorrhage was found on the underside of the skin at two locations indicating premortem wounding. The live calf had numerous bite wounds and severe tissue damage on both hind legs.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: On the dead calf two large tooth marks ¼ inch in diameter in the skin at the hock of the right hind leg with associated hemorrhage underneath was observed, as well as hemorrhaging underneath the skin of the left hind and left front legs. The live calf had multiple large bite wounds (3 – 5 inches long), and torn muscle tissue on both hind legs. The size of the bite wounds is similar to what has been observed on other wolf depredations, and the location of the bite wounds on both animals 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 the mud at the carcass. GPS radio-collar data of 2 Imnaha Pack wolves indicated that OR4 and OR39 were in the immediate area on 3/26-28/16. On 3/26/16 at 6am OR4 and OR39 were 600 yards from the carcass of the dead calf. On 3/27/16 from midnight through 6:00 am OR39 locations were at the carcass (OR4 was present at 6am). On the morning of 3/28/16, OR39 was at the carcass at 3am, and then both OR4 and OR39 were about 600 yards from the carcass at 6am.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: ODFW confirmed a calf depredation in the same pasture on 3/9/2016. A sheep was confirmed depredated about 3 miles away on 3/25/2016. Both depredations were attributed to Imnaha Pack wolves.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The location of the bite wounds on the dead calf, and the location, number and size of the bite wounds on the live calf are similar to those observed on other confirmed cattle depredations by wolves. The age of the bite wounds on the live calf combined with the presence of wolf tracks, and confirmed presence of Imnaha Pack wolves at the site of the dead calf are adequate to confirm that both calves were attacked by wolves in the pasture the same night.