



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170929 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 9/29/2017

General Area: Marr Flat area – private land

General situation and animal information: At 7:30AM on 9/29/2017, a volunteer range rider found a 425 lb. dead calf in a large open-land pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The calf was estimated to have died earlier the same morning. The carcass was about 40% consumed with evidence of feeding on both hind legs and the right flank and rib cage.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Over 30 premortem bite marks were found on the hide of the left hind leg, left flank, and under the jaw. These bite marks were associated with severe hemorrhaging and muscle tissue trauma. These are clear evidence of a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The remaining carcass was skinned and examined. Numerous bite scrapes were found on the left rear leg and flank with widths up to 1/4 inch, and lengths up to 4 inches. These combined with the severe hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage found on the hind leg and flank, are commonly observed attack injuries from wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Numerous fresh wolf tracks were observed at and around the carcass. OR50 of the Harl Butte Pack was located by GPS radio-collar data at the location of the carcass at 6:00AM on 9/29/2017.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: There have been eight calf depredations attributed to the Harl Butte Pack between 7/15/2016 and 8/16/2017. All depredations occurred within nine miles of this site.

Cause of death/injury:

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Confirmed Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Probable Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Possible/Unknown	<input type="radio"/> Other
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Summary: The locations, number, size, and spacing of the premortem bite wounds are indicative of wolf attack. These combined with the presence of wolf tracks and GPS radio-collar data made proximal to the time of death were adequate to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation by a wolf or wolves of the Harl Butte Pack.