

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 8/14/12

County: Umatilla

General Area: Pine Creek Area, East of Weston, OR – Private Land

Situation: On August 12, 2012 the carcass of an adult cow was found in a side draw to Pine Creek in NE Umatilla County. The area is within the Umatilla River Pack homerange and wolf predation was suspected. ODFW was asked to investigate the carcass on 8/14/12.

ODFW findings: Other

Evidence of wolf presence in the area? No wolf sign was found at or near the carcass. Between the dates of Aug. 8 and Aug. 12, 2012 there were no reports of wolves in the area of the carcass. GPS collar data for OR14 (an adult male wolf) for the same time period (Aug. 8 – Aug. 12, 2012) show that this individual wolf was no closer than 9.3 miles to the carcass site.

Summary of evidence: The producer reported that other cattle in the area had appeared agitated when the carcass was first discovered. The carcass was intact with only a small amount of scavenging apparent near the anus. There was significant decomposition and the carcass had been dragged about 20 yards downhill from its original position. The only noticeable marks appeared to be scrapes on the upper left side that were possibly made by claws. However, there was no hemorrhage under the hide and the marks were made post mortem. Hide was missing from lower jaw, left side, and no marks were observed on the jaw bone itself. No marks were observed in the flank, front shoulder, or hind end area. The mammary glands were intact and showed no signs of biting, tearing or marking. There were five scrape marks in the hide located 8-10 inches below the spine on the left side of the carcass. The hide was removed from this area and no associated subcutaneous hemorrhaging was observed. The scrape marks appeared to be associated with hair slippage due to decay of the carcass. We found no wolf sign or evidence of a struggle or kill scene.