

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 8/29/12

County: Wallowa

General Area: Twobuck Creek East of Joseph, OR – Private Land

Situation: At 6:05PM on 8/29/12 ODFW received a report of a dead calf in a grassland pasture near the upper end of Twobuck Creek. The calf was discovered by the owner while moving cattle to another pasture on the same day. Wolves were suspected and ODFW investigated the same evening.

ODFW finding: Possible/Unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: The area has been used in the past by Imnaha Pack wolves, though primarily during winter and spring months. Imnaha pack member OR-4's GPS collar location was 1/2 mile south of the carcass at 12:00 AM on 08/25/12, and 1.5 miles northeast of carcass at 3:00 AM on 08/25/12. Two possible wolf tracks (estimated 3-4 days old) were observed on skid road approximately 75 yards east of carcass. Track length was 4 inches, and width was 3.5 inches.

Summary of evidence: The estimated date of death, based on maggot development, was 8/25 or 8/26. The carcass bones were mostly intact, but the end portions of six left ribs had been chewed off. No organs remained, and the carcass muscle tissue was estimated to be 90% consumed. The muscle tissue of the front shoulders, neck and head remained. There was no physical evidence of a struggle scene, and no bite marks were found on the carcass. Most of the carcass appeared to have been consumed post-mortem (scavenged). Though there was significant vessel and tissue decomposition and pooling of fluids, no evidence of pre-mortem hemorrhage was observed. A scrape in skin below the hock of right hind leg (1 inch horizontal, 1.5 inch vertical) was beginning to heal. Yellow fluid in the subcutaneous tissue underneath the scrape suggests the injury occurred several days to one week prior to death. The cause of death of this calf was unclear.