



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140228 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 02/28/2014

General Area: Lower Imnaha River, private land.

General situation and animal information: On February 28, 2014 a local resident observed a dead cow on the east side of the lower Imnaha River. This person contacted the stock owner who later that day examined the carcass. The adult cow carcass was estimated to have died 3-4 days previous, was mostly consumed, and wolf depredation was suspected. ODFW was contacted and examined the carcass on the same day.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Unable to confirm physical attack by a predator – most of the carcass was consumed. Observed a massive hemorrhage, approximately 9 inch diameter, in muscle tissue and associated subcutaneous tissue on upper portion of right rear ribs, including one broken rib at this location. However, no associated bite or tooth marks were found on the skin at this location. Bruising on the bone and subcutaneous tissue below hock of right hind leg, appeared to be the result of contact with hard object(s), but no evidence of tooth marks. Four scrapes in skin along the animals back, appeared to be the result of the animal falling or sliding on the ground.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: N.A.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Wolf tracks (2-4 days old) were observed at carcass site and in the vicinity. There was clear evidence, including tufts of hair on the ground, that the cow was alive and had slid and/or stumbled down slope for approximately 250 yards to where carcass was found. Wolf tracks were observed up slope at the initial point and at several locations (within 15 yards) adjacent to the path made by the struggling cow indicating possible chase and/or attack by wolf(s). There was a radio collar location of a Snake River wolf pack member (OR15) at this site on 2/26/14.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: An adult cow and two calves were previously confirmed attacked by Snake River wolves approximately 15 – 19 miles south of this site and November 21, November 4, and October 15, respectively.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the cow carcass and found injuries on the lower right hind leg, upper part of the right rear ribs, and along the top of the back. The cause of the injuries is unknown, but did not appear to be the result of predator bites. There was a struggle path made by the cow extending approximately 250 yards up slope of the carcass, and wolf tracks were found at several locations the full length of the path. It appears that a wolf attack/chase may have caused the cow to stumble and struggle down the slope to where she died, but ODFW did not confirm any pre mortem bite or tooth marks. Snake River wolf pack member OR15 was located at this site on February 26, two days prior to ODFW examining the carcass. Although the injuries found on the carcass did not appear to be the result of wolf bites, there is evidence to indicate wolves were present at the time the animal was struggling and probably were involved with the animals' injury/death.