ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140819 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 8/19/2014

General Area: Weston Mountain area – private land.

General situation and animal information: On 8/19/2014 two yearling cows were found live but limping in a fenced pasture area and were gathered for examination. On 8/22/2014, a third yearling cow in extremely deteriorated condition was found on the same property in a nearby canyon bottom and was euthanized by the owner prior to examination. ODFW was asked to examine the animals to determine if any of the injuries/conditions of these cows were wolf-caused, and two different examinations were made; cows 1&2 on 8/19 and cow 3 on 8/22. Other cows in the pasture appeared to have normal yearling behavior.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: None. On cows 1&2, numerous old and nearly healed injury or lesion areas were observed on the posterior portion of the hind quarter, but were not bite-caused and no muscle trauma or scarring was observed. Cow #3 was emaciated and the skin abrasions on its lower legs were consistent with an animal struggling to gain its feet on a rough surface. No bite wounds were observed and external skin abrasions showed no underlying hemorrhage or damaged tissue.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: N/A

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: The area is within the Umatilla River pack area and none of the 3 GPS-collared wolves have been near where the cows are located within the previous month.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: The Umatilla River Pack has depredated livestock irregularly since 2012. On 6/11/2014 ODFW confirmed wolf depredation of a cow 2.7 miles from this location.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf   Probable Wolf   Possible/Unknown   (Other)

Summary: ODFW examined the injuries to all three cows and found no bite marks or any other indication that the wounds were predator-caused. Furthermore, the cause of the deteriorated condition of cow #3 is unknown.