



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170407 Wallowa

Date Investigated: 4/7/2017

General Area: Imnaha River – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 4/7/17 a stockowner found a dead cow and dead 150 lb. calf in a river bottom hay pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. The cow carcass was intact with no evidence of feeding from scavengers. The calf carcass was mostly consumed. Both animals were estimated to have died early on the morning of 4/7/17.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The adult cow was skinned. No external bite marks or internal bite trauma was found on the cow. The cow did have a severe injury to the right eye. Most of the tissue and the hindquarters of the calf were missing. The calf carcass had numerous bite scrapes on the top and both sides of the neck, right and left front shoulders. The underlying skin layer indicated associated hemorrhaging. These premortem injuries are clear indicators of predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: On the calf carcass, bite scrapes and underlying hemorrhaging were observed on the neck, and both shoulders; commonly observed attack points for wolves on small prey. The bite scrapes in the hide were up to ¼ inch wide and up to 3 inches long, paired scrapes had a 1 ¾ inch spacing.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: Wolf tracks were observed at both carcass sites. GPS radio-collar data showed that OR50 (Harl Butte Pack) was at the site of the calf carcass on 4/7/17 at 6am.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: The most recent depredations attributed to the Harl Butte Pack (formerly the Unnamed wolves in the Imnaha and Snake River Units) were on two USFS grazing allotments 5-10 miles west of this location in October 2016.

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: The size, spacing and number of bite wounds found on this calf, coupled with associated underlying hemorrhaging are similar to those observed on other confirmed livestock depredations by wolves. This evidence is adequate to confirm the death of the calf as wolf depredation. The cause of death of the cow could not be determined but was not predation related.