

PREY CARCASS INVESTIGATION FORM

IDAHO WOLF AND COUGAR PROJECT

Study Area: 1) Big Creek 2) Panther Creek Carcass No. _____ - _____
Field Investigators _____ Date _____
Species _____ Sex: M F Unk Days since death _____ 1)known 2)est.
Age: 1) <1 yr 2) yearling 3) adult 4) unk Pregnant: Y N ? Fetus (cm): C-R _____ HL/deer/IF _____
Predation sequence: Y N animal ID _____ start date _____ sequence kill # _____

KILL SITE DESCRIPTION:

General Location _____
Kill: UTM _____ E x _____ N Elev. (ft) _____ Slope _____ % Aspect _____
Ambush site: Slope _____ % Dist. from kill (m) _____ Cache: Slope _____ % Dist. from kill (m) _____
Physiography: 1) ridge top 2) upper 1/3 slope 3) mid 1/3 slope 4) lower 1/3 slope 5) bottom
Snow depth (cm) _____ Snow crust: Y N Rock: 1) cliff 2) outcrop 3) cave 4) talus 5) none
Habitat type _____ Forest canopy cover _____ %
Vegetation _____
Visibility (90% predator concealment distance): uphill _____ downhill _____ left _____ right _____ (m)
Describe kill area _____

SITE EVIDENCE AND ASSESSMENT OF CARNIVORE INVOLVEMENT:

Carcass detection: 1)bird activity 2)tracks/sign 3)telemetry 4)bones 5)other _____
Carnivore Sign Present: 1)wolf 2)cougar 3)coyote 4)bobcat 5)black bear 6)none 7)other _____
Carnivore present: Y N _____
Fresh tracks _____ Old tracks _____
Beds _____ Hair _____ Scats _____ # scats _____ Tree scratching _____
Scrapes _____ # scrapes _____ Urine marking _____ # marks _____

Mortality Site: Carcass located: 1)under tree/shrub 2)in open _____
Carcass covered: Y N Cover material _____ Prey slid/moved: Y N ?
How far (m) _____ Carcass moved postmortem: Y N ? Distance dragged (m) _____
Signs of struggle or chase: Y N _____
Scavengers present: Y N # observed: 1)wolf ___ 2)cougar ___ 3)coyote ___ 4)bobcat ___ 5)bl bear ___
6)raven ___ 7)golden eagle ___ 8)bald eagle ___ 9)magpie ___ 10)other _____
Cause of death (list numbers from Kill Eval. Chart and describe): _____

- 1) possible a) carnivore (list species): _____
- 2) probable b) malnutrition/winter kill c) unknown, not predation d) unknown
- 3) positive e) other: _____

Cougar or Wolf ID if known _____ Wolf Pack _____
Type: 1)ground telemetry 2)aerial telemetry Color & # of wolves observed _____

CARCASS DESCRIPTION, UTILIZATION, AND CONDITION:

Canine punctures: Y N Distance between canines (mm): upper _____ lower _____
Location on body: _____
Bones crushed: Y N Which bones _____
Hair plucked: Y N ? Hide peeled: Y N Hide torn/shredded: Y N Nasal area eaten: Y N
SubQ hemorrhage: at base of skull Y N ? at throat Y N ? at other site _____
Point of first feeding: _____
Blood on carcass or ground: Y N ? _____ Aspirated blood: Y N ?

