

ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary

Date: 5/29/2013

County: Union

General Area: Willow Creek area – Private land

Situation: A livestock producer found the carcass of a 17 year old ewe near his house. The ewe had been seen alive the evening before. Wolves were suspected and ODFW was asked to investigate. ODFW responded the same day.

ODFW finding: Possible/Unknown

Evidence of wolf presence in the area: No wolf sign was found. Two wolves were known to be in the area several weeks earlier.

Summary of evidence: The ewe was found lying on her right side. Portions of both hindquarters and most of the muscle on the neck, spine and ribs on the left side had been consumed. The internal organs, except for the heart, were present. The left leg was detached from the carcass at the shoulder. Four postmortem puncture marks and one large hole were found in the hide on the top of the neck indicating scavenging. The remaining carcass was skinned and no other marks were found in the hide. The right side (down-side) was intact and had no trauma. No signs of predation were found, though the cause of death is unknown.