



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

**Investigation ID:** 140812 Umatilla

**Date Investigated:** 08/12/2014

**General Area:** Butcher Creek/Meacham area - private land

**General situation and animal information:** On 08/12/2014, an ODFW employee working in the Mt. Emily Unit found the remains of a dead sheep. The landowner was contacted and ODFW investigated the same day. The sheep was estimated to have died at least 10 days prior to discovery and little remained of the carcass.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** No evidence of predation was observed. The carcass was desiccated and little tissue remained. There was abundant evidence that the carcass had been primarily consumed by scavenging birds. No attack or kill scene was observed.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** NA

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** No evidence was found indicating a wolf was at the carcass near the time of death. GPS collar locations showed that wolf OR26 visited the site once on 8/5 and twice on 8/7. The carcass was very desiccated and showed evidence of having been on the landscape for no less than 10 days. Additionally, since nearly all of the scavenging sign appeared to have come from birds, the time necessary to scavenge a carcass of this size would be considerable.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** None

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** The specific cause of this animal's death is unknown, but no evidence of predation was found. The carcass was consumed and desiccated with abundant evidence that birds scavenged it.