



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

**Investigation ID:** 140812(b) Umatilla

**Date Investigated:** 8/12/2014

**General Area:** Weston Mountain area – private land

**General situation and animal information:** On the morning of 8/11/14, a landowner turned out her sheep from her night pen for grazing. The sheep are accounted for on a daily basis, and when the sheep were night penned that evening the landowner suspected that her 4 year old Suffolk ewe sheep was missing. The following morning (8/12/2014), the ewe was confirmed as missing. The dead ewe was found later that same day approximately 825 feet to the NE of the night pen. The ewe was estimated to have died on 8/11 and little remained but skeletal parts and a small amount of hide – all muscle tissue had been consumed.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Track evidence of a chase was found which lead to the site of death. At the site of death, there were several pieces of wool with hide attached found near the carcass which were consistent with those bitten from a live animal.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** No clear evidence. Bite marks with corresponding hemorrhage were not observed on the consumed carcass remains. Wolf presence (below) and very quick consumption of the carcass indicates wolf feeding at or near the time of death.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Tracks of both coyote and wolf were found near the carcass. Estimate that two wolves had been present. Landowner reported hearing wolves near house on night of 8/11. GPS collar data showed that wolf OR14 (Umatilla River Pack) was at the carcass location around 9:00 am on the morning of 8/12/2014

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** ODFW confirmed sheep predation by the Umatilla River wolves on this property in 2012. On 6/13/2014, wolves of the Umatilla River pack depredated sheep approximately 7 miles from this location.

### Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** A chase sequence was identified close to the site of death, and this is reasonable evidence the otherwise healthy ewe died as a result of predation. However, the carcass was mostly consumed and bite marks could not be identified as pre-mortem. There was evidence of wolf presence (tracks and GPS collar data after the animal's death) in the immediate area, and that they had fed on the carcass. This producer had experienced confirmed wolf depredation in this same pasture in 2012, and more recently, wolves of the Umatilla River Pack depredated sheep in a nearby area. These factors, combined, warrant a probable determination.