



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140915 Umatilla

**Date Investigated:** 9/15/2014

**General Area:** Ruckle Junction area— public land

**General situation and animal information:** On 9/15/2014 a sheepherder reported finding dead sheep in a timbered area where they had been bedded overnight approximately 500 yards from the herder's trailer. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. Three dead sheep were examined and were estimated to have died the previous night. There were 5 livestock protection dogs with the sheep band (1 adult female and 4 pups). One pup is missing and the adult female and 1 pup were injured during the night.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Large puncture holes and blood were observed on the hides of the sheep (neck, upper hind leg). Upon skinning, pre-mortem hemorrhaging and tissue damage was found on the necks and hind end of each sheep, as well as the back on 2 of the sheep. These are indicators that the sheep were attacked by a predator. The bite wounds on the dogs were also evidence of predator attack.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** The location of the bite wounds on the dead sheep are commonly observed attack points for wolves. Severely damaged muscle tissue beneath several of the bite wounds, with limited damage to the hide are evidence is commonly observed with sheep depredation by wolves. There were also large canine puncture holes with paired bite marks in the hide that measured 1 5/8" to 1 7/8" apart and 1/4 - 3/8" in diameter.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** A collared Mt Emily wolf (OR28) had 4 overnight GPS locations between 3/4 - 1 mile from the dead sheep.

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

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf       Probable Wolf       Possible/Unknown       Other

**Summary:** The location and appearance of the bite wounds noted above are similar to those observed on other confirmed sheep depredations by wolves. This combined with the multiple animals killed, injuries to 2 livestock protection dogs and nearby collared wolf locations - ODFW found that these sheep were depredated by wolves.