



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 140916 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 9/16/2014

General Area: Ruckle Junction area– public land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 9/16/2014 a sheepherder reported finding dead sheep in the same area that had experienced wolf depredation the previous evening. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. Overnight, there had been 4 livestock protection dogs with the sheep band and the herder's trailer was approximately 200 yards from where the sheep were bedded in the timbered area. Five dead sheep were documented; two adult ewes, two adult rams, and one injured lamb which was later euthanized as a result of its injuries.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Large puncture wounds and blood were observed on the hides of the sheep – neck, posterior hind leg, groin, udder, and scrotal area. Upon skinning, pre-mortem hemorrhaging and tissue damage was found on the necks and hind end of each sheep. These are indicators that the sheep were attacked by a predator.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The location of the bite wounds on the dead sheep are commonly observed attack points for wolves. Injuries to the examined dead animals were observed to be nearly identical to the sheep which had been depredated by wolves the previous day. Severely damaged muscle tissue beneath several of the bite wounds were observed, with limited damage to the hide. This is commonly observed with sheep depredation by wolves. There were also large canine puncture holes with paired bite marks approximately 1 7/8" in the hide ¼ - 3/8" in diameter. Two wolf tracks were observed in the area of all the dead sheep.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: A collared Mt. Emily wolf (OR28) had one GPS location at 12 am on 09-16-14, 39 yards from the location that one of the dead sheep was discovered approximately 6 hours later.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: On 9/15/2014, wolves of the Mt. Emily pack depredated sheep from this band in the same area.

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 which occurred the previous day. This combined with the multiple animals killed and wolf tracks observed in the immediate area of the dead sheep - ODFW confirms that these sheep were depredated by wolves.