



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150622 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 6/22/2015

General Area: Ruckle Junction area-Public Land

General situation and animal information: On 6/20/2015, a sheep herder discovered a dead sheep near an overnight bedding ground. Wildlife Services was initially notified and they responded on 6/21 in an attempt to examine the carcass. ODFW was notified of the possibility of a wolf depredation by Wildlife Services the following day and ODFW investigated that same day on 06/22/2015. Ultimately 3 sheep and 1 guard dog were discovered dead near an overnight bedding ground.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: All three sheep and the guard dog displayed bite marks and underlying deep pre-mortem hemorrhaging in subcutaneous wounds. Deep pre-mortem hemorrhaging to muscle tissue was also observed on two of the sheep.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The bite marks on all animals were no less than 1 5/8 inches wide to just under 2 inches wide. All bite marks to the hide were associated with underlying deep pre-mortem hemorrhaging in locations consistent with previously documented wolf attacks on sheep.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: During the early morning of 6/20/15 (the estimated time that the depredation occurred), two collared Mt. Emily Pack wolves (OR28 and OR32) were within 3/4 mile where the 3 sheep and guard dog were later found dead. Wolf tracks were also observed near the carcasses of all three sheep and the guard dog.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: No recent wolf depredation in the 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 depredation by wolves. This combined with the multiple animals killed and the presence of collared wolves in close proximity to the sheep at the time of loss combine to justify that these sheep and guard dog were depredated by wolves.