



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150815 Umatilla

**Date Investigated:** 08/15/2015

**General Area:** Ninemile Ridge area – public land

**General situation and animal information:** On 08/15/15, a herder found a partially consumed dead sheep in a timbered area near a nightly bedding ground. Wolf depredation was suspected by the livestock producer and Wildlife Services was contacted. Wildlife Services suspected wolf predation and ODFW was contacted. An investigation was conducted by ODFW the same day on 08/15/15.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** A field investigation and carcass necropsy was conducted by ODFW. A kill scene was identified near the carcass location which included dragging of the carcass to its final location. Premortem hemorrhage associated with bite marks was observed in the ventral area of the neck. All abdominal and thoracic cavity contents were consumed. In addition, muscle tissue from the neck, ribs, shoulders, and front legs were consumed. These are clear indications of a predator attack.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** The skin on the ventral side of the neck displayed bite marks which measured a spread of 1 5/8 inches apart. This canine bite mark distance is consistent with wolves. Additionally, the neck had premortem hemorrhage. The two taken together are only consistent with wolf attack methodology. The proximity of one collared wolf near the estimated time of predation is also an indication of cause of predation.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** One collared Mt. Emily Pack wolf had a single overnight GPS location near the estimated time of depredation .25mile from the dead sheep.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** On 6/22/15 and 8/4/15, Mt Emily wolves were responsible in confirmed sheep depredations in a nearby area.

### Cause of death/injury:

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Confirmed Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Probable Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Possible/Unknown	<input type="radio"/> Other
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**Summary:** ODFW examined the sheep carcass and the location and appearance of the bite wounds are consistent with those observed in other confirmed sheep depredations by wolves from this pack. GPS location data shows that two Mt. Emily Pack wolves were in close proximity to the sheep at approximately the same time the sheep was killed - ODFW found that this sheep was depredated by wolves.