



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150824 Umatilla

**Date Investigated:** 08/24/2015

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

**General situation and animal information:** On 08/24/15, 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 suspected wolf predation. ODFW was then contacted and an investigation was started by ODFW the same day on 08/24/15.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** 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. These are clear indications of a predator attack. All abdominal and thoracic cavity organs and associated tissues were consumed. In addition, muscle tissue from the neck, ribs, shoulders, and legs were consumed.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** The skin on the ventral side of the neck displayed paired bite marks which measured 1 5/8 and 1 7/8 inches apart. These canine bite mark spacings are consistent with wolves. Additionally, the neck had premortem hemorrhage. The two taken together are only consistent with wolf attack methodology. The proximity of two collared wolves 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:** Two collared wolves from the Mt. Emily Pack had GPS locations within ¼ mile from the dead sheep at the estimated time of depredation.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** On 6/22/15, 8/04/15, and 8/15/15 Mt. Emily wolves were responsible in confirmed sheep depredations in the same general area.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf       Probable Wolf       Possible/Unknown       Other

**Summary:** ODFW examined the sheep carcass. 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.