



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 150827 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 08/27/2015

General Area: Ninemile Ridge area – public land

General situation and animal information: On 08/27/15, a herder found a partially consumed dead sheep in sparsely timbered area near a nightly bedding ground. Wolf depredation was suspected by the livestock producer. ODFW was contacted by the livestock producer and a field investigation and necropsy was initiated the same day on 08/27/15.

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 in muscle tissue was observed in the ventral area of the neck and posterior side of a front and rear leg. These are clear indications of a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The muscle tissue on the ventral side of the neck below the ear displayed a paired bite mark which measured 1 7/8 inches apart. This canine bite mark spacing is consistent with wolves. Additionally, muscle tissue in the ventral area of the neck and posterior side of a front and rear legs 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 just over ½ mile from the dead sheep at the estimated time of depredation.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: On 6/22/15, 8/4/2015, 8/15/15, and 8/24/15 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.