



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160515 Klamath

Date Investigated: 5/15/2016

General Area: Sprague River Valley - private land

General situation and animal information: On 5/15/16 a sheep producer was contacted by their neighbor who reported observing a large light gray colored canid running out of the sheep pasture. The producer went out to check on his sheep and found 2 dead lambs. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW examined the carcasses that day. It was estimated the lambs died around 7:30 – 8:00 am.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: An obvious attack/kill scene was found at both carcasses with blood observed along a drag path for 35 yards. Both lambs had pre-mortem muscle tissue trauma evidenced by subcutaneous hemorrhage; one lamb on the left side of the neck and the other lamb on the back and ribcage (the head and neck of this lamb was missing). For both lambs, hemorrhage was found to be shallow and not extending deeper into the muscle tissues greater than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Tears found in muscle tissue were fairly small measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. The shallow nature of the hemorrhage and smaller tears in the muscle tissues on both lambs are not consistent with wolf attacks.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: None.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW skinned and examined both lamb carcasses and found shallow pre-mortem muscle tissue damage on both carcasses as well as attack points similar to those observed by coyotes. The evidence gathered during the investigation is adequate to classify this incident as coyote depredation.