



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170803 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 8/3/2017

General Area: Weston Mountain Area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 8/2/17 a sheep producer found a dead seven year-old ewe approximately ½ mile from his ranch house, 30 feet on the outside of a 40 acre electrified grazing pasture. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the following morning. The ewe had blood on its throat, the abdominal cavity was opened with the intestines still present, and feeding was only on both back legs above the hocks. It is estimated that the ewe had died on or about 7/31/17.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: Premortem hemorrhaging associated with bite marks on the upper portion of the right shoulder, on the throat, and on the area between the shoulder and vertebrae are clear indicators of a predator attack.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. The premortem paired bite marks spacing measuring less than 1 1/8 inches and shallow premortem muscle tissue damage of 1/8 inch in depth on the throat, shoulder, back, and hindquarters are not characteristics observed in wolf attacks, but appear to be caused by a coyote.

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: The premortem injuries on the carcass were too small and lacked the severity in tissue damage to have been caused by a wolf. This was sufficient to classify this incident as not wolf-related.