



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170807 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 8/7/2017

General Area: Weston Mountain area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/7/2017 a livestock producer reported that three adult ewes had been injured three days earlier (8/4/17) while the sheep were let out to graze during the day in a large forested pasture. The producer suspected wolf depredation and ODFW investigated the sheep the same day inside a pen. One ewe had puncture holes on the throat and left side of the neck. A second ewe had a large piece of hide missing from the sternum area exposing the muscle tissue. The third ewe was let out to graze on the morning of 8/6/2017 and never returned that evening. The producer reported that the missing ewe had a portion of hide missing on the right hind leg. The livestock producer reported hearing wolves howling the past few evenings in close proximity to the sheep pen.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The first ewe had multiple unpaired, scabbed over, puncture holes on the throat and left side of the neck measuring $\frac{1}{4}$ " by $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The second ewe had a large, $11\frac{1}{2}$ " by $6\frac{3}{4}$ ", open wound on the sternum and unpaired, scabbed over, horizontal scrapes on the front, outside of the right hind leg. These scrapes ranged from $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in length and $1/16$ " to $1/8$ " wide.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The location of the open wound between the second ewe's front legs has not been observed on other confirmed wolf attacks. The spacing between the punctures and scrapes could not be determined. The width of the scrapes was not indicative of wolves.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: None. GPS radio-collar location data showed OR51 (North Emily Pack) approximately two miles from the sheep pen all day on 8/4/2017.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

Summary: ODFW examined the two live sheep and found multiple unpaired, scabbed over puncture holes and scrape marks. From the physical evidence found on the live sheep the predator that caused the injuries could not be determined. ODFW offered to re-examine the ewes if they die and a different determination could be made at that time.