



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170825 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 8/25/2017

General Area: Wilbur Mountain area – public land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 8/25/17, a livestock producer was informed by their sheep herder that he had found an injured four-year old ewe and the remains of a lamb within a public-land sheep grazing allotment. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated the same day. Prior to ODFW arriving on scene, the ewe was euthanized by the herder. The ewe had muscle tissue missing from the left rear leg. All that remained of the lamb was small bone fragments, rumen contents, and hide containing the lower portions of each rear leg. It is estimated that the death and injury both occurred between 8/23/17 and 8/24/17.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The ewe had muscle tissue missing from the posterior portion of the left leg measuring 5 inches long by 6 inches wide and 2 inches deep. The left side of the ewe was shaved and the entire carcass was skinned. Superficial premortem hemorrhaging was found on the posterior side of the left hock and anterior side of the elbow of the left leg. The lamb had premortem hemorrhaging in the muscle tissue on the posterior side of the right rear leg below the hock. All these injuries are clear evidence that both sheep were attacked by a predator.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. Paired bite marks in the hide with a spacing of 1 1/4 inches and associated premortem hemorrhaging measuring 1 1/2 inches long by 1/2 inch wide and 1/8 inch deep were observed in the right rear leg of the lamb. The evidence obtained is typical of coyote depredation.

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 bite spacing of 1 1/4 inches and shallow premortem hemorrhaging provided enough evidence to confirm this incident as not wolf-related. The likely cause of death for the lamb and injuries for the ewe is coyote depredation.