



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 170913 Klamath

Date Investigated: 9/13/2017

General Area: Lost River area – private land

General situation and animal information: On the morning of 9/11/2017, a livestock producer found two dead approximately 100 lb. lambs that had been alone in a small open pasture near his residence. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW was contacted on 9/13/2017 by the livestock producer. ODFW investigated the same day. Most internal organs and muscle tissue were consumed on both lambs, large portions of the hides were present. The livestock producer reported observing a dark colored wolf on 9/11/2017 approximately ¼ mile away from pasture where depredation occurred. Livestock producer observed and shot a coyote feeding on the carcasses on 9/12/2017.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The remaining hide was examined and the head and neck were skinned on each lamb. Significant premortem hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage evident on the throats of both lambs, just behind the lower jaw. There were numerous 1/8 inch canine tooth puncture holes and associated premortem hemorrhage in the hide at the throat. These injuries are clear evidence of attack by a predator. The only premortem trauma located on the lambs was in the throat area, a common attack location for coyotes.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: None. Evidence of premortem hemorrhage was absent from hide in areas characteristic of confirmed wolf depredation on sheep (hindquarters, front legs, and top of neck/back). Canine puncture diameter was too small for wolf.

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 examined both lamb carcasses and found premortem injuries in the hide and muscle tissue damage on both carcasses indicating an attack by a predator, however the location and size of injuries are not consistent with wolf depredation. The injuries and attack point are consistent with coyote depredation.