



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 171125 Union

**Date Investigated:** 11/25/2017

**General Area:** Five Points Creek area - private land

**General situation and animal information:** On late afternoon 11/24/17, a landowner found a dead, 250 pound, adult llama in a forested pasture about 200 yards from the residence. The owner suspected wolf depredation; ODFW was notified and investigated on 11/25/17. The carcass was intact except most of the hide and muscle tissue of the right rear leg above the hock and around the anus was consumed. The llama was estimated to have died between late 11/22/17 and before dark on 11/23/17. The owner also found a dead llama on 11/13/17 (Investigation 171114 Union).

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Multiple scuff marks were found along a trail for 50 yards leading to the carcass indicating a large animal running. Premortem bite scrapes, muscle tissue trauma and hemorrhaging were found indicating an attack by a predator.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** Two patches of blood-stained llama hair and intestinal contents were found along the trail indicating either a wolf chase and kill scene or feeding activity. Most of the tissue and hide remained on the carcass for examination. The number of bite scrapes and depth of tissue trauma was less than usually seen on wolf depredations. The bite scrape sizes ( $\frac{1}{8}$  -  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch width and up to 3 inch length) are consistent with wolf and other large predators. Though the wounds were not consistent with extensive wolf-caused injuries, there were premortem bite scrapes above the right hock (3), on the left rump (2), and on the throat (~15). There was hemorrhage and muscle tissue damage on the throat and 1 inch deep on the rump on the left and right side of the tail.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** At least two sets of tracks (both 1 - 2 days old) with one set looking older than the other were found in the mud on a road 20 yards from the carcass. ODFW documented trail camera photos about 300 yards from the carcass, of one wolf 11/23/17 at 11 am moving towards where the carcass was found.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** Four depredations were attributed to the Meacham Pack in August, 2017 about ten miles away. This incident was located near the edge of the Meacham Pack AKWA (mapped Area of Known Wolf Activity).

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** There was sufficient evidence to confirm predation on the llama by a large predator, but not enough evidence to confirm which predator. The possible chase scene, premortem injuries on the hindquarters and neck, and the presence of at least one wolf near the time of death warrants a probable wolf depredation determination.