



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 180130 Union

**Date Investigated:** 1/30/2018

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

**General situation and animal information:** About noon on 1/30/2018, a landowner found a dead 300-pound adult female llama in a forested pasture about 300 yards from his residence. The owner suspected wolf depredation and ODFW investigated the same day. A major portion of the carcass had been eaten; only the neck, head and most of the hindquarters and hide remained. The llama died sometime during the previous night. The owner found two dead llamas previously (Investigations 171114 Union, 171125 Union) near the same location.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Fresh running llama tracks were found for about 70 yards leading downhill to a road where the llama died. Premortem bite marks were found on the head, throat, right shoulder and both hind legs indicating an attack by a predator.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** Blood, llama hair, portions of internal organs, and numerous fresh wolf tracks at the culmination of tracks of a rapidly running llama indicate a wolf chase and kill. The depth and severity of premortem muscle damage to the back of the hind legs above the hocks, the large number of bite scrapes, ¼ inch bite scrape width, and 1 7/8 inch spacing, also indicate wolf attack.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** Fresh wolf tracks were at the site of the dead llama. ODFW visited the same pastures on 1/29/2018 and verified from tracks the presence of three wolves and an apparent chase of a llama that had occurred the night before.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** Four depredations were attributed to the Meacham Pack in August, 2017 ten miles away.

**Cause of death/injury:**

Confirmed Wolf

Probable Wolf

Possible/Unknown

Other

**Summary:** A chase scene ending at a dead llama, depth and severity of premortem wounds to the back of the hind legs, anus, neck and head, and size and number of bite wounds are all consistent with wolf depredation. The presence of wolves as well as confirmed recent close wolf/llama interactions, including a chase the day before, support the confirmation.