



## ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160325 Wallowa

**Date Investigated:** 3/25/2016

**General Area:** Upper Swamp Creek area – private land

**General situation and animal information:** On the morning of 3/25/2016 the range rider found a dead sheep in a grassland pasture near the county road. Wolf depredation was suspected and ODFW investigated that morning. The adult ram was examined and it was estimated to have been killed during the morning of 3/25/2016.

**Physical evidence of attack by a predator:** Though a significant portion of this sheep had been consumed, premortem bite wounds with associated hemorrhaging and tissue damage were clearly observed on the ram's hind leg and neck indicating the animal was alive when attacked. Running sheep tracks were observed approximately 6 feet from the initial kill site where 3 pools of blood were located at the beginning of a drag path approximately 30 yards long continuing to the carcass. These are both indicators of predator attack.

**Evidence that the predator was a wolf:** Multiple large bite wounds and severe tissue damage were observed on the neck and left hind leg. The location of the bite wounds are commonly observed attack points for wolves. Premortem hemorrhage to underlying tissue with limited damage to the hide and canine puncture holes of 1/4 - 3/8 inches in the hide is similar to other wolf depredations.

**Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury:** GPS radio-collar data of 2 Imnaha Pack wolves indicated that OR39 was 500 yards from the carcass at 3:00am and both OR4 and OR39 were 200 yards from the carcass at 6:00 am on the morning of 3/25/2016.

**Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area:** ODFW confirmed a calf depredation by 4 Imnaha Pack wolves about 3 miles away on 3/9/2016.

**Cause of death/injury:**

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Confirmed Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Probable Wolf	<input type="radio"/> Possible/Unknown	<input type="radio"/> Other
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**Summary:** The location, as well as the number, size and severity of the bite wounds are similar to those observed on other confirmed sheep depredations by wolves. Combined with an observed kill scene and direct evidence of wolf presence (at least two wolves) in the immediate area of the sheep at the time of this incident were adequate to confirm this incident as a wolf depredation.