



ODFW LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation ID: 160521 Umatilla

Date Investigated: 5/21/2016

General Area: South Fork Walla Walla River – private land

General situation and animal information: On the evening of 5/20/2016 a herder noticed a disturbance in a band of sheep he was supervising. He investigated and found 1 dead lamb and 4 wolves. The herder then informed the livestock owner the next day when he arrived to supply the herder. ODFW personnel investigated the same day. ODFW investigators found a drag trail with small bits of bone, blood, and wool in it. The top of the drag trail had a scuffle area consistent with a sheep struggle scene associated with wolf predation. The sheep remains were absent other than the tissue, blood, and bone fragments along with rumen contents.

Physical evidence of attack by a predator: The sheep's remains were centered at the end of a long drag trail down a slope. At the top of the drag trail, a disturbed area existed in pine needle duff where a disruption occurred within 40 yards of the center of the bed ground. This disruption appeared to be associated with a struggle.

Evidence that the predator was a wolf: The herder saw a total of 4 wolves immediately after the sheep band disturbance, with one of the wolves having a sheep in its mouth.

Evidence of wolf presence near the time of the animal(s) death/injury: OR40, a member of the Walla Walla wolf pack, was present within 50 yards of bed grounds at 3:00 am on 5/21/2016.

Recent wolf depredation in the same or nearby area: None

Cause of death/injury:

Confirmed Wolf Probable Wolf Possible/Unknown Other

Summary: ODFW investigated and corroborated the herder's account of the events through physical evidence. The struggle scene at the top of the drag trail, along with the eye witness account of the herder of a significant disturbance of the band of sheep followed by four wolves in the immediate vicinity of a dead sheep no more than 10 minutes after the disturbance warrant a designation of confirmed depredation loss of 1 lamb sheep.