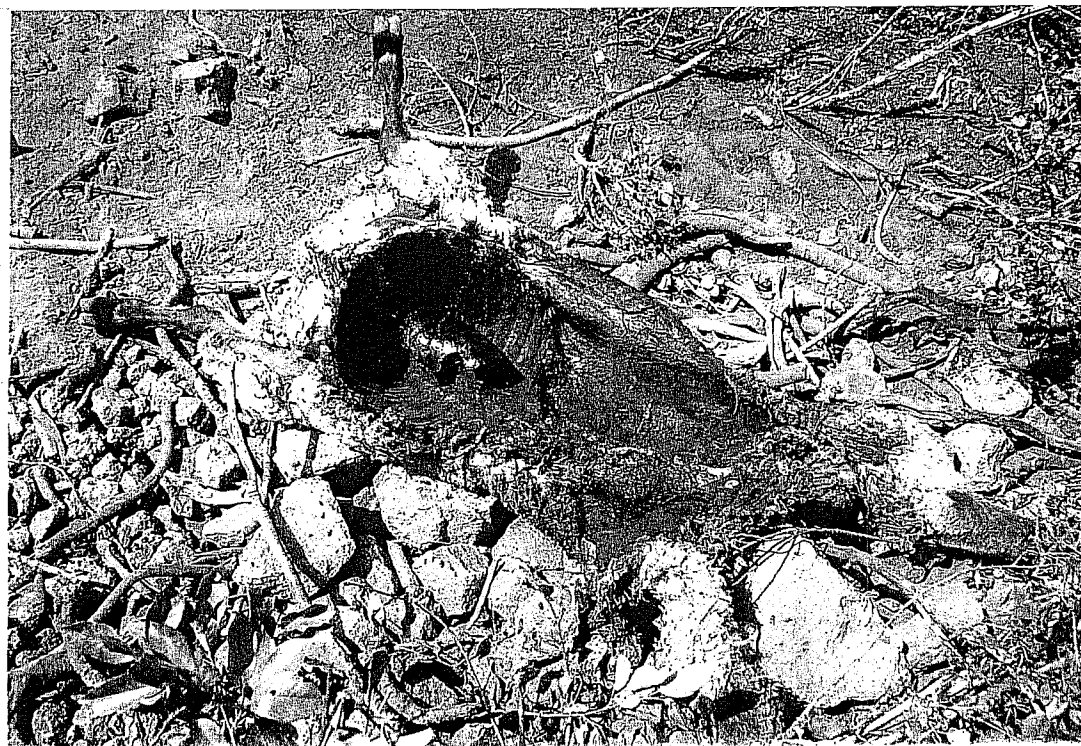
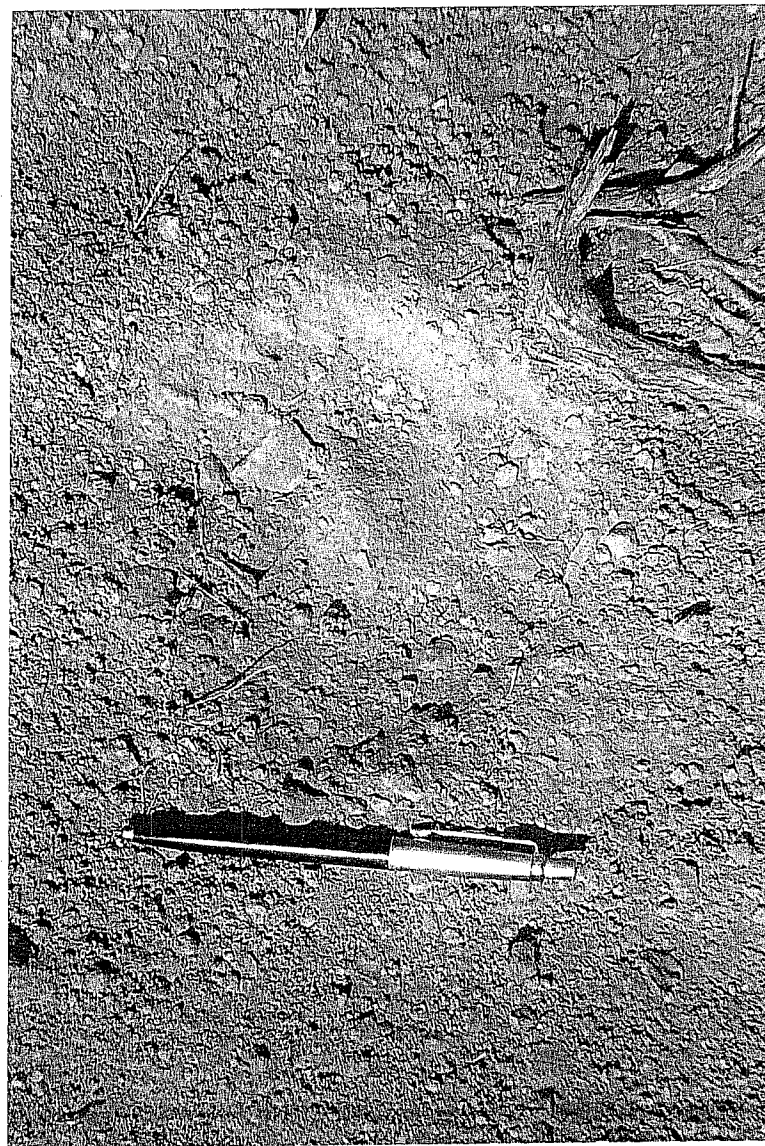


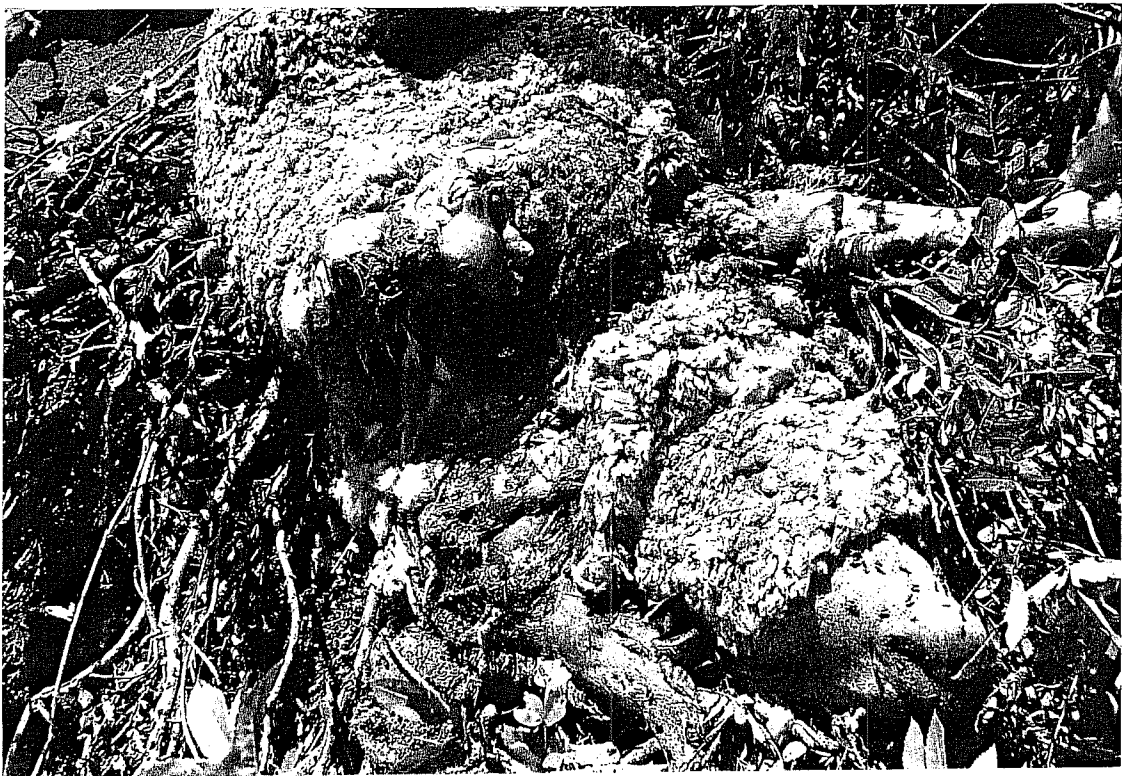
Durke Sheep Co.
BENNETT Mtn 7/13/11

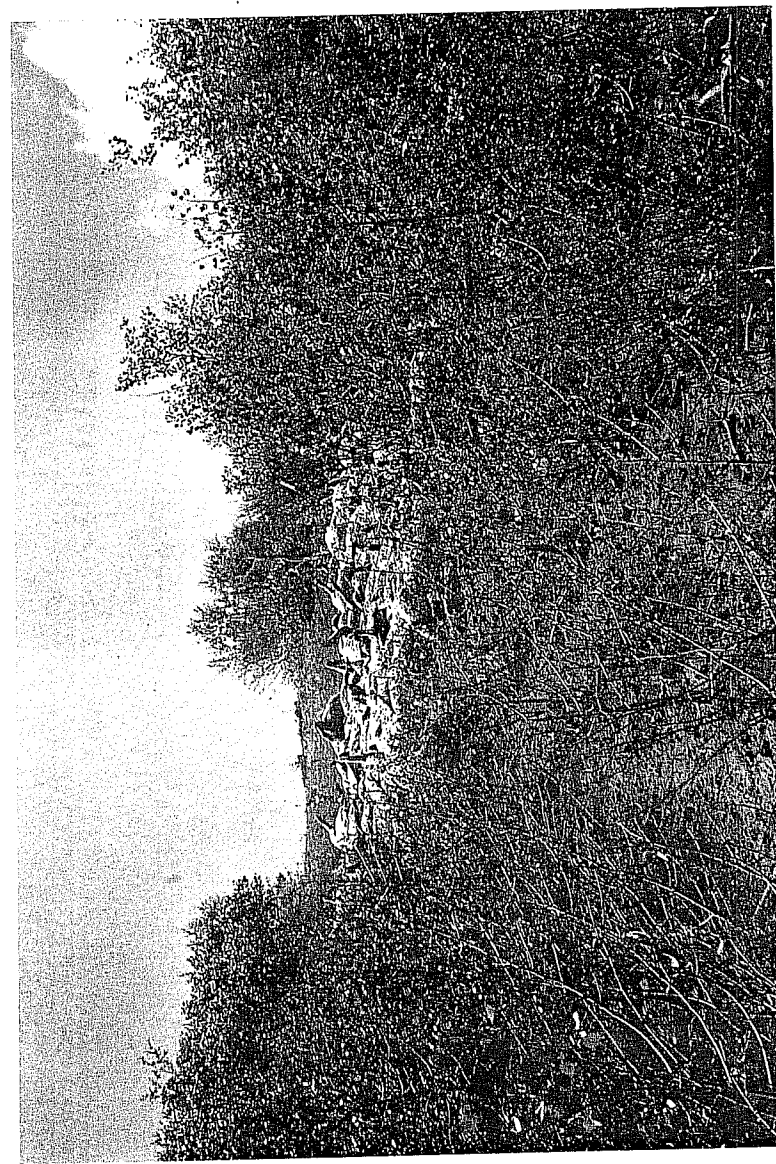
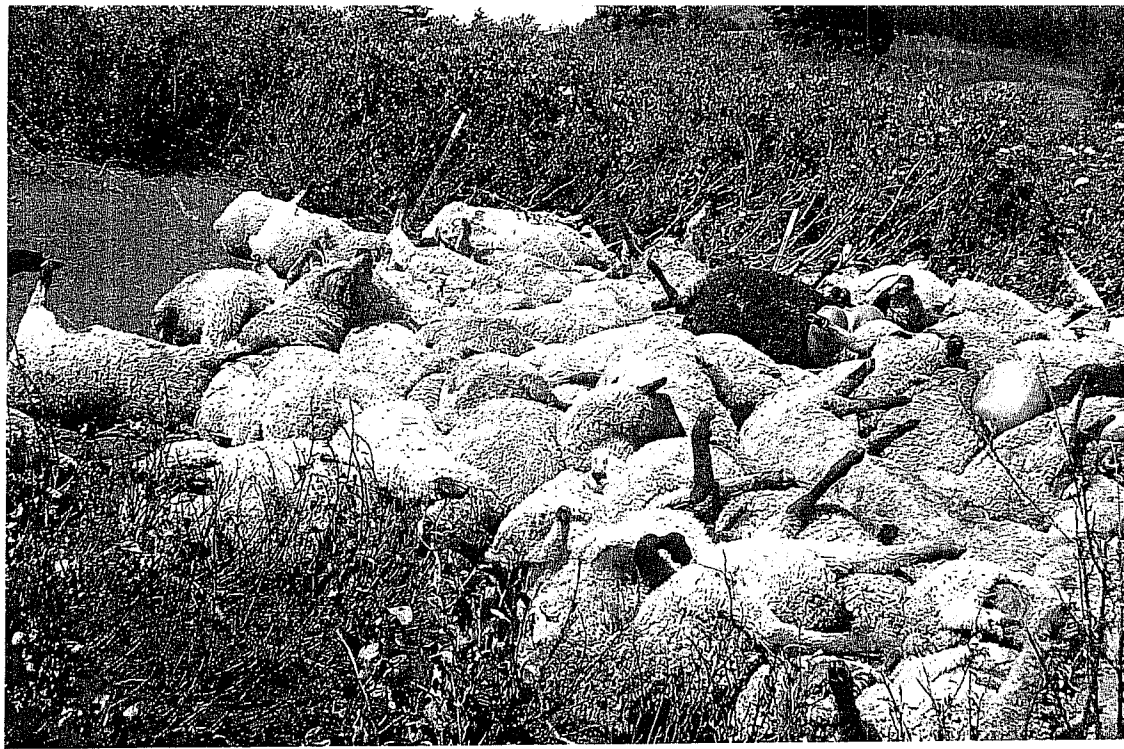
Wolfs Pile Up.

121 lambs

36 Ewes







I MET THE SHEEP PRODUCER ON 7/14/2011 AND HE TOOK ME TO THE AREA WHERE THE PILE UP HAPPENED. I TALKED TO THE HERDERS AND THEY SAID THEY WERE MOVING THE SHEEP OFF OF THE BED GROUND AND THE GUARD DOGS AND HERD DOGS SUDDENLY STARTED RUNNING BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF THE SHEEP BARKING AND GROWLING. THE SHEEP IN FRONT OF THE BAND TURNED AND TRIED TO GO BACK, WHICH CAUSED THE SHEEP TO PILE UP. THE HERDERS SAID THAT THEY DIDN'T SEE WHAT CAUSED THE DOGS TO GET EXCITED. THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD NOT SEEN ANY BEARS IN THE AREA, BUT HAD HEARD COYOTES HOWLING OCCASIONALLY. THIS AREA HAS HAD BLACK BEARS, COYOTES, MOUNTAIN LION, AND GREY WOLVES IN THE PAST.

THE AREA WHERE THE PILE UP OCCURRED WAS VERY STEEP WITH A FENCE AND HEAVY BRUSH ON ONE SIDE AND HEAVY BRUSH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLACE THEY WERE GOING THROUGH. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME LOOKING THROUGH THE BRUSH ALL AROUND THE SHEEP AND WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY EVIDENCE THAT A BEAR HAD BEEN IN THE AREA. I COULDN'T FIND ANY BEAR TRACKS OR SCAT. I DID, HOWEVER, FIND THE TRACKS OF A LONE WOLF THAT CAME TO THE SHEEP AND THEN LEFT. TWO OF THE SHEEP HAD BEEN FED ON. THERE WAS A LOT OF GUARD DOG AND HERD DOG TRACKS AROUND THE CARCASSES AND I WAS UNABLE TO DETERMINE IF THE WOLF HAD FED ON THE CARCASSES.

I WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY EVIDENCE THAT A BEAR CAUSED THIS PILE UP TO HAPPEN, BUT THE PURPOSE OF HAVING GUARD DOGS WITH THE SHEEP IS FOR PROTECTION. THE AREA WHERE THIS HAPPENED IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEARS, LION, AND WOLVES. IN MY OPINION SOMETHING WAS EITHER IN THE AREA OR RECENTLY PASSED THROUGH THE AREA THAT CAUSED THE GUARD DOGS AND HERD DOGS TO GET EXCITED AND START RUNNING AROUND BARKING AND GROWLING.

Sam Koehrhans