

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 1-31-13
HB 323



Missoula Office
140 South Fourth Street West, Suite #1 | Missoula, MT 59801 | tel 406.549.4103 | fax 406.542.5632
www.defenders.org

October 25, 2012

Miller Colony
5130 US Hwy 89
Choteau, MT 59422

Dear Miller Colony Sheep Department,

We received your claim for compensation for 3 sheep, confirmed to be killed by a grizzly bear, valued at \$350.00 each, for a total loss of \$1050.00. This was investigated on July 24th, 2012 by Steve Demers. In 2010, after repeated depredations, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program agreed to cost-share with the Miller Colony on a bear enclosure electric fence around your pasture. According to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, the pasture that was electrified was not being used at the time of the July 24th, 2012 depredation, resulting in the loss of three of your sheep and the death of a male grizzly bear.

To be eligible for compensation, livestock owners must demonstrate best management practices, including reasonable use of nonlethal methods. Additionally, Defenders reserves the right to deny compensation or assistance to anyone who refuses to utilize reasonable nonlethal deterrents. Because you chose to not use the bear enclosure fence and instead pastured your sheep in an unprotected area, your claim does not qualify for compensation through our program. A copy of our guidelines for compensation eligibility and definitions of criteria are enclosed. If you have any questions regarding this claim, please contact our office.

Sincerely,


Erin Edge
Rockies and Plains Associate
Defenders of Wildlife
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