

TO: MONTANA FWP, GOVERNOR SCHWEITZER, SEN. JIM PETERSON, REP. MIKE MILBURN, AND OTHERS.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED LANDOWNERS IN THE AREA OF LEWIS & CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK, DOHERTY MOUNTAIN, AND BULL MOUNTAIN, WISH TO STATE OUR ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION TO THE PLANTING OF BIGHORN SHEEP IN OUR COMMUNITY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THIS. FIRST, THE AREA AROUND THE CAVERNS AND DOHERTY MOUNTAIN IS JUST TOO SMALL FOR THE SHEEP. A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE PROPOSED RANGE FOR THE SHEEP IS PRIVATE PROPERTY. IT IS ALL FENCED FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. DAMAGE TO FENCES BY THE SHEEP AS THEY MOVE AROUND THE AREA WILL NECESSARILY BE A SIGNIFICANT EXPENSE TO THE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AFFECTED. WE FEEL THIS AREA IS JUST NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROPOSED PLANTING.

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