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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO**

WOLF RECOVERY FOUNDATION, and)
WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT)
)
Original Plaintiffs,)
)
and)
)
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, GREAT OLD)
ROADS FOR WILDERNESS, IDAHO)
CONSERVATION LEAGUE, WINTER)
WILDLANDS ALLIANCE, WILDERNESS)
WATCH, and SIERRA CLUB,)
)
Co-Plaintiffs On Third Claim For Relief)
)
v.)
)
U.S FOREST SERVICE and USDA APHIS)
WILDLIFE SERVICES,)
)
Defendants.)

No. 09-cv-686-BLW

**DECLARATION OF
CHRIS HANSEN**

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I, Chris Hansen, declare:

1. My name is Chris Hansen, and I am currently living in Ontario, Oregon. I grew up in Boise, and recently relocated to Ontario for work reasons. My current job involves outreach and education in the local community to support wilderness designations.
2. I graduated from Albertson College of Idaho in 2006, with a degree in history. Since graduation, I have worked for the Forest Service as a recreation trail technician in the St. Joe and Clearwater National Forests of Idaho; and taught math at Timberline High School.
3. I am a member of both The Wilderness Society (TWS) and Idaho Conservation League. In addition, I worked as a contractor with TWS in 2007 to compile and analyze data about off-road vehicle use and the Recreational Trails program administered by the Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation. I also worked for Winter Wildlands Alliance in the winter of 2007-08, documenting snowmobile trespass in the Great Burn area of the Bitterroot Mountains (between Idaho and Montana).
4. The designation and protection of wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act is important to me personally, and professionally, because the establishment of areas for wildlife habitat and viewing in a natural setting allows for a pause and a reprieve from the din of civilization's noise and intrusions. Solitude and quiet seem to be at such a premium these days because of the constant bombardment of noise from motorized vehicles, including increasing number of off-road vehicles in places that used to be inaccessible to them.
5. I have been working to protect wilderness areas and pristine places that are suitable for wilderness designation for several years, because of how important I think it is to retain the quiet and natural beauty of these areas for present and future generations.
6. For me wolves are very much an iconic species of wild areas in the American West – of those places that have not been reached by mankind or altered by mankind's ever-expanding presence. Wolves very much belong in wilderness, including places like the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.
7. I am planning to travel into the Middle Fork Salmon River, within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, during the period February 22-25, 2010. I am excited about this trip because it offers a rare opportunity to view and experience wolves within the natural setting of the Frank Church Wilderness, which is one of our nation's premier wilderness areas.

8. I am greatly looking forward to the opportunity to view wolves during the winter season in an area that is filled with elk and other big game, and to see the wolves as predators interacting with the prey. I hope to observe and document how the wolves work as a hunting pack to stalk and take down prey; and to observe how the elk and deer herds respond to the wolves.
9. I expect to be joined by a couple of my friends who are also experienced back country backpackers. We plan to establish a base camp in the river corridor, which we will use to track down and observe wolves and wildlife in the area.
10. I feel that Idaho Fish and Game's plans to use helicopters to dart and collar wolves in the wilderness area serves as a bad precedent for wildlife management, especially for an area that is supposed to be managed in a natural setting. If allowed to happen, this will greatly upset my viewing experience within this habitat due to noise from low-flying helicopters and the intrusion of motorized aircraft hovering and landing in the solitude and quiet that I will travel far to experience and enjoy.
11. IDFG's use of helicopters to pursue and to dart and collar wolves will obviously disrupt and greatly affect the stalking and hunting habits of the wolves, and introduce an unnecessary and unnatural component to nature's ways in the wilderness. Again, this will prevent myself and my friends from being to able to observe and enjoy experiencing how the wolves carry out their natural predatory practices and interactions with the prey species.
12. Because the Forest Service has approved helicopter low level flights and landings in the Frank Church Wilderness, I feel I will be directly harmed by this action unless the Court issues an injunction to stop it.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 30th day of January, 2010, at Boise, Idaho.

/s/ Chris Hansen
Chris Hansen