

Lauren M. Rule (ISB # 6863)
ADVOCATES FOR THE WEST
PO Box 1612
Boise ID 83701
(208) 342-7024
(208) 342-8286 (fax)
lrule@advocateswest.org

Laurence ("Laird") J. Lucas (ISB # 4733)
PO Box 1342
Boise ID 83701
208-424-1466 (phone and fax)
llucas@lairdlucas.org

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**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
GINGER HARMON**

I, Elizabeth ("Ginger") Harmon, declare:

1. My name is Elizabeth Harmon, also known as Ginger Harmon. I am a founder of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and a twenty year board member. I reside in Carmel, California. I moved to Carmel three years ago from Ketchum, Idaho where I lived for fifteen years. I am seventy nine years old.

2. I am a long time Nordic skier, snowshoer, backpacker, hiker, river runner, nature watcher--including birds, flowers, wildlife and geology, photographer, backcountry volunteer and mountain guide. I have pursued these interests in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and many other Wilderness Areas and public lands of the West.

3. I have found great beauty and joy in Wilderness places. Spending time in wild places and working for their preservation and protection has been basic to my entire life--second only to my family in importance. In Great old Broads for Wilderness I have found an organization that shares my passionate commitment.

4. As I understand the Wilderness Act, there should not be use of helicopters in Wilderness Areas except in dire emergency situations. One of the most important aspects of protected places is that they offer us a unique opportunity to spend time away from our noisy, stressful day-to-day lives.

5. If given the opportunity, I most surely would have commented on the Forest Service plan for use of helicopters to dart and collar wolves in the Frank Church Wilderness. I had no such opportunity because the Forest Service failed to open a comment period as required by NEPA. Had I the chance to comment, I would have offered my opinion that helicopters are at odds with the spirit and law of the Wilderness

Act. I would have commented, as well, that wolves should be let to run free without radio collars when in Wilderness Areas.

6. I am planning to go into the Middle Fork Salmon River in the Frank Church Wilderness in late February for snowshoeing and enjoying the beauty of wildlands in winter. I look forward to observing wildlife in the snow covered landscape; I especially hope to see wolves. I am quite sure that if I hear or see helicopters pursuing wolves, it will destroy the pleasure of my visit. It is my sincerest hope that before my visit, the Forest Service will be enjoined from permitting a plan for helicopter operations in the Frank Church Wilderness.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Dated the 20th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Ginger Harmon
Elizabeth ("Ginger") Harmon