

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)
lucas@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)
BROADS 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
BLAKE EVERSON**

I, Blake Everson, declare:

1. My name is Blake Everson, and I am currently living in McCall, Idaho. I grew up in Nevada, and have since been living and working in Idaho. My current occupation involves traveling throughout and camping in our most prized wilderness landscapes.
2. I graduated from Albertson College of Idaho in 2004, with a degree in Environmental Studies and Literature.
3. I am a member of the Sierra Club, and I support the Wilderness Society and other environmental advocacy groups. I have volunteered many hours in support of our regional conservation efforts as well as international efforts, including a recent post assisting the WWF in the Bosavi rainforest of Papua New Guinea in 2009.
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. I also respect the ecological role wolves play in an ecosystem and believe that the genetic integrity of ungulate populations is improved when wolves are allowed to live unmolested in the environment. 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, with my friend Chris Hanson. 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 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.
10. 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 able to observe and enjoy experiencing how the wolves carry out their natural predatory practices and interactions with the prey species.
11. 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 2nd day of February, 2010, at McCall, Idaho.

/s/ _____
Blake Everson