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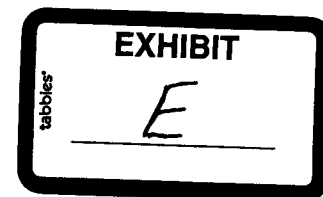
Attorneys for Amici Curiae
Idaho Wool Growers Association and Public Lands Council

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

WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT, et)	
al.)	Civil Action No. 4:07-cv-00151-BLW
)	
Plaintiffs,)	DECLARATION OF ROBERT M.
)	RICHMOND
vs.)	
)	
U.S. FOREST SERVICE,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

I, Robert M. Richmond, declare, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the following statements are true and correct:

1. I was employed by the United States Forest Service for 36 years until my retirement on March 28, 1997 at which time I was the Forest Supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. I had served in that capacity for nine and one-half years prior to my retirement.



2. I graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in 1961. I spent much of my career in range management on national grasslands and national forests in North Dakota, Montana, and Oregon, including service as Director of Range Management for the United States Forest Service Region 6.

3. In my capacity as the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor, I signed a letter to the Idaho Wool Growers Association dated January 16, 1997, attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The intent of that letter was to hold domestic sheep operations harmless from any risk associated with the introduction of bighorn sheep into the Hells Canyon complex. The parties that signed the letter accepted any and all risk associated with disease transmission and death from domestic sheep and bighorn sheep interaction and that domestic sheep operators would not be held accountable or liable for any such disease transmission or death.

4. As stated in the letter, "This means that the Committee recognizes the existing domestic sheep operations in or adjacent to the Hells Canyon complex, on both National Forest and private lands, and accepts the potential risk of disease transmission and loss of bighorn sheep when bighorns invade domestic sheep operations." We inserted this language with the intention of including not only bighorn sheep and domestic sheep that might interact on grazing allotments on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest but also on those portions of the Payette National Forest and Nez Perce National Forest within or adjacent to the Hells Canyon complex.

5. I was one of six signatories to the letter, Exhibit 1, and the only signatory on behalf of the Forest Service. The letter was copied to the Forest Supervisors for the Payette National Forest and Nez Perce National Forest. The reason that I was the only signatory on behalf of the three National Forests was because the Forest Service had decided around 1980 that the Forest Supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest would supervise the Hells

Canyon National Recreation Area regardless of the fact that it covers land within the jurisdiction of other national forests in three different regions of the U.S. Forest Service. I was, therefore, authorized to sign the letter on behalf of the Nez Perce and Payette National Forests and did so knowing that the letter and its “hold harmless” language was intended to and in fact did apply to those national forests.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2007.

/s/ Robert M. Richmond

Robert M. Richmond

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 28, 2007, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which sent a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following persons:

Counsel

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Representing

Federal Defendants

Western Watersheds Project,
Hells Canyon Preservation Council, and
The Wilderness Society

Nez Perce Tribe

Shirts Brothers Sheep and Frank Shirts, Jr.

/s/ William G. Myers III
for Holland & Hart LLP



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wallowa-Whitman
National Forest

P. O. Box 907
Baker City, OR 97814

Reply to: 2210

Date: January 16, 1997

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Idaho Woolgrowers Association
Mr. Stan Boyd, Executive Director
P. O. Box 2596
Boise, ID 83701

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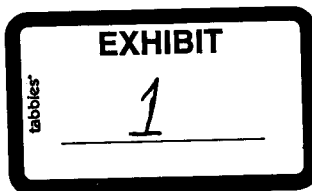
I. W. G. A.

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Dear Mr. Boyd:

The effort to transplant bighorn sheep into historic habitat in Hells Canyon is a cooperative project involving the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Committee (the committee) is interested in having the support of the woolgrowers industry for this effort to repopulate parts of Hells Canyon with bighorn sheep.

The Committee understands that bighorns may occasionally migrate outside of their designated range and come into contact with domestic sheep. These bighorns will be considered "at risk" for potential disease transmission and death. There is also the potential for an exposed bighorn to leave the area and spread disease to other bighorn sheep. Under these conditions, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Department of Wildlife will assume the responsibility for bighorn losses and further disease transmission in their respective states. The three Departments will also take whatever action is necessary to reduce further losses of bighorn sheep without adversely impacting existing domestic sheep operators. The enclosed map clearly delineates the project area within the Hells Canyon complex. Bighorns straying into currently active sheep allotments will be considered "at risk" by all of the Committee entities. This means that the Committee recognizes the existing domestic sheep operations in or adjacent to the Hells Canyon complex, on both National Forest and private lands, and accepts the potential risk of disease transmission and loss of bighorn sheep when bighorns invade domestic sheep operations.





Idaho Woolgrowers Association

The Committee will make every effort to keep interested parties informed about actions being considered by the Committee in its effort to repopulate Hells Canyon with bighorn sheep. We will provide all health information gathered on bighorn sheep to the woolgrowers industry and other interested parties.

Sincerely,

R. M. Richmond
USDA Forest Service, Wallowa-Whitman NF

Jan. 16, 1997
Date

Tom Runk
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

JAN 23, 1997
Date

James W. Grier
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Feb. 26, 1997
Date

Don C. Smith
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Feb 21, 1997
Date

Allan E. Thomas
Bureau of Land Management

Jan. 24, 1997
Date

Duncan B. Hilchert
Foundation for N. American Wild Sheep
Secretary
Enclosure

March 4, 1997
Date

cc: Forest Supervisor, Payette NF
Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce NF

