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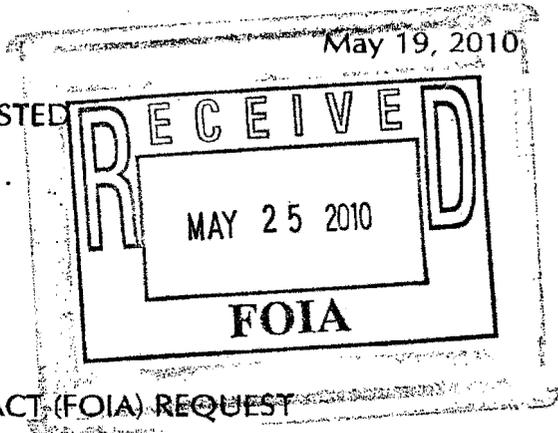
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BY:



VIA U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Oregon Wildlife Services State Director
6135 NE 80th
Suite A-8
Portland, OR 97218



Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST

JUN 22 2010

Dear Oregon Wildlife Services State Director,

This is a request for public records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. I make this request on behalf of Hells Canyon Preservation Council ("HCPC"). HCPC is a non-profit public interest organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Hells Canyon-Wallowa and Blue Mountain ecosystems. HCPC has a long history of interest and involvement in the management of native wildlife species, particularly the management of wolves and the Oregon Wolf Management Plan.

Pursuant to the FOIA, please produce the following documents pertaining to wolf-related activities conducted by the Oregon office of Wildlife Services:

- 1.) Evidence of training received by any current Oregon Wildlife Services agent on the identification and determination of livestock depredation by wolves;
- 2.) More specifically, evidence of training received by any current agent of Wildlife Services employed to operate in Wallowa County, Oregon, on the identification and determination of livestock depredation by wolves;
- 3.) Any reports prepared by any agent of Wildlife Services regarding any reported livestock depredation by wolves in Oregon, from January 1, 2010 to the present, along with any internal agency correspondence regarding those reports; and
- 4.) All correspondence, including within Wildlife Services, with the public, and with other agencies, regarding possible livestock depredation by wolves in Oregon, from January 1 to present.

On behalf of HCPC, I request a waiver of fees from the Forest Service for providing the above requested information. HCPC is a non-profit grassroots conservation organization, which advocates wise stewardship of the public lands. The information requested will be used for public information and education.

Specifically, we formally request a fee waiver for all search and duplication fees under the FOIA regulations [5 U.S.C. Sec. 552(a)(4)(A)]. HCPC is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization and will derive no commercial benefit from this FOIA.

The information requested concerns the operations and activities of the Wildlife Services as they pertain to ecosystem management. The information will benefit the citizens of the United States and is for the purpose of public education and to encourage public debate on important policy issues. Disclosing this information will contribute to HCPC staff and members' and other interested citizens' understanding of Wildlife Service's role in the management of wolves in Oregon.

The requested information will be made available to the public through the office of HCPC in La Grande and documents of significant importance may be included on our website, www.hellscanyon.org. Our office is utilized by university students, grassroots conservationists, journalists, scientists, and the general public. Information given to the HCPC through the FOIA in the past has been used in press conferences and releases, media interviews, publications including our newsletter and those of other groups, and reaches a significant number of individuals nationwide.

The language of the FOIA clearly indicates that Congress intended fees not to be a barrier to private individuals or public interest organizations seeking access to government records. In addition, the legislative history of the FOIA fee waiver language indicates that Congress intended a liberal interpretation of the phrase "Primarily benefiting the public." This suggests that all fees are to be waived whenever the release of information contributes to public debate on important policy issues. This has been affirmed by the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, in Better Government Association v. Department of State, 780 F.2d 86 (D.C. Cir., 1986). In that case, the Court found that under the FOIA, Congress had explicitly recognized the need for non-profit organizations to have free access to government documents and government agencies cannot impair this free access by charging duplication or search for FOIA information requests.

In the event that access to any of the records is denied, please note that the FOIA provides that if only portions of a file are exempted from release, the remainder of the file must still be released. HCPC therefore requests that it be provided with all non-exempt portions which are reasonably segregable. If any of the requested records are not yet complete at the time of your response, I would appreciate it if you would indicate the current status of such documents and approximately when you expect those documents to be completed.

Please also note that to the extent of the requested files are available in electronic format, that is our preferred method of receipt, as it will reduce the time and costs associated with compiling the documents we have requested. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address and phone number below. Thank you in advance for your time and prompt response.

Sincerely,

Greg Dyson, Executive Director
Hells Canyon Preservation Council
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