Timothy M. Bechtold

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Attorney for Plaintiffs

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA MISSOULA DIVISION

FLATHEAD-LOLO-BITTERROOT CITIZEN TASK FORCE and WILDEARTH) CV 23-101-M-DWM)
GUARDIANS,	DECLARATION OF
Plaintiffs,	TIMOTHY MANLEY
vs.	
STATE OF MONTANA,	
Defendants.))
)

DECLARATION OF TIMOTHY MANLEY Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Timothy Manley, declare as follows:

- 1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to make this Declaration.
- 2. I am a retired wildlife biologist.
- 3. I received a B.S. in wildlife biology from Colorado State University in 1981.
- 4. After receiving my degree in Wildlife Biology, I worked for the State of Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks on two grizzly bear research projects and as a Bear Management Specialist for a total of 37 years. My professional responsibilities included capturing grizzly bears for both research and management purposes.
- 5. During the course of my work as a bear management specialist I have personal knowledge of harm to individual grizzly bears caused by leghold traps.
- 6. After wolf trapping became legal in Montana, I captured several adult male grizzly bears that were missing several of their front claws and toes. While I don't know with certainty the cause of the missing claws and toes, it appeared that traps could have cut off the claws and toes of these bears.

7. I also captured an older remaile grizzly that was missing the flower part of 9/2/23 Page 2 of 2 front leg below her elbow. The wound was healed, and I don't know with

front leg below her elbow. The wound was healed, and I don't know with certainty what caused the injury to her leg, but it appeared her leg could have been caught in a trap.

- 8. I also had to drug two grizzly bear cubs of the year that had been captured in leghold traps to release them from the traps. One cub was caught by a private individual trapping for coyotes. The second was caught by a Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks wolf technician who caught the cub in a wolf trap.
- 9. I also had to drug and release two yearling grizzly bears that had been captured in leghold traps set for a coyote and a bobcat. The second yearling was caught in the trap in mid-December. The adult female and two other yearlings were at the site. We enlisted the assistance of Two Bear Air Rescue to push the uncaptured bears away from the site so we could safely hike to the site, drug, and release the yearling that was trapped.
- 10. I also tried to help track down a grizzly bear that had been caught in a leghold trap set by a USFWS wolf biologist in Glacier National Park. The bear broke the trap swivel and escaped with the leghold trap still attached to it. We tracked it with Karelian Bear Dogs to the North Fork of the Flathead River before losing the trail.
- 11. Myself and another bear manager captured an adult male grizzly at a residence near Glen Lake that was missing an entire front foot and wrist. It is our belief that it had probably been caught in a neck snare set by a trapper in search of bobcats or coyotes.
- 12. I also was sent photos by Kevin Burns of an adult male grizzly bear on the Rocky Mountain Front that is missing claws on its front foot. It appeared that the claws could have been caught in a trap.
- 13. Based on my training and experience, grizzly bears are attracted to leghold traps set for other species, including wolves, especially when set around baits.
- 14. Based on my training and experience, the current wolf and furbearer trapping regulations approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission on August 17, 2023, will result in increased incidences of accidental capture and harm to grizzly bears because these regulations increase the likelihood of traps being set in areas occupied by non-denning grizzly bears.

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

Dated this 5th day of September, 2023.

Timothy Manley