

Exhibit 6  
in support of  
Appellants' Motion to Expedite and Consolidate Proceedings in  
*Ctr. for Biological Diversity et al. v. Salazar et al.*,  
Civ. No. 11-35670  
(Declaration of David Mildrexler)



I, DAVID MILDREXLER, declare as follows:

1. I live in La Grande, Oregon and also own land and a cabin near Joseph, Oregon in the Wallowa Mountains of northeast Oregon. I was raised in Portland, Oregon and grew up exploring and enjoying the Cascades.

2. I have been a member of Cascadia Wildlands for many years. As a member of Cascadia Wildlands, I receive and share information relevant to our common interests in protection of public lands and old growth forests in particular. I utilize the web-based resources of Cascadia Wildlands. I rely in part on Cascadia Wildlands to represent my interests in protecting wildlands and wildlife.

3. Cascadia Wildlands is an Oregon nonprofit corporation headquartered in Eugene, Oregon that educates, agitates, and inspires a movement to protect and restore Cascadia's wild ecosystems. Cascadia Wildlands envisions vast old-growth forests, rivers full of salmon, wolves howling in the backcountry, and vibrant communities sustained by the unique landscapes of the Cascadia Bioregion. Cascadia Wildlands has worked for over a decade on wolf recovery in eastern Oregon, and was actively involved in the development and formation of Oregon's Wolf Conservation Plan.

4. Since May of 2009, I have been employed by the Hells Canyon Preservation Council as an Ecosystem Conservation Coordinator, where I focus on forest protection and other public lands issues. I also work as a research scientist

for the University of Montana, College of Forestry and Conservation. I received a M.S. in Forest Science from the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation in 2005. For over a decade, I have been studying ecological sciences focusing on forest ecosystems, and also advocating for public lands protection and ecosystem restoration.

5. My interest in gray wolf recovery grew when I was doing my graduate studies in Missoula at the University of Montana. I spent much of my free time during these years exploring the northern Rocky Mountains. Whenever I was out in the wild, I would look for signs of wolves and other wildlife. I observed wolf tracks and scat and came across wolf kills in the backcountry. I learned a lot about wolves during this time and became familiar with the pack structure in the areas where I frequently visited.

6. I enjoy tracking wildlife and met my wife in a wildlife tracking class in Portland Oregon. I feel thrilled when I can see the track of a rare animal, such as a gray wolf. I observe wildlife tracks routinely while hiking or exploring my own land.

7. My interest in wolves is also reflected by my wolf advocacy. I have written comment letters to federal agencies urging for the protection of wolves, and I have written letters to the editor on a variety of issues relating to protection of wildlife and public lands.

8. The only time I have seen a wolf in the wild was when visiting Yellowstone National Park. And I once heard wolves howl in Canada. I hope that I will again get the chance to see and hear these beautiful and intelligent animals.

9. For more than five years, my family and I have owned six acres of land in northeastern Oregon, near the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the Eagle Cap Wilderness, and lived their part-time. One of the main reasons we chose to invest our time, energy, and money into this area is the proximity to wildlife and wild lands.

10. Every week, I get out and enjoy the natural beauty of the Hells Canyon-Wallowa and Blue Mountain ecosystems in areas near where we live. I also travel to public lands in the region regularly for my conservation work on behalf of Hells Canyon Preservation Council.

11. While enjoying the public lands near my home and where I travel for work, I greatly enjoy looking for wildlife and signs of wildlife. Professionally and personally I am fascinated by wildlife and because of my frequent backcountry explorations, I have studied how to appropriately and safely recreate and work among many wildlife species. I recently found a potential wolf kill and scat while recreating in northeastern Oregon, and I now feel the presence of wolves as I hike. Wolves have been spotted in this region, in some places very close to our cabin, but they are just beginning their path towards recovery and are very rare.

12. I hope to have the opportunity to experience wolves in the areas where I regularly recreate and work. I feel strongly that wolves should be a part of this ecosystem, where they can fulfill their important role as apex predators.

13. My substantial interests in the wolf are harmed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's May 5, 2011 reissuance of the April 2, 2009 final rule delisting the gray wolf ("Delisting Rule"). The Delisting Rule removes Endangered Species Act protection from gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains. In particular, gray wolves in Montana and Idaho, as well as portions of eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, and north-central Utah are now state managed and subject to increased lethal control from government agents, private landowners, and hunters and trappers.

14. The reissuance of the Delisting Rule makes it less likely that wolves will be able to successfully re-establish a viable population in Oregon. The loss of wolves from Oregon under state management runs counter to the reasons I moved to this region, and would substantially decrease the enjoyment I receive from recreating in the forests of the Hells Canyon-Wallowa Ecosystem of eastern Oregon.

15. It is frustrating that wolves that had just begun recolonizing areas near my home have now lost federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. I have waited patiently for wolves to return to Oregon and everyone has had plenty

of time to prepare. I do not want to see the gray wolf's progress towards recovery erased.

16. I believe that humans have a moral responsibility to respect wildlife. I grew up in a home with a quote on the refrigerator paraphrased as; "What man does to the least of God's creatures, he will also do to his fellow man." Many people have successfully protected huge landscapes in this part of eastern Oregon where wolves can thrive. I am thankful that wolves are returning to live with us. All we have to do is make some very small sacrifices.

17. I would not want to have to explain to my son that humans had the opportunity to restore the gray wolf to this region but instead chose to bend to the narrow interests of the cattle industry. That would be a depressing state of affairs for our culture and heritage.

18. The reissuance of the Delisting Rule will adversely affect my personal and professional interest in recovery of gray wolves because it would reduce wolf numbers. It would lessen the positive effect of wolves on their ecosystem. I am harmed through the degradation of these ecosystems, many of which I have explored and intend to return to. As an ecologist I am keenly aware that wolves, through keystone predator interactions, can enhance biodiversity and functional properties of lands, thereby increasing resilience to climate change. I consider this a valuable ecosystem service of significant important to the entire society.

19. In sum, my professional and personal interests in the protection of gray wolves are being greatly harmed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's reissuance of the Delisting Rule. The loss of wolves under state management is depriving me of some of the benefits I currently enjoy recreating in gray wolf habitats, and also of the enjoyment I receive from the very existence of these rare animals. If the Court finds that the Delisting Rule is illegal, gray wolves in the northern Rockies would once again be protected under the Endangered Species Act, which is key to ensuring that my interests in gray wolves and ecosystem health is preserved and remain free from injury.



I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed  
on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in La Grande, Oregon.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Mildrexler", written over a horizontal line.

David Mildrexler