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14 *River and Center for Biological Diversity*

15 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
16 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
17 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

18 FRIENDS OF GUALALA RIVER, et al.,
19 Plaintiffs,
20 vs.
21 GUALALA REDWOOD TIMBER, LLC,
22 Defendant.

Case No. 20-cv-06453-JD

**DECLARATION OF CHARLES IVOR IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

Date: June 24, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: 11
Judge: Hon. James Donato
Action Filed: September 15, 2020
Trial Date: None

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THE EMBARCADERO
PIER 9, SUITE 100
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1 I, Charles Ivor, declare as follows:

2 1. I am the President of Friends of Gualala River, a plaintiff in this action. I make this
3 declaration based upon my personal knowledge, and if called upon as a witness, I could and
4 would competently testify to these matters. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs'
5 Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

6 2. I have lived in the town of Gualala since 2008. I have a bachelor's degree in
7 biology from University of California, Santa Cruz, and have worked as a licensed general
8 contractor since 1997.

9 3. I am an avid fly fisherman and enjoy flyfishing for steelhead on the Gualala River.
10 I own a drift boat, which I use to row the length of the Gualala River (when flow levels permit)
11 and its estuary. Beyond fishing, I simply enjoy being on the Gualala River and appreciating the
12 different species of plants and animals that live in it and the surrounding redwood forest, as well
13 as the forest itself. I also hike and spend time in various different areas within the watershed for
14 recreation. The forest surrounding the Gualala river is magnificent and peaceful, and provides me
15 with a special place for personal reflection and relaxation. I hope and expect to continue to spend
16 time on the Gualala River and its surrounding watershed for many years to come, and plan to do
17 so in the near future.

18 4. I also am a member and current President of plaintiff Friends of Gualala River
19 ("FOGR"). I joined Friends of Gualala River in 2009. Since then, I have been active in local
20 environmental issues, with particular emphasis on the preservation and rehabilitation of the
21 Gualala River, its watershed, and its surrounding environs, including the redwood forest it flows
22 through.

23 5. Plaintiff Friends of Gualala River is a non-profit public interest group established
24 in 2002 in Gualala, California. Friends of Gualala River was formed and exists to protect the local
25 environment and educate our citizenry on the benefits of caring for our local environment and
26 preserving and protecting the Gualala river. Since its inception, Friends of Gualala River has
27 volunteered resources to foster public dialogue about natural resources throughout the region, by
28 attending federal, state, and local meetings and public hearings working to influence elected

1 leaders in planning for a healthy environmental future in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.
2 Friends of Gualala River likewise acts to protect the local environment through grassroots
3 activism and fundraising, impact litigation, and providing educational resources to the public. In
4 part through monitoring local planning issues, the local and northern California members of
5 Friends of Gualala River have tirelessly worked to protect the Gualala River and the habitat it and
6 its surround lands provide to steelhead, salmon, red-legged frogs, and northern spotted owls; as
7 well as other endangered and threatened species of plants and animals, the scenic corridors of the
8 roads that cross through the bioregion, and the ancient redwood forests through which the river
9 flows. Friends of Gualala River believes that, without deliberate attention and care, these
10 important resources will be further compromised or degraded over time and lost to future
11 generations.

12 6. Friends of Gualala River has closely followed, commented on, and opposed what
13 Gualala Redwood Timber, LLC (“GRT”) calls the “Dogwood THP”. Pursuant to the Dogwood
14 THP, GRT proposes to log redwood trees in an area that Gualala locals have long referred to as
15 the “magic forest.” It is a special place that is in slow recovery from intensive logging that it was
16 previously subjected to decades ago. The members of Friends of Gualala River regularly use
17 publicly accessibly portions of this area for educational, recreational, spiritual, and other
18 purposes, taking emotional and moral as well as physical sustenance from the river and its
19 surrounding environs. The members of Friends of Gualala river often have and will undertake a
20 variety of activities along the Gualala River, and the county and state parks adjacent to the river,
21 including viewing the Gualala River while driving along nearby highways and roads, hiking and
22 visiting portions of the Gualala River that will be impacted by the Dogwood THP, and viewing
23 wildlife that depend on the Gualala River. They plan to continue to do so in the future.

24 7. The Dogwood THP contemplates selective logging to remove a large number of
25 redwood trees from the magic forest, which it will then drag along skid trails through the forest
26 growth for trucking, processing, and sale. For the past five years members of the Friends of
27 Gualala River have questioned the reasoning and environmental analysis behind the Dogwood
28 THP. We have been engaged on this issue by writing letters to the editor, to our Congressmen,

1 and to Cal Fire about our concerns, and spent several years in litigation in the California state
2 courts in an effort to compel GRT and CalFire to confront analytical deficiencies and
3 incongruities in the THP.

4 8. Based on my and the other members of Friends of Gualala River's review of the
5 Dogwood THP, as well as our intimate familiarity with the areas to be logged, the logging
6 activities contemplated in the Dogwood THP are of the type that are reasonably certain to harm
7 coho salmon, the Northern California steelhead, the northern spotted owl, and the California red
8 legged frog; as well as damage their habitat. Through public comment procedures, letters, public
9 demonstrations, and litigation, Friends of Gualala River have repeatedly informed GRT and
10 various administrative agencies that the Dogwood THP is likely to cause severe damage to coho
11 salmon, the Northern California steelhead, the northern spotted owl, and the California red legged
12 frog and their respective habitats, as well as its members' aesthetic, recreational, and personal
13 enjoyment of the area, and has protested the Dogwood THP going forward as planned on that
14 basis.

15 9. Friends of Gualala River has informed GRT that the methods by which it intends
16 to log will damage those species in a number of ways; including by increasing stream
17 temperatures and the level of sediment in the river, reducing canopy coverage used for nesting
18 and roosting by the northern spotted owl, and crushing California red legged frogs and their
19 habitat through the use of heavy machinery. Friends of Gualala River is committed to taking all
20 possible steps to preserve the unique and precious resources which would be impacted by the
21 Dogwood THP, including the Gualala River, its surrounding watershed and forest, the Gualala
22 River's unique and near-extinct population of Central California Coast ("CCC") coho salmon, the
23 Northern California steelhead, the northern spotted owl, and the California red legged frog, as
24 well as the precious and diminishing habitat for each of those species in the Gualala area. The
25 members of Friends of Gualala River believe the Dogwood THP would cause irreparable harm to
26 precious ecological resources provided by the Gualala River, including habitat for all of the
27 aforementioned species, community water sources, sport fishing, and the river's remarkable
28 scenic and aesthetic values. Moreover, the members of Friends of Gualala River believe the

1 logging would otherwise adversely impact the quality of human life by decreasing Gualala locals'
2 ability to appreciate and enjoy the river and the forest.

3
4 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America and
5 the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

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7 Executed on May 18, 2021 in GUALALA, CA.

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10 Charles Ivor

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