

**U.S. District Court  
District of Montana (Great Falls)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 4:22-cv-00029-BMM**

Montana Environmental Information Center et al v. Office of the Secretary of the Interior et al  
Assigned to: Judge Brian Morris  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 03/18/2022  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**Montana Environmental Information Center**

represented by **Barbara L. Chillcott**  
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**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
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**Melissa Anne Hornbein**  
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**Justin Augustine**  
Center for Biological Diversity  
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**Plaintiff**

**Wildearth Guardians**

represented by **Barbara L. Chillcott**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Melissa Anne Hornbein**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
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**Justin Augustine**  
(See above for address)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Plaintiff**

**Center for Biological Diversity**

represented by **Barbara L. Chillcott**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Melissa Anne Hornbein**  
(See above for address)

LEAD ATTORNEY  
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

**Justin Augustine**  
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V.

**Defendant**

**Office of the Secretary of the Interior**

represented by **Mark Steger Smith**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE –  
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**Defendant**

**Office of the Solicitor**

represented by **Mark Steger Smith**  
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**Defendant**

**Department of the Interior**

represented by **Mark Steger Smith**  
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**Defendant**

**Bureau of Land Management**

represented by **Mark Steger Smith**  
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Date Filed	#	Docket Text
03/18/2022	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF against All Defendants, filed by Wildearth Guardians, Montana Environmental Information Center, Center for Biological Diversity. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Blank Summons – Office of the Secretary – Interior, # <u>3</u> Blank Summons – Office of Solicitor – Interior, # <u>4</u> Blank Summons – BLM, # <u>5</u> Blank Summons – U.S. Attorney's Office, # <u>6</u> Blank Summons – U.S. Attorney General) (SLR) (Entered: 03/18/2022)
03/18/2022		Filing fee: \$ 402.00, receipt number AMTDC–2834643. (SLR) (Entered: 03/18/2022)
03/18/2022	<u>2</u>	Summons Issued as to Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General. <b>Counsel is directed to download issued Summonses for service.</b> (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Issued Summons – Office of the Solicitor, # <u>2</u> Issued Summons – BLM, # <u>3</u> Issued Summons – U.S. Attorney's Office, # <u>4</u> Issued Summons – Attorney General) (SLR) (Entered: 03/18/2022)
03/18/2022	<u>3</u>	Corporate Disclosure Statement by Center for Biological Diversity, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wildearth Guardians. (Chillcott, Barbara) (Entered: 03/18/2022)

03/22/2022	<u>4</u>	MOTION Justin Augustine to Appear Pro Hac Vice ( Filing fee \$ 262 receipt number AMTDC-2836801.) Barbara L. Chillcott appearing for Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wildearth Guardians (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Affidavit Affidavit of Justin Augustine, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order Proposed Order) (Chillcott, Barbara) (Entered: 03/22/2022)
03/22/2022	<u>5</u>	ORDER granting <u>4</u> Motion to Appear Pro Hac Vice of Justin Augustine. <b>NOTE: Instructions to request Montana CM/ECF registration through PACER are found <a href="#">here</a>.</b> Signed by Judge Brian Morris on 3/22/2022. <b>**SEE ORDER FOR DETAILS**</b> (ACC) (Entered: 03/22/2022)
03/25/2022	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Acknowledgment of Pro Hac Vice Order by Center for Biological Diversity, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wildearth Guardians re <u>5</u> Order on Motion to Appear Pro Hac Vice, (Augustine, Justin) (Entered: 03/25/2022)
03/29/2022	<u>7</u>	AFFIDAVIT of Service for Summons and Complaint <i>in a FOIA case</i> served on All Federal Defendants on 03/22/2022, filed by Center for Biological Diversity, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wildearth Guardians. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Summons Executed / Proof of Service Upon U.S. Defendants, # <u>2</u> Summons Executed / Proof of Service Upon U.S. Attorney District of Montana, # <u>3</u> Summons Executed / Proof of Service Upon U.S. Attorney General) (Chillcott, Barbara) Modified on 3/30/2022 to reflect date of service is 03/18/22 (KAH). Modified on 4/5/2022 to reflect that pursuant to a call received from pltf's counsel the date of service is 3/22/2022 and not 3/18/22. (MMS). (Entered: 03/29/2022)
03/30/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: Bureau of Land Management answer due 4/8/2022; Department of the Interior answer due 4/8/2022; Office of the Secretary of the Interior answer due 4/8/2022; Office of the Solicitor answer due 4/8/2022. (KAH) (Entered: 03/30/2022)
04/05/2022		Set/Reset Deadlines: All Defendants. Answer due on 4/21/2022 per FOIA cases. (MMS) (Entered: 04/05/2022)
02/12/2024	<u>8</u>	TEXT Order : IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a Status Report is due by 2/20/2024. Signed by Judge Brian Morris on 2/12/2024. (SLL) (Entered: 02/12/2024)
02/20/2024	<u>9</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Stay <i>and Status Report</i> . Barbara L. Chillcott appearing for Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wildearth Guardians. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order) (Chillcott, Barbara) (Entered: 02/20/2024)
02/20/2024	<u>10</u>	ORDER granting <u>9</u> Motion to Stay IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendants shall file an answer on or before March 20, 2024. Upon filing of Defendants answer, proceedings in this case are stayed. The Parties shall submit a joint status report on or before June 20, 2024, and every ninety (90) days thereafter. If the Parties reach an impasse with respect to further releases of information, they shall notify the Court and propose a briefing schedule. Conversely, if Defendants complete productions and there is no dispute as to the content, the Parties will update the Court with a plan for dismissal of this matter and any proceedings with respect to attorneys fees. Signed by Judge Brian Morris on 2/20/2024. (KAH) (Entered: 02/20/2024)
02/20/2024		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Case Management deadline 3/20/2024. Status Report due by 6/20/2024. (KAH) (Entered: 02/20/2024)
02/21/2024	<u>11</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Mark Steger Smith on behalf of Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor (Smith, Mark) (Entered: 02/21/2024)
03/20/2024	<u>12</u>	ANSWER to <u>1</u> Complaint, by Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor. (Smith, Mark) (Entered: 03/20/2024)
06/10/2024		Terminated case management deadline : 3/20/2024 re <u>10</u> Order. (SAJ) (Entered: 06/10/2024)
06/20/2024	<u>13</u>	STATUS REPORT by Center for Biological Diversity, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wildearth Guardians. (Chillcott, Barbara) (Entered: 06/20/2024)

09/18/2024	<u>14</u>	STATUS REPORT <i>Joint</i> by Center for Biological Diversity, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wildearth Guardians. (Hornbein, Melissa) (Entered: 09/18/2024)
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