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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF WYOMING**

**WESTERN LAND EXCHANGE PROJECT,)
SUSAN WOZNY, JENNIFER SORENSEN,)
KEVIN HOLDSWORTH, and WILLIAM)
YOUNG)**

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

**GALE NORTON, in her official capacity)
as Secretary of the Interior; and KATHLEEN)
CLARKE, in her official capacity as)
Director of the Bureau of Land Management)**

Defendants)

Case No. _____

COMPLAINT

I.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Martin's Cove Historic Site ("Martin's Cove") is a sheltered location in the Sweetwater Rocks just north of the Sweetwater River, approximately 55 miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming. The site is located entirely on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and is enrolled as a National Historic Place on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Cove is contiguous to the confluence of the four major western migratory trails, including the Oregon Trail. The trails were traveled by a half million settlers between 1841 and 1869. These trails are administered by the National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the BLM, under the provisions of the National Trails System Act. Martin's Cove also lies in direct proximity to other historical landmarks, including the Tom Sun Ranch, Devil's Gate and Independence Rock. The entire area is known as Independence Pass and has significant historic interest to the BLM, the NPS, and the public. Access to Martin's Cove and to Devil's Gate is gained exclusively through the Tom Sun Ranch, private property also enrolled on the NRHP.

2. For many years, the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS or Church) sought to gain control of Martin's Cove and the surrounding land and convert the property into a religious site for LDS pilgrims. Martin's Cove is considered significant to the LDS Church because Mormon pioneers traveling west in the Martin Handcart Company took refuge there during an early winter storm in 1856 and many perished.

3. In 1996, the LDS Church purchased the Tom Sun Ranch and converted it into a Mormon visitors' center. The following year LDS officials entered into a collaborative agreement with the BLM that placed Martin's Cove under the stewardship of the Church, subject to certain conditions,