Beginning Farmer or Rancher Determination for the USFS

A beginning farmer or rancher is a person, including a permittee's children, grandchildren, other individuals, or legal entity for which the following are true for the farmer or rancher:

- Has not owned, operated, or served as an officer, managing partner or member, or any other deciding individual of a farm or ranching business for more than 10 consecutive years; and
- Materially and substantially participates in the operation, such as providing substantial day-to-day labor and decision making.

For entities to be considered a beginning farmer or rancher, all members of the interest must be beginning farmers or ranchers. Proof of such would be provided through the business formation documents showing the division of interests of the owners (form FS-2200-0025).

To verify beginning farmer or rancher status for permit qualification exemptions (livestock owned by a beginning rancher, extended livestock purchase and sale arrangements for beginning ranchers) or when a prospectus is used to solicit applications for a term grazing permit, the individual or entity would provide a notarized statement, such as the following:

I certify that the following statements are true:

- *I (or if applicable, the entity) have not owned, operated, or served as an officer, managing partner or member, or any other deciding individual of a farm or ranch for more than 10 consecutive years.*
- *I (or if applicable, the entity) substantially participate in the operation.*

The date (month/year) I began farming or ranching: _____

Signature: _____