

RANGE

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 2016

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: *Caroline Joy "CJ" Hadley*

ASST. TO PUBLISHER: *Ann Galli*

DESIGN CONSULTANT: *John Bardwell*

CUSTOMER SERVICE: *Deborah Bentley*

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS: *Joani Haws*

SCIENCE EDITOR: *Chance Gowan*

OUTSIDE EDITOR: *Steve Thompson*

PROOFREADER: *Denyse Pellettieri White*

WEBMASTER: *Larry Angier*

FACEBOOK: *Carolyn Dufurrena*

& *Ann Henderson*

ENVIRONMENTAL EDITORS: *Carolyn Dufurrena (NV), Barney Nelson (TX)*; SOUTHWEST CONNECTION: *Al Topping (AZ)*; APPALACHIA: *Alan Hart (VA)*; PHOTOGRAPHERS: *Linda Dufurrena (NV/OR), Larry Turner (OR, TX)*; NOT FORGOTTEN: *Don Coops (CA), Carrie Depaoli (NV), Tim Findley (NV), Chet Mercer (WY), Jack Swanson (CA), J. Zane Walley (NM)*; WEBLOOKERS: *Gail Brooks (AZ), Paul Eizler (NV)*; COWBOY ADVISORS: *Ed Depaoli (NV), Carolyn Carey (CA), Terry Sullivan (NV), Tom Wahlen (CA)*.

RANGE (ISSN #1093-3670) is published quarterly for \$19.95 per year U.S. (\$28/yr Canada, \$45/yr all other countries, U.S. funds only) by Purple Coyote Corp., 106 East Adams St., Ste. 201, Carson City, NV 89706. Periodicals postage rate paid at Carson City, NV, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Address changes to:

RANGE, P.O. Box 639, Carson City, NV 89702

775-884-2200

FAX: 775-884-2213

1-800-RANGE-4-U (*credit card orders*)

Publisher/Editor: cj@rangemagazine.com

Advertising: ads@rangemagazine.com

Customer Svc: service@rangemagazine.com

Business: admin@rangemagazine.com

Freelancers: edit@rangemagazine.com

Website: www.rangemagazine.com

Photos: www.cowboyswest.com

Like us on Facebook

RANGE is an award-winning quarterly devoted to the issues that threaten the West, its people, lifestyles, lands and wildlife. No stranger to controversy, RANGE is a leading forum for opposing viewpoints in the search for solutions that will halt the depletion of a national resource—the American cowboy.

RANGE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION Grants to the nonprofit 501(c)(3) RCF to assist with RANGE's mission are appreciated. Mail to RCF, Attn.: Ed Depaoli, P.O. Box 1595, Carson City, NV 89702. 775-884-2206.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is strictly prohibited. Publisher not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photos or for the opinions of the contributors. Subscription fulfillment: Integrated Fulfillment Services, Concord, Calif. Distribution: Warner International, Los Angeles, Calif.

COPYRIGHT © 2016. Printed in U.S.A.

© JEFF ROSS, 2015



Up Front

Intimidation? You bet.

By C.J. Hadley

Ammon Bundy and four others, including brother Ryan, were jailed in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 26, 2016, charged with “conspiracy to impede officers of the U.S. from discharging their duties” for leading an occupation of a wildlife refuge. The accusing federal agents hold no deed to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns, nor pay taxes on it, yet those God-fearing country boys were denied due process and placed in solitary confinement for days. (See p. 32)

Ammon and four others were extradited to Nevada on April 15 for crimes so terrible that it took two years for the feds to figure out what to charge them with. Their list includes “conspiracy, obstruction, and armed assault” against federal agents rounding up cattle, even though no agent was harmed. What did the Bundys do? Protest a taking of private property in Bunkerville, Nev., in April 2014. If found guilty, they could spend decades in prison. (See “Patterns of Harassment,” rangemagazine.com)

Bundy's group was protesting federal treatment of Oregon ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond, who are serving hard time in Los Angeles (for the second time for the same crime) to finish the rest of “five years mandatory” each for “domestic terrorism.” Their crime? Backburning less than 140 acres of federal range (about \$100 worth of graze)—on which they own the forage and water rights and pay for a permit. They also were forced to pay \$400,000 “restitution” by Dec. 31, 2015, or lose their ranch, which BLM has first option on. (See “Enemies of the State,” Spring 2014, at rangemagazine.com)

Last year, 10 million acres of federally managed land went up in smoke. No feds went to jail and no one apologized—even though people, livestock, horses and wildlife were killed and houses, barns and outbuildings burned. (See “Destruction of the West,” Winter 2015/16, at rangemagazine.com)

Cliven Bundy flew from Las Vegas to Portland to visit his sons on Feb. 10, 2016, but was arrested on arrival at the airport. Escorted back to Nevada to face the same charges as his sons, he was denied bail because he is considered “too dangerous.” Cliven's crime? In the spring of 2014 he posted on social media the actions of federal agents abusing people and rounding up his cattle on the southern Neva-

da desert that his family has ranched since the 1800s. Several hundred people showed up, many practicing their First and Second Amendment rights. Support for the Bundys was so strong that the BLM, ATF, FBI and friends backed off, followed by threats from the vindictive Sen. Harry Reid right after his heavily armed buddies slunk out of town. Reid spewed on Vegas TV, “This isn't over!”

I guess not. The boss of the BLM is a former Reid staffer and since that time government agents have been meticulously checking videos of the standoff at Bunkerville. Anyone they recognize and can find is or could soon be under arrest. Armed agents arrested and released two frightened women in North Carolina who happened to be on their way home from Vegas and stopped to take a photo of the cattle release. Armed agents already took Jerry DeLemus from his home in New Hampshire for standing with the Bundys and extradited him to Las Vegas for crimes in Oregon and Nevada. (DeLemus is married to a state legislator and was serving as co-chair of the Veterans for Trump coalition.) Armed agents have stopped, frisked and questioned ranchers, including women and children, while traveling on local roads in Harney County, Ore., to see who else “aided and abetted the enemy.”

When Ammon's brother Mel Bundy was arrested at his job by dozens of heavily armed agents and taken to the Henderson Detention Center, he was chained to a bed and denied food and water for most of two days. When Ammon arrived at the same place, he was shackled to a bench and also denied food for two days. Only when Ammon wouldn't stop rattling his chains did someone come to his filthy cell and say, “We forgot you were here.”

Intimidation? You bet. Cruel and unusual punishment? Absolutely. Unconstitutional? Without doubt. Federal overreach? Hell, yes. Reid started telling the truth on the Senate floor on April 7 when he encouraged President Obama to protect the 350,000-acre Gold Butte National Conservation Area under the Antiquities Act. Is that Bundy's range? You bet. And that's what Reid's always coveted.

At press time, more than 40 people have been questioned, 19 are in jail with no bail, and the feds are in unaccountable overdrive. And when it comes to federal harassment of dozens of other western ranchers like the Tomeras, Filippinis and Hages, the Constitution has been deemed irrelevant.

And the Hammonds? They seem to have been forgotten. ■

Check rangemagazine.com for several related features listed under “Tyranny,” plus three new stories in this issue, starting on page 32.