



## Arizona Cattlemen's Association

The Arizona Cattlemen's Association (ACA) is monitoring the situation in Clark County Nevada closely as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Parks Service (NPS) continue to gather trespassed cattle off the Bundy family ranch. In March of this year the Bureau of Land Management issued a notice of intent to impound unauthorized livestock from allotments under the purview of the BLM and National Parks Service lands as well. ACA understands this was driven by a district court decision however, we would hope that our Federal government could have reached a more satisfactory solution over this conflict. ACA has become increasingly concerned with the BLM and NPS course of action over the last few days.

ACA has worked on conflict resolution with federal agencies since their inception and it is shameful to see the actions of these agencies become so drastic and overreaching. The Federal government has multiple tools and many options for conflict resolution, the recent actions made by the BLM and the NPS has torn the fabric of rural America and threatens the well-being of families and rural communities. Ranchers such as Mr. Bundy have found themselves with their backs against the wall as increasing federal regulations have infringed on their public land grazing rights and the multiple use management principle. In the west, one in every two acres is owned by the federal government. Therefore, the integrity of the laws protecting productive multiple use is paramount to the communities that exist there.

It is inexcusable how the BLM and NPS have chosen to approach this situation. These Federal agencies have used excessive force, an astounding amount of resources and man power to threaten an individual ranch family. This is a clear example of government over reacting and an abuse of power to stifle the freedom of speech by all those who wish to voice their opinion regarding the gathering of Bundy cattle. The BLM and NPS have escalated the severity of the issue to a level that is unnecessary and are provoking the locals to take action. ACA would encourage the BLM and NPS to cease their actions immediately and find a more reasonable solution to the issue.

We regret that this situation was not avoided through local government involvement and better implementation of federal regulations, laws, and court decisions. While we cannot advocate operating outside the law to solve problems, we also sympathize with Mr. Bundy's dilemma. ACA will continue working to protect private property rights and our members' way of life.