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Bundy standoff

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Coordinates: 36°43′00″N 114°14′19″W﻿ / ﻿﻿ / ﻿

For the 2016 standoff in Harney County, Oregon, see [Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#).

The **Bundy standoff** was an armed confrontation between protesters and law enforcement that developed from a 20-year legal dispute between the [United States Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM) and cattle rancher [Cliven Bundy](#), over unpaid [grazing fees](#) on federally owned land in southeastern [Nevada](#).

The ongoing dispute started in 1993, when, in protest against changes to grazing rules, Bundy declined to renew his permit for cattle grazing on BLM-administered lands near [Bunkerville, Nevada](#). According to the BLM, Bundy continued to graze his cattle on public lands without a permit. In 1998, Bundy was prohibited by the [United States District Court for the District of Nevada](#) from grazing his cattle on an area of land later called the Bunkerville Allotment. In July 2013, the BLM complaint was supplemented when federal judge [Lloyd D. George](#) ordered that Bundy refrain from trespassing on federally administered land in the [Gold Butte](#) area of [Clark County](#).

On March 27, 2014, 145,604 acres of federal land in Clark County were temporarily closed for the "capture, impound, and removal of trespass cattle". BLM officials and law enforcement rangers began a roundup of such livestock on April 5, and an arrest was made the next day. On April 12, 2014, a group of protesters, some of them armed,

Bundy standoff

- Date**
- Legal process: 1993 – present
 - Confrontation: April 5, 2014 – May 2014 ^[1]
- Location** Bunkerville, Clark County, Nevada, United States
36°43′00″N 114°14′19″W﻿ / ﻿﻿ / ﻿
- Causes**
- Protest over [Bureau of Land Management](#) roundup of trespass cattle pursuant to court order
 - Unpaid cattle grazing fees on public domain lands
- Goals**
- BLM seeks to round up and remove from the range trespass cattle owned by Bundy
 - ATF to oversee operations
 - Cliven Bundy seeks to prevent roundup of cattle and have his claim of [grazing rights](#) recognized
- Result**
- The BLM suspends the roundup of trespassing cattle
 - Protesters disperse
 - Incident defused
 - Cliven Bundy and 18 others indicted for federal felonies

Parties to the civil conflict

- United States
 - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
 - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
 - Governor of
- 3 Percenters
- Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA)
- Oath Keepers
- Praetorian Guard
- White Mountain Militia
- Various unarmed protesters

advanced on what the BLM described as a "cattle gather." Sheriff Doug Gillespie negotiated with Bundy and newly confirmed BLM director [Neil Kornze](#), who elected to release the cattle and de-escalate the situation. As of the end of 2015, Cliven Bundy continued to graze his cattle on Federal land and had not paid the fees.

Bundy was at first praised by Republican politicians and conservative personalities. Later, after [Bundy suggested that "the Negro" would have been better off to be a slave than to be a recipient of government subsidies](#), he was widely condemned, and was repudiated by conservative politicians and talk-show hosts who had previously supported him. Many condemned his remarks as racist.

On February 10, 2016, Cliven Bundy traveled to Portland, Oregon, in response to federal law enforcement moving to end a [standoff](#) led by his sons [Ammon](#) and [Ryan](#) at the [Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#). He was arrested at the airport by the [FBI](#), and was incarcerated at the Multnomah County Jail. He was indicted for 16 federal felonies on February 17, along with [Ammon](#) and [Ryan Bundy](#), militia leader [Ryan Payne](#) and broadcaster [Peter Santilli](#), who were already under arrest for their role in the Malheur standoff. Another 14 individuals were charged on March 3, 2016. Their trials are scheduled for 2017.

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Nevada

-  [Lieutenant Governor of Nevada](#)
-  [Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department \(LVMPD\)](#)
-  [Nevada Highway Patrol \(NHP\)](#)

Lead figures

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Brian Sandoval (Governor) | • Chuck Baldwin |
| • Brian Krolicki (former Lieutenant Governor) | • Ammon Bundy |
| • Mark Hutchison (current Lieutenant Governor and former state senator) | • Cliven Bundy |
| • Douglas C. Gillespie (former Clark County Sheriff) | • Cliven Lance Bundy |
| • Joseph Lombardo (former Clark County Under Sheriff and current Clark County Sheriff) | • Ryan Bundy |
| • Kevin C. McMahill (current Clark County Under Sheriff) | • Brian Cavalier |
| | • Blaine Cooper |
| | • Richard Mack |
| | • Gordon Martines |
| | • Ryan Payne |
| | • Stewart Rhodes |
| | • Jon Ritzheimer |
| | • Pete Santilli |
| | • David Lory VanDerBeek |
| | • Neil Wampler |



Approximate location of Bunkerville

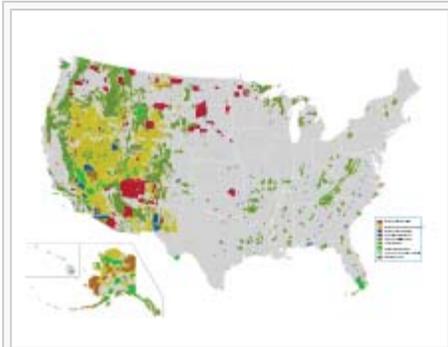
- Show map of Nevada
- Show map of the US
- Show all

11 References
12 External links

Background [edit]

See also: *Cliven Bundy*

History [edit]



Map of all federally owned land in the United States. The area in yellow represents land managed by the Bureau of Land Management 

The land to which Cliven Bundy claims ancestral rights was originally inhabited by the [Moapa Paiute](#) people.^[2] In 1848, as part of the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#), the United States purchased from Mexico land that is now the southwestern region of the United States. Since then, the government has continuously owned land in what is now Nevada, including the Bunkerville Allotment.^{[3][4]} The [Nevada Territory](#), which was partitioned in 1861 from the [Utah Territory](#), became a state in 1864. The original settlers in the 1840s and 1850s were [Mormons](#) from [Utah](#) and southern small-time farmers and ranchers from [Louisiana](#), [Arkansas](#), and [Mississippi](#). After the end of the [American Civil War](#),

much of the land was settled by rural farmers, squatters and small-time cattle ranchers from [Oklahoma](#), [Texas](#), [Arkansas](#), [Louisiana](#), [Missouri](#) and [Kansas](#), escaping from the post-Civil War [Reconstruction](#) and the associated violence and displacement.^[citation needed] Since 1934 federal rangelands in Nevada have been managed principally by either the [Bureau of Land Management](#) or its predecessor, the [United States Grazing Service](#), or the [United States Forest Service](#). As of 2010, 47.8 million acres^[5] (more than two-thirds of Nevada's 70.3 million acres) were managed by the [BLM](#). Throughout the nation, the BLM manages nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases,^[6] of which about 700 are in Nevada.^[7] The season of use and the details of forage are stipulated in permits and leases; thus federal control can be exerted on the land used for grazing.^[6]

Permits [edit]

Under Bureau of Land Management permits that had first been issued in 1954, Bundy grazed his cattle legally and paid his grazing fees on the Bunkerville Allotment until 1993. In that year, as a protest, Bundy did not pay renewal fees. His permit was canceled in 1994.^{[8][9]} Although the agency made several attempts to have Bundy renew the permit, the rancher declared that he no longer recognized the BLM's authority to regulate his grazing, and he asserted that he had "vested rights" to graze cattle on the land.^[3] Federal courts consistently ruled against Bundy, concluding that he was a trespasser with no right to graze on federal land. The courts authorized the BLM to remove Bundy's cattle and to levy damages for unauthorized use.^{[3][10]}

Bundy accumulated more than \$1 million of unpaid grazing fees and court-ordered fines.^{[11][12]} The [Portland Oregonian](#) newspaper reported in May 2014 that the amount that Bundy owed stood in "stark contrast" to the situation in Oregon, where just 45 of the state's roughly 1,100

grazing permit holders collectively owed \$18,759 in past-due payments to the BLM, and only 2 ranchers having left their bills unpaid more than 60 days.^[13] Excluding Bundy's unpaid fees, the total of all late grazing fees owed nationwide to the BLM was only \$237,000.^[14]

Bundy's worldview [\[edit\]](#)

Bundy has said he does not recognize federal [police power](#) over land that he believes belongs to the "sovereign state of Nevada".^{[15][16]} He also denied the jurisdiction of the federal court system over Nevada land and he filed an unsuccessful motion to dismiss the Bureau of Land Management case against him, claiming that the federal courts have no jurisdiction because he is a "citizen of Nevada, not the territory of Nevada".^[16] Bundy also claimed that federally owned land in Nevada actually belongs to the state.^{[17][18]}

According to *The Guardian*, Bundy told his supporters that "We definitely don't recognize [the BLM director's] jurisdiction or authority, his arresting power or policing power in any way," and in interviews he used the language of the [sovereign citizen movement](#), thereby gaining the support of members of the [Oath Keepers](#), the [White Mountain Militia](#) and the [Praetorian Guard](#) militias.^[19] The movement is considered by the [FBI](#) as the nation's top domestic terrorism threat.^{[20][21]}

J. J. MacNab, who writes for *Forbes* about anti-government extremism, described Bundy's views as inspired by the [sovereign citizen movement](#), whose adherents believe that the [county sheriff](#) is the most powerful law-enforcement officer in the country, with authority superior to that of any federal agent, local law-enforcement agency or any other elected official.^[22] On April 12, 2014, Bundy "ordered" Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie to confront the federal agents, disarm them and deliver their arms to Bundy within an hour of his demand, and later expressed disappointment that Gillespie did not comply.^{[22][23][24]}

The [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) has described Bundy's views as closely aligned with those of the [Posse Comitatus](#) organization, and it has also asserted that such self-described "patriot" groups were focused on [secession](#), nullification, [state sovereignty](#) and the principles of the [Tenther movement](#).^{[25][26]}

In May 2014, Bundy changed his political affiliation from the [Republican party](#) to the [Independent American Party](#).^[27]

Cancellation of 1996 cattle removal [\[edit\]](#)

Alan O'Neill, superintendent of the [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#) from 1987 through 2000, is a retired [National Park Service](#) official whose tenure at Lake Mead included the early years of the Bundy dispute.^[28] He wrote that he was "told to back off at one point because of concern for violence."^[28] In 1996, the National Park Service made plans to remove cattle that were illegally trespassing in Lake Mead NRA.^[29] O'Neill recalls veiled threats similar to those made against government workers during the 2014 round-up.^[29] Against this background, he says, "the U.S. attorney's office told us to back off," and the operation was canceled.^[29]



Grazing on federal rangeland in Nevada [\[edit\]](#)

Main article: [Grazing rights in Nevada](#)

The [Taylor Grazing Act of 1934](#) (TGA) regulates grazing on [public lands](#) (excluding Alaska) to improve rangeland conditions. The [Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM) managing about 167 million acres (676,000 km²) of publicly owned rangeland in the United States, with the [United States Forest Service](#) managing approximately 95 million acres (380,000 km²) more.^[30]

Permittees on federal rangelands are required to pay a fee, and the permit cannot exceed ten years but is renewable.^[31]

United States v. Bundy [\[edit\]](#)

The case of *United States v. Bundy* played out over many years in the [United States District Court](#) for the District of Nevada. It involved court orders, injunctions, and notices. Bundy argued *pro se* (without a lawyer) that the land belongs to the state. The [Bureau of Land Management](#) was represented by the [U.S. Attorney's Office](#) for Nevada and the [United States Department of Justice](#).^[12] District Judge [Larry R. Hicks](#) ruled that the land on which Bundy was grazing his cattle was indeed owned by the federal government, that Bundy had not been paying to use it as he should have been, that Bundy was trespassing, and that the government had the right to enforce the injunctions against trespass. Hicks found that Bundy had repeatedly violated court orders.^{[12][32]}

1998–2012: Legal actions [\[edit\]](#)

United States v. Bundy "arose out of Bundy's unauthorized grazing of his livestock on property owned by the United States and administered by the Department of the Interior through the BLM and the National Park Service."^[32] On November 3, 1998, United States District Judge [Johnnie B. Rawlinson](#) "permanently enjoined (Bundy) from grazing his livestock within the Bunkerville Allotment ("The Allotment"), and shall remove his livestock from this allotment on or before November 30, 1998... (and) ordered that Plaintiff shall be entitled to trespass damages from Bundy in the amount of \$200.00 per day per head for any livestock belonging to Bundy remaining on the

United States v Bundy



United States District Court for the District of Nevada

Full case name	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. CLIVEN BUNDY, Defendant.
Date decided	July 9, 2013 and October 8, 2013
Transcripts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2012 -Complaint • June 2012 - Answer by Defendant • Dec 2012 - Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment • January 2013 - Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment and Defendant's Cross-Motion to Dismiss • February 2013 - Plaintiff's Reply in Further Support of its Summary Judgment Motion and in Opposition to Defendant's Cross-Motion to Dismiss • February 2013 - Defendant's Reply in Further Support of His Cross-Motion to Dismiss; Evidentiary Hearing Requested • February 2013 - Plaintiff's

Bunkerville Allotment after November 30, 1998."^[3] Rawlinson wrote that "[t]he government has shown commendable restraint in allowing this trespass to continue for so long without impounding Bundy's livestock."^[3] This sentence was restated on October 8, 2013, by District Judge [Larry R. Hicks](#).^[32] On September 17, 1999, after Bundy failed to comply with the court's earlier order(s), the court issued another order directing Bundy to comply with the 1998 permanent injunction and modifying the trespass damages owed.^{[12][32][33]}

2012–15: Legal actions [\[edit\]](#)

Bundy's cattle expanded into additional public land over the years. A planned April 2012 roundup of his cattle was called off when Bundy made violent threats against the Bureau of Land Management. The bureau's requests for assistance from the Clark County Sheriff's Department were met by a demand of Sheriff Doug Gillespie that the bureau seek a new warrant because, he said, the original 1998 order had become "stale."^[34]

Because of Gillespie's demand, in May 2012 the government filed a second *United States v. Bundy* case,^[a] seeking renewed enforcement authority for the original court orders along with relief for Bundy's trespassing on a new set of additional lands not covered by the original 1998 ruling: "including public lands within the [Gold Butte](#) area that are administered by the BLM, and National Park System land within the [Overton Arm](#) and [Gold Butte](#) areas of the [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)."^[35] On December 21, 2012, the United States moved for summary judgment in this new case, and this motion was granted in an order signed by Senior District Judge [Lloyd D. George](#) on July 9, 2013.^[35] The ruling permanently [enjoined](#) Bundy and his cattle from trespassing on the New Trespass Lands.^[35] Another order was issued by Judge Larry R. Hicks on October 8, 2013, which stemmed from the earlier 1998 civil action against Bundy. The order allows the United States to "protect the ... Bunkerville Allotment against ... trespass" by Bundy and "to seize and remove to impound" any of his cattle that remain in those areas.^[32]

Court judgments against Bundy's claims [\[edit\]](#)

The Cliven Bundy family owns a 160-acre farm southwest of Bunkerville, which serves as headquarters and base property for the family's ranching operation on nearby public domain lands. The farm property was purchased by the Bundy family in 1948, after they moved from [Bundyville, Arizona](#), and Bundy has claimed that he inherited "pre-emptive grazing rights" on public domain land because some of his maternal grandmother's ancestors had kept cattle in the [Virgin Valley](#) beginning in 1877.^{[12][36]} Bundy alternatively argued in legal cases that federal

[Opposition to Defendant's Request for Evidentiary Hearing](#)

- [February 2013 - Defendant's Reply in Further Support of Request for Evidentiary Hearing](#)
- [July 2013 - Court Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment and Denying Defendant's Motion to Dismiss as Moot](#)
- [Oct 2013 Court Order](#)

Judge sitting

1. Lloyd D. George
2. Larry R. Hicks

Prosecutor(s)

1. Ignacia S. Moreno
2. Daniel G. Bogden

Defendant(s) Cliven Bundy, *pro se*

Case history

Prior actions 1998, order by the same court

Case holding

Bundy is permanently enjoined from trespass, Bundy shall remove livestock within 45 days, The United States is entitled to seize and impound cattle.

grazing rules infringe on Nevada's rights.^[12]

Claim of inherited grazing rights [\[edit\]](#)

There are no legally recognized inherited grazing rights, preemptive rights, special rights, or grandfathered public-domain land-use rights held by the Bundy family or Bundy's ancestors.^[37] Bundy lost his special-rights arguments in the *United States v. Bundy* cases.^[3] Bundy had only base property and normal [AUM](#) grazing-allotment permits, like the permits of thousands of other ranchers throughout the western United States. The court found that Bundy and his father actually first began grazing their cattle on the Bunkerville Allotment in 1954 and used it for several years. They paid for cattle grazing again from 1973 until 1993, when Bundy paid the last fees for his final grazing application for the period from December 1, 1992, through February 28, 1993. On January 24, 1994, the Bureau of Land Management delivered a *Proposed Decision Order to Remove and Demand for Payment* to Bundy by placing it on the dashboard of Bundy's vehicle while he was in the vehicle. BLM officials allege that Bundy became agitated, descended from his truck and accused the BLM of harassing him. He then returned to his truck, threw the proposed order out of the window and drove away. One of Bundy's sons then picked up the document, tore it to pieces and threw it on the ground. On February 17, 1994, the BLM issued a final decision canceling Bundy's range-grazing permit. Bundy subsequently informed the BLM in several administrative notices that he intended to graze cattle "pursuant to my vested grazing rights." Bundy failed to demonstrate the existence of any such special rights when given an opportunity to do so in court.^[3]

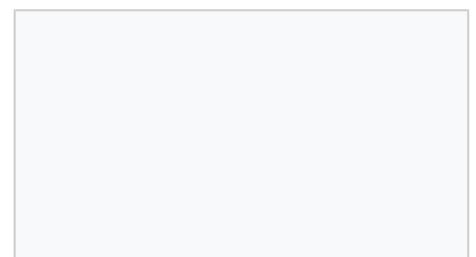
Claim of states' rights [\[edit\]](#)

Bundy lost in U.S. District Court on all his arguments regarding states' rights and jurisdiction in the *United States v. Bundy* cases. He had argued that the U.S. District Court for Nevada lacked jurisdiction because the U.S. did not own the public lands in question. The court ruled that "the public lands in Nevada are the property of the United States because the United States has held title to those public lands since 1848, when Mexico ceded the land to the United States." Bundy had argued that the Disclaimer Clause of the [Nevada Constitution](#) carries no legal force.^[3]

Bundy also argued that the United States' exercise of ownership over public-domain lands violated the [Equal Footing Doctrine](#), that [Article Four of the United States Constitution](#) (the [Property Clause](#)) applied only to federal lands outside the borders of states, that the government had based its authority to sanction him on the [Endangered Species Act](#) (as opposed to an action for [trespass](#)) and that Nevada's [open-range](#) statute excused Bundy's trespass. These arguments were rejected by the court.^[3]

Bureau of Land Management actions [\[edit\]](#)

The BLM was tasked with environmental assessment^[38] and various enforcement issues regarding the cattle-trespass injunctions. During March and April 2014, it closed some areas of government lands during the planning for roundup of the trespass cattle owned by Bundy. In early April, "just before the roundup got



underway, a survey conducted by helicopter counted 908 head of cattle scattered across roughly 1,200 square miles of remote mountains and desert managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service."^[39] The BLM stated on its website:^[10]

Cattle have been in trespass on public lands in southern Nevada for more than two decades. This is unfair to the thousands of other ranchers who graze livestock in compliance with federal laws and regulations throughout the West. The Bureau of Land Management and the [National Park Service](#) have made repeated attempts to resolve this matter administratively and judicially. An impoundment of cattle illegally grazing on public lands is now being conducted as a last resort.

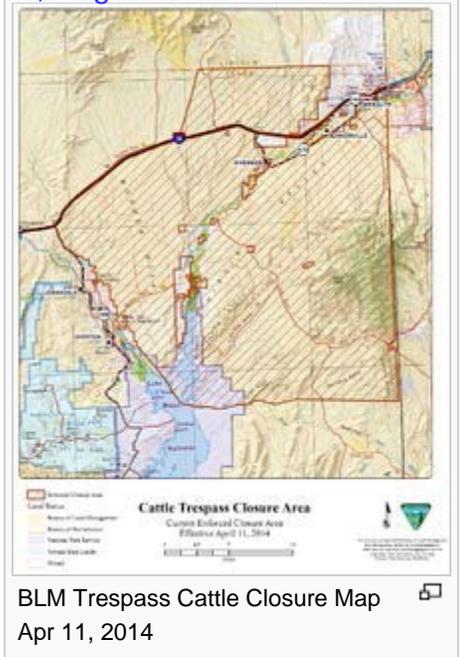
cited in Bundy v. USDC-NV, No. 16-72275, archived on October 31, 2016

A page on the BLM website, since removed, listed the impacts of Bundy's trespass cattle. Among these were risks to people driving on roadways, destruction of crops on private property, damage to community property in the city of [Mesquite](#), negative impacts on city facilities in Bunkerville, destruction of archaeological artifacts and unauthorized reservoir construction.^[40] The regional off-site mitigation strategies of non-governmental organizations were also delayed for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone,^[41] and a matching \$400,000 grant from the [Walton Family Foundation](#) to restore habitat for the southwest [willow flycatcher](#) along the [Virgin River](#) was delayed on the condition that Bundy remove the trespass cattle.^[42]

BLM preparations and execution [\[edit\]](#)

A closure of the public lands known as Gold Butte, Mormon Mesa, and Bunkerville Flats Areas was approved by the Department of the Interior on March 24, 2014 and was to be effective March 27 to May 12, 2014. Additionally, the [Federal Register](#) stated that: "This temporary closure is necessary to limit public access, use, and occupancy during an impoundment of illegally grazing cattle to ensure the safety and welfare of the public, contractors, and government employees."^[43]

The project area consisted of 802,571 acres, primarily composed of the Bunkerville Allotment (145,604 acres) and the New Trespass Lands (451,775 acres). Portions of the project area are



BLM Trespass Cattle Closure Map
Apr 11, 2014

managed under the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Park Service.^{[38]:3} Not all of the public areas would be closed at the same time if operations were moved to another location.^[43]

No 30-day comment period or public scoping was conducted due to the confidential nature of law enforcement actions.^{[38]:5}

Involvement of state and local authorities; attempts to negotiate [\[edit\]](#)

Before the round-up, the Bureau of Land Management contacted state and local authorities.^[2] The bureau advised Nevada Governor [Brian Sandoval](#) and Nevada Attorney General [Catherine Cortez Masto](#) of the agency's proposed actions.^[2] Clark County sheriff Doug Gillespie relayed information from the BLM and helped negotiate an end to the standoff.^[44] In 2012 and again during the 2014 roundup, the BLM had reportedly offered to buy Bundy's cattle and give him proceeds from their eventual sale. According to Cliven Bundy's son, Ammon Bundy, Gillespie also delivered an offer for the bureau to leave the area and keep the cattle.^[2]

First Amendment zones [\[edit\]](#)

The Bureau of Land Management designated two [First Amendment zones](#) "...for members of the public to express their First Amendment rights: [Interstate 15](#) and Exit 112 for Riverside and [State Route 170](#) and White Rock Road"^{[45][46]} with just one of the two First Amendment zones open at any one time at the daily discretion of the "Incident Command staff". A third area, Interstate 15 and Toquap Wash (between mile marker 114 and 115),^[47] was designated as a media area and "...BLM/NPS credentialed media..." could request tours by appointment inside the enclosure area to obtain b-roll video, no live feed and satellite trucks allowed.^{[38]:10[43]}

Roundup yield [\[edit\]](#)

Government contractors using horses and a small helicopter succeeded in penning almost 400 trespass cattle from April 5 to 9, 2014. "According to state brand inspectors, almost 90 percent of the cattle rounded up by midweek bore Bundy's brand. Of the remaining animals, five belonged to a neighboring rancher, four were marked with brands that couldn't be read, and the rest were *slicks*, a ranching term for unmarked livestock."^[39] Six animals died, four were euthanized. One, a bull "posed a significant threat," while another ran into a fence, injuring its spine. The circumstances for the other two were not explained.^[48] A state brand inspector said the bull "might have got frightened, but that's no reason to shoot a bull." Another said that bulls sometimes charge at people, adding that it takes "a pretty good-size weapon" to kill Bundy's breed of bull.^[49]

After the roundup was suspended because of safety concerns, BLM spokesman Craig Leff said the agency would try to resolve the matter "administratively and judicially." Leff said: "The door isn't closed. We'll figure out how to move forward with this." He added: "The BLM and National Park Service did not cut any deal and negotiate anything."^[50]

Confrontations and protests in April 2014 [\[edit\]](#)

In late March, Bundy sent letters entitled "Range War Emergency Notice and Demand for Protection" to county, state, and federal officials.^[51] In media interviews, Bundy used the

language of the sovereign citizen movement as a rallying call, beckoning support from members of the [Oath Keepers](#), the White Mountain Militia, and the Praetorian Guard.^[52]

At a March 27 meeting of the Bunkerville Town Advisory Board, Cliven Bundy's son, Ryan Bundy, spoke on state sovereignty and land-ownership matters: "This is an issue of state sovereignty ... These large tracts of land that Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, monuments, parks and, you know, National Parks, et cetera, et cetera, there is no constitutionality to them at all."^{[53][54][55]} He also described his family's position:

If they are going to be out in the hills stealing our property, we will put measures of defense. And they have always asked us, "What will you do, what will you do?" and our stance has always been we will do whatever it takes. Open-ended. And because of that, that's why they are scared, because they don't know to what level we will go to protect, but we will protect.^{[53][55]}

In early April, armed people and private militia members from across the United States joined peaceful protesters against the trespass-cattle roundup in what has become known as the Battle of Bunkerville (evoking an association with the [Battle of Bunker Hill](#)).^{[12][56]} BLM enforcement agents were dispatched in response to what were seen as threatening statements by Bundy, such as calling the events a "[range war](#)".^[57]

With many roads closed to ensure safety during the cattle removal, controversial designated [First Amendment zones](#) where protesters could safely congregate or exercise their [First Amendment right](#) to peaceably assemble were marked with signs and orange plastic fences adjacent to the road.^{[58][59]} On April 8, 2014, Nevada Governor [Brian Sandoval](#) issued a statement calling for the removal of the First Amendment restrictions he described as offensive.^[60] After stating that peaceful protests had crossed into illegal activity, the federal agencies allowed protesters to go anywhere on the public land as long as they were peaceful.^[61]

April 10 confrontations and protests [\[edit\]](#)

On April 10, protesters blocked a BLM truck and demanded to know why a [backhoe](#) and [dump truck](#) were being used in the operation.^[12] The BLM's director in Nevada later said that the equipment was being used for field restoration.^[12] According to a statement from the BLM, the blocked truck "was struck by a protester on an ATV" ([all-terrain vehicle](#)).^[12] Officers protecting the truck driver had [Tasers](#) and [police dogs](#). The protesters angrily confronted the rangers. According to CNN, "Federal officials say a police dog was kicked and officers were assaulted. Bundy family members say they were thrown to the ground or jolted with a Taser."^{[12] [62]}

April 12 confrontations and suspension of roundup [\[edit\]](#)

On the morning of April 12, an armed crowd rallied under a banner that read "Liberty Freedom For God We Stand". Most had signs, many of which chided "government thugs". Addressing the protesters, Bundy said, "We definitely don't recognize [the BLM director's] jurisdiction or authority, his arresting power or policing power in any way" and "We're about ready to take the country over with force!" After the BLM announced a suspension of the roundup, Bundy

suggested blocking a highway. Armed protesters blocked a portion of Interstate 15 for more than two hours, causing traffic backups for three miles in both directions.^[63] Protesters also converged at the mouth of Gold Butte, the preserve where the cattle were corralled, and a tense, hour-long standoff ensued. BLM rangers warned over loudspeakers that they were prepared to use tear gas.^[52] Former Arizona Sheriff [Richard Mack](#), who was with the protesters, said that they were "strategizing to put all the women up at the front. If they are going to start shooting, it's going to be women that are going to be televised all across the world getting shot by these rogue federal officers".^[9] Protestors with rifles took positions on a highway overpass, seemingly offering cover as horse-mounted wranglers led protesters to face off against heavily equipped BLM rangers and snipers.^[52] Utah Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox, who officially traveled to the Bundy standoff to convey that Utah did not want the cattle, put the number of federal agents present at over 200.^[64] According to Las Vegas assistant sheriff Joe Lombardo, there were 24 BLM rangers and Las Vegas deputy sheriffs present at the standoff.^[65] Las Vegas police were not allowed to wear protective gear because of fear that it would be seen as a provocation.^[66] Clark County Sheriff Gillespie blames the escalation of the situation on the BLM, stating to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* that the BLM has lied to him about having a place to take the cattle and the BLM did not attend town-hall meetings and disregarded his advice as County Sheriff.^[67]

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reported that tensions reached a "critical level" during the standoff, "with rifles pointing toward each side."^{[68][69]} Las Vegas station KLAS-TV also reported that guns were pointed at officers.^[66] Assistant Sheriff Lombardo recounted that "they were in my face yelling profanities and pointing weapons," and said, "We were outgunned, outmanned, and there would not have been a good result from it."^[66]

A photojournalist for Reuters wrote that armed supporters had "taken up tactical positions on government officers," and that one man pointing a rifle in the direction of BLM employees said, "I've got a clear shot at four of them."^[70] Another man said, "I'm ready to pull the trigger if fired upon."^[70]

Las Vegas Metro Deputy Chief Tom Roberts defused the situation by announcing that Bundy's cattle would be returned within 30 minutes.^[52] The BLM announced that it would suspend the mass roundup,^{[1][71]} citing safety reasons. Clark County Sheriff Gillespie mediated the agreement between the Bundy family and the BLM, saying, "[W]hen a group of protesters threaten civil unrest or violence in this county -- it is my job to step in and ensure the safety of citizens."^[63] BLM Director [Neil Kornze](#) said that "Based on information about conditions on the ground, and in consultation with law enforcement, we have made a decision to conclude the cattle gather because of our serious concern about the safety of employees and members of the public."^{[68][69][72][73]}

BLM spokesman Craig Leff stated on April 14 in an email that "The gather is over" but that the agency planned to seek a solution "administratively and judicially" and intended to pursue court action to collect more than \$1 million in back grazing fees owed by Bundy.^[74]

Las Vegas police stated that business owners in [Mesquite](#) had received threats because of the conflict.^{[68][69]} Militiamen were reportedly seen carrying rifles, keeping a round-the-clock security detail on Bundy, and setting up checkpoints.^[75]

Unmet demands to disarm federal agents and destroy entrance stations

[edit]

After the BLM announced that it would release the gathered cattle, Bundy demanded that the county sheriff disarm the National Park Service "at [Lake Mead](#) and [Red Rock park](#) and all other parks where the federal government claims they have jurisdiction over."^[76] He requested that the arms be delivered within one hour.^[76] Bundy further demanded that county [bulldozers](#) or [loaders](#) be used to "tear down that entrance places where they ticket us and where they injure us and make us citizens pay their fees."^[77] The demands, which he described as a "mandate from we the people",^[78] were not met.

Bundy made similar statements two days later when he appeared on [Glenn Beck's](#) radio show^[78] and the Fox News program [Hannity](#).^[79] He reiterated the demands on [Sean Hannity's](#) program: "The demand on the sheriff was de-arm the Park Service rangers, and de-arm Red Rock rangers — that's two parks very close to the Lake Mead area. And then the demand was, tear down the toll booth shacks."^[80] After expressing disappointment that the demands had not been met, he requested to "every county sheriff across the United States" that they "disarm the federal bureaucrats."^{[79][81]}

Bundy is reported to have described these demands as "a [revelation](#) that I received."^[82] According to *Esquire*, Bundy told a crowd, "The good Lord said, 'Bundy, it's not your job, it's their job.' ... This morning, I said a prayer, and this is what I received. I heard a voice say, 'Sheriff Gillespie, your work is not done. Every sheriff across the United States, take the guns away from the United States [bureaucrats](#).'"^[82]

Events following April 2014 cattle gather [\[edit\]](#)

BLM attempts to communicate with Bundy [\[edit\]](#)

After the roundup was suspended, Cliven Bundy received several certified letters from the BLM that he refused to open.^{[83][84]} A BLM spokesperson said that the letters included notices that "provide Mr. Bundy the opportunity to buy back the gathered cattle." The spokesperson did not explain why the agency had sent Bundy notices regarding cattle that had been released to him.^[85]

Cliven Bundy statements and actions [\[edit\]](#)

Bundy alleged that the federal government wants to kill him for challenging its authority.^[83] During a press conference, he made [controversial racial statements](#) that were widely repudiated.^[11]

On May 2, 2014, Bundy and his family filed a complaint with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department alleging crimes committed by federal agents, including illegally blocking roads, harassing photographers, using attack dogs, pointing weapons and threatening people.^{[86][87]}

During a June 3, 2014, radio program Cliven Bundy spoke with a small group of candidates for Clark County sheriff. He did not endorse any candidate, but he said that he did not want a peacemaker in that position. "You gonna be a peacemaker," said Bundy, "you're gonna be on the BLM's side."^[88]

Continued presence of Bundy supporters [\[edit\]](#)

At a "Patriot Party" after the standoff, supporters were treated to music from Ron Keel, a singer who worked with Black Sabbath for a short while in 1984.^[89]

In late April, Nevada Congressman [Steven Horsford](#) contacted Clark County sheriff Doug Gillespie regarding complaints from community members. The reported complaints alleged that Bundy militia supporters had established a persistent presence along roads, that they had set up checkpoints for citizens to prove residence, and that they had established an armed presence around churches, a school, and other community locations.^{[90][91]} One local resident said that neighbors on their way to an Easter Sunday church service were greeted by armed militia members, causing some of them not to enter "for fear and disgust of having their church basically held captive."^[2] According to the Associated Press, Cliven Bundy acknowledged "creating a stir", saying that there may have been weapons in the parking lot, but there were none in the church.^[92]

Las Vegas station KLAS-TV reported that armed protestors had blocked a county road and attempted to prevent a news crew from passing.^[93] The station also reported that "some poured lighter fluid around our news vehicle while others got physical."^[94] Bundy says that armed guards screen visitors at his ranch, but says that militia have not set up checkpoints on public property.^[92]

Mike Vanderboegh, a militia leader who remained in Nevada after the standoff, accused Senator Harry Reid of provoking a "civil war" and said not to "poke the wolverine with a sharp stick, Harry, unless you want your balls ripped off."^[95] Vanderboegh is the author of a novel that allegedly inspired a domestic terror plot.^{[96][97]} and the leader of the Three Percenters Group,^[96] which the [Anti-Defamation League](#) characterizes as "part of an anti-government extremist movement".^[98]

Media outlets reported on conflict between different factions of Bundy supporters.^[99] A "wild, paranoid rumor" that Attorney General Eric Holder was preparing a drone strike against them caused [Oath Keepers](#) founder Stewart Rhodes to remove his men from the supposed "kill zone".^{[99][100]} In a recorded video, other Bundy supporters talked openly of shooting Rhodes for what they viewed as "desertion" and "cowardice".^{[99][100]} Rhodes later described one situation as "this close from being a gunfight".^[101] He recounted another situation in which he said a man drew a gun on a member of another militia.^[101]

Esquire has described an assortment of fringe beliefs held by individual Bundy supporters who remained at the ranch: That Barack Obama is "a Muslim Kenyan", that the BLM works for the United Nations, that people born in or after 1980 may be implanted with microchips, and that bar-certified lawyers have sworn allegiance to Britain and regularly have sex with clients.^[82]

Militia members have attempted to [crowdfund](#) their continued stay at the Bundy ranch. The site [GoFundMe](#) took down campaigns by Blaine Cooper and Christopher E. Ferrell.^[102] According to Nevada representative Steven Horsford, only about 15 armed militia remained as of early June.^[88]

FBI and U.S. Capitol Police investigations [\[edit\]](#)

On May 8, Clark County sheriff's officials said that they were interviewed by the [FBI](#) as part of an

investigation into armed Bundy supporters who confronted federal officers during the standoff.^[103] The investigation was confirmed by Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie, who stated "I've said all along there has to be accountability for what took place on April 12."^[104]

Joe Lombardo, who was in charge of police officers at the scene and who was interviewed on May 1, said the FBI agents were primarily interested in who was pointing weapons at federal agents, and that he expected the FBI to be poring over videotapes and photos taken during the standoff in order to identify people making threats.^[65]

After Senator Harry Reid criticized Bundy supporters, *Politico* reported that sources said the Senator had been the subject of threats and consequently had increased his security detail. A spokesman for the US Capitol Police, without commenting on the nature of any threats against Harry Reid, said, "We are currently looking into threatening statements made against Sen. Reid as part of an ongoing investigation."^[105]

2014 Las Vegas shootings [edit]

Main article: 2014 Las Vegas shootings

On June 8, 2014, Jerad and Amanda Miller killed two Las Vegas police officers and a civilian before Amanda Miller took her life. Jerad Miller was fatally wounded and died during a shootout with police.^[106] During the attacks, they shouted "this is a revolution", and they covered the bodies of the officers in a [Gadsden flag](#) and left a copy of a manifesto bearing a swastika.^{[107][108]} Their original plan may have been to take over a courthouse and execute public officials.^[109] The Millers had moved from Indiana to the Las Vegas area in January.^{[107][110]} They were quoted on Reno television KRVN: "I feel sorry for any federal agents that want to come here and try to push around or anything like that. I really don't want violence toward them but if they're gonna come and bring violence to us, well, if that's the language they want to speak, we'll learn it."^[110] Miller commented on the issues involved in greater length in social media, and interviewed other protesters at the Bundy ranch.^{[111][112]}

Interior Secretary [Sally Jewell](#) reacted to the shootings, saying, "It's very important to bring lawbreakers to justice. There's no question that my colleagues back here, the governors of Western states, do not want people riding roughshod over the landscape ... [Bundy] put our people in grave danger by calling in armed civilians from around the country, and that's not okay." Carol Bundy said, "I have not seen or heard anything from the militia and others who have come to our ranch that would, in any way, make me think they had an intent to kill or harm anyone."^[113] Bundy's son said that the couple had been asked to leave the ranch after a few days because they were "very radical" and did not align themselves with the protest's main issues.^[107] According to Mark Potok, a spokesperson for the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), Jerad and Amanda Miller considered the outcome of the standoff as "a huge victory against the federal government", which reportedly motivated them to commit the shooting spree.^[114]

2016 Burns, Oregon standoff [edit]

Main articles: [Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#) and [Citizens for Constitutional Freedom](#)

In January 2016, armed men led by [Ammon](#) and Ryan Bundy seized control of the headquarters of the [Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#) near [Burns, Oregon](#). The occupation ended 40 days

later on February 11, when the final occupier willingly went into custody.^[115] On his way to Burns to rally support, Cliven Bundy was arrested at [Portland International Airport](#) on February 10.^[116]

Aftermath [\[edit\]](#)

Reactions by public officials [\[edit\]](#)

Senators [\[edit\]](#)

Republican Senator [Dean Heller](#) of Nevada complained of federal actions during the standoff, saying, "I told him [BLM Director Neil Kornze] very clearly that law-abiding Nevadans must not be penalized by an over-reaching BLM".^[57] Heller said of the Bundy supporters, "These people are patriots." Heller made that statement during the same television interview in which Senator Harry Reid described the Bundy supporters as "domestic terrorists."^[117] After the resolution he stated, "emotions and tensions are still near the boiling point."^[63] Later on he said that Bundy should pay the BLM the more than \$1 million in grazing fees owed to the agency.^[118]

After the BLM left the area for safety concerns, Nevada's senior U.S. Senator and then Senate Majority Leader [Harry Reid](#) said, "Well, it's not over. We can't have an American people that violate the law and then just walk away from it. So it's not over."^[119] Reid also referred to the militia supporting Bundy as "domestic terrorists".^{[120][121]}

Congressional representatives [\[edit\]](#)

Republican Representative Chris Stewart (R-Utah) decried the BLM and other agencies for staffing their departments with what he called "paramilitary units" and "SWAT team[s]". However, the Bureau of Land Management does not have a SWAT team, according to [The Salt Lake Tribune](#), which editorialized that Stewart's views "may be one of the worst ideas in the history of bad ideas."^[122] In response, a BLM agency's spokeswoman said that the BLM doesn't have any SWAT or tactical teams. An Interior Department representative said that the BLM "had law enforcement personnel present to provide safety for their employees and the public".^[123]

On April 19, 2014, Texas Republican [Steve Stockman](#) sent a letter to President [Barack Obama](#), Department of the Interior Secretary [Sally Jewell](#), and BLM Director Neil Kornze, stating that the BLM was overreaching its law enforcement authority with what he called a "paramilitary raid."^[124]^[unreliable source?]

In a July 20, 2014 [Washington Post](#) column titled *Nevada: Burned by the Rants of Hotheads*, Representative [Steven Horsford](#) (D-Nevada) described recent incidents of violence in his district and nearby states, and criticized the "nonstop attention and demagoguery from media and politicians alike," saying: "There can be reasonable disagreements about the Bundy Ranch. But we can disagree without offering refuge to dangerous individuals on the fringe."^[125]

Nevada governor and state lawmakers [\[edit\]](#)

Governor [Brian Sandoval](#) sided with Bundy, saying, "No cow justifies the atmosphere of intimidation which currently exists nor the limitation of constitutional rights that are sacred to all Nevadans. The BLM needs to reconsider its approach to this matter and act accordingly."^[57]

Nevada Assemblywoman Michele Fiore, who supported Bundy, aiding him with his returned calves, said, "It's time for Nevada to stand up to the federal government and demand the return of the BLM lands to the people of Nevada."^[74]

Arizona state lawmakers [\[edit\]](#)

On April 15, 2014, a group of Republican state legislators from Arizona, including Representatives [Bob Thorpe](#) (R-Flagstaff), David Livingston (R-Peoria), [Kelly Townsend](#) (R-Mesa), Senators [Judy Burges](#) (R-Sun City West), and [Kelli Ward](#) (R-Lake Havasu City) traveled to Mesquite, Nevada, to support Bundy in his standoff with the BLM.^{[126][127]}

Arizona Representative [Kelly Townsend](#) said that the scenes at the ranch amid the dispute gave her a "visceral reaction... It sounds dramatic, but it reminded me of [Tiananmen Square](#). I don't recognize my country at this point." Her colleague, Bob Thorpe of Flagstaff, said that he was one of about three dozen state legislators who had sent a letter about the standoff to Nevada and federal officials.^[128]

Reactions from media [\[edit\]](#)

Media personalities have weighed in on the confrontations. During the standoff, Bundy was interviewed (via remote link) by television host [Sean Hannity](#). Hannity stated that some fear events could wind up mirroring the [Waco siege](#) and [Ruby Ridge](#) and said, "This is public land, and it's not being used, in my mind, and I'm not a rancher, (but) I would think the federal government might be thankful because you're cutting the lawn for free, and they're charging huge amounts of money, right, to let your cattle graze there with these fees".^[129] In contrast, a comparison of BLM grazing fees with private land market prices demonstrated the Bundy's are getting a 93% discount by grazing on BLM land.^[130]

Editorial responses from newspapers have been mixed. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) wrote that the BLM was right to defuse the situation, but that the confrontation showed the problems of federal land ownership in the state and called for the federal government to sell off the land in question.^[131] The [Las Vegas Sun](#) wrote that "Bundy hit a trifecta of sorts: He violated the laws Congress made, ignored the judicial branch's orders, and defied the executive branch's efforts to enforce those laws and orders ... In the end, Bundy isn't the victor; anarchy is. The rule of law, and society as a whole, lost."^[132] The [Casper Star-Tribune](#) wrote that Bundy was cheating taxpayers, an "embarrassment to ranchers in Wyoming and across the West who work hard, pay their taxes and maintain good relationships with managers of federal land on which their cattle graze."^[133]

In response to Bundy supporter Mike Vanderboegh's comment, "Don't poke the wolverine with a sharp stick, Harry [Reid], unless you want your balls ripped off," a writer for [The Nation](#) framed the remark as part of a larger, right-wing obsession with castration.^[96] [Gawker](#) lampooned militia crowdfunding attempts as a "welfare drive" to "sit around doing nothing".^[134]

Reactions by Bundy and supporters [\[edit\]](#)

About 1,500 Bundy supporters attended a celebration on April 18, where they ate Bundy beef, read cowboy poetry, and wore "domestic terrorist" name tags,^[11] referencing a comment made by Nevada Senator [Harry Reid](#).^[120] Bundy said he would continue holding a daily news

conference.^[11]

Some protesters termed the standoff as the Battle of Bunkerville,^[135] although there was actually no armed battle.

Some [Tea Party Movement](#) supporters expressed solidarity with the Bundys, including three Southern Nevada Tea Party groups that organized a protest outside Las Vegas police headquarters on April 11, 2014, claiming that Sheriff Doug Gillespie had failed in his duty to protect Nevadans from abuse by the federal government.^[136]

The Bundy family claimed victory on having its cattle returned.^[137] In an interview after the BLM's withdrawal, Sean Hannity asked Bundy if he had a reply to Senator Harry Reid's comment that the situation was not over. Bundy said, "I don't have a response for Harry Reid, but I have a response for every county sheriff across the United States. Disarm the federal bureaucrats."^{[119][138]}

An Oklahoma militia with members present in Nevada stated their support for Cliven Bundy.^[139] Scott Shaw, a co-founder of the Oklahoma Volunteer Militia, said the militia was prepared to use deadly force, but that its members would not fire unless fired upon.^[140] When an interviewer asked about a situation in which the government might use rubber bullets, which are designed to incapacitate and not kill,^[141] Shaw responded, "How are we supposed to know that they're firing rubber bullets when it has been fired?"^[140] During an appearance on *The O'Reilly Factor*, host Bill O'Reilly asked Shaw what made Cliven Bundy different from [Occupy Wall Street](#) supporters. Shaw replied that Cliven Bundy is "providing the country with beef" and that the two groups have different methods of dissent.^[142]

In Texas, Michael Joseph Kearns, a convicted felon with alleged ties to the sovereign citizen movement who describes himself as a "self-taught paralegal", filed a motion seeking to overturn a 2013 ruling allowing the BLM to seize Bundy's cattle.^[143] After the judge ruled that Kearns had no standing, Kearns filed another motion.^[143] He wrote that the judge's "orders, judgments and mandates, have no rightful or lawful force and effect upon the people of the United States." Describing Kearns as an "abusive filer", the judge directed the federal clerk to return, "without docketing," any future documents Kearns tries to file.^[143] Kearns, who has denied that he is part of the sovereign citizen movement,^[143] was convicted in 1996 of one count conspiracy to defraud the United States and seven counts of aiding and abetting mail fraud.^[144] Kearns was released from federal prison on May 3, 2006.^[145]

Legal and rule-of-law reactions [\[edit\]](#)

Atlantic reporter Matt Ford pointed out that Bundy's claim, "I abide by all of Nevada state laws. But I don't recognize the United States government as even existing," is at odds with Nevada's law, specifically the state's constitution. Framed during the [Civil War](#), Nevada's constitution specifically mentions the rights of the federal government, stating in Article 1, Section 2, "The Paramount Allegiance of every citizen is due to the Federal Government in the exercise of all its Constitutional powers as the same have been or may be defined by the Supreme Court of the United States...whensoever any portion of the States, or people thereof attempt to secede from the Federal Union, or forcibly resist the Execution of its laws, the Federal Government may, by warrant of the Constitution, employ armed force in compelling obedience to its Authority."^[146]

The Salt Lake City *Tribune* published an editorial on April 15 entitled "Bundy is a lawbreaker, not a hero", in which it said, "Don't let him get away with it" and "The only winner in this was a [scofflaw](#) who has twice lost in the courts for running cattle where they don't belong and skipping out on grazing fees. Some 20,000 ranchers in Western states abide by BLM regulations, so what makes Bundy special?" To sum it up, the *Tribune* said, "When some manage to avoid justice by extralegal means, the [rule of law](#) is weakened for all Americans."^[147]

Some of Bundy's neighbors were not impressed by his actions.^[9] "I feel that the rule of law supersedes armed militias coming in from all over the country to stand with a law-breaking rancher, which is what he is", Mesquite resident Elaine Hurd told local television station KLAS.^{[9][50]}

Roger Taylor, a retired BLM district manager in Arizona, said the agency's decision to release the cattle would have repercussions. "The (agency) is going to be in a worse situation where they will have a much more difficult time getting those cattle off the land and getting Bundy in compliance with regulations," he said.^[148]

Dallas Hyland, in his column in Utah's *St. George News*, wrote, "The stand-down was necessary to prevent bloodshed, but it must be recognized that if Bundy and a multitude of his supporters, militia friends, and even family members who broke the law, are allowed to go unpunished, anarchy will follow."^{[149][150]} In the case of Bundy and the Gold Butte designations, the government did it right. They continued to do it right in the face of the lawless behavior of a rancher and his militia henchmen."^[149]

Reactions related to American Indian history [\[edit\]](#)

Indian Country Today Media Network wrote that government treatment of Cliven Bundy "stands in stark contrast to what was done to the [Dann sisters](#) and other Indigenous Peoples on Shoshone territory"^[151] and that "United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination found "credible information alleging that the Western Shoshone indigenous people are being denied their traditional rights to land."^[152] An editorial in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* also contrasted Bundy's dispute with that of the [Dann Sisters](#).^[153]

A Las Vegas news outlet reported that the Moapa band of Paiute Indians had provided them with a map indicating that a federal treaty had promised them the land on which the Bundy ranch is situated."^[154]

Political commentary reactions [\[edit\]](#)

David Damore, a political science professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said that there is "a great ability on the part of these folks to overlook the reality of how much the federal government subsidized Nevada in terms of big projects – the Hoover Dam, the mining subsidies. It's a welfare cowboy mindset."^[52]

Brad Knickerbocker of the *Christian Science Monitor* saw the events as echoing the [Sagebrush Rebellion](#), a 1970s movement to transfer control of public domain lands to the states.^{[155][156]}

Environmentalist reactions [\[edit\]](#)

The nonprofit Center for Biological Diversity stated, "Despite having no legal right to do so, cattle

from Bundy's ranch have continued to graze throughout the Gold Butte area, competing with tortoises for food, hindering the ability of plants to recover from extensive wildfires, trampling rare plants, damaging ancient American Indian cultural sites and threatening the safety of recreationists."^[10]

Rob Mrowka, also with the Center for Biological Diversity, said that the BLM "is allowing a freeloading rancher and armed thugs to seize hundreds of thousands of acres of the people's land as their own. It's backing down in the face of threats and posturing of armed sovereignists."^[74]

Environmentalists held that the BLM's withdrawal sent the wrong message to law-abiding ranchers who do secure grazing permits and operate within the law.^[74]

Aftermath from Bureau of Land Management [\[edit\]](#)

Twenty months after the incident, Bundy had not paid the fees and continued to graze cattle on Federal land.^{[157][158]} A spokesperson for the Bureau of Land Management wrote in response to a reporter's inquiry: "Our primary goal remains to resolve this matter safely and according to the rule of the law." The response added "The Bureau of Land Management remains resolute in addressing issues involved in efforts to gather Mr. Bundy's cattle and we are pursuing the matter through the legal system."^[158] The BLM spokesperson also said "The Department of Justice has the lead on any investigation of federal crimes that may have been committed." The US Attorney's Office in Las Vegas would neither confirm or deny that there was a criminal investigation.^[159]

Criminal charges against standoff participants [\[edit\]](#)

Cliven Bundy was arrested in Portland, Oregon on February 10, 2016. On February 17, Bundy, his sons Ammon and Ryan, the Montana militia leader [Ryan Payne](#) and the Ohio-based independent broadcaster [Peter Santilli](#) were all indicted for 16 federal felonies. A further 14 individuals were charged on March 3, 2016. Those under indictment as of March 3, 2016,^[160] are:

- Ammon Bundy, 40, of [Emmett, Idaho](#)
- Cliven Bundy, 69, of [Bunkerville, Nevada](#)
- David Bundy, 39, of [Delta, Utah](#)
- Melvin Bundy, 41, of [Round Mountain, Nevada](#)
- Ryan Bundy, 43, of [Bunkerville, Nevada](#)
- Gregory Burleson, 52, of [Phoenix, Arizona](#)
- Brian Cavalier, 44, of [Bunkerville, Nevada](#)
- Blaine Cooper, 36, of [Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona](#)
- Gerald DeLemus, 61, of [Rochester, New Hampshire](#)
- Scott Drexler, 44, of [Challis, Idaho](#)
- Todd Engel, 48, of [Boundary County, Idaho](#)
- Richard Lovelien, 52, of [Westville, Oklahoma](#)
- Micah McGuire, 31 of [Chandler, Arizona](#)
- Joseph O'Shaughnessy, 43, of [Cottonwood, Arizona](#)

- Eric Parker, 32, of [Hailey, Idaho](#)
- Ryan Payne, 32, of [Anaconda, Montana](#)
- Peter Santilli, 50, of [Cincinnati, Ohio](#)
- Steven Stewart, 36, of [Hailey, Idaho](#)
- Jason Woods, 30, of [Chandler, Arizona](#)

They have all been charged with the following federal felonies:

- Conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States – maximum penalty 5 years' imprisonment, \$250,000 fine
- Conspiracy to impede and injure a federal law enforcement officer – 6 years, \$250,000 fine
- Assault on a federal law enforcement officer – 20 years, \$250,000 fine
- Threatening a federal law enforcement officer – 10 years, \$250,000 fine
- Use and carry of a firearm in relation to a crime of violence – 5 years minimum, life sentence maximum, and consecutive
- Obstruction of the due administration of justice - 10 years, \$250,000 fine
- Interference with interstate commerce by extortion - 20 years, \$250,000 fine
- Interstate travel in aid of extortion – 20 years, \$250,000 fine

Their trials have been postponed from May 2, 2016 to February 6, 2017.^[161]

See also [edit]

- [Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [Grazing rights](#)
- [Militia organizations in the United States](#)
- [Recapture Canyon](#)
- [Sagebrush Rebellion](#)
- [Tenther movement](#)

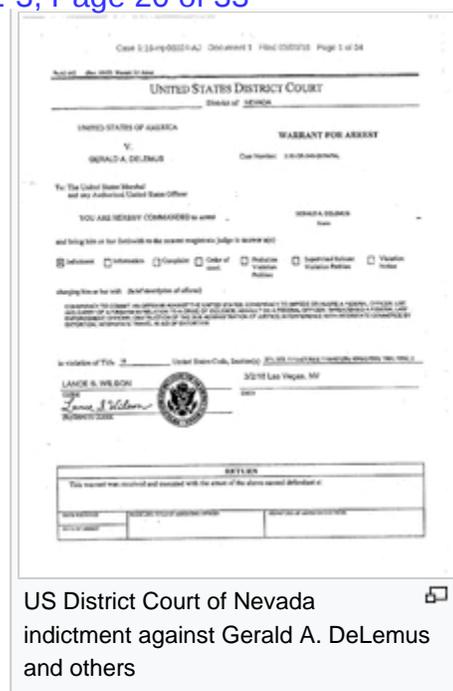
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10. ^ [a b c](#) Glionna, John. "BLM seizes cattle in range war with stubborn Nevada rancher" [↗](#). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved April 12, 2014 .
11. ^ [a b c d](#) Nagourney, Adam (April 23, 2014). "A Defiant Rancher Savors the Audience That Rallied to His Side" [↗](#). *The New York Times*. Retrieved April 24, 2014 .
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26. ^a "Antigovernment 'Patriots' Gather Near Scene of Nevada Rancher's Dispute Over Cattle Grazing Rights". SPL . Retrieved April 27, 2014 .
27. ^a "Cliven Bundy drops Republican affiliation". Associated Press. Retrieved May 27, 2014 .
28. ^{a b} O'Neill, Alan (April 6, 2014). "Rancher in land dispute is a bully, not a hero". *Las Vegas Sun*. Archived from the original on April 15, 2014. Retrieved May 13, 2014 . "I served as superintendent of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area for the National Park Service from 1987 to 2000. In 1993, we reduced the number of cows that could be grazed on the Bunkerville allotment to 150 because of the emergency listing of the desert tortoise as an endangered species ... I was one of those public officials who were told to back off at one point because of concern for violence."
29. ^{a b c} Brean, Henry (May 10, 2014). "BLM's next move against Bundy not a matter of if, but when, former officials say". *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Archived from the original on May 13, 2015. Retrieved May 13, 2014 . "O'Neill has his own history with Clark County's most well-known rancher. In 1996, in the midst of O'Neill's 13-year stint as superintendent for Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the National Park Service made plans to remove cattle roaming illegally at the northern end of the park. He said the operation was called off at the last minute amid veiled threats similar to those made against government workers last month. 'We were ready to go. The U.S. attorney's office told us to back off. We backed off.'"
30. ^a "Rangelands/Grazing" . Bureau of Land Management . Retrieved April 15, 2014 .
31. ^a 43 U.S. Code §§ 315-316o (P.L. 73-482)
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41. [^] "Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) Solar Regional Mitigation Planning Project" . Bureau of Land Management. Retrieved April 24, 2014 .
42. [^] "Virgin River Program" . Bureau of Land Management . Retrieved April 24, 2014 .
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45. [^] "N+114°14'03.6"W/@36.768903,-114.234328,13" *Free Speech A I-15 and Exit 112 for Riverside* (Map). Google Maps. Retrieved April 30, 2014 .
46. [^] *Free Speech B State Route 170 and White Rock Road* (Map). Google Maps. Retrieved April 30, 2014 .
47. [^] "N+114°11'18.6"W/@36.769903,-114.188186,13" *Media area I-15 and Toquap Wash* (Map). Google Maps. Retrieved April 30, 2014 .
48. [^] "BLM says 63 he died in disputed roundup" . *Newspaper*. Las Vegas Sun. 22 April 2014. Retrieved February 2016 .
49. [^] Ben Botkin; Keith Rogers (April 17, 2014). "BLM: 2 bulls euthanized during Cliven Bundy cattle roundup" . *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Retrieved April 23, 2014 .
50. [^] ^{a b} CBS, News (April 14, 2014). "Nevada rancher standoff turns on a states' rights debate" . CBS News. Retrieved April 15, 2014 .
51. [^] Donahue, Mike (March 24, 2014). "Bundy declares 'range war', BLM to impound embattled rancher's cattle" . *Desert Valley Times*. Retrieved April 16, 2014 .
52. [^] ^{a b c d e f} Daniel Hernandez, Joseph Langdon and (April 13, 2014). "Federal rangers face off against armed protesters in Nevada range war" . *The Guardian*. Retrieved April 14, 2014 .
53. [^] ^{a b} Weast, Burton (April 3, 2014). "Ryan Bundy tells BTAB his family will protect its cattle from seizure" . *Mesquite Local News*. Retrieved May 21, 2014 . "If they are going to be out stealing our property, we will protect our property,' he said. He also said that he heard the FBI was setting up in the Overton area, and that BLM was bringing in helicopters and trucks to remove the cattle. 'This is an issue of state sovereignty, the state owns the land not the federal government.'"
54. [^] "Bunkerville Town Advisory Board: Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 7 P.M." (PDF). Bunkerville Town Advisory Board. "Ryan Bundy stated they don't agree that the Federal Government controls the land the cattle are on, that should be State land. He said they have used the land since 1887, and they will resist any attempt by the BLM to take their cattle. Some Board members expressed concern that the land would remain closed after the cattle were removed"
55. [^] ^{a b} *March 27, 2014 meeting audio* (WMA stream). March 27, 2014. Retrieved May 21, 2014 . "[1:55:25] Because this is our property, we own the cattle, we own the grazing rights, we own the water rights, we own the range improvements. We have the right to access it ... Because of these ownership

rights, we say we will protect our property. Now, we delegate to the county sheriff the authority to protect our life, liberty, and property. But we don't relinquish that authority ourselves. And so if they are going to be out in the hills stealing our property, we will [pause] put measures of defense. And they have always asked us, 'What will you do, what will you do?' and our stance has always been we will do whatever it takes. Open-ended. And because of that, that's why they are scared, because they don't know to what level we will go to protect, but we will protect ... [2:04:50] This is an issue of state sovereignty. We talked about what is the United States of America. It's a union of states ... [2:06:00] These large tracts of land that Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, monuments, parks and, you know, National Parks, et cetera, et cetera, there is no constitutionality to them at all ... [2:09:20] The stand is the state sovereignty issue. If this is really not about Cliven Bundy and his cattle on this range, this issue is about is Nevada a state, or is Nevada still a territory?"

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61. ^ Martinez, Michael (April 10, 2014). "Showdown on the range: Nevada rancher, feds face off over cattle grazing rights" [↗](#). CNN. Retrieved April 10, 2014 . "In response, federal officials are allowing the protesters to gather on public lands as long as they don't impede the roundup, said Lueders, the BLM's director in Nevada."
62. ^ "Out-of-state groups ride in to stand with Nevada rancher in battle with feds over civil rights" [↗](#). Fox News Channel. Retrieved April 11, 2014 .
63. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Ralph Ellis; Michael Martinez (April 12, 2014). "Feds end roundup, release cattle after tense Nevada showdown" [↗](#). CNN. Retrieved April 12, 2014 .
64. ^ Joi O'Donoghue, Amy (June 18, 2014). "Frustrated Utah lawmakers vent to BLM, Forest Service" [↗](#). *Deseret News*. Utah. Archived [↗](#) from the original on April 4, 2015 . Retrieved April 4, 2015 .
65. ^ [a](#) [b](#) "Sheriff: FBI is investigating threats made to law enforcement during Bundy showdown" [↗](#). *Las Vegas Review Journal*. Retrieved May 9, 2014 .
66. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Knapp, George (April 30, 2014). "I-Team: Police faced possible 'bloodbath' at Bundy protest" [↗](#). *KLAS-TV 8 News Now*. Archived from the original [↗](#) on May 15, 2014 . Retrieved May 15, 2014 . "I was a scary point in itself. They were in my face yelling profanities and pointing weapons. The Bundy son himself, that I was negotiating with, Dave, he did not do that, but all the associated people around him did do that,' Lombardo said ... Metro pointedly did not allow officers to put on helmets or protective gear for fear it might be seen as a provocation. At the urging of Cliven Bundy, the crowd moved toward the BLM compound. Rhetoric grew more heated, and guns were pointed at officers."
67. ^ BLASKY, MIKE (July 3, 2014). "Sheriff: Cliven Bundy should be held accountable for crossing the line" [↗](#). *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Las Vegas, NV . Retrieved April 4, 2014 .
68. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Tom Ragan and, Annalise Porter (April 12, 2014). "BLM releases Bundy cattle after protesters block southbound I-15" [↗](#). *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Retrieved April 14, 2014 .
69. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Turner, Christie (April 11, 2014). "Rancher vs BLM: a 20-year standoff ends with tense roundup" [↗](#). Retrieved May 6, 2014 .
70. ^ [a](#) [b](#) Urquhart, Jim (April 23, 2014). "Nevada showdown" [↗](#). Reuters. Archived from the original [↗](#) on May 15, 2014. Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "Then I heard the words, 'I've got a clear shot at four of them,'

and to my right found one of the men pointing his weapon in the direction of the BLM. For me, time had stopped. 'I'm ready to pull the trigger if fired upon,' said another man on the bridge. That was what other Bundy supporters said too – they wouldn't shoot first, but they would return fire."

71. [^] Turner, Christi. "Rancher vs BLM: a 20-year standoff ends with tense roundup" . High Country News Retrieved April 12, 2014 .
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73. [^] [Cattle Gather Operation Concluded](#) , Bureau of Land Management, April 12, 2014
74. [^] [a b c d](#) "Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy inspects cattle for damage by feds" . CBS News. April 15, 2014.
75. [^] "Sheriff urged to clamp down on armed militiamen around Bundy ranch" . Las Vegas Sun . Retrieved May 1, 2014 .
76. [^] [a b](#) Baca, Nathan (April 15, 2014). "I-Team: Political cause growing in Bundy's dispute with BLM" . *News Now Las Vegas*. Retrieved May 14, 2014 . "After Sheriff Gillespie announced the BLM would leave Bunkerville, Cliven Bundy looked at the sheriff and delivered his new ultimatum. 'Disarm the park service at Lake Mead and Red Rock park and all other parks where the federal government claims they have jurisdiction over,' Bundy said, 'We want those arms delivered right here under these flags in one hour.'"
77. [^] McNab, JJ (May 9, 2014). "Cliven Bundy's Son Had Run-In With Park Service Two Decades Ago" . *Forbes*. Archived from [the original](#)  on May 13, 2014. "Cliven Bundy's April 12, 2014 demand that th County Sheriff immediately demolish the entrances of National Parks located in Nevada ... 'Take your county bulldozers ... er ... loaders and tear down that entrance places where they ticket us and where they injure us and make us citizens pay their fees. You get your county equipment out there and tear those things down this morning.'"
78. [^] [a b](#) Kopan, Tal (April 14, 2014). [Cliven Bundy to sheriffs: 'Disarm' the Bureau of Land Management](#) . *Politico*. Archived from [the original](#)  on April 20, 2014 . Retrieved May 14, 2014 . "only want to talk to one person in each county across the United States, and here's what I want to say: County sheriffs, disarm U.S. bureaucracy. County sheriffs, disarm U.S. bureaucrats,' Bundy said on Glenn Beck's radio show on TheBlaze on Monday ... 'My Clark County sheriff, Doug Gillespie, didn't finish his job,' Bundy said. 'What the mandate from we the people was, Saturday was to disarm the park service and BLM.'"
79. [^] [a b](#) Thompson, Catherine (April 15, 2014). "Harry Reid: Bundy Ranch Standoff 'Not Over'" . *Talkin Points Memo*. Archived from [the original](#)  on April 19, 2014 . Retrieved May 14, 2014 . "I don't hav response for Harry Reid, but I have a response for every county sheriff across the United States,' Bundy told host Sean Hannity. 'Disarm the federal bureaucrats.'"
80. [^] Sean Hannity (host) and Cliven Bundy (interviewee) (April 14, 2014). [Hannity](#)  (mp3) (Audio recording). Fox News Channel. Event occurs at Statement appears at 18:23. Retrieved May 15, 2014 . "The demand on the sheriff was de-arm the Park Service rangers, and de-arm Red Rock rangers — that's two parks very close to the Lake Mead area. And then the demand was, tear down the toll booth stacks."
81. [^] "Nevada Rancher's Son: Harry Reid 'Needs To Be Kicked Out Of Office'" . CBS Las Vegas . Retrieve May 15, 2014 .
82. [^] [a b c](#) Enders, Caty (April 25, 2014). "Life at The Bundy Ranch, Uncensored" . Archived from [the original](#)  on May 17, 2014 . Retrieved May 17, 2014 . "They failed, for example, to follow his instructio to tear down the toll booths at Lake Mead and disarm the Park Service. 'The message I gave to you all was a revelation that I received. And yet not one of you can seem to even quote it.' ... 'It come to my mind real plain — the good Lord said, 'Bundy, it's not your job, it's THEIR job.'" So we come back over here and heard that they had brought some cattle back. So I want you to understand,' he said. 'This is not my job, it's YOUR job. This morning, I said a prayer, and this is what I received. I heard a voice say, 'Sheriff

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Gillespie, your work is not done. Every sheriff across the United States, take the guns away from the United States bureaucrats." Lots of clapping for this."

83. ^{a b} Glionna, John M.; Simon, Richard (April 24, 2014). ["At scene of Nevada ranch standoff, 'citizen soldiers' are on guard"](#). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved May 13, 2014 . "Since the roundup ended, he said he has refused to even open five certified letters from the BLM. 'I've challenged the federal government's authority,' he said. 'That's why they want to kill Cliven Bundy.'"
84. ^a Botkin, Ben (April 16, 2014). ["BLM tries to contact Cliven Bundy, but the rancher won't take the message"](#). *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Retrieved May 13, 2014 . "The Bureau of Land Management has tried to contact Cliven Bundy ever since the federal agency released the rancher's cattle Saturday while facing a horde of protesters, but Bundy hasn't opened any of the written messages. His son, Ammon Bundy, said four certified letters from the BLM arrived at the ranch Tuesday. So far, the 67-year-old Bunkerville resident has chosen not to open the envelopes."
85. ^a Botkin, Ben (April 21, 2014). ["BLM confirms six Bundy cattle died in roundup"](#). *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Retrieved May 13, 2014 . "The BLM last week sent four certified letters to Cliven Bundy, which he hadn't opened last week. Leff said the letters 'include public sale notices of the impounded cattle.' 'These notices provide Mr. Bundy the opportunity to buy back the gathered cattle, determined to be his,' Leff said in a statement. 'These notices do not absolve Mr. Bundy from his trespass fees for grazing cattle on public lands without a permit.' Leff didn't answer follow-up questions from the Review-Journal about why the agency sent notices to Bundy to buy back cattle that had been returned to him."
86. ^a ["Cliven Bundy's Family Takes Grazing Fight to Sheriff"](#). Associated Press. May 2, 2014. Retrieved May 2, 2014 .
87. ^a ["Bundy family, supporters file criminal complaints against BLM"](#). ABC13 News . Retrieved May 2, 2014.
88. ^{a b} Treanor, John (June 3, 2014). ["Bundy poses questions for candidates on local radio station"](#). Ne 3 HD. Retrieved June 7, 2014 .
89. ^a Rogers, Keith (April 18, 2014). ["Bundy supporters party, welcome 'domestic terrorist' label"](#). *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Archived from the original on May 12, 2014 . Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "He made the statement before a "Patriot Party" that started at 5 p.m. with music by Madison Rising and Ron Keel, who sang with Black Sabbath briefly in 1984. A party atmosphere among a few hundred people grew as more supporters trickled in. Some people were cooling off in the river while dozens of armed militia members wearing camouflaged fatigues patrolled in and around the area."
90. ^a Craig, Huber. ["NV lawmaker presses sheriff to probe Bundy militiamen"](#). Fox5Vegas-KVVU . Retrieved April 30, 2014 .
91. ^a Horsford, Steven. ["Horsford Urges Sheriff Gillespie To Investigate Armed Militia Presence In Bunkerville"](#). Rep Horsford press release. Retrieved April 30, 2014 .
92. ^{a b} Ritter, Ken (May 1, 2014). ["Neighbors grow weary of 'militia' remaining with Nevada cattle rancher in federal land dispute"](#). *Associated Press, appearing in the Minneapolis' StarTribune*. Retrieved May 19, 2014 . "Bundy acknowledged creating a stir when he and his family showed up at the Mormon church with armed bodyguards for Easter Sunday services. 'The militia have been going with me everywhere,' Bundy said Tuesday. 'When I got to church, I said, "Leave your weapons in the car." They did. I guess there could have been weapons in the parking lot, but there were no weapons in the church house.' Bundy denies that militia members set up checkpoints on public property. He said armed guards do stop and screen visitors at the gate to his ranch."
93. ^a Rozyla, Lauren (April 17, 2014). ["Cliven Bundy snubs letters from BLM"](#). *KLAS-TV 8 News Now*. Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "Supporters say they're waiting for the feds to react. Armed protesters continue to surround the Bundy ranch and are even blocking a county road. Some of the supporters attempted Thursday to keep a Channel 8 news crew from entering the area, despite it being a public road. 'You're

trying to start trouble and you're standing with that camera in my face,' one protester said. The armed men say they'll be at the site for weeks to come to defend the Bundy family."

94. [^] Knapp, George (April 30, 2014). "I-Team: Police say Bundy ranch protesters not off the hook" . *KLAS-TV 8 News Now*. Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "They were equally hostile to journalists covering the story. Pistol-packing militia men have blocked 8 News NOW's access to public roads. Some poured lighter fluid around our news vehicle while others got physical."
95. [^] Feldman, Josh (April 30, 2014). "Bundy Supporter Warns Reid: 'You Want Your Balls Ripped Off?'"  *Mediaite*. Archived from [the original](#)  on May 3, 2014 . Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "Vanderboegh presented an award 'for incitement to civil war' in Reid's honor and warned the senator, 'Don't poke the wolverine with a sharp stick, Harry, unless you want your balls ripped off.'"
96. [^] ^a ^b ^c Savan, Leslie (May 2, 2014). "Why Is the Right Obsessed With Castration?" . *The Nation*. Archived from [the original](#)  on May 16, 2014. Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "All over this country, we are still staring civil war in its bloody face,' said Mike Vanderboegh, leader of the militia group Three Percenters and author of a novel that allegedly inspired a domestic terrorist plot in 2011 ... Bundy's boys weren't the first to thrust the image of torn-off testicles onto the 2014 political stage."
97. [^] Mencimer, Stephanie (November 2, 2011). "Alleged Waffle House Terror Plotters Inspired By Form Militia Author" . *Mother Jones*. Archived from [the original](#)  on January 21, 2013 . Retrieved May 2014. "The Georgia seniors meeting at Waffle House who were recently apprehended by the FBI for allegedly plotting to kill millions of Americans to save the Constitution also seem to have had a literary influence: Mike Vanderboegh, and his novel, *Absolved*."
98. [^] "Oath Keepers and Three %ers Part of Growing Anti-Government Movement" . Anti-Defamation League. October 26, 2009. Archived from [the original](#)  on February 15, 2014 . Retrieved May 16, 2014. "The Oath Keepers and Three Percenters, both part of an anti-government extremist movement that has grown since President Obama took office, promote the idea that the federal government is plotting to take away the rights of American citizens and must be resisted. The two groups are apparently trying to make inroads in the U.S. military."
99. [^] ^a ^b ^c Rosenberg, Paul (May 14, 2014). "You need to die': Cliven Bundy and violent militias still terrorizing Utah, Nevada" . *Salon*. Archived from [the original](#)  on May 16, 2014 . Retrieved May 16 2014. "round the same time, a wild, paranoid rumor spread throughout the camp that Attorney General Eric Holder was preparing a drone strike against them ... And on May 2, Neiwert reported further on how the two factions nearly came to a shoot-out."
100. [^] ^a ^b David, Neiwart (April 30, 2014). "Back at the Bundy Ranch, It's Oath Keepers vs. Militiamen as Wild Rumors Fly" . Southern Poverty Law Center. Archived from [the original](#)  on May 16, 2014. Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "When a wild and paranoid rumor began circulating – that Attorney General Eric Holder was preparing a drone strike on the armed militiamen who gathered at Cliven Bundy's ranch in Nevada – it unleashed a rift within the camp ... Apparently, someone within one of the major factions at the camp, the Oath Keepers, relayed word of the imminent drone attack to his leaders. Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes responded by pulling his people out of what they called 'the kill zone' (the area the supposed drone would be striking). When the other militiamen learned that the Oath Keepers had pulled out, they were outraged ... They openly talk about shooting Rhodes and other Oath Keepers leaders – because in their view, the Oath Keepers' actions constituted 'desertion' and 'cowardice' – and describe how 'the whole thing is falling apart over there.' At the end, they vote unanimously to oust the Oath Keepers, or at least its leadership, from the Bundy Ranch camp."
101. [^] ^a ^b David, Neiwart (May 2, 2014). "Militiamen and Oath Keepers Drew Weapons, Threatened to Kill Each Other" . Southern Poverty Law Center. Archived from [the original](#)  on May 16, 2014. Retrieved May 16, 2014 . "The situation at the ranch, where armed militiamen and 'Patriots' are camped out, has deteriorated so badly that competing factions apparently drew weapons on one another during heated arguments ... The team that primarily circulated the drone-strike rumor – Stewart Rhodes' Oath Keepers –

also began advising people to pull out, which sparked the wrath of militiamen. Those militiamen voted to oust the Oath Keepers, and a couple even spoke of shooting Rhodes and his men in the back, which they deemed the proper battlefield treatment of 'deserters' ... [RHODES:] 'Guys with hands on their guns threatening them. That's why we told them to get out of there. We knew the situation was this close from being a gunfight, right there inside the camp.' [RHODES:] 'One of our guys from Montana, Rick Delap, who was there from the beginning — he's been out there for two weeks in the dirt — the day of this confrontation, I come to find out he had to draw on somebody.'"

102. [^] Schoenmann, Joe (May 15, 2014). "Cliven Bundy's supporters seek crowdfunding to sustain militia" [↗](#). *Las Vegas Sun*. Retrieved May 16, 2014 .
103. [^] "Official: FBI investigating Bundy Ranch showdown" [↗](#). *USA Today*. May 8, 2014 . Retrieved Ma 2014.
104. [^] "FBI investigating Bundy Ranch showdown, Clark County sheriff's officials say" [↗](#). Fox News Channel Retrieved May 9, 2014 .
105. [^] Raju, Manu (April 28, 2014). "Police investigating Cliven Bundy-related threats to Harry Reid" [↗](#). Politico. Retrieved May 2, 2014 .
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425 Third Street SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024
202-646-5172