

PUBLIC COMMENT

LAND MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE – MARCH 28, 2014

BOB CLIFFORD, FALLON TEA PARTY

These comments were prompted by a notice to Churchill County by Winnemucca BLM that they may impound cattle that are trespassing. The notice was sent to every operator. Some cattle seizures are happening right now in Clark County so we researched the history.

BLM revoked rancher Colvin's grazing permit in 1997 and he lost two appeals - probably appealing to the BLM not a court or arbitration. Thus no due process. BLM said they were just enforcing regulations – those were regulations that they put in place so they were acting as legislative, executive (law enforcement) and judicial branches within one agency. They considered him illegal now under their regulations so they finally took the cattle and sold them in 2001. Colvin contends that under Nevada state law his cattle were stolen if taken without a signed brand inspection or a court order. This means without due process as guaranteed by the Constitution. BLM was in violation of State law unless they are immune from compliance with Nevada State law. If they are we need them removed from the State.

According to Colvin, BLM squeezed the cattle out by not controlling wild horses, continuously reducing the cattle grazing allotment without controlling the horses. This situation seems identical to what is driving the NACO lawsuit against the BLM. Perhaps the real plan of the BLM is to do the same scheme on a grand scale and drive all grazing out to leave feed for the horses. In fact, another seizure just started March 27th in Clark County.

BLM says seizure was the last resort. Is this still their policy? Is there still no due process in this situation? Is BLM still in gross violation of Nevada Law? Why were notices sent to so many operators in the Winnemucca District? Are they all illegal and subject to having cattle impounded or is there a change in policy?

This type of behavior by BLM is illegal and treats Nevada like a territory, not a Sovereign State. I believe this is a compelling reason for Nevada to take back control of its lands.