



# IRON COUNTY

68 South 100 East • Parowan, Utah 84761 • Phone (435) 477-8300 • Fax (435) 477-8847

## Commissioners

Alma L. Adams

David J. Miller

Dale M. Brinkerhoff

**Clerk** • David I. Yardley

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**Recorder** • Deborah B. Johnson

**Assessor** • Cindy W. Bulloch

**Auditor** • H. Eugene Adams

**Attorney** • Scott F. Garrett

**Sheriff** • Mark O. Gower

March 30, 2014

Mr. Neil Kornze and Mrs. Amy Lueders,

Please be advised that the decision of the BLM in Clark County Nevada to force trespass on private citizens has triggered our interest in Iron County, Utah and has spillover ramifications.

The decision of the BLM to allocate funding approaching or surpassing \$2 million dollars to gather private cattle owned in Clark County Nevada while the agency refuses to respond to the requests by Iron County to abide by its own laws and policies (see below) is unacceptable. Why do you have money to deal with non-compliance as in the case with Mr. Cliven Bundy but no funds to keep yourself in compliance?

We charge you to fulfill your responsibility to address the concerns found herein and being brought, once again, to your attention as in previous communication. It is advisable to immediately transition your priority within the agency from one of confiscating private property in the name of trespass in Clark County Nevada to one of management of feral horses destroying the range across the western United States specifically in western Iron County, Utah. You are charged to reduce the numbers of wild horses and burros to Appropriate Management Levels (AML's) established by the BLM(see quick fact sheet attached). Let it be understood our ongoing and recent request (see attached) for management of feral horses has been repeatedly denied and/or ignored with the explanation of budget constraints.

The actions and expenditures in Clark County Nevada prove otherwise. Allocating resources to gather privately owned cattle in the name of trespass when the resulting inaction in Iron County adversely poses an imminent threat, especially given drought conditions as of March 30, 2014 to the fragile habitat to sustain wildlife and other livestock. Inaction and no-management practices pose an imminent threat to ranchers who are being pushed to reduce their allotments by 50% thereby damaging the value of their private rights. The overpopulation of the feral horses is destroying the rangelands. Habitat destruction resulting from this overpopulation has broad collateral damage threatening the well being of the wild horses and burros the agency is charged to manage.



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Pursuant to Section 1333 of the Wild free roaming Horse and Burro act of 1971 wherein the secretary of the Interior shall, if "an overpopulation exists on a given area of the public lands and that action is necessary to remove excess animals, ***he shall immediately remove excess animals from the range so as to achieve appropriate management levels.***" We hereby put all applicable parties on notice of the foregoing imminent threat affecting citizens of Iron County and our intention to address the issue as described if an immediate response with an acceptable plan to address these threats is not received by the County from BLM within the prescribed time constraints as referenced herein.

On behalf of the good people of Iron County, Utah you are officially put on notice that **at the moment** any action in Clark County Nevada is taken to gather and confiscate private cattle without managing your own responsibility of feral horses in west Iron County to appropriate management levels orders will be given to the Iron County Sheriff, deputies and other authorized agents to take necessary means to reduce numbers of feral horses for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of citizens of Iron County as well as the habitat on the western range within the county. This is not a threat. This is a plan of action.

Despite pleas, resolutions and requests from Iron County and other affected counties across the western united States it is apparent the BLM has its own agenda regarding public lands which is inconsistent with the charge to protect the interests and grazing rights of the people rightfully utilizing the resources of the public land. Likewise the lack of protecting the rangelands for the multiple use, sustainable yield objectives as are defined by its own mission compounds the concern.

The BLM is hereby charged to bring the wild horse population in Iron County into compliance with AML's established for the preservation of the range for the multiple use, sustainable yield objectives of the BLM and plans of Iron County as well as the protection of those grazing rights of Iron County Citizens that have been threatened due to no management practices and policies.

To dismiss our requests to manage these animals as one charged to manage them and to interfere with US citizens historic rights to graze in Nevada comes at great alarm to Iron County. It is in direct conflict with our requests to gather and manage the feral horses to previously determined appropriate management levels.

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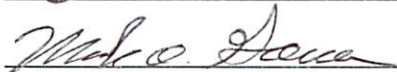
As BLM spokesman Kirsten Cannon said, "Now we've reached the last resort". In our estimation we have reached a point of "last resort" and we intend to see the reduction of the herds to at minimum the agencies own AML's.

Pursuant to Utah Code **11-51-102-103** the Chief Executive Officer as Chairman of the governing body of Iron County acting on behalf of the Iron County board of commissioners along with the Iron County Sheriff expects a response to this letter by 12:00 pm April 4, 2014 with a description of your plans to bring the numbers of wild horse and burros into compliance with the suggested AML's in Iron County in a manner and time acceptable to mitigate the threats and adverse conditions and affects within Iron County . If the agency's decision to expend further resources to gather private US citizens cattle takes precedent in lieu of our requests it will be understood that your de facto response to Iron County is one of non priority and that you have no intent to deal with the adverse threat in Iron County in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



David J. Miller, Chairman, Iron County Commission



Mark O. Gower, Iron County Sheriff

CC: Juan Palma Utah Director BLM, Sally Jewell US Secretary of the Interior, Honorable Governor Gary Herbert, Honorable Attorney General Sean Reyes, Honorable Rep. Chris Stewart, Honorable Rep. Rob Bishop, Honorable Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Honorable Rep. Jim Matheson, Honorable Senator Mike Lee, Honorable Senator Orrin Hatch