



Western States Leaders Gather in Oregon to Support Property Rights and Help Restore rural America.

For Immediate Distribution – Jan 26th, 2016

Fact Finding Mission to Harney County

Legislators and grassroots leaders from the Coalition of Western States (C.O.W.S.) traveled to Harney County Oregon last week, and met with the Harney County Under Sheriff, the County Judge, District Attorney, and a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, at the Courthouse in Burns and later protest leaders at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, regarding the ongoing standoff and the continuing complaints about Bureau of Land Management's treatment of local ranchers.

During the visit members of the Coalition asked and were assured several times by officials that no violent action was intended against the protesters at the refuge and that a peaceful resolution was sought by all, including specifically the Federal Government. Also, as part of the visit Coalition members were presented with evidence of ongoing BLM abuse of Harney County Ranchers. Members of the Coalition of Western States are still compiling information as part of its fact-finding mission.

Coalition Training in Harney County

Constitutional attorney KrisAnne Hall also traveled to Burns, Oregon, last week to conduct educational community meetings on the Constitution, property rights, and how Harney County citizens can begin pushing back against overreach.

More than three hundred citizens attended each of the presentations during the 2-day community event. County Judge and commissioner, Steven E. Grasty, unsuccessfully attempted to prevent the use of public buildings for these community educational events despite the fact that hundreds of similar presentations have been conducted literally all over the country with the support of local elected officials.

The Coalition of Western States has also facilitated follow up training on how citizens can become active participants in their local government. This training will be presented by the Center for Self-Governance a well-respected national organization and has been scheduled for Jan 30th in Burns. The venue is still to be determined because Judge Grasty has stated he will deny any follow up meetings or training the use of public buildings. Coalition of Western States will be reviewing the remedies available to overcome Judge Grasty's blatant and arbitrary disregard of the Rights of the people of Harney County, Oregon.

The Coalition of Western States condemns in the strongest possible terms the bizarre and unprecedented attempt by Judge Grasty to silence citizens who want to learn about the Constitution and property rights. It is unconscionable that his continued denial of public facilities to the taxpaying citizens of Harney County will force the elderly and disabled to either not attend future presentations and gatherings or attend in venues without heat. Such discrimination against the elderly and disabled should never be tolerated.

Ranchers Organize Against the BLM

Ranchers from Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and Oregon are organizing against BLM abuse and are gathering to sign agreements to cancel contracts with the BLM and demand that the land now controlled by the Federal Government be transferred to the States as was originally intended by the Constitution and various state compacts, followed by the Federal Government up until it reached the western United States.

COWS stands with the ranchers they are organizing against BLM abuse and is researching further what peaceful actions can be taken to restore property rights, constitutional public land management, and Harney County and communities across the Nation.

“The Federal Government has created this situation in the West. The Forest Service and BLM in particular have a long history of fraud and abuse. Together at the local and state level the Coalition of Western States we will put the Federal Government back into its constitutionally designed box and unshackle the spirit of rural America.” – said WA State Representative and Chair, Matthew Shea in statement Tuesday.

Links:

- [<http://cowstates.com>
- [<http://krisannehall.com>
- [<http://centerforselfgovernance.com>

The Coalition of Western States represents over 50 legislators, elected delegates and grassroots leaders predominantly in the Western United States dedicated to stopping government overreach. – COWS and its members from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Montana, New Mexico stand ready to oppose continued federal overreach and abuse, support the rule of law and restore management of public lands to the States where it Constitutionally belongs.

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