

TESTIMONY

DEMAR DAHL

At the Nevada Cattlemen's convention last fall a past president of the Association, when addressing the members said, "It hasn't happened to me, but it will and if you think it won't happen to you, you're wrong". He was talking about the management practices of BLM and FS on grazing that have been implemented in the last few years and the detrimental effect they have had on the ranching community. He was saying if you haven't been hurt, yet, you will be.

It is a story that is hard to tell, partly because it is hard to believe we have come so far from when the livestock industry on the public lands was relatively stable. Especially in my state of Nevada where 87% of the State belongs to the Federal Government, a stable environment on the public lands is essential for a ranch family to survive, let alone prosper.

John McLain, a certified Range Management Consultant and founder and Principal of Resource Concepts Inc. which has been doing range science work for the livestock industry and the agencies for four decades, recently wrote, "The USFS and BLM, have continued with their ever-changing and often draconian guidelines and policies that prove damaging to an increasingly fragile livestock industry in Nevada." These draconian guidelines and policies, many adopted in the Washington office and sent as directives to the field have taken a toll on Nevada Ranch families.

Whether by design due to the many law suits brought by those groups opposed to grazing which often get a favorable settlement by the administration or because of the natural bias of some in the agencies, in many instances the range practices of the past have gone out the window and questionable science is used to justify new policy and guidelines detrimental to the industry.

I realize that the intent of your committee is to address regulatory burdens placed on the industry by the federal government. Chances of having any meaningful impact on the agencies guidelines, policies or regulations will be, I suspect, slim to none.

I think it is too late. I think the gap is too wide and cannot be bridged. For us in the West, to have the activities on our natural resources be governed by those who are mostly unelected and almost three thousand miles away just doesn't work anymore. My state of Nevada sees things the same way. A year ago all seventeen counties voted to support a Task Force report that called for the transfer of the public lands from the federal government to the state. The Task Force sent a resolution to the State legislature that proposed the transfer and outlined a procedure by which it could be done. The resolution became SJR1 and was passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. Congressman Mark Amodei turned the Resolution into HB1484 and introduced it in the House of Representatives.

It's the only solution big enough. In our present management of the public lands we have departed too far from common sense and every facet of land management will benefit from having decisions made closer to home.

The idea of the transfer brings up many questions but in the state of Nevada we have diligently studied the implications of the transfer and believe we have the answers that definitely justify the transfer and make it a good idea. Some of the issues addressed in the Amodei Bill are

- Cost: The Intertech study determined the State can afford the transfer and manage its own public lands at a considerable net profit to the State.
- Will the land be sold: Only the lands now designated for disposal by the federal agencies and some of the land in the checkerboard area will be sold, the rest will remain public land.
- Will there be restrictions on the use of the public land after the transfer: All valid existing rights will transfer and anything you can do on the public land now you will be able to do after the transfer.
- What lands will transfer: National Parks, National Monuments, wilderness Areas, Indian and military lands are off the table, other lands will transfer.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to address grazing on the federal lands but I think anyone intimately familiar with what is happening on our ranges in Nevada, in particular, will reach the same conclusion. The livestock industry, dependent on the public lands will, as we know it, soon be a thing of the past. Only adopting the solution of transferring the public lands to the states will save it.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Witness Disclosure Requirement – “Truth in Testimony”
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)(5)

Name:

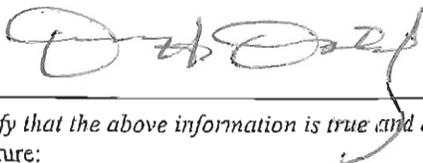
1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2012. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

NONE

2. Please list any entity you are testifying on behalf of and briefly describe your relationship with these entities.

NONE

3. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) received since October 1, 2012, by the entity(ies) you listed above. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.



7-4-15

I certify that the above information is true and correct.

Signature:

Date:

Demar Dahl

Demar Dahl and his wife Lora live on a cattle ranch in Elko County. Demar has been active in his community and has served on many committees, boards and commissions over the years.

From airport advisory boards to district and state grazing boards, Demar has served in many different areas. He served, for instance, on the Fox Peak Paiute Shoshone Economic Development Board and on the Bush-Cheney transition team. He was a past president of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and served on the Nevada State Environmental Commission. He was a charter member of the Federal Lands Conference and a board member for Mountain States Legal Foundation.

In 1992 Demar was the republican candidate for United States Senate running against Senator Harry Reid.

Demar has had a number of livestock operations starting with a ranch in western Nevada in 1969. Demar has had livestock operations in eight counties in Nevada as well as the ranch he and Lora now run cattle on in Starr Valley, which was bought in 1977. Starr Valley is where Demar was raised as a boy.

There have been other business ventures besides livestock in his background. In the 1980's Demar bought a block plant from the Leslie Salt Company in Union City, California and moved it to Elko for manufacturing livestock supplements which then were distributed all over the West.

Starting in 1994 and to the present, Demar has been involved in property development in Churchill County, Nevada, both residential and commercial. He and Lora still keep a house and office in Fallon though their home is in Starr Valley.

Demar stated, in 2008 upon announcing his candidacy for County Commissioner in Elko County, that he thought he had enough experience and common sense to be of some service to the people of Elko County. He continues to hold the position of Elko County Commissioner.