February 26, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Eric Holder  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Secretary Jewell and Attorney General Holder,

It has been nearly a year since the Bureau of Land Management’s failed attempt to end the illegal livestock grazing actions by Cliven Bundy in Clark County, Nevada. Bundy’s livestock continue to trespass on publicly owned land and more than $1 million in fees owed to the U.S. Treasury by Mr. Bundy remain uncollected.

In July, federal officials said they would work through the courts to resolve these issues but there has been no reported progress. The silence of the federal government has been both deafening and deeply troubling.

Instead, Bundy’s illegal actions have emboldened other anti-government and anti-environment agitators who oppose the very existence of public lands. Each new violation of federal rules fuels the movement to undermine the protection of our public lands, whether it’s threats against federal employees, illegal ATV rides into Recapture Canyon, a BLM site in Utah that is home to Native American ancestral villages and sacred places, or Idaho gold miners suction dredging the Salmon River in clear violation of the law.

More than two decades have passed since Bundy first violated the law in 1993 by refusing to obtain the required permit for grazing on public lands. Bundy has violated the laws of the legislative branch, ignored the orders of the judicial branch to enforce those laws, and defied efforts by the executive branch to enforce three court orders.

When will the federal government bring Bundy to justice? We are calling on the federal government fulfill its constitutional and statutory obligations to own and manage federal public lands that safeguard precious wildlife, waters and recreation opportunities held in trust for this and future generations. We formally request that you provide the public with an update by April 5, 2015, which will be the one-year anniversary of the BLM’s attempted cattle round up.

The American people are waiting.

Sincerely,

RANDI SPIVAK
Director Public Lands Program

Celebrating 25 years of saving wildlife and protecting the air, land and water that all species need to survive.