



MALHEUR WILDLIFE REFUGE STANDOFF, JANUARY TO FEBRUARY, 2016

On January 2, two Oregon ranchers, Dwight and Steven Hammond, returned to prison to complete their sentence for setting fire to federal land in 2001, sparking the armed militia and anti-government occupation of a federal compound south of Burns, Oregon. Several of the key figures behind the occupation also participated in the Bundy Ranch standoff in 2014 with federal authorities in Nevada.

Key Players		
	Cliven Bundy	Led the Bundy Ranch standoff with federal authorities in 2014. The dispute was over \$1 million in unpaid grazing fees.
	Ammon Bundy	Son of Cliven Bundy. Participated in the Bundy Ranch standoff and led the Malheur Wildlife Refuge occupation.
	Robert "LaVoy" Finicum	Participated in the Bundy Ranch standoff. Spokesperson for the Oregon occupation. Finicum was the only individual killed during the occupation.
	Jon Ritzheimer	Participated in the Bundy Ranch standoff and previously made anti-Muslim threats in New Jersey and New York.

Since the end of the occupation, 38 individuals have been arrested and indicted for their involvement in either the 2014 Bundy Ranch standoff, the Malheur Wildlife Refuge occupation, or both.

For more information, please contact the NJOHSP Analysis Bureau at analysis@njohsp.gov or 609-584-4000.

Below are significant events surrounding the six-week occupation:

- January 2**

Eleven armed militia and anti-government extremists illegally occupy the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge


- January 8**

Supporters of the occupation intimidate and harass local law enforcement. Occupiers access government computers inside the refuge, retrieving employee data.
- January 9**

Occupiers remove a \$100,000 government fence, allowing cattle to graze on federal land.


- January 11**

Approximately three dozen more armed supporters arrive at the refuge to support the occupation.
- January 26**

Oregon State Police and FBI arrest eight occupiers, including Ammon Bundy, and kill Robert "LaVoy" Finicum while he was reaching for a gun. Four occupiers remain in the refuge.


- February 10**

FBI arrest Cliven Bundy at Portland International Airport on federal charges.
- February 11**

The last four occupiers surrender and are arrested, ending the 41-day occupation.



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NJOHSP INTELLIGENCE NOTE

MAY 18, 2016

Oregon Standoff: Intimidation of Local Law Enforcement

During the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon in January and February, militia and anti-government extremists harassed law enforcement authorities and their families, threatened the use of illegal “common law grand juries,” and solicited sympathy from first responders to gain support. Federal authorities have charged 26 in the occupation with conspiring to hinder US Fish and Wildlife Service employees and officers from performing their duties.

- According to a federal indictment, the defendants threatened to use violence against any officer attempting to remove them from the refuge. Two of the occupiers—Ryan Bundy and Robert “LaVoy” Finicum—stated they were “willing to kill and be killed.” According to a local official, occupation supporters surveilled the movements of officers and their families, confronted federal personnel about their employment status, and threatened violence. The affidavit cites five harassment incidents, including suspected militia members following a minor—the son of a police chief.



Eight of the 26 individuals arrested for participating in the occupation

- Occupiers expressed their intent to convene “common law grand juries”—self-established courts that hold no legal authority—to indict federal officials involved in the prosecution of two Oregon ranchers. Bruce Doucette, a sovereign citizen and self-proclaimed judge, used social media to recruit “marshals to uphold the Constitution,” who would apprehend public officials to appear before the “juries.”
- Occupiers tried to gain law enforcement support through public statements and meetings with officials and appealing to their oaths of office and patriotism. In a joint press conference with the leader of the occupation, the Fire Marshal of Harney County, where the occupation took place, resigned to support the siege.

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Oregon Standoff: Overview of Operational Security Measures

Participants in the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge effectively used physical patrols and counter surveillance to secure their positions. The occupiers, however, were lax in other security areas such as seeking publicity that inadvertently revealed operational plans to law enforcement.

- The occupiers maintained physical control of the compound by manning checkpoints and blockades, as well as a guard tower. Additionally, they refused entry to individuals threatening their authority and on at least one occasion resorted to violence. Ammon Bundy refused to publicly disclose the number of occupiers in the refuge.
- Occupiers also took measures to shield themselves from law enforcement surveillance by removing cameras and using aliases to disguise their identities. Supporters from outside the refuge provided updates on law enforcement activity and attempted to identify undercover FBI agents, often posting the agents' personal information on social media.
- Despite these effective security measures, the occupiers frequently allowed media and supporters to visit and film their activities. One of the occupiers was a self-proclaimed reporter who live streamed much of the occupation, which allowed the FBI to track occupiers' movements and staging positions.



Map of the Malheur Refuge



Armed guard from the 3% of Idaho militia group pushes aside a reporter

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EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

MAY 18, 2016

Anti-Government Extremists: Divided After Oregon

Following the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation in Oregon this year, anti-government extremists will find it difficult to unite and collaborate because of limited support from national and local leaders, internal division, and arrests of key occupiers. Furthermore, because federal authorities and anti-government extremists negotiated an end to the occupation, large-scale confrontations—a tactic the movement has used in the past—are less likely in the next three to six months.

- Despite Malheur occupiers' repeated calls for support, the broader anti-government movement made little effort to provide assistance. The two largest anti-government groups—the Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters—released official statements distancing themselves from the occupation. The Oregon chapter of the Three Percenters, another anti-government group, opposed the siege, stating the occupation was contrary to its vision and increased the risk of government scrutiny.
- Key figures in the anti-government movement believed the occupation was a “false flag” that “federal provocateurs” used to impose martial law. Other members labeled the occupiers' actions as misrepresenting the movement, while those supporting the occupation criticized the opposition as dishonoring and dividing the community.
- Following negotiations, federal authorities arrested 26 occupiers, many of whom participated in the Bundy ranch standoff in 2014, including Cliven, Ammon, and Ryan Bundy, as well as Jon Ritzheimer and Ryan Payne. These arrests, as well as the resulting negotiations, will reduce the likelihood—at least in the near-term—of confrontations between the federal government and anti-government groups.



FBI agents at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

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