

# There's a difference in patriotism and terrorism

**Devin Rokyta/Moscow-Pullman Daily News**

Those who flocked to the Nevada desert in support of rancher Cliven Bundy would like to have you believe they are heroes and patriots. Nevada Sen. Harry Reid labels them domestic terrorists.

A quick look in the dictionary - and at the facts - proves Reid a more knowledgeable wordsmith. We would go so far as to add criminal and bully to describe these "patriots," who care nothing about facts and are simply looking for a fight and a chance to show off their AR-15s.

Bundy and hundreds of self-described "patriots," or armed militia members and thugs, showed up to protest Bureau of Land Management officials seizing Bundy's cattle earlier this month. BLM officials say Bundy has illegally grazed his cattle on public land, owned by the federal government, for 20 years and owes \$1 million in grazing and trespassing fees. Bundy, however, has claimed ancestral rights to the land his family settled in the 19th century and has refused to pay the fees or remove his animals.

A standoff followed as Bundy and his militia pointed their guns at federal officials and strategically placed women along the "front lines," so, as one prominent supporter of Bundy said, "If they are going to start shooting it's going to be women that are going to be televised all across the world getting shot." (We can cross chivalrous off the list of appropriate descriptions for these "patriots.")

The BLM ultimately caved into Bundy a little more than a week ago to avoid a shootout, due to "grave concern about the safety of employees and members of the public."

Following the standoff, Reid said, "Clive Bundy does not recognize the United States. The United States, he says, is a foreign government. He doesn't pay his taxes. He doesn't pay his fees. And he doesn't follow the law."

We certainly wouldn't define such behavior as patriotic. A more apt description would be treasonous.