

My name is Rand Collins and I own a ranching business named J. Rand Collins Ranching located in Jordan Valley, Oregon. This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation ranch and we have been ranching on the property for over 46 years.

My ranch currently holds a permit to graze on the Saddle Butte allotment, which includes 80% of my ranch. My ranching operation utilizes the allotment from the middle of February to the first of October and I have about 1,050 cows on the land.

In 1997, environmental group Western Watersheds Project (“WWP”) sued the BLM to eliminate the use of my ranch along with 68 others. The WWP claimed that the BLM had not completed enough paperwork under the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) to renew my grazing permit on the Saddle Butte allotment. NEPA is a procedural statute. The BLM’s procedural violation of NEPA only means the BLM did not do enough paperwork; it does not mean I am harming the environment, plants or wildlife on the land I need for my ranching operation

I intervened in the litigation because my livelihood was at stake. The WWP requested the court stop all grazing until the paperwork was properly completed. As stated, this case was originally filed in 1997. If WWP would have won, the 68 ranches included in the suit would have gone out of business. This case is still ongoing. We fought the injunction and the court declined to eliminate grazing as WWP had requested.

So far, the federal government has paid WWP \$13,419.75 in attorneys fees. The WWP has now asked for an additional \$164,803.00 in attorney fees. The federal government settled with WWP and has paid them more money, but they have not told the public how much more. I do not believe the federal government should be able to pay my tax dollars to WWP without telling the public the amount paid.

I believe the environmental group filed litigation as a test case to determine how to approach future cases. I do not believe this litigation was justified. WWP’s website boasts that it wants to eliminate my livelihood and family, but because it cannot challenge me directly, WWP and other groups find errors in the bureaucratic process as a backdoor way to harm my legitimate use of the land I have loved for 46 years.

I do not believe the environmental groups should be paid tax dollars to sue the federal government. They are private entities. WWP has eight offices and 11 employees that I know of. The litigation funding they are paid using my tax dollars is being used to attack me. I think they pursue these lawsuits because they are well-paid by my tax dollars.