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RANCHERS CONVICTED OF UNLAWFULLY GRAZING CATTLE ON PUBLIC LANDS

RENO - Following a day-long trial, two northern Nevada ranchers were convicted yesterday by U.S. Magistrate Judge Valerie Cooke of unlawfully grazing their cattle on public lands, announced Daniel G. Bogden, United States Attorney for the District of Nevada.

According to the court records, between April 1 and June 9, 2004, DALTON WILSON, age 68, of Austin Nevada, and DONALD ALT, age 66, of Silver Springs, Nevada, knowingly and willingly allowed approximately 70 head of cattle to graze without a permit in BLM's Battle Mountain District on the Underwood Allotment located in Lander County. The men were convicted of violating the Taylor Grazing Act, which requires individuals with grazing permits to pay fees to the BLM, and provides for criminal penalties of up to a \$500 fine and one year probation for failing to do so. The Court made a finding that the Underwood Allotment was in fact Public Lands subject to regulation by BLM.

WILSON was sentenced to one year of probation, and ordered to remove the cattle from the public lands on the Underwood Allotment and obey all state, federal, and local laws. ALT was ordered to pay a \$300 fine.

The case was investigated by Special Agents with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Don Gifford.

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