

**MCQUAID, METZLER, BEDFORD & VAN ZANDT LLP**

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June 19, 2001

Dr. Martin Taylor  
Center for Biological Diversity  
P. O. Box 70  
Tucson, AZ 85705-0710

**Re: James and Susan Chilton - Montana Allotment**

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I represent James and Susan Chilton, owners of the grazing preference right to the Montana Allotment. By now you have received the United States Forest Service's response to your letter of June 5, 2001, in which you have published to the United States Forest Service statements that my clients are engaged in "flagrant abuse of our public resources." The United States Forest Service has established through its own investigation that no such abuse has occurred and that you completely misunderstood the terms and conditions with regard to utilization rates on the allotment. The Forest Service determined that there were no breaches in the enclosure in California Gulch and that any cattle usage there was very old. Moreover, the Forest Service established that utilization rates for forage in the Montana Allotment did not exceed any established standard. Finally, the Forest Service found that one area you refer to contained no agaves but rather sotol. The other area may have contained some broken agaves but attributing them to cattle is speculative at best.

My clients consider your letter of June 5, 2001 to Keith Graves to be libelous, and on behalf of my clients I demand that you immediately retract the statements in the letter and apologize for your unsupported and untrue statements which have damaged my clients' reputation.

I await your prompt response.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Van Zandt  
Attorneys for James and Susan Chilton

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