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## Ranchers, local allies wary of militia

### Hammonds plan to surrender despite calls to resist

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

Two Oregon ranchers convicted of setting fires on federal lands say they will report to prison Jan. 4, though militia organizations with ties to Nevada cattleman Cliven Bundy are rallying supporters to protect them.

Dwight Lincoln Hammond, 73, and his son, Steven Dwight Hammond, 46, were sentenced Oct. 7 to five years in prison for the fires on U.S. Bureau of Land Management property near Diamond, Ore.



Steven Hammond

Bundy has had ongoing disputes with the BLM in Nevada for more than 20 years.



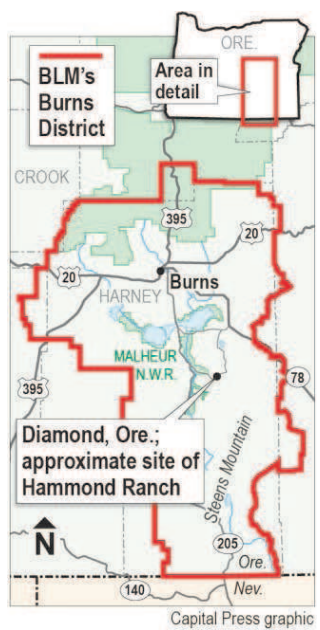
Dwight Hammond

In 2012, the federal government filed a lawsuit against Bundy, alleging that he allowed cattle to graze on BLM property, despite an earlier injunction barring him from the land.

When the BLM tried to remove Bundy's cattle, armed militia members surrounded the ranch and began a tense standoff with federal agents.

Bundy's son, Ammon, posted a Facebook video asking Bundy Ranch supporters to come Saturday to Burns,

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## Looking for resolutions in

# 2016

## Producers look ahead to New Year filled with uncertainties

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

The new year is a symbol of new beginnings in farm country, a time to look ahead to what the future may bring and to engage in that age-old tradition of making resolutions.

Eastern Oregon wheat farmer Tyson Raymond has some tongue-in-cheek resolutions for 2016, starting with "Get a little more rain, particularly in April and May."

Raymond, a member of the Oregon Board of Agriculture, also vows to pay closer attention to what successful farmers are doing and "do more of that."

Beyond that, he resolves: "Don't buy my fuel and fertilizer at their yearly highs (again)" and "Don't sell my wheat at yearly lows (again)."

In addition, he said he'll "try not to buy a tractor in August if they sell for \$40,000 less in December" and he's going to "try to grow wheat that weighs 60 pounds (a bushel) and is below 10 percent protein."

"If I can stick to these, I'm sure to have a better year than last," he said.

The staff at Our Table Cooperative, a 58-acre farm near Sherwood, Ore., southwest of Portland, put their heads together and came up with collective resolutions.

"Feed more people and fewer deer. Invite more people to share meals with us on the farm. Grow the best tomato crop this region has ever known," are on their list.

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**"Feed more people and fewer deer. Invite more people to share meals with us on the farm. Grow the best tomato crop this region has ever known."**

Our Table Cooperative staff



Tim Hearden/Capital Press

Michael Vasey, manager of Lindauer River Ranch in Red Bluff, Calif., talks about the walnut harvest in Los Molinos, Calif., in mid-October. Vasey says rising wages are among the key issues growers will encounter in 2016.



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Mike Miller, a Ritzville, Wash., wheat farmer and member of the Washington Grain Commission board, listens during a meeting at the commission office Nov. 18 in Spokane.



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Hunters, Wash., rancher Dave Dashiell asks Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Derek Sandison a question Oct. 30 during the Cattle Producers of Washington annual meeting in Airway Heights, Wash. Dashiell and CPOW plan to emphasize the need to relieve regulation stresses on livestock producers in 2016.



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Paterson, Wash., wheat farmer Nicole Berg says her family often sticks with its plans for the farm, including cleanup of old equipment.

## Heavy snow eases Oregon drought concern, but uncertainties remain

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

TIMBERLINE LODGE, Ore. — Making her way on cross-country skis to take a snowpack reading near this historic lodge on Mount Hood, hydrologist Julie Koeberle stopped to admire the sight of big firs bent silent with weight.

"It's so awesome to see the snow hanging on the trees," she said. "We sure didn't see that last year."

Irrigators, wildlife managers, hydro-power operators and others throughout the Pacific Northwest and

Northern California are expressing similar relief. A series of pounding December storms brought unrelenting torrents of rain to the coasts and valleys and, in the mountains, snow at last.

While skiers and snowboarders celebrate abundant snow for its

recreational aspects, it is the snowpack's stored water that will help irrigate crops, cool salmon and spin turbines in the summer months to come.

"Snowpack is the lifeblood of the West," said Koeberle,

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Eric Mortenson/Capital Press

NRCS hydrologist Julie Koeberle plunges a measuring tube into the snow near Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood.

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