

Martial Law in Idaho?

If I were living in California right about now, I would be worried about a left-wing dictatorship. But I live in Idaho . . . so, I'm worried about a *right-wing* dictatorship.

Not the kind in Colonial New England that had truancy laws (the kind that made you go to church or go to jail), but the kind that forces people off their land to make way for developers, corporate ventures, and public works . . . the kind oligarchs like.

If you don't think that can happen, ask the people of East-Central Idaho who had their irrigation water shut-off earlier this year, only to discover that mining interests want to exploit the cobalt reserves . . . and these farmers are in the way. Without water, they can't farm.

The Governor is being politically suave about the maneuver, but *he has the power now* . . . now that the State Legislature passed over 300 bills this year, each with a "state of emergency" clause that, by piecemeal implementation, has created martial law by statute. It will get ugly after the Election.

Benewah County's Land Czar

I happen to personally like the chairman of the county's zoning board. Currently, he has been tasked with coming up with a county level "emergency response plan." I expect him to resign when he figures out what he is being asked to do. He won't have the stomach for it.

The Governor wants every county to have a plan to coordinate with the state-level "Office of Emergency Management" (OEM). Remember, per Executive Order #2022-04, the OEM will have the power to "prevent and mitigate" risks. That means that they will be tasked with controlling human behavior.

80% of the Idaho OEM budget now comes from FEMA. Ask the survivors of Hurricane Helene how great FEMA is!

Notice that this is being run through the county commissioners and the local zoning and planning boards, not the respective Sheriff's Office where it belongs.

Martial law typically by-passes normal, constitutional channels to implement a new top-down protocol. The county sheriff will be absorbed into the state police apparatus and then have to give up his constitutional independence.

Does Anyone Want Your Land?

Ever get those pesky letters from somebody far away who wants to buy your land? There are a lot of people who like your zip code. You live in Idaho. Some people want to flip your land for a profit. Why? Because there are a lot of rich city people far away who like the idea of owning land in Idaho. Right now, they are willing to pay for it. Someday, they will look for legal ways to steal it, like hiking your property taxes. A lot of people on fixed incomes cannot afford property tax increases. It forces them to sell. Be warned.

Agricultural Zones

It might be a Trojan Horse we will have to live with for now, but the legislature has passed a law that allows farmers to be exempt from zoning and building codes. Small landholders should use this law to protect themselves. They can organize a township and have it designated “agriculture exempt.” I propose residents of McCroskey Township do so. If you live in a different township, meet with your neighbors to organize one of your own. Your properties will need to be contiguous.

Harvest Report

People just do not understand the many obstacles there are to farming. For them, food just magically appears in the grocery store. That is why you should grow a garden. . . to appreciate the process.

I grew a half acre of wheat this year: half hard red and half soft red. I’m feeding most of it to the chickens this winter and saved back some for a taste. You use hard wheat for bread; soft wheat for pastries. I like the pastries!

My daughter-in-law had a great first year starting a garden indoors. You should consider doing the same. She is using grow towers to economize space.

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An Early Winter?

We might be entering a Maunder Minimum: a time when the Sun goes dormant after a period of super flaring.

I certainly expect a hard winter for Europe and the East Coast. The Atlantic-Gulf Stream Current has shut down, like the scenario depicted in the movie, “The Day After Tomorrow.” I wouldn’t expect anything so dramatic as an ice age, but some rough growing seasons might be on the way for us in the Inland Northwest.

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Next issue: [Report on the Zoning Board’s October 24th Public Meeting](#), [More Winter Preparations](#), [More Details on Agriculture Exemption Zones](#), [and Did the Elections Matter?](#)

If you want to read more or missed the previous issues of this newsletter, you can find them at the website: savebenewahcounty.com. James Stivers, Editor/Publisher jwstivers1@gmail.com.

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