



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS  
ASSOCIATION  
Keizer, Oregon**



**Secretary: Marlea Sheridan**

**Editor: Penny Esplin**

2014 Officers:

**-President: PENNY ESPLIN**

**-Vice-President: KEN ORNDORFF**

**-Treasurer: ALICE PHILLIPS**

**DATE: April 24th, 2014**

**Call to Order:** Vice President Ken called the meeting to order. Welcomed all new members and guests.

**In Attendance:** There were 25 present including 1 guest.

**Meeting Minutes:** Last month's minutes were read by Alice. Accepted and approved by members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Alice reported her work on the treasury and checkbook balance. The report was approved and accepted by members.

**Claims Report:** Jeeter Creek Claim: The claim is ours, now awaiting scheduled work party to find access to it and locate boundaries. Previously, Claudia (not present), had mentioned that we are not required by the state to mark corners however we need a work party to set some sort of boundaries for our members.

**Millennium Diggers Raffle:** Ken encouraged members to purchase tickets during the break.

Reminder: 10% of proceeds go to Stream Savers so let's step up and help them out. Check out the **STREAM SAVERS** Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/streamsavrs> or contact **Karen Darnell** at: [streamsavrs.org@gmail.com](mailto:streamsavrs.org@gmail.com)

**50/50 to be drawn** at the Christmas Party

**Miner sculpture raffle** proceeds will split 50/50 with SB 838 court case and M. Diggers association. Drawing will be held at the Golden Jubilee in July along with ½ pound gold drawing.

**Notice to members:** Please think of more items to bring to upcoming meetings for the General Raffle table that we can use as prizes. If they are for “rocking” or mining of any kind, all the better!

**Old Business:**

**-PLG'S ½ pound of Gold Raffle.** Tickets are for sale at

**<http://www.waldominatingdistrict.com>**

**-Next drawing to be held in July at the Miner's Jubilee in Baker City**

**July 20, 2014 at the GEISER POLLMAN PARK**  
~~~~~

-A group of Diggers are away at Rye Patch, Nevada on a rockhounding/camp trip. Clyde Holmes, Don Esch, Joe, Claudia, Walt and Penny. **(A “pictorial account” on the trip can be read in this newsletter)**

**-Scheduled Outing: Jeeters Creek claim. Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>** meet @ 9:30 @ Swiss Village to go to claim, find a decent trail (or make/improve one), locate boundaries. **(A report on the outing can be read in this newsletter)**

**New Business:** For July's outing, several possibilities were brought up: The Miner's Jubilee in Baker City? Brigg's Creek? Or to Karen's very newly acquired lode claim in the Galice Mining District, SW Oregon!! Awaiting further discussion at June's meeting.

**-Snacks for June's meeting:** Alice and Marlea

**Election News:** Karen reported that the Pro-mining candidate lost, but 3 other small-gov. republican/conservatives were nominated in safe districts, so we will have 3 new friendlies in the Oregon House of Representatives. The 2 “friendly republican nominations for Oregon Senate are Kim Thatcher and Patti Milne.

**Events:** Tonight, Tom Bohmker was our guest speaker and gave an informative and interesting presentation on the geology of gold bearing clay pockets, and the processes involved in the chemical weathering of bedrock into “saprolites”; a soft, thoroughly decomposed rock rich in clay and remaining in its original place. Mainly, how gold can get trapped in these clay pockets; “pocket gold”.

He was well received and answered questions from members. **Thank you so much Tom!** We are looking forward to seeing more of Tom, because he asked for a membership application sheet for his son (wants to join us) and maybe Tom also!!

**Next Month's letter is "V"**

**NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00: BE THERE!** We will be discussing plans for an outing in July, go over the Jeeters Creek claim info and hear more reports from the "trail blazers" who went on the outing there. Also, we will hear more glowing reports on the Rye Patch camp trip from those tough survivors who braved the wild and crazy weather there! Along with some examples of the wonderful rock specimens and finds they brought back!

## SUMMARY OF OUTING TO “DIGGERS LNF JEETER CREEK” CLAIM ON SATURDAY JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

REPORTED BY: Penny Esplin

GOAL: To locate and mark boundaries of claim, and find best way to access claim, clearing a new trail if necessary.

7 members met at 9:30 at the L North Fork /Hwy 22 intersection: Penny, Walt, (Lodi), Delmon, Ken, Alice, Cristov and David Schmidt. (Karen arrived later on.) From there, we drove to Jeeter Creek and parked alongside road. Walked road back across creek to old road (blocked from driving), which is now a trail, with “no trespassing” sign on tree. I’m assuming it belongs to Freres Lumber Co? The trail (road) led to a trail going down to the river. It was very steep, but do-able. Lots of roots and branches to hold on to; although some rope would truly benefit the climb down and up. Down along the river, trail was very narrow and slippery. Last part down was about 6 or 7 feet, where a tree branch was helpful to hold on to as you slid down and finally hit the riverbank! There was a small gravel bar and the river swirled in a big, deep hole. The embankment itself was composed of what looked like natural “asphalt”, and has been gouged out by the river, undercutting it, like it had been “scooped out”. This type of formation is common in the river banks of the L North Fork and directly south in a straight line, on the North Santiam as well. I have found petrified wood and semi-petrified wood embedded in this kind of formation on both rivers. Maybe it’s a cemented ash/mud flow? Because a lot of the wood appears to be burnt.

The undercut embankment had a few areas where the river had deposited sand. And upon taking a bag of this sand for sampling, I noticed a lead pellet from a pellet gun. Lead is heavy, so is Gold! Might be a good bet. So, we filled a ziplock baggie with what we could get up with our hands. (Later, we panned it; got a couple little pieces. Not actual pickers, but visible...pretty much visible anyway.

Me, Walt, Delmon and Cristov were the scouters on this trail, while Alice, Ken and David waited safely above. Delmon said, “Well I sure ain’t gonna be doin’ any dredgin’ down here!” The hike back up was ok, but only if unencumbered!

Back up on the road, we reconnoitered. Decided to go back down to where Pioneer Rd went across river, then took Taylor’s Park Rd. Because, by the claim location map we had, it looked as though maybe we could find another access point from that side. The claim covers both north and south sides of the river, with the confluence of Jeeter Creek into the L North Fork almost smack dab in the center of our claim. Or so we think (thought).

Taylor’s Park Rd. is all private property. Eventually there is a locked gate, with entrance permissible only to residents and property owners. I took a chance and walked on past the gate and down the road to see what I could see, and to hopefully talk to one of the residents and explain our dilemma. Walt and Cristov finally did accompany me. The first couple we saw were real nice people, and understanding. We apologized for trespassing, explained who we were, showed them our map and explained that we were trying to find the locations of the claim boundaries. Was there anyone down here who might help us? They mentioned a guy named Wes, who lives at the end of the road.

**Rye Patch Outing:** Joe and Claudia arrived on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Don and Clyde got there on Monday, and Walt and Penny got there on Wednesday.

Joe, Claudia, Clyde and Don experienced major wind and rain each night prior to Walt and Penny's arrival. Then, we all got pounded again on Wednesday and Thursday with radical thunder, lightning ripping wind and rain. The tarp and canopy Joe had erected for shelter had taken just about as much as it could take, but with all our help, we battened it down. Joe and Claudia actually ended up using their quads for tie downs!

Fortunately, the storms experienced after Walt and I got there were over with before the day was done. So we got to get back out and explore the mine we were camped by. I think it's called Poker Brown. Pretty sure it is a gold mine.

They led us to a place not far away where there were claim markers here and there for quartz crystals. Big, clear, beautiful specimens laying all over the slopes of the tailings and just about anywhere we looked! We brought back lots.

Another day, Joe led us to a place where there was abundant petrified wood. Clyde found a fantastic specimen; a huge piece and completely agatized!

Joe also found some big sunstones, I had found some small ones. One day when it got so warm that Walt and I were too lethargic to do anything but sleep, Joe and Claudia took off to a place where they found HUGE agates! They have several giant ones in their possession.

There was a place about 15 miles from camp that had spring water running out of a pipe and into a meadow area with a corral down below. It was a welcome spot on a hot, sunny day to fill up water jugs, have a drink, wash off some sweat and to let Lodi splash around and cool off.

We also saw lots of antelope and several times, a herd of about 10 wild horses. Once we saw one by the spring, but it took off and watched us from a ridge line. I took pictures of it, but they were blurry.

There's a lot more to add, but I'll let the following pictures tell the rest of the story!

*-Penny Esplin*

# **RYE PATCH CAMP TRIP: A PICTORIAL ACCOUNT**

Penny Esplin



Penny

Highway going south from Burns



Penny

Eastern side of Steens Mtn



Penny

Early morning view just above Winnemucca



Don Esche

Camp set up



In the throes of some wild and crazy weather!

Don The thunderstorm is upon us! For 5 days, without fail right around 5:00, thunder, lightning, crazy, mad wind and rain would send us running for shelter! The wind was so forceful, it could knock you down! Not to mention frantically trying to keep the tarps from ripping away.



Penny



The desert flowers were a delight to see!



Penny

Windmill close by camp. See Claudia on her ATV?





Penny

View from camp of mountain range



Don Esche



Camping. It just doesn't get much better than this!



Interesting opening to lava tube. Apache tears (obsidian) were scattered everywhere. Picture on right is view from lava tube. See Joe and Claudia on their ATV's? Joe is WAY out ahead of her!

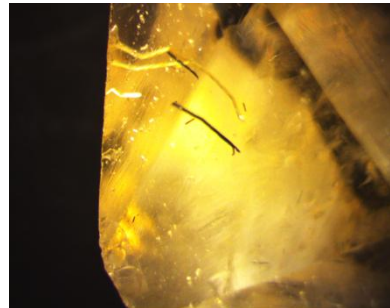
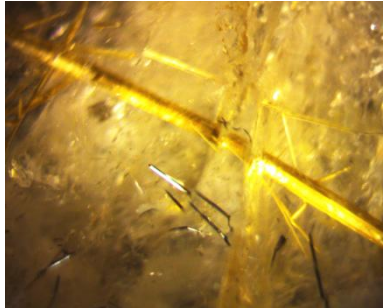
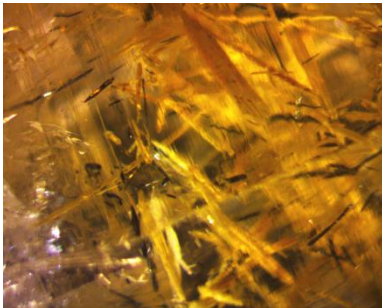


Penny

One of the larger quartz crystals we found.



A small sampling of the many quartz crystals we found.



3 "rutilated" quartz crystals. Mineral "rutile" (titanium dioxide) encased inside the crystals.



Joe and Penny Discuss the days Expedition



Our Very Own Fireman Chef in Camp.. Yumm!!! Don Esch is a great camp cook!



Claudia getting ready to head out into the desert



Joe Screening for sunstones



We found some agates!



Joe tried to purchase this fine used car from the local desert dealer. But, Claudia out bid him...HEE Hee Hee!



Another view of the camp with the Poker Brown mine tailings in the background.



Did you ever wonder where mother nature stored her tumbleweeds while waiting for the next big windstorm?



Some very interesting and beautiful country.



Many nights were enjoyed at the campfire.



But, alas, all great trips, such as Rye Patch, must come to an end. But now, for the great ride home.



Off Hwy 140 heading west towards Adel. Notice steam rising in foreground; hot spring!





Penny

Summer Lake and Winter Ridge, at Ana Res. Mountains enclosing this valley are all fault blocks/scarps. Walt & I camped here 2 days on way back.



Ana Reservoir



Duncan Res., Silver Lake. We were right on the edge of a beautiful thunderstorm. It made the sunset fantastic! Camped here 2 nights.



Penny



"Ah, so nice to kick back in the shade of this ancient juniper tree!" @  
*Duncan Reservoir*



Table Rock by Silver Lake



Bald eagle had 2 babies in nest  
right by our camp @ Silver Creek  
Diversion Reservoir



Thompson Valley Reservoir, our last stop before the long drive home.

*~End~*

Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

The Millennium Diggers Club is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The club is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with a club that will help promote the hobbies of metal detecting, prospecting, rock hounding, and treasure hunting. Part of our yearly dues pay for mining claims that are available for all club members to use. We use club meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan club outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our hobbies. This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings or outings.

We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m, at:

**Clear Lake United Methodist Church**

**920 Marks Drive**

**Keizer, OR 97303**

We meet in the church's Fellowship Hall; a real a nice meeting place complete with tables, chairs and a kitchen. The church is located across the street from the Clear Lake Fire Station. There's plenty of parking in the church's parking lot.



# Table of Contents

## **CLOSING PUBLIC DOMAIN**

|                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Obama Stealing an American Dream, One National Monument at a Time..... | 22 |
| Yellow-legged frogs to get 2 million acres.....                        | 24 |

## **ARCHAEOLOGY**

|                                                                          |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 'Sunstone' crystals may have helped Vikings navigate on cloudy days..... | 28 |
| We may have found a fabled sunstone.....                                 | 32 |
| 'Extraordinarily Rare' Crusade-Era Seal Discovered in Jerusalem.....     | 34 |

## **MINING**

|                                                                                                          |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Mining and Environment—Facts vs. Fear.....</b>                                                        | <b>36</b> |
| Ex-EPA official goes off the grid, dodges lawmakers' inquiry into Alaska mine project.....               | 45        |
| Miners' hard life now tinged with fear.....                                                              | 48        |
| Peru, Colombia to join forces to combat illegal mining.....                                              | 61        |
| 2013 global mine profits lowest in a decade.....                                                         | 62        |
| Despite gold's fall fundamentals suggesting rebound – but when?.....                                     | 64        |
| Nevada mining net proceeds tax revenue plummets \$70m.....                                               | 67        |
| U.S. Senate Majority Leader sells home to make way for NV gold mine.....                                 | 68        |
| Legality of EPA Rules Questioned by Environmental Litigators.....                                        | 69        |
| Here's How States Can Stop The EPA's War On Coal.....                                                    | 73        |
| Welcome To The "No Pee" Section Of The Swimming Pool, America.....                                       | 77        |
| 1 way for Americans to stop soaring electric bills, New rules set to 'hurt middle class,' kill jobs..... | 79        |

## **GLOBAL CLIMATE "DYSFUNCTION"???**

|                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| The Myth of the Climate Change '97%'.....           | 81 |
| Scientists Slam Latest Doomsday Climate Report..... | 82 |

## **COMMON SENSE**

|                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| Why I left California.....              | 84 |
| Electronic Cash-The End of Privacy..... | 86 |
| Definition of the Word Conundrum.....   | 89 |

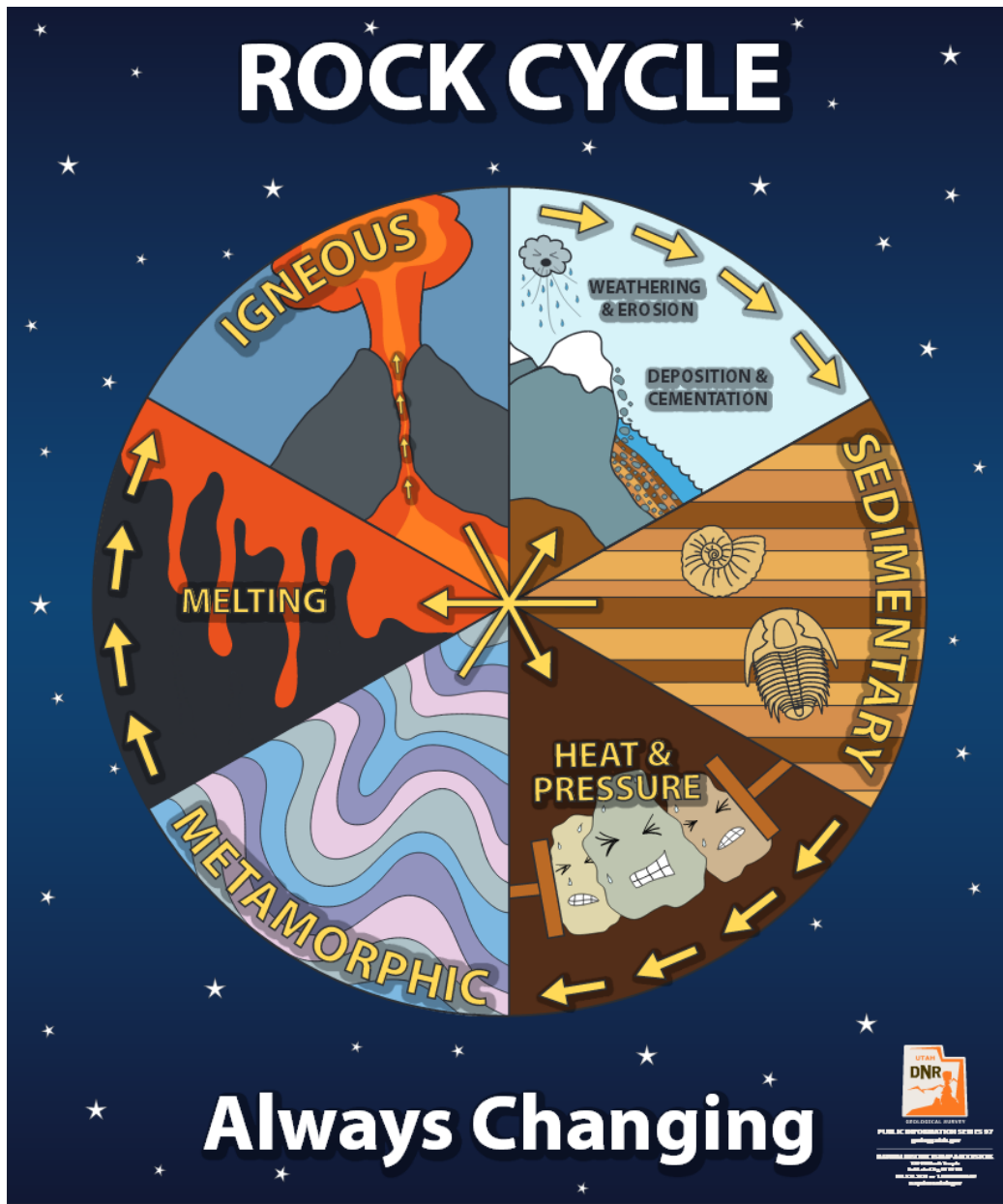
## **THE U.S. DOLLAR**

|                                                               |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Russian companies prepare to pay for trade in renminbi.....   | 90 |
| Gazprom signs agreements to switch from dollars to euros..... | 92 |

Death of the Dollar [Update].....93  
 Asian gold strategy clarifying.....94  
 US Expats Find Their Money Is No Longer Welcome at the Bank.....96  
 We Will Return to Gold Standard.....98

**MESSING WITH AMERICA AND OUR WAY OF LIFE**

Obama using 'Cloward-Piven maneuver'.....100  
 Obama's refugee crisis.....101  
 Ex-border agents, Immigrant flood 'orchestrated'.....102  
**OREGON**- UPDATE on Efforts to Ban Lead Ammunition for Hunting.....105



# Obama Stealing An American Dream, One National Monument At A Time

Marita Noon, EPAAbuse.com, June 13, 2014

[http://epaabuse.com/16470/editorials/obama-stealing-american-dream-one-national-monument-time/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=obama-stealing-american-dream-one-national-monument-time&utm\\_source=EPA+Abuse&utm\\_campaign=d9abd9160c-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_bdf7c53c9e-d9abd9160c-305309409](http://epaabuse.com/16470/editorials/obama-stealing-american-dream-one-national-monument-time/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=obama-stealing-american-dream-one-national-monument-time&utm_source=EPA+Abuse&utm_campaign=d9abd9160c-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bdf7c53c9e-d9abd9160c-305309409)



Thanks to the EPA's announcement of the new C02 regulations and the Bergdahl prisoner swap, excessive executive power has been prominently featured in the news cycle. Yet, just last month, another story of executive overreach got little coverage. On May 21, President Obama signed an order creating what the Washington Post called: "the largest national monument of the Obama presidency so far."

After years of heated local debate, and despite polling that shows the people are not behind the president, he declared the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region of New Mexico, nearly 500,000 acres, a national monument—his eleventh such designation of this type "so far."

Ranchers and off-road vehicle users have opposed the large-scale monument. The Las Cruces Sun-News (LCSN) [states](#): "In particular, ranchers have been concerned about impacts to their grazing allotments on public lands in the wake of the new monument."

The LCSN reports: "Republican Rep. Steve Pearce, whose congressional district covers the region, issued a statement taking issue with Obama's use of the 1906 U.S. Antiquities Act, saying monuments created under it are supposed to cover only the 'smallest area compatible' with the designation. He contended the approval 'flies in the face of the democratic process.'" Pearce's statement says:

“This single action has erased six years of work undertaken by Doña Ana County ranchers, business owners, conservationists, sportsmen officials and myself to develop a collaborative plan for the Organ Mountains that would have preserved the natural resource and still provided future economic opportunities.”

The law Pearce is referencing is known as the Antiquities Act, signed into law by President Roosevelt in 1906. The Act for the Preservation of Antiquities limited Presidential authority for National Monument designations to Federal Government-owned lands and to, as Pearce referenced, “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects protected.” The Antiquities Act also authorized “relinquishment” of lands owned privately, authorizing the Federal Government to take land. The Constitution’s Fifth Amendment requires owners to be compensated by the rest of us taxpayers. But fair market value can change dramatically when a policy change triggered by laws such as the Antiquities Act modifies the broad multiple use category for large segments of the federal estate to limited—rather than multiple—and recreational use.

While the Federal Government owns much of National Monument land, private, tribal, and state lands are often enclosed inside new designations. Essentially, an Antiquities Act presidential proclamation transfers valuable “multiple use” land into a restricted use category as management plans can disallow historical use.

History shows that in cases where the Antiquities Act has been used—whether for a National Conservation Area, a National Park, or a National Monument—mining claims were extinguished, homes have been torn down, communities have been obliterated, and working landscapes have been destroyed.

The impact goes beyond ranching. The LCNS reporting says: “the proclamation prevents the BLM from selling or getting rid of any of the land, allowing new mining claims or permitting oil and natural gas exploration.”

At the signing of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Declaration, Obama [repeated](#) his State of the Union Address pledge: “I’m searching for more opportunities to preserve federal lands.” It is New Mexico today, but other communities will be impacted next.

Hundreds of millions of acres have been set aside with the stroke of a pen. Each designation provides a photo op featuring a smiling President. All while somewhere someone’s access is taken, hunting and fishing grounds are gone,

land has been grabbed, life's work is wiped out, and opportunities for the American dream of a future rancher, farmer, or miner are dashed.



## **Yellow-legged frogs to get 2 million acres**

By [Dawn Hodson](#), Mountain Democrat, Placerville, CA, May 16, 2014  
<http://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/yellow-legged-frogs-to-get-2-million-acres/>



In a fight over those who want to set aside land to protect three California amphibians and those who say it threatens public access to the land, it looks like the amphibians have come out the winners.

At issue are plans by U.S. Fish and Wildlife to designate as critical habitat more than 2 million acres of land for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the “northern distinct population segment” of the mountain yellow-legged frog and the Yosemite toad.



Covering 17 counties, the area under discussion encompasses land in Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, Tulare, Mariposa, Mono, Madera, Tuolumne, Fresno and Inyo.

Last April, U.S. Fish and Wildlife published a rule in the Federal Register designating as critical habitat 2 million acres based on the Endangered Species Act. Subsequently they held public hearings and took comments on the proposal.

According to the agency, the primary threats to these types of amphibians include the introduction of trout populations into essential habitat, disease, the effects of water withdrawals and diversions, timber harvest and fuels reduction activities, livestock grazing, and intensive use by recreationists, including pack stock camping and grazing.

By definition, under the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat is defined as a specific geographic area that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species that may require special management considerations or protection. The act is only supposed to impose restrictions on the actions or programs that are authorized, funded, permitted or carried out by a federal agency that may adversely modify that habitat. It is not supposed to affect land ownership or set up a preserve or refuge.

However, those wanting to keep the land open for public use see it differently. Craig Lindsay, who is president of the Western Mining Alliance, claims that once designated as critical habitat, state Fish and Wildlife will start telling people they can't fish there, walk there, hike there or dredge there.

"There are a cascade of consequences that will happen," he said, adding that because of a settlement between U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity — the group that sued to protect the amphibians — some 477-plus issues will form the basis of declaring the 2 million acres critical habitat including the well-being of the three amphibians, 40 species of tree snails and a variety of birds that have been declared endangered.

However, Sarah Swenty, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said people misinterpret what critical habitat means. "Critical habitat doesn't remove land from public use; it just puts other federal agencies on notice that this area is where a species can thrive," she said. "It encourages other agencies to work with us and coordinate activities such as harvesting land. If a project is planned, it comes to us to review to see how impact on the species can be mitigated. Land does not change ownership and private land does not change ownership. If someone needs a federal permit for something being done on their

land, then there would be discussions on how to mitigate any impact to the protected species in the critical habitat area. (But) people will still have access to 2 million acres."

Swenty went on to say that once the species has recovered, the critical habitat designation goes away. "But if other measures have been taken, such as mitigation measures or land set aside to protect the species in perpetuity, those things stay in place." However, what the U.S. Forest Service and state agencies do in response is separate from what USFWS does, she added.

But Lindsay takes issue with Swenty's statement. "While U.S. Fish and Wildlife is correct regarding the designation of critical habitat only meaning that agencies have to coordinate with each other, down the road the consequences will be severe," Lindsay said.

Citing one example, he said there is an area in the Angeles National Forest called Williamson Rock which has been declared critical habitat for the yellow-legged frog. "It's one of the premier rock climbing areas in Southern California," he said, "but has been closed since December 2005 because of a lawsuit won by the Center for Biological Diversity. As a result, the U.S. Forest Service was forced to cordon off the area to protect the frog and its habitat. So it's not as benign as they think it is."

Asked if the critical habitat designation would lead to closures, Mitch Lockhart, who is the statewide coordinator of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife High Mountain Lakes Program, said he didn't know. "It's a federal process with U.S. Fish and Wildlife leading the charge," he said, adding that Williamson Rock is under control of the U.S. Forest Service and he wasn't sure what it will do in response.

Lockhart said the restoration and recovery program he leads has been in effect for a little over a decade and has involved the removal of fish from 44 water bodies. "But that's not a lot," he said, "since some of these water bodies are just ponds. We have seen a big increase in (the frog) population in those areas where the problem was the fish. Usually in just a year or two. But the other problem is this fungus that affects the frogs. Recovery is far slower when it is present. The fungal disease was introduced into California 30 or 40 years ago and is very lethal to this amphibian.

"The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit that led to this listing package of the three amphibians. So it doesn't fit with any conspiracy theory. U.S. Fish and Wildlife's hand is really being forced in this instance," said Lockhart.

Agreeing with that Lockhart, Lindsay said, "The Center for Biological Diversity makes its living suing. They have a \$6.5 million budget and 25-plus lawyers. All they do is find an animal they consider endangered and go to Fish and Wildlife and say you need to list this animal. The Salazar decision (*Center for Biological Diversity v. Salazar*) was done behind closed doors. It just happened. That's how they make their living. There are agencies in Nevada County that do the same thing. That's how they make their living. And it's a very comfortable living with executive director fees, chief scientist fees, cars paid for, phones are paid for, mileage is paid for. The Sierra Fund operates the same way. Recently they got a \$5.5 million grant to clean mercury from a lake at a cost of \$100,000 a pound to get it out of a lake."

Lindsay noted that the decline in the population of yellow-legged frogs is primarily in high elevation alpine lakes and has been due to the state stocking the lakes with trout who not only competed with the frogs for food, but ate the frogs. A fungus called Bd (amphibian chytrid fungus) took an additional toll on the frog population. Pesticide and herbicide drift has also affected them. The ag industry has a lot of pull in this state so it's a very complicated issue, he noted.

"I don't want to get into conspiracy theories and Agenda 21 stuff, but more and more public land is being withdrawn from public use and the only people who are going to be able to use them are those who can hike in ... Until people really understand what the issues are and get involved they won't know how it will affect them directly. That's why the Western Mining Alliance was formed."

On April 25, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that in accordance with an agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity, both varieties of the yellow-legged frog would be listed as endangered and the Yosemite toad would be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The final rule is expected to become effective on June 20. A final decision on the critical habitat proposal is expected to be made next year.

John Heil, who is the press officer for the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service, said the Forest Service doesn't anticipate any changes that would limit the public's access as a result of U.S. Fish and Wildlife's recent decision. Nor does it anticipate any other significant changes if the 2 million acres of land is designated as critical habitat, he said.

Contact Dawn Hodson at 530-344-5071 or [dhodson@mtdemocrat.net](mailto:dhodson@mtdemocrat.net). Follow @DHodsonMtDemo on Twitter.

**“No society ever thrived because it had a large and growing class of parasites living off those who produce.”**



**‘Sunstone’ crystals may have helped Vikings navigate on cloudy days.**

Article created on Friday, February 11, 2011

<http://www.pasthorizonspr.com/index.php/archives/02/2011/sunstone-crystals-may-have-helped-vikings-navigate-on-cloudy-days>

Between AD 750 and AD 1200 the Vikings, were the dominant sailors of the North Atlantic. When the Sun was shining, geographical north could be determined with a special sundial or ‘sundisc’. However, how the Vikings could have navigated in cloudy or foggy situations, when the Sun’s disc was unusable, is still not fully understood.



**Viking sundial navigation device**

A hypothesis was formulated in 1967, suggested that under foggy or cloudy conditions, Vikings might have been able to determine the azimuth direction of the Sun with the help of skylight polarization, just like some insects. According to this theory, the Vikings could have determined the direction of the skylight polarization with the help of an enigmatic *birefringent crystal* (double-refracting crystal), like cordierite, tourmaline, or calcite, which are common in the Scandinavian region and even mentioned in a Viking saga, functioning as a linearly polarizing filter.

The Viking saga tells of a glowing 'sunstone' that, when held up to the sky, revealed the position of the Sun even on a cloudy day. It sounds like magic, but scientists measuring the properties of light in the sky say that polarizing crystals – which function in the same way as the mythical sunstone – could have helped ancient sailors to cross the northern Atlantic.

A review of their evidence is published in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* . (Feb 2011)

## **Viking Sagas**

Viking legends, including an Icelandic saga '*Rauðúlfs þáttur*' with the hero *Sigurður* , hint that these sailors had another navigational aid at their disposal: a *sólarsteinn*, or sunstone.

The saga describes how, during cloudy, snowy weather, King Olaf consulted *Sigurður* on the location of the Sun. To check *Sigurður*'s answer, Olaf "*made them fetch the solar stone and held it up and saw where light radiated from the stone and thus directly verified Sigurður' s prediction*". In 1967, Thorkild Ramskou, a Danish archaeologist, suggested that this stone could have been a polarizing crystal such as Icelandic spar, a transparent form of calcite, which is common in Scandinavia.



### **Iceland spar, perhaps the medieval sunstone**

Light consists of electromagnetic waves that oscillate perpendicular to the direction of the light's travel. When the oscillations all point in the same direction, the light is polarized. A polarizing crystal such as calcite allows only light polarized in certain directions to pass through it, and can appear bright or dark depending on how it is oriented with respect to the light.

### **Polarized Light**

Air molecules scatter the light in the atmosphere causing sunlight to become polarized, with the line of polarization tangential to circles centred on the Sun. So Ramskou argued that by holding a crystal such as calcite up to the sky and rotating it to check the direction of polarization of the light passing through it, the Vikings could have deduced the position of the Sun, even when it was hidden behind clouds or fog, or was just beneath the horizon.

Historians have debated the possibility ever since, with some arguing that the technique would have been pointless, because it would only work if the crystal was pointed at patches of clear sky, and in such conditions it would be possible to estimate the position of the Sun with the naked eye, for example from the bright lining of cloud tops.

Gábor Horváth, an optics researcher at Eötvös University in Budapest, and Susanne Åkesson, a migration ecologist from Lund University, Sweden, have been testing these assumptions since 2005. The special issue of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* in which their review appears is dedicated to biological research on polarized light.

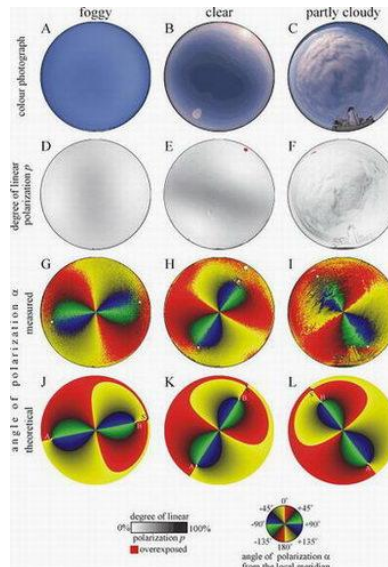
In one study, the researchers took photographs of partly cloudy or twilight skies in northern Finland through a 180° fisheye lens, and asked test subjects to estimate the position of the Sun. Errors of up to 99° led the researchers to conclude that the Vikings could not have relied on naked-eye guesses of the Sun's position.

To check whether sunstones would work better, in 2005 they measured the polarization pattern of the entire sky under a range of weather conditions during a crossing of the Arctic Ocean on the Swedish icebreaker *Oden*.

*“Using full-sky imaging polarimetry, we have shown that one of the two atmospheric optical prerequisites of the polarimetric Viking navigation is always fulfilled under both foggy and cloudy conditions,”* said Horváth. *“The distribution (pattern) of the direction of polarization of skylight on the foggy or cloudy*

celestial hemisphere is similar to that of the clear sky, which was a great surprise for us. However, we would like to emphasize that the Dutch meteorologist Guenther P. Koennen has already hypothesized this phenomenon in his famous book *Polarized Light in Nature* (Cambridge University Press, 1985)."

## Through the clouds



**Polarimetry images measured by full-sky imaging. Credit**

The researchers were surprised to find that in foggy or totally overcast conditions the pattern of light polarization was similar to that of clear skies. The polarization was not as strong, but Åkesson believes that it could still have provided Viking navigators with useful information.

*"I tried such a crystal on a rainy overcast day in Sweden," she says. "The light pattern varied depending on the orientation of the stone."*

She and Horváth are now planning further experiments to determine whether volunteers can accurately work out the Sun's position using crystals in various weather conditions.

Sean McGrail, who studied ancient seafaring at the University of Oxford, UK, before retiring, says that the studies are interesting but there is no real evidence to indicate that the Vikings actually used such crystals. *"You can show how they could be used, but that isn't proof," he says. "People were navigating long before this without any instruments."*

Surviving written records indicate that Viking and early medieval sailors crossed the north Atlantic using the Sun's position on clear days as a guide, in combination with the positions of coastlines, flight patterns of birds, migration paths of whales and distant clouds over islands, says Christian Keller, a specialist in North Atlantic archaeology at the University of Oslo. *"You don't need to be a wizard,"* he says. *"But you do need to combine a lot of different sorts of observations."*

Keller says he is "totally open" to the idea that the Vikings also used sunstones, but is waiting for archaeological evidence. "If we find a shipwreck with a crystal on board, then I would be happy," he says.



## We may have found a fabled sunstone

Mar 08, 2013 by Raphael Satter

<http://phys.org/news/2013-03-fabled-sunstone.html>



**This photo taken in Alderney, one of the Channel Islands, dated June 2012 and released on Friday March 8, 2013 by scientist Guy Ropars shows the Alderney Crystal, a piece of calcite. Researchers say the rough, whitish crystal recovered from the wreckage of 16th century English warship may be a sunstone, a special kind of mineral believed by some to have helped medieval seafarers navigate the high seas.**

A rough, whitish block recovered from an Elizabethan shipwreck may be a sunstone, the fabled crystal believed by some to have helped Vikings and other medieval seafarers navigate the high seas, researchers say.

In a paper published earlier this week, a Franco-British group argued that the Alderney Crystal—a chunk of Icelandic calcite found amid a 16th century wreck at the bottom of the English Channel—worked as a kind of solar compass,



allowing sailors to determine the position of the sun even when it was hidden by heavy cloud, masked by fog, or below the horizon.

That's because of a property known as birefringence, which splits light beams in a way that can reveal the direction of their source with a high degree of accuracy. Vikings may not have grasped the physics behind the phenomenon, but that wouldn't present a problem.

"You don't have to understand how it works," said Albert Le Floch, of the University in Rennes in western France. "Using it is basically easy."

Vikings were expert navigators—using the sun, stars, mountains and even migratory whales to help guide them across the sea—but some have wondered at their ability to travel the long stretches of open water between Greenland, Iceland, and Newfoundland in modern-day Canada.

Le Floch is one of several who've suggested that calcite crystals were used as navigational aids for long summer days in which the sun might be hidden behind the clouds. He said the use of such crystals may have persisted into the 16th century, by which time magnetic compasses were widely used but often malfunctioned.

Le Floch noted that one Icelandic legend—the Saga of St. Olaf—appears to refer to such a crystal when it says that Olaf used a "sunstone" to verify the position of the sun on a snowy day.

But that's it. Few other medieval references to sunstones have been found, and no such crystals have ever been recovered from Viking tombs or ships. Until the Alderney Crystal was recovered in 2002, there had been little if any hard evidence to back the theory.

Many specialists are still skeptical. Donna Heddle, the director of the Center for Nordic Studies at Scotland's University of the Highlands and Islands, described the solar compass hypothesis as speculative.

"There's no solid evidence that that device was used by Norse navigators," she said Friday. "There's never been one found in a Viking boat. One cannot help but feel that if there were such things they would be found in graves."

She acknowledged that the crystal came from Iceland and was found near a navigation tool, but said it might just as easily have been used as a magnifying device as a solar compass.

Le Floch argued that one of the reasons why no stones have been found before is that calcite degrades quickly—it's vulnerable to acid, sea salts, and to heat. The Alderney Crystal was originally transparent, but the sea water had turned it a milky white.



## **'Extraordinarily Rare' Crusade-Era Seal Discovered in Jerusalem**

Megan Gannon, News Editor,  May 27, 2014



**The seal bears the image of the bearded Saint Sabas (also known as Mar Saba) holding a cross.**



**The excavation site in southwestern Jerusalem where archaeologist found the seal.**



**One side of the seal was impressed with Greek text that read: "This is the seal of the Laura of of the Holy Sabas."**

A rare Crusade-era lead seal used to secure a letter was uncovered in an ancient farmstead in Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced today (May 27).

The 800-year-old seal was likely once fixed to a document delivered to the farm from a sprawling cliffside monastery in the [Judean Desert](#) that was founded by Saint Sabas ("Mar Saba" in Aramaic) and once housed hundreds of monks.

"This is an extraordinarily rare find, because no such seal has ever been discovered to date," Benyamin Storchan and Benyamin Dolinka, excavation directors from the Israel Antiquities Authority, said in a statement.

This type of [ancient seal](#) was also known as a bulla in Latin. It consisted of two blank lead disks that would have been hammered together with a string between them. Opening the letter would cause obvious damage to the bulla, which was intended to discourage unauthorized people from breaking the seal.

One side of the seal bears the image of the bearded Byzantine-era Saint Sabas, who is wearing a himation (essentially a Greek version of a toga), brandishing a cross in his right hand and perhaps holding a copy of the gospel in his left hand. The other side of the seal is etched with a Greek inscription, translated as: "This is the seal of the Laura of the Holy Sabas." (The monastery was also called the "Great Laura" of Mar Saba. A laura, or lavra, is a type of Orthodox Christian monastery that has a cluster of caves for hermit monks.)

"The Mar Saba monastery apparently played an important role in the affairs of the Kingdom of Jerusalem during the [Crusader period](#), maintaining a close relationship with the ruling royal family," Robert Kool, a researcher with the Israel Antiquities Authority who examined the seal, said in a statement. "The monastery

had numerous properties, and this farm may have been part of the monastery's assets during the Crusader period."

The seal was uncovered during excavations in 2012 in southwestern Jerusalem's Bayit VeGan quarter. The farm site was established during the Byzantine period (5th–6th centuries A.D.) and resettled during the Crusader period (11th–12th centuries A.D.).

A document in the archives of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem refers to a farming settlement known as Thora that was sold to the Mar Saba monastery in 1163–1164. The location of that farm was lost to history, but the Mar Saba seal could link the recently excavated farm to Thora, explained Storchan and Dolinka in a statement.



## **Mining and Environment—Facts vs. Fear**

Laurynas Vegys, Research Analyst, Casey Research, June 2, 2014  
<http://www.caseyresearch.com/articles/mining-and-environment-facts-vs.-fear-1>

"I would NEVER invest in a mining company—they destroy land, pollute our water and air, and wreck the habitat of plants and animals."  
These were the points made to me by a woman at a social gathering after I told her what I do for living. She prided herself on her moral high ground and looked upon me with obvious disdain. It was clear that as a mining researcher, I was partly responsible for destroying the environment.

I knew a reasonable discussion with her wouldn't be possible, so I opted out of trying. (As Winston Churchill said, "A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.") She left the party convinced her position was indisputably correct. But was she?

Not at all.

In fact, with few exceptions, today's mining operations are designed, developed, operated, and ultimately closed in an environmentally sound manner. On top of that, considerable effort goes into the continued improvement of environmental standards.

My environmentalist acquaintance, of course, would loudly disagree with those statements. Many people may feel uncomfortable investing in an industry that's so closely scrutinized and vehemently criticized by the public and mainstream

media—whether there's good reason for that criticism or not. This actually is to the benefit of those who dare to think for themselves.

So let's examine what mining REALLY does to the environment. As Doug Casey always says, we should start by defining our terms...

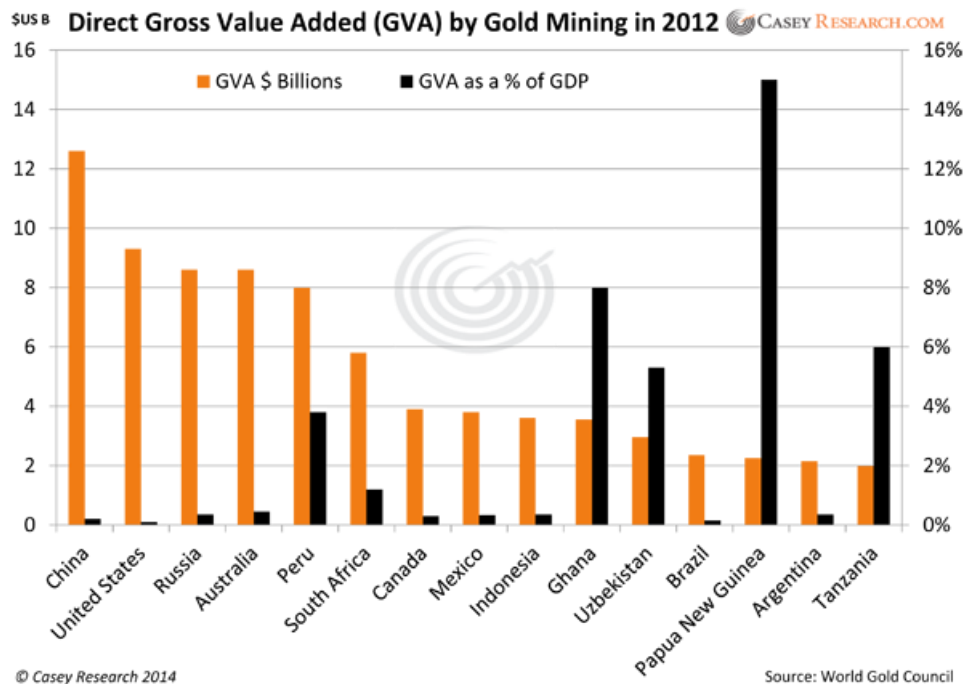
### **How Do You Define “Environment”?**

In modern mining, the term “environment” is broader than just air, water, land, and plant and animal life. It also encompasses the social, economic, and cultural environment and, ultimately, the health and safety conditions of anyone involved with or affected by a given mining activity.

Armed with this more comprehensive view of the industry's impact on the environment, we can evaluate the effects of mining and its benefits in a more holistic fashion.

### **Impact on the Economy**

According to a study commissioned by the World Gold Council, to take an example from mining of our favorite metal, the gold mines in the world's top 15 producing countries generated about US\$78.4 billion of direct gross value added (GVA) in 2012. (GVA measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry, or sector in a country.) That sum is roughly the annual GDP of Ecuador or Azerbaijan, or 30% of the estimated GDP of Shanghai, China. Here's a look at the GVA for each of these countries.

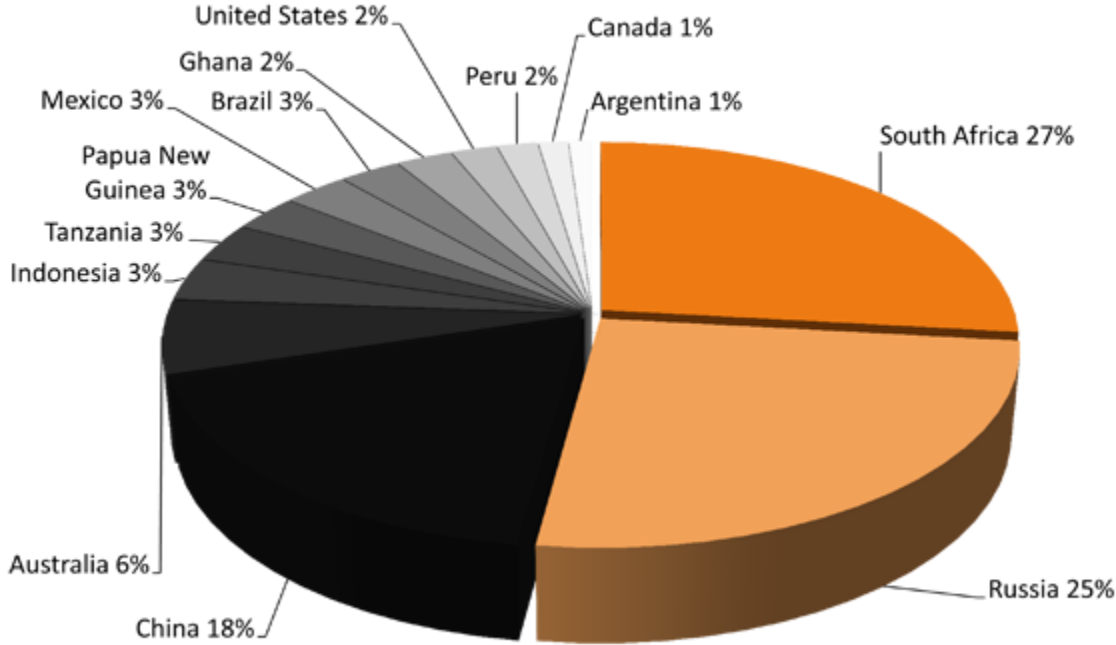


Keep in mind that this doesn't include the indirect effects of gold mining that come from spending in the supply chain and by employees on goods and services. If this impact were reflected in the numbers, the overall economic contribution of gold mining would be significantly larger.

Also, it's evident that gold mining's imprint on national economies varies considerably. For countries like Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uzbekistan, gold mining is one of the principal sources of prosperity.

Another measure of economic contribution is the jobs created and supported by businesses. The chart below shows the share of jobs created of each major gold-producing country.

**Percentage of Gold Mining Jobs in Top Producing Countries\*** CASEYRESEARCH.COM



© Casey Research 2014

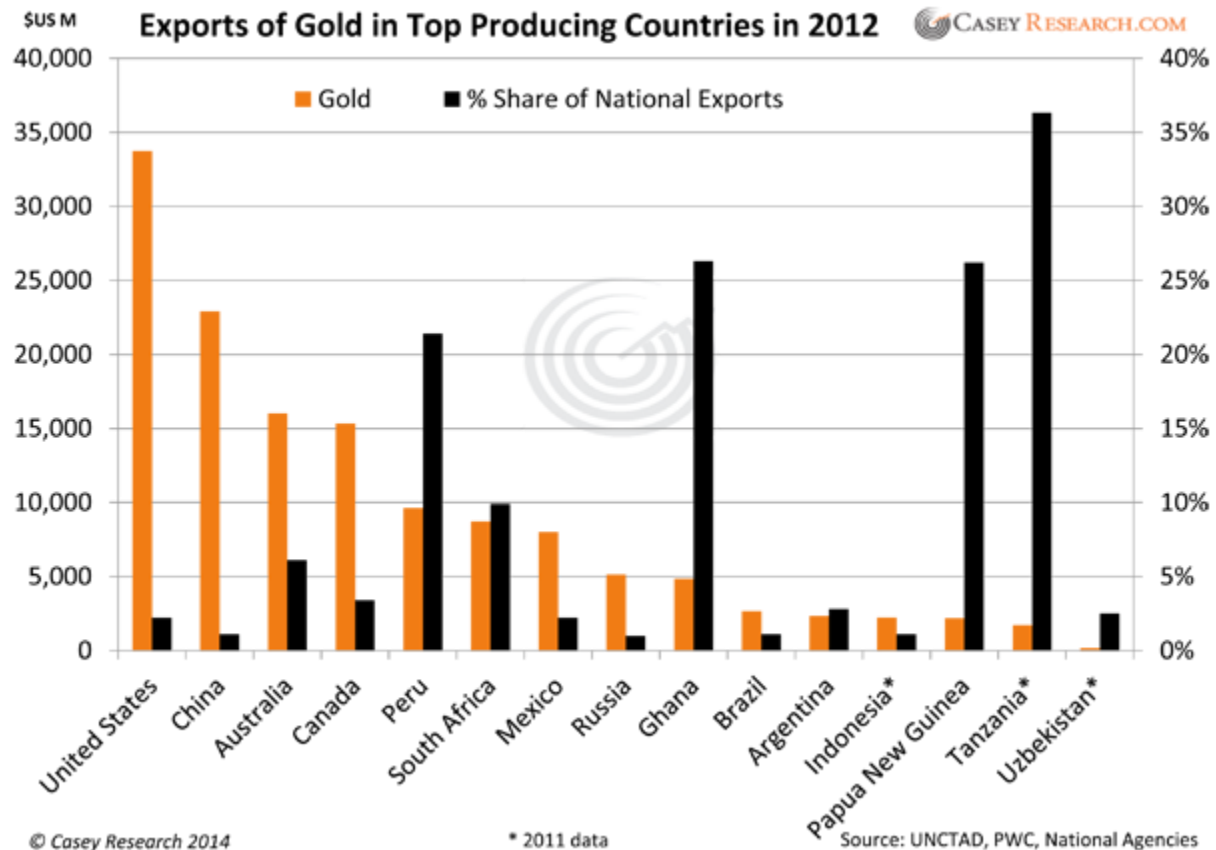
\* 2012 data

Source: PWC, National sources, SA Chamber of Mines

The four countries with the highest numbers of gold mining employees are South Africa (145,000), Russia (138,000), China (98,200), and Australia (32,300). The industry also employs 18,600 in Indonesia, 17,100 in Tanzania, and 16,100 in Papua New Guinea. (As an aside, it's quite telling that South Africa employs more gold miners than China, but China produces more gold than South Africa.)

Note that these employment figures don't include jobs in the artisanal and small-scale production mining fields, nor any type of indirect employment attributable to gold mining—so they understate the actual figures

For many countries, gold mining accounts for a significant share of exports. As an example, gold merchandise comprised 36% of Tanzanian and 26% of Ghana's and Papua New Guinea's exports in 2012. Below, you see a more comprehensive picture of gold exports by 15 major gold-producing countries.



Other, often-overlooked ways in which the mining industry supports the economy include:

- **Foreign direct investment (FDI).** The three mining giants—Canada, the United States, and Australia—have been dominating this category for a number of years, both as the primary destinations for investment and as the main investor countries.
- **Government revenue.** All mining businesses, regardless of jurisdiction, have to pay certain levies on their revenue and earnings, including license fees, resource rents, withholding and sales taxes, export duties, corporate income taxes, and various royalties. Taken all together, these payments make up a large portion of overall mining costs. For example, estimates

suggest that the total of mining royalty payments in 2012 across the top gold-producing countries worked out to the tune of US\$4.1 billion. This, of course, doesn't account for other types of tax normally applied to the mining industry.

- **Gold products.** Gold as a symbol of prosperity and the ultimate “wealth insurance” is very important to many nations around the globe—especially in Asia and Africa. Gold jewelry is given as a dowry to brides and as gifts at major holidays. In India, the government's ban on gold purchases by the public led to so much smuggling that the incoming prime minister is considering removing it. Chinese, Vietnamese, and peoples of India and Africa may all be divided across linguistic lines, but they all share the view of gold being a symbol of prosperity and ultimate insurance against life's uncertainties.

It's also important to note that jobs with modern mining companies are usually the most desirable options for poverty-stricken people in the remote areas where many mines are built. These jobs not only pay more than anything else in such regions, they provide training and health benefits simply not available anywhere else.

Mining provides work with dignity and a chance at a better future for hundreds of thousands of struggling families all around the world.

Let's now have a look at the most debated and contentious side to mining.

### **Impact on the (Physical) Environment**

In previous millennia, humans labored with little concern for the environment. Resources seemed infinite, and the land vast and adaptable to our needs. An older acquaintance of ours who grew up in 1930s Pittsburgh remembers the constant coal soot hanging in the air: “Every day, it got dark around noon time.” Victorian London was famous for its noxious, smoky, sulfurous fog, year-round.

Initially, the mining industry followed the same trend. Early mine operations had little, if any, regard for the environment, and were usually abandoned with no thought given to cleaning up the mess once an ore body was depleted.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, the situation turned around, as the mining industry realized the need to better understand and mitigate its impact on the environment.

The force of law, it must be admitted, had a lot to do with this change, but today, what is sometimes called “social permitting” frequently has an even more powerful regulatory effect than government mandates. Today's



executives understand that good environmental stewardship is good business—and many have strong personal environmental ethics.

That said, mining is an extractive industry, and it's always going to have an impact. Here's a quick look at some of the biggest environmental scares associated with gold mining and how they are confronted today.

|                |            |                                       |                |
|----------------|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Mercury</b> | Symbol: Hg | Occurrence in the earth's crust: Rare | Toxicity: High |
|----------------|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|

Mercury, also known as quicksilver, has been used to process gold and silver since the Roman era. Mercury doesn't break down in the environment and is highly toxic for both humans and animals. Today, the use of mercury is largely limited to artisanal and illegal mining. Industrial mining companies have switched to more efficient and less environmentally damaging techniques (e.g., cyanide leaching).

Developing countries with a heavy illegal mining presence, on the other hand, have seen mercury pollution increase. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) estimates that 1,000 tons of mercury are annually released into the air, soil, and water as a result of illegal mining activity. To help combat the problem, the mining industry, through the members of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), has partnered with governments of those nations to transfer low- or no-mercury processing technologies to the artisanal mining sector.

|                       |                                |                              |                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Sodium Cyanide</b> | Mining compound employed: NaCN | Occurrence in nature: Common | Toxicity: High |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|

This is one of the widely used chemicals in the industry that can make people's emotions run high. Historically considered a deadly poison, cyanide has been implicated in events such as the Holocaust, Middle Eastern wars, and the Jonestown suicides. Given such associations, it's no wonder that the public perceives it with alarm, without even adding mining to the equation.

It is important, however, to understand that cyanide:

- is a naturally occurring chemical;
- is not toxic in all forms or all concentrations;
- has a wide range of industrial uses and is safely manufactured, stored, and transported every day;

- is biodegradable and doesn't build up in fish populations;
- is not cumulative in humans and is metabolized at low exposure levels;
- should not be confused with acid rock drainage (ARD; see below); and
- is not a heavy metal.

Cyanide is one of only a few chemical reagents that dissolves gold in water and has been used to leach gold from various ores for over a hundred years. This technique—known as cyanidation—is considered a much safer alternative to extraction with liquid mercury, which was previously the main method used. Cyanidation has been the dominant gold-extraction technology since the 1970s; in Canada, more than 90% of gold mined is processed with cyanide.

Despite its many advantages for industrial uses, cyanide remains acutely toxic to humans and obviously is a concern on the environmental front. There are two primary environmental risks from gold cyanidation:

- Cyanide might leach into the soil and ground water at toxic concentrations.
- A catastrophic spill could contaminate the ecosystem with toxic levels of cyanide.

In response to these concerns, gold mining companies around the world have developed precautionary systems to prevent the escape of cyanide into the environment—for example, special leach pads lined with a plastic membrane to prevent the cyanide from invading the soil. The cyanide is subsequently captured and recycled.

Further, to minimize the environmental impact of any cyanide that is not recycled, mine facilities treat cyanide waste through several processes that allow it to degrade naturally through sunlight, hydrolysis, and oxidation.

|                                 |                                   |                                  |                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Acid Rock Drainage (ARD)</b> | Target chemical:<br>Sulfuric acid | ARD occurrence in nature: Common | Toxicity:<br>Varies |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|

Contrary to popular belief, ARD is the natural oxidation of sulfide minerals such as pyrite when these are exposed to air and water. The result of this oxidation is an increase in the acidity of the water, sometimes to dangerous levels. The problem intensifies when the acid comes into contact with high levels of metals and thereby dissolves them, which adds to the water contamination.

Once again, ARD is a natural process that can happen whenever such rocks are exposed on the surface of the earth, even when no mining was involved at

all. Possible sources of ARD at a mine site can include waste-rock piles, tailings storage facilities, and mine openings. However, since many mineral deposits contain little or no pyrite, ARD is a potential issue only at mines with specific rock types.

Part of a mining company's environmental assessment is to conduct technical studies to evaluate the ARD potential of the rocks that may be disturbed. Once ARD has developed, the company may employ measures to prevent its spread or reduce the migration of ARD waters and perhaps even treat the water to reduce acidity and remove dissolved metals.

In some places where exposed sulfide minerals are already causing ARD, a clean, modern mine that treats all out flowing water can actually improve water quality.

|                |            |                                           |                |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Arsenic</b> | Symbol: As | Occurrence in the earth's crust: Moderate | Toxicity: High |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|

Similar to mercury, arsenic is a naturally occurring element that is commonly found as an impurity in metal ores. In fact, arsenic is the 55th most abundant element in the earth's crust, and is widely distributed in rocks and soil, in natural waters, and in small amounts in all living things. Unfortunately, it can also be toxic in large doses.

The largest contribution of arsenic from the mining industry comes from atmospheric emissions from copper smelting. It can also, however, leach out of some metal ores through ARD and, when present, needs to be removed as an impurity to produce a saleable product.

Several pollution-control technologies have been successful at capturing and removing arsenic from smelting stacks and mine tailings. As a result, between 1993 and 2009, the release of arsenic from mining activities in Canada fell by 79%. Similar figures have been reported in other countries.

### **Mythbusters**

Now, here's our quick stab at dispelling the three most widespread myths environmentalists commonly bring up in their rants against the mining industry.

#### **Myth 1: Mining Uses Excessive Amounts of Land**

**Reality:** Less than 1% of the total land area in any given jurisdiction is allotted for mining operations (normally far less than that). Even a modest forestry project

affects far more trees than the largest open-pit mine. Mining activities must also meet stringent environmental standards before a company can even get a permit to operate.

The assessment process applied to mining operations is very detailed and based on a long string of policies and regulations (e.g., the National Environmental Policy Act in the US). Environmentalists may claim that the mining industry is rife with greedy land barons, but there's more than enough evidence to the contrary.

### **Myth 2: Mining Is Always Detrimental to the Water Supply**

**Reality:** Quite the opposite, actually. Before mine operations start, a mining company must submit a project proposal that includes detailed water utility studies (which are then evaluated by scientists and government agencies). Many companies even install water supply systems in local communities that lack easy access to this basic resource. It's also common for the rocks to be mined to be naturally acid generating—a problem the mine cleans up, by its very nature.

Some die-hard zealots blame the mining industry for consuming huge amounts of water, but in fact it normally only uses +1% of the total water supplied to a given community, and 80% of that water is recycled continuously.

### **Myth 3: Mining Is Invasive to the Natural Environment**

**Reality:** Yes, mining activity in certain countries has led to negative outcomes for certain plants and animals—not to mention the rocks themselves, which are blasted and hauled away. However, the industry has progressed a long way in the last few decades and, apart from rare accidents, the worst is behind us now.

The key determinant here is compliance. All mining activity must comply with strict environmental guidelines, leading up to and during operations and also following mine closure. After mining activity ends, the company is required to rehabilitate the land. In some cases, the land is remediated into forests, parks, or farmland—and left in better condition than before.

It's worth reiterating that in some cases—where there's naturally occurring ARD or where hundreds of years of irresponsible mining have led to environmental disasters—a modern mine is a solution to the problem that pays for itself.

### **Can You Be Pro-Mining and an Environmentalist? Absolutely.**

Gold mining (and mining in general) is extractive and will always leave some mark on our planet. Over time, however, the risks have been mitigated by modern mining technologies. This is an ongoing process; even mining asteroids instead of planet Earth is now the subject of serious consideration among today's most visionary entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, the (vastly diminished) risks associated with mining are far outweighed by the economic contribution and positive effects on local communities and the greater society. This net-positive contribution is here to stay—unless our civilization opts for collective suicide by sending us all back to the Stone Age.



## **Ex-EPA official goes off the grid, dodges lawmakers' inquiry into Alaska mine project**

By Barnini Chakraborty, FoxNews.com, June 12, 2014

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/06/12/ex-epa-regulator-in-pebble-mine-controversy-dodges-multiple-requests-for/>



The Pebble Partnership believes a mine near Bristol Bay, Alaska, could produce up to 107.4 million ounces of gold.AP

A former EPA official tied to a controversy over allegations of federal overreach at an Alaska mine project has mysteriously gone off the grid, sources tell FoxNews.com, complicating lawmakers' efforts to question him.

Emails from Phillip North, a now-retired Environmental Protection Agency employee, recently surfaced that seem to show the Alaska-based biologist tried to get the Pebble Mine project killed as far back as 2008. Those emails -- and memos indicating government officials worked early on with tribal leaders and environmental groups to oppose the venture -- raised questions about the agency's claims that when it ultimately vetoed the gold-and-copper mine project, it did so based on scientific evidence.

Emails from North's account show that he "appeared to have played a key role in the EPA's decision to pursue a veto," Caitlin Carroll, a spokeswoman for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, told FoxNews.com.

But the committee is having a tough time finding North. His lawyers apparently know where he is, but Congress does not.

Carroll said North's disappearing act is "highly unusual."

Oversight Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., and Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, had sent North a July 29, 2013 letter asking him to voluntarily come in for an interview. Multiple email exchanges between congressional staffers and North to set a date and time that would accommodate his schedule have been documented.

North listed several complications at the time, one of which was a planned one-year boat ride around the world with his school-aged children. But then his boat broke.

"Due to a series of unfortunate events our plans have changed," he wrote in an Oct. 22, 2013 email. "Our boat suffered damage and may not be fixable. The situation is still dynamic. We are considering our options as the facts emerge but at this time we have no plans to be on the East Coast before the holidays."

And then he lawyered up.

The emails and correspondence that followed between North's new attorney, Billie Garde, and the government, also show multiple efforts to dodge the feds and other stall tactics, sources told FoxNews.com.

In a March 26 email, Garde was asked if she had heard from her client. She answered she had but that she was "tied up doing an investigation" in Washington state "with neither privacy nor an appropriate venue to talk to you."

Garde was also repeatedly asked to schedule a telephone interview by Joseph Brazauskas, the government lawyer working on the case, but declined.

Congressional staffers told FoxNews.com that issuing a subpoena may be the next step. But they need to locate him to do that.

For its part, the EPA says it has been cooperating with Congress on providing information about the Alaska mine project, including requests for emails from North.

“EPA is actively working on responding for several requests, including a subpoena from the House Oversight Committee,” spokeswoman Hanaday Kader told FoxNews.com Thursday. “Phil North is a retired EPA employee and a private citizen. As with all former EPA employees, the agency has no comment or information on his location.”

Controversy has clouded the Pebble Mine project almost since the start.

Earlier this year, the EPA inspector general's office announced it would look into allegations the agency decided to initiate a preemptive veto of the project. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has come under fire for announcing her decision to block the plan before it received a hearing.

The IG's office has been looking into internal EPA documents and emails – some of which have been obtained by FoxNews.com – that indicate agency officials were plotting to derail Pebble as far back as 2008.

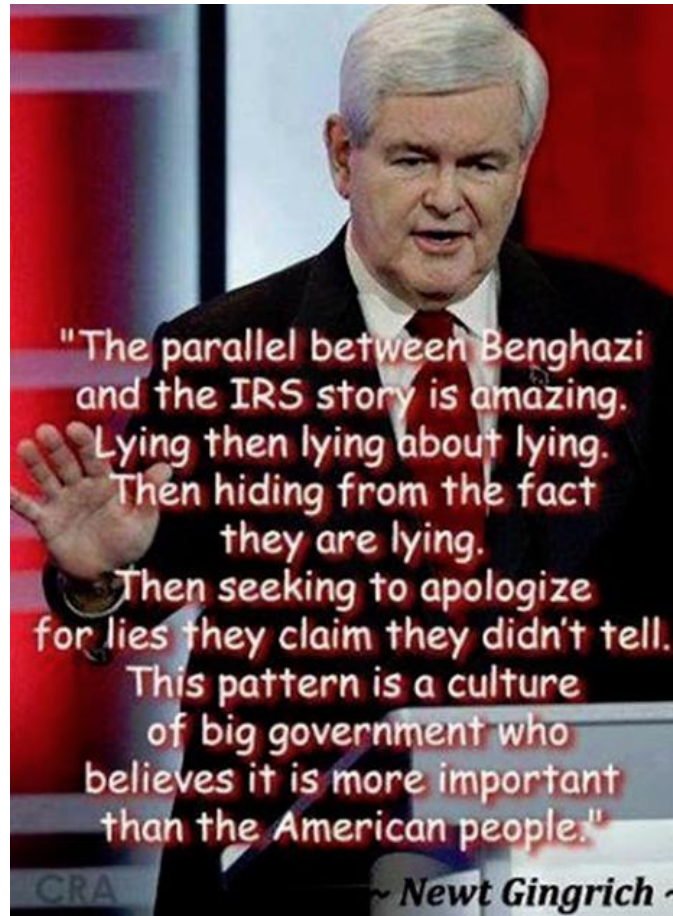
Citing “irreversible harm” to Alaska's salmon fishery, the EPA announced in late February it would veto the billion-dollar project and would do so by invoking its rarely used power under the Clean Water Act.

“This process is not something the agency does very often, but Bristol Bay is an extraordinary and unique resource,” McCarthy said in a statement at the time.

The EPA also said the mine would hurt native cultures in southwest Alaska.

Multiple calls made to Garde for comment were not returned.





## **Miners' hard life now tinged with fear**

Associated Press, 12 May 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2625952/PICTURED-Miners-hard-life-tinged-fear.html>

LA PAMPA, Peru (AP) — They sweat through 28-hour shifts in the malarial jungle of the Madre de Dios region of southeastern Peru, braving the perils of collapsing earth and limb-crushing machinery to come up with a few grams of gold.

Most wildcat miners hail from impoverished highlands communities and barely earn subsistence wages. They chew coca leaf, a mild stimulant, to ward off the fatigue that can lead to fatal accidents.

Life is cheap in the mining camps. Deaths go unrecorded and the mercury they use to bind gold flecks compounds the risks. It doesn't just seep into the food chain. It poisons them and their families, too.





In this May 4, 2014 photo, a miner holds an amalgam of mercury and gold he mined after working a 28-hour shift at an illegal gold mining process, in La Pampa, in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Thousands of artisanal gold miners sweat through the long shifts and endure, for a few grams of gold, the perils of collapsing earth, limb-crushing machinery and the toxic mercury used to bind gold flecks. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

A new threat now looms for the estimated 20,000 wildcat miners who toil in a huge scar of denuded Amazon rainforest known as La Pampa, an area nearly three times the size of Washington, D.C.

Peru's government declared all informal mining illegal on April 19 and began a crackdown. It raided the older boomtown of Huepetuhe, dynamiting backhoes, trucks and generators. Troops even destroyed the outboard motors of canoes used to ferry mining equipment across the Inambari river.

In La Pampa, miners fear they are next. Their gasoline supplies have already been choked by authorities.

Some buried their equipment after the crackdown began only to unearth it days later when no raid came. But come it eventually will, the government says, because there no legal mining concessions exist in La Pampa.

People in La Pampa say that if the authorities eradicate their livelihood, it must quickly make good on promises to provide employment alternatives.

"Motors are my life. I'm a mechanic. If the government comes and destroys them, then from what will I and my family live?" said Leoncio Condori.

The 51-year-old, a native of the Andes city of Cuzco, has been fixing motors in La Pampa ever since artisanal gold miners began carving out lawless, ramshackle settlements from Amazon jungle there in 2008.

It's not just miners who are threatened with economic catastrophe from the government's campaign to wipe out illegal mining operations, said a mining camp cook, who identified herself only as Gladis, fearing government retribution.

"For every miner there is a family that eats because he works," she said.



In this May 4, 2014 photo, a mining camp lines the horizon in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Since artisanal gold mining took hold in La Pampa, miners began carving a lawless, series of ramshackle settlement out of the Amazonian jungle territory in 2008. The artisanal miners, who know they will be soon be evicted, are working up to the last minute after Peru's government declared all informal mining illegal on April 19.



In this May 3, 2014 photo, a jet stream of water passes above two miners known as "Maraqueros" who remove stones and chunks of tree trunks that have been released with the aid of a rustic type of hydraulic jet known locally as a "Chupadera," in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. The Chupadera aims powerful jet streams of water at earth walls, releasing the soils that hold the sought after flecks of gold.



In this May 4, 2014 photo, a miner uses a boot to fill with water the radiator of a rustic type of hydraulic jet known locally as a "Chupadera," used to mine for gold at a gold mine process in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Miners sweat through 28-hour shifts in the malarial jungle of the Madre de Dios region in southeaster Peru, enduring for a few grams of gold the perils of collapsing earth and limb-crushing machinery.



In this May 5, 2014 photo, miners known as "Maraqueros" ready a rustic type of hydraulic jet known locally as a "Chupadera," after hauling the device about 16-meters deep into a crater at a gold mine process in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. A new threat now looms for the estimated 20,000 wildcat miners who toil in huge scar of denuded rainforest known as La Pampa, an area nearly three times the size of Washington, D.C. Peru's government declared all informal mining illegal on April 19 and began a crackdown.



In this May 5, 2014 photo, miners swish sands on special carpets, filtering for gold pieces that fall into the pool of water at their feet, in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. The carpets are removed from a rustic sluice-like contraption that capture the gold deposits, with the aid of a rustic hydraulic mining machine, known locally as a "Traca."



In this May 5, 2014 photo, a miner rests on top of a rustic sluice-like contraption layered with pieces of carpets to capture the gold deposits from water sediment in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Engine noise is the characteristic sound of this Amazonian jungle territory nearly three times the size of Washington DC. There are no trees, only hills of moved earth and artificial ponds of brown water where gold is mined.



In this May 4, 2014 photo, a miner stands next to a tube used to transport soil removed from a surrounding crater to a sluice-like carpeted contraption to filter gold in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Artisanal gold miners began carving the lawless, series of ramshackle settlement out of Amazon jungle in 2008. The miners who are working up to the last minute, know they will be soon be evicted, Peru's government declared all informal mining illegal on April 19.



In this May 4, 2014 photo, a miner continues his search for gold in mud-drenched clothes inside a crater at an illegal gold mine process in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. The informal miners of La Pampa know they will soon be evicted, their engines blown up and settlements burned after Peru's government declared all informal mining illegal on April 19. The government claims that the informal miners have destroyed the surrounding forests and polluted the environment by using mercury in the gold extraction process.



In this May 3, 2014 photo, a rope hangs around the trunk of a tree at a illegal gold mining process in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. An estimated 20,000 miners toil in this malarial expanse of denuded rainforest known as La Pampa.



In this May 5, 2014 photo, a motortaxi delivers a cargo of mattresses to a mining camp in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. An estimated 20,000 wildcat miners toil in the malarial expanse of denuded rainforest known as La Pampa, an area nearly three times the size of Washington, D.C.



In this May 5, 2014 photo, after it stopped raining, Johan tied his father's raincoat around himself while playing in the front yard of their temporary home next to their satellite tv dish at a mining camp in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. It's not just miners who are threatened with economic catastrophe from the government's campaign to wipe out illegal mining operations, said a mining camp cook. For every miner there is a family that eats because he works, she said.



In this May 4, 2014 photo, a miner naps near his workstation in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Thousands of artisanal gold miners sweat through the 28-hour shifts and endure, for a few grams of gold, the perils of collapsing earth, limb-crushing machinery and the toxic mercury used to bind gold flecks. They chew coca leaf, a mild stimulant, to ward off the fatigue that can lead to fatal accidents.



In this May 3, 2014 photo, Prisaída, 2, sits in the shallow waters of a polluted lagoon as her parents mine for gold nearby, in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. The lagoon emerged as a result of miners bombarding the earth with jet streams of water in search of gold. The miners know they will be soon be evicted, Peru's government declared all informal mining illegal on April 19.





In this May 3, 2014 photo, an informal miner works to separate flecks of gold from the sandy, alluvial soil, using mercury to bind inside the crater of a gold mine process in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. The clock has run out for the thousands of illegal gold miners who had until April 19 to legalize their status in a region of southeastern Peru where fortune-seekers have ravaged rainforests and contaminated rivers.



In this May 4, 2014 photo, a miner melts an amalgam of gold and mercury to burn off the mercury, in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. This rudimentary process of extracting the gold from the amalgam, releases mercury vapors, adding to the contamination that is resulting in the deforestation of thousands of acres of the Amazon rainforest. Peru's government declared all informal mining illegal on April 19 and began a crackdown, dynamiting their equipment.



In this May 3, 2014 photo, wildcat miners wait their turn to melt their amalgam of gold and mercury to burn off the mercury in the temporary home of a gold buyer in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. It's not just miners who are threatened with economic catastrophe from the government's campaign to wipe out illegal mining operations, said a mining camp cook. For every miner there is a family that eats because he works, she said.



In this May 5, 2014 photo, a miner melts an amalgam of gold and mercury to burn off the mercury in front of a seller, in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. A 21st-century gold rush began in Peru in 2008. Thousands sweat through 28-hour shifts and endure, for a few grams of gold, the perils of collapsing earth, limb-crushing machinery and the toxic mercury used to bind gold flecks.



In this May 5, 2014 photo, a sex worker who is employed by an informal bar playfully sticks out her tongue while posing for a photo, outside her place of her employment in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Since artisanal gold mining took hold in La Pampa, miners began carving a lawless, series of ramshackle settlement out of the Amazonian jungle territory in 2008.



In this May 3, 2014 photo, a sex worker sits with potential customers at the informal bar "La Rica Miel" or Delicious Honey in English, in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Wildcat miners began arriving in 2008, populating shantytowns carved into the jungle along the interoceanic highway where coerced prostitution and tuberculosis now thrive.



In this May 3, 2014 photo, a sex worker who is employed at an informal bar waits for customers in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Life is cheap in the mining camps. Deaths go unrecorded and the mercury miners use to bind gold flecks compounds the risks. Tons of the toxic metal have been dumped into rivers, contaminating fish, humans and other animals and plants.



In this May 5, 2014 photo, a sex worker who is employed by an informal bar waits for customers in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. No one knows how much gold Madre de Dios contains, but Peru as a whole ranks sixth globally and first in Latin America in gold production.



In this May 3, 2014 photo, a miner roughly estimates his handful of gold he mined, after working for over 24-hours, in La Pampa in Peru's Madre de Dios region. Thousands of artisanal gold miners sweat through the long hours and endure, for a few grams of gold, the perils of collapsing earth, limb-crushing machinery and the toxic mercury used to bind gold flecks. (All AP Photos by/Rodrigo Abd)



## **Peru, Colombia to join forces to combat illegal mining**

**Using strategies once employed to fight drug cartels, Peru and Colombia are considering waging a joint war on illegal mining.**

Dorothy Kosich, RENO (MINEWEB), 12 May 2014

Peru's High Commissioner for Formalization of Mining, Daniel Urresti, has announced that the governments of Peru and Colombia will partner in their first joint operation to combat illegal gold mining.

Official Peru state news agency, [Andina](#), reported that the meeting in Colombia will take place in the near future.

Since Peru's ban on illegal mining went into effect on April 19<sup>th</sup>, police officers and military troops have destroyed US\$20 million worth of heavy equipment, including backhoes, excavators, wheel loaders, dump trucks, large mining dredges, and boats and rafts used for illegal mining in the district of Huetupe in the region of Madre de Dios.

They have also removed fuel tanks used by illegal mining in Madre de Dios. Colombia's Congress has enacted legislation which also controls the distribution, transportation and marketing of chemicals that can be used in illegal mining.

Urresti, who supervises Peru's National Strategy for the Prohibition of Illegal Mining, said the government will stand firm in their decision to fight illegal mining in the country, due to serious damage to the environment and public health. He is a retired general of the Peruvian Army and has previously served as the head of the Ministry of Disaster Risk Management for Peru.

Colombia's Mining Ministry estimated that in 2012, 63% of the nation's mines were technically illegal without government regulation or licenses.

Colombian Illegal mining operations compete with legally licensed and regulated mining operators because illegal operators don't comply with

government regulations and don't pay taxes, increasing mining costs for legitimate mining operators. A number of illegal mining operations also have ties to criminal organizations or rebel groups.

Nevertheless, in an interview in Montreal last year, Colombia Mines Minister Federico Renjifo said the country has made "huge strides in the last two years" to combat illegal mining through education of government regulators of best mining practices.



## **2013 global mine profits lowest in a decade**

***Overall global mining market values plummeted by 23% last year to US\$958 million as gold miners were particularly hit hard, says a new PwC report.***

Author: Dorothy Kosich, MINEWEB , 05 Jun 2014

[HTTP://WWW.MINEWEB.COM/MINEWEB/CONTENT/EN/MINEWEB-GOLD-NEWS?OID=243419&SN=DETAIL](http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/content/en/mineweb-gold-news?oid=243419&sn=detail)

"2013 was a year that forced the global mining industry to realign expectations in one of the most difficult operating environments for years," said PwC in its latest Mine report published Thursday.

Led by gold's greatest decline in three decades, commodity prices decreased significantly and mining stocks fell 23% in 2013.

Coupled with record impairments of \$57 billion last year, global mining's net profits plunged 72% to a decade low of \$20 billion in 2013.

Gold miners endured another particularly bad year, losing \$110 billion off market capitalization, accounting for almost 40% of the overall reduction in market capitalization last year. "Five gold companies fell out of the Top 40 in 2013, exacerbating this drop in value," PwC noted.

Gold reserves fell 8% in 2013 to 431 million ounces. "The gold miners most significantly impacted were Barrick and Goldcorp which together de-recognized 22 million ounces in reserves as a result of lower price assumptions," according to the report.

The Top Five diversified miners remained stable, however, remaining at a collective market capitalization of half a trillion dollars over the past three years.

The changing global mining landscape also includes a sharp difference in the collective profits between emerging market mining companies and their

developed market counterparts, PwC noted. Last year's net profits from emerging market mining companies totaled \$24 billion, compared to an aggregate net loss of \$4 billion for developed market companies, which were substantially impacted by impairments.

Emerging markets also account for 60-80% of the new reserves added globally during the past decade to 2013, the report observed. "These markets bring enormous opportunity for the industry, but such opportunity is tempered by complexity and risks due to the relative differences in political, legal and business practices."

Only four of the Top 40 mining companies showed an increase in market capitalization last year, according to the report. This group included Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, iron ore miner Fortescue, copper and gold producer First Quantum Minerals, and Polyus Gold. Emerging market companies, Saudi Arabian Mining and Russian diamond miner Alrosa, joined the Top 40 for the first time last year.

Exploration spending was down more than 30% in 2013 and capital expenditures are expected to decline by more than 10% this year. Net debt increased 42% during 2013 as miners extended their repayment periods, according to the report.

In its analysis, PwC observed that the world's top 40 mining companies were comprised "of more companies from emerging markets than traditional mining centres, and this trend looks set to continue". New CEOs have also been installed in nearly half of the top 40 mining companies over the last two years.

Maintaining dividend levels, exercising more selective capital allocation and active portfolio management are just some of the tools being used by the global mining industry to restore investor confidence in the sector, said PwC.

Traditional quick-fixes such as idling a mine equipment fleet, reducing employees, slashing costs, and deferring capital expenditure were also utilized last year, said the report.

Among the more fundamental shifts in strategy emerging in the mining industry is a push to simplify structures and focus on extracting value from higher quality assets; a move to sharing mining infrastructure to reduce operating costs, realize efficiencies and spread capital and risk; and a commitment to addressing lower productivity levels, said PwC.

“Despite diminished profitability and shrinking cash, underlying performance in the industry as represented by adjusted EBITDA, withstood the tough conditions, only down 8% in 2013, said PwC Global Mining Leader John Gravelle. “Dividend yields also contribute to increase with gross dividends paid up 5% and dividend yields slightly up to 4%.”

Nevertheless, Gravelle observed, “The question remains as to who will be bold enough to thrive in these difficult times.”

“M&A activity which was surprisingly subdued in 2013 seems to have started to pick up in early 2014,” he noted. “And backed by a stronger U.S. economy and continued strength demand from China, the market is impatient to see demonstrable returns from recent strategic choices to deliver against the mantra of lower costs and higher productivity.”

“2014 has seen some traces of calm return to mining markets with market capitalization for the largest 40 mines stable, evidence that some level of confidence may be returning,” said Gravelle.

Measuring the success of cost-saving initiatives will become more apparent this year, as operating costs were up 4% in 2013 while free cash flow entered into negative territory for the first time in PwC’s Mine series. Deferred capex expenditure was commonplace, “particularly in light of current returns of capital employed against targeted project hurdle rates”, PwC observed.

This year’s projected capex for the 40 major mining companies surveyed by PwC totals \$116 billion, down 11% from 2013.



## **Despite gold’s fall fundamentals suggesting rebound – but when?**

***Gold has been falling despite positive fundamentals. This suggests that there could be a turnaround if sentiment starts moving in favour.***

***Could this happen in the second half of the year?***

Author: Lawrence Williams, MINEWEB, 05 Jun 2014

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/content/en/mineweb-gold-analysis?oid=243508&sn=Detail>

Gold may have found something of a temporary range in the \$1240s over the past week. Sentiment has moved against it and barring some unforeseen event it may continue to fall through the early northern summer – traditionally a weak time for precious metals. But there is a huge dichotomy in its performance in that



supply/demand fundamentals continue to look ever more positive, yet gold, and other precious metals, have been continuing to fall. Now whether this is, as some suggest, due to the machinations of the bullion banks suppressing the gold price on behalf some central banks (notably the U.S. Fed and the ECB), or just a collapse in pro-gold sentiment in the general investment arena remains to be seen, but if the latter some turnaround trigger could see gold positive sentiment return and the price soar – but when might this happen?

Jeff Nichols, one of the more down to earth of the normally pro-gold commentators, in his latest missive to clients, picks up strongly on the ever-improving fundamentals point. Despite a 5% fall in the gold price over the past couple of weeks he feels there is no reason for gold investors to despair. Easy to say as a commentator, but tough for those who may have seen their gold investments dive over the past two years. Is there no end to the decline?

Nichols feels, though, that fundamentals have so improved that a bounce-back seems likely in the short term, with bigger gains to be seen later this year. To an extent this ties in with the Elliott Wave predictions we referred to a week or so ago, although the latter sees a further short term downturn between now and August as probably being more severe than Nichols anticipates. But given that Elliott Wave theory is predicated on changes in overall sentiment over time, and the current wave trend suggests a turnaround in August, with a very sharp increase in precious metals prices to follow over the next eighteen months, there are indeed parallels between Nichols' analysis and that of Peter Goodburn of WaveTrack International which we reported recently.

While a mere mining engineer like myself is somewhat loath to give credence to technical analysis viewing it as being perhaps illogical as far as basic fundamentals are concerned, one also has to admit that those who see chart trends as price predictors are frequently correct. However they do depend on how their charts are analysed and, no doubt, there are also other charts analyses projecting completely different precious metals price scenarios. It will be interesting to see how these play out. Those who get their findings wrong are quick to forget them while those who are right are equally quick to tell the world so. Such is life.

But coming back to Nichols' thoughts, he reckons his price predictions are based on his pessimistic view of long term U.S. and global economic prospects, but that even if he is wrong on this and global economies are indeed improving in the manner many of the bank analysts are predicting (and they base their pessimistic views on precious metals prices on this scenario), Nichols feels this is somewhat irrelevant and that the gold price will take off regardless.

He puts this down to the demand levels still apparent from the so-called Asian tigers – notably China and India. As *Mineweb* readers will know, we recently published an article noting that Bloomberg analysts have shown that China and India between them are purchasing more than the total of world newly mined gold production between them. Add into that significant gold purchases in many other middle Eastern and Asian nations in particular and the recent news that Russia purchased around 30 tonnes of gold in April for its official reserves and one wonders where all this gold is actually coming from, and how long purchases at this kind of level can continue without positively affecting the metal price.

However as a contrary view one could point to 2013 when the gold price fell very sharply over the period despite record Chinese gold purchases. This dichotomy was largely put down by analysts to sales out of the major gold backed ETFs, but although net sales out of the ETFs seem to have recommenced again this year after a period of net purchases, sales out of the biggest gold ETF of all, GLD, have only totalled about 9 tonnes over the first 5 months of the year compared with over 550 tonnes over the whole of 2013. Sales out of GLD and other gold ETFs last year helped the gold price collapse – notably immediately following a 'sell short' call by Goldman Sachs in April last year (a recommendation reportedly emailed to all significant brokerages and hedge funds with the recommendation that they get their clients out of gold which Goldman suggested would fall to \$850 an ounce). The subsequent gold price dive is now history, but the feeling now is any further sales out of the ETFs will be limited and the kind of price crash seen last April is unlikely. Even so the plethora of negative analyses out of the major banks seems to have been destined to affect sentiment towards gold adversely, and in this seems to have been successful – so far!

So what can turn this sentiment around? Nichols points to the potential, indeed the likelihood, that the new Modi Indian administration will at least relax the country's current gold import restrictions leading to a possible demand surge later in the year. The Ukraine is still also seen as another potential geopolitical flashpoint. While the Western media seems to have lost interest a significant flare-up in the east of the country, perhaps involving Russian military intervention, could see safe haven investment returning to gold given the potential economic ramifications of anti-Russia sanctions with teeth!

From our side we have seen reports that Chinese gold demand is picking up again at the lower price levels after a couple of months of lower purchases. If this continues we say again, where is all this gold going to come from? If China and India are purchasing all the foreign newly mined gold, while scrap supplies are reduced because of lower prices, and sales out of the ETFs slow to a trickle,

logic suggests there should be a change in direction for the gold price purely on a supply/demand basis.

Nichols adds to this his thoughts on global macro-economics. He reckons there is still insufficient demand in the main Western economies for goods and services and that austerity measures being pursued in a number of key nations, which he sees as misguided and inappropriate, in that cutting government spending is unlikely to encourage a boost in private spending.

While the U.S. Fed and other bodies are now looking at, or implementing, cuts in their growth enhancing policies in the belief that their economies are returning to pre-2008 growth levels, he feels this is a mistaken interpretation of what is actually happening in the real world. If real economic growth is seen not to return then this could rapidly turn sentiment around with regard to gold. And – as we pointed out earlier - the performance of the gold price is all about investor sentiment. Nichols feels that a much more positive view on gold may come into play in the second half of the current year and gold investors will certainly be hoping he is correct in his assumptions.



## **Nevada mining net proceeds tax revenue plummets \$70m**

***For rural Nevada counties, which rely on net proceeds revenue from Nevada mining, “this is a big deal,” observed Nevada’s Association of Counties Executive Director.***

Author: Dorothy Kosich, MINEWEB , 04 Jun 2014

[HTTP://WWW.MINEWEB.COM/MINEWEB/CONTENT/EN/MINEWEB-POLITICAL-ECONOMY?OID=243250&SN=DETAIL](http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/content/en/mineweb-political-economy?oid=243250&sn=detail)

Lower gold prices, higher mining costs and declines in production have hit Nevada’s gold mines hard, which, in turn, is generating a \$70 million deficit in the Nevada state general fund.

The state’s mining industry was projected to generate \$93.4 million in net proceeds tax revenue this year, but net proceeds has produced only about \$21.3 million in FY2014-15, members of the Nevada Economic Forum were told in a meeting Tuesday.

While state government is expected to be able to withstand the loss in net proceeds revenue, rural Nevada counties, school and hospital districts and other local governments may have a tougher time coping.

In a presentation to the state Economic Forum, comprised of financial experts who project tax revenue, the Nevada Department of Taxation projected that

the rural counties can expect only \$26.5 million in net proceeds revenue in FY2014-15. In 2013, counties earned \$88 million from net proceeds.

Mining taxes for this fiscal year were paid in advance by several mining companies, using optimistic projections, making the situation even worse for rural counties and local governments.



## **U.S. Senate Majority Leader sells home to make way for NV gold mine**

***Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has determined even his longtime family home must eventually give way to a mine.***

Dorothy Kosich, RENO (MINEWEB), 10 Jun 2014

<http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/content/en/mineweb-gold-news?oid=243904&sn=Detail>

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, the son of a gold miner, is selling his longtime home and its mining claims in Searchlight, Nevada for \$1.7 million to make way for Nevada Mining and Milling to develop a gold mining operation.

A Searchlight native, Reid announced Monday that he is selling the 100-acre property where his longtime home is located, along with its eight mining claims, since he and his wife, Landra Reid, will move to Las Vegas to be closer to their four children and 16 grandchildren now living in the Las Vegas area. Searchlight is 60 miles from Las Vegas.

Along with the purchase of the home and surrounding land, Nevada Mining and Milling also purchased the mineral and water rights on the property.

Reid and his wife, who resided in Searchlight for 25 years, were used to mining operations conducted close to their home, but the Nevada Mining and Milling operation was too close for their comfort. The mining project is expected to create 60 new jobs in Searchlight and bring economic development to the region.

Searchlight has been a mining town for over a century. Reid's grandparents, John and Harriet Reid, came to Searchlight around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Senator Reid's father, Harry Reid, was a gold miner.

"Even with the physical risk and the toll on his body, my dad loved being a miner," Senator Reid wrote in his comprehensive history, *Searchlight: The Camp That Didn't Fail*. "He loved it [mining] because he was good at it, and because

he was more content battling the earth than being around people...my father was born to mine, and it was the only thing he wanted to do."

The 74-year-old Reid, who is facing re-election for his senate seat in 2016, also observed that he was relocating because of the rigors of the upcoming campaign. "I've been through a few elections commuting from Searchlight and it's hard."



## **Legality of EPA Rules Questioned by Environmental Litigators**

By Jennifer G. Hickey, Newsmax.com , 21 Mar 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/EPA-coal-regulations-questioned/2014/03/21/id/561045/>

**Environmental Protection Agency regulations on coal emissions are unconstitutional because the agency colluded with environmental groups in formulating the rules, an attorney with a nonprofit environmental law firm tells Newsmax.**

**[NOTE: This is the same process used by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and probably Department of State Lands while promulgating rules and laws against small-scale gold suction dredging. Oregon state has already had one sue & settle case against small-scale suction dredging and say environmental organizations are writing the rules and laws because they do not have enough staff to perform those duties. Please read the attached copy of the settlement]**

On March 10, Chris Horner filed an 81-page formal regulatory comment asserting that legal precedent has established that a rule promulgated by an agency is unconstitutional if it was based on information not on the record and if the rule is materially based on the involvement of individuals having an "unalterably closed mind."

Horner's complaint relies in part on EPA officials' emails obtained in his capacity as a senior legal fellow at the Energy & Environmental Legal Institute, an environmental litigation group, through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

"We have demonstrated through these emails that [the EPA] colluded with green groups and that the outcome was predetermined, that they made the decision just months after Obama's inauguration. The public has never had a chance to fully participate in the process," Horner told Newsmax.

Horner in September 2012 had sought the email records of [former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson](#), who was under suspicion for conducting agency business with a secret email account set up under the name "Richard Windsor."

"The collaboration began almost immediately after the inauguration between these green groups and the EPA. They had a predetermined agenda. The emails we obtained show they began working on this rule just weeks after Obama came into office," Horner said.

The EPA's coal-plant emissions limits, published in the Federal Register in September 2013, are rooted in authority granted to the agency by the U.S. Supreme Court in its decision handed down in *Massachusetts v. EPA*.

In that 2007 case, the Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gases are covered by the Clean Air Act's definition of air pollutant, giving the PA the authority to determine whether emissions of greenhouse gases endanger the public health by contributing to air pollution.

The Obama administration made an "endangerment finding" in 2009 allowing the EPA to move ahead with its regulatory action, but Horner said emails demonstrate that the "finding" was reached long before then.

Emails obtained by Horner show administration officials privately corresponding about "the endangerment finding," which contradict EPA's claims that it arrived at this determination after proper consideration of the evidence 10 months later.

"By February 8, 2009, Administrator Jackson was planning on warning power plants that she was intent on regulating their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and apparently denying a permit based on as yet unchanged regulations," Horner said.

Among the EPA officials involved in the coordination with green groups, including the Sierra Club, were Jackson, current Administrator Gina McCarthy, and former policy chief Michael Goo.

The emails show environmental groups added their voice to the scheduling of public hearings on EPA regulations.

In one exchange between James B. Martin, then-EPA Region 8 administrator, and Vickie Patton of the Environmental Defense Fund, Patton suggests "preferred locations for public hearings."

In an email, Martin — using a nonofficial email account — contacted Patton

noting that "San Fran and Seattle would be friendlier forums but CA has no coal plants and WA is phasing out its one plant."

A [Sierra Club employee also sent a list](#) of their preferred locations for public hearings and the list was then forwarded to other EPA staff members.

The [emails show agency leaders scheduled events](#) that would provide environmentalist groups with the best opportunity to gather public comments on the rulemaking process that supported the EPA's position.

[Nancy Grantham, director of public affairs](#) for EPA Region 1, which covers New England, asked an organizer for the Sierra Club's New Hampshire chapter in a March 2012 email to share the group's agenda so the EPA could adjust its messaging accordingly.

"If you could, it would great [sic] if you can send me an email describing what you would like to do in early April in NH — that way I can coordinate messaging with our air offices here and at HQ," Grantham wrote.

Horner said he was told in October 2013 by the EPA that they had identified 120,000 records in response to his FOIA request, but they would only release 100 documents every month.

Horner is currently pursuing another avenue to get information from the EPA by filing FOIA requests with the National Security Agency asking that it produce any surveillance information indicating whether Jackson used her personal email account for government business.

Horner noted that the "the NSA Inspector General has also publicly acknowledged that the programs collected the exact kind of information (metadata) that we seek."

The coordination between EPA and staff at environmental activist groups is not surprising given the revolving door between the two.

[EPA official Al Armendariz](#), who was forced to resign after video emerged showing him pledging to "crucify" oil companies, was able to quickly land a job heading the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign.

**A review of Center for Responsive Politics data shows many environmental activists went to work for the EPA at the beginning of the Obama administration**

**or were EPA officials during Bill Clinton's administration who went to environmental groups and then returned to the EPA.**

For example, [Robert Perciasepe, deputy EPA administrator](#), worked at the agency during the Clinton administration from 1993 to 2001. He began working at the Audubon Society in 2001 before returning to the EPA in 2009.

[David McIntosh worked at the Natural Resources Defense Council](#) before serving at the EPA as a senior political adviser to Jackson from 2009 to 2011. He is now a lobbyist with Siemens Corp. as vice president for federal lobbying.

Meanwhile, members of Congress are also questioning the legality of the EPA greenhouse gas rules. Rules for future power plants are the subject of a newly launched investigation by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The committee [announced its inquiry in a March 12 letter](#) to McCarthy, requesting information on how the proposed rule was crafted and what evidence was relied upon to justify mandates requiring all new coal plants to install Carbon Capture and Storage technology.

Louisiana Republican Sen. David Vitter, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said **the EPA is working beyond its authority by requiring technology not commercially available.**

**"In typical EPA fashion, they're putting the cart before the horse to advance their environmental policy agenda,"** Vitter said in a statement. "They're moving forward with a controversial rule to regulate carbon based on technology that isn't commercially available. Not only is this wrongheaded, **it's beyond the scope of their legal authority.**"





# Here's How States Can Stop The EPA's War On Coal

by [James Simpson](#), [AIM.org](#), June 6, 2014

<http://www.aim.org/aim-column/states-can-stop-epas-war-on-coal/>



On Monday, the Obama administration [violated the law](#) by announcing stringent carbon dioxide emission targets for power plants that will effectively kill the coal industry. The new regulation calls for a 30 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 2030. Congress failed to pass so-called “cap and trade” legislation that would [enable such a move](#), so Obama is using the regulatory authority he claims the EPA already has to regulate carbon. But the president cannot just ignore the will of Congress. To do so assumes that Congress is irrelevant. Apparently, this is what President Obama believes.

Obama's Organizing for America website [brags](#) that the new EPA regulations are “the strongest action ever taken by an American president to tackle climate change.” Most media outlets are echoing Obama, heralding the new EPA rule, while downplaying or ignoring the calamitous effects it will have on the economy. CBS called it “[groundbreaking](#).” The Christian Science Monitor [calls it](#) “bold, signature, and controversial.” [CNN called it](#) “the boldest step yet,” characterizing prior U.S. positions as “hypocritical.”

ABC News cited a new poll claiming that [70 percent of Americans](#) think something should be done about global warming. This, of course, follows numerous polls that indicate just the opposite. A Gallup poll published in [The Washington Post](#) last year indicated that most people do not consider global warming a serious threat. An ABC poll found only 18 percent ranked global warming as their highest priority. Sixty-eight percent of respondents ranked the economy as the number one priority. A Pew poll found only 42 percent believed global warming to be caused primarily by human activity.

Media outlets dismissed concerns over the rule's impact on the economy, but it will have devastating effects. Called the "[Obamacare for climate change](#)," the EPA rule claims huge savings down the road; but, as President Obama put it, this "will require tough choices along the way." Tough indeed. It will raise energy costs nationwide at a time when our economy struggles to recover from the deepest recession since the Great Depression. A recent study projects the damages:

- Average annual \$51 billion reduction to U.S. Gross Domestic Product through 2030
- An average 224,000 fewer U.S. jobs every year through 2030
- U.S. consumers will pay \$289 billion more for electricity through 2030
- Lower total disposable income for U.S. households by \$586 billion through 2030

And just as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) claims Obamacare's unstated but [overt goal](#) is to destroy the private healthcare market, this new EPA rule is ultimately designed to [destroy the coal industry](#).

Some states have already vowed to fight against these regulations. Indiana Governor Mike Pence (R) [said](#), "Indiana will oppose these regulations using every means available." Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett (R) [promised](#) to "fight these regulations every step of the way." Many other U.S. senators and representatives have expressed similar sentiments. West Virginia and Wyoming are considering legislation to block the regulations. As Wyoming Senator John Barrasso (R) [noted](#), "The costs are real, the benefits are theoretical." Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) [called it](#) "a dagger in the heart of the American middle class."

Facing tough reelection campaigns in coal states, many Democratic politicians have also broken ranks to [voice their opposition](#). Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) called the new rules "disastrous." Democratic West Virginia U.S. Senate candidate Natalie Tenannt stated, "I will stand up to President Obama, Gina McCarthy and anyone else who tries to undermine our coal jobs..." Running against incumbent Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Democratic candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes promised, "I will fiercely oppose the President's attack on Kentucky's coal industry because protecting our jobs will be my number one priority."

## **Coordination**

Lawsuits and legislation may ultimately prevent this regulation from going forward; however, state and local governments have a simpler and more

effective tool at their fingertips: “coordination.” Coordination is a little-known feature embedded in [numerous environmental laws](#), including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, the Endangered Species Act, and other laws.

*Coordination requires the EPA and all other federal agencies to consider all effects of environmental regulations. [These effects include:](#) (ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), **aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative**. Effects may also include those resulting from actions which may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes that the effect will be beneficial. (emphasis added).*

The federal agency must prepare an “environmental impact” statement that includes impacts on the *human environment*. This refers specifically to all those aspects listed above. According to the law, “‘Human environment’ shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment.” The agency is only exempt if the proposed regulation has “no significant impact.”

Since these new carbon regulations will have a devastating effect on multiple aspects of the human environment, the EPA cannot unilaterally apply them as proposed. *The EPA must negotiate with state and local governments—they only have to ask.* Not only will conventional energy sources be gravely weakened, but our nation will be set on a course to use more and more solar, wind, and other exotic power generation. These are *three to four times more expensive* than traditional energy, and will send residential electricity rates through the roof. If you recall, candidate Obama promised this very thing back in 2008, saying that “[electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.](#)” [Obama added](#), “So, if somebody wants to build a coal plant, they can—it’s just that it will bankrupt them, because they are going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that’s being emitted.”

Solar and wind facilities require huge amounts of space to generate even tiny amounts of electricity. For example, the [Ivanpah solar farm](#) in southern California provides 1.1 percent of California’s residential energy needs, but requires *five square miles* of ground. And every bit of those five square miles is filled with moving, tilting mirrors that follow the sun. High maintenance costs are assured. A solar farm scaled up to serve all California homes—never mind industry—would require 500 square miles, an area almost half the size of Rhode Island.

Both solar and wind are deadly to the environment. For environmental purposes, the Ivanpah land essentially becomes a five square mile parking lot. Focusing the sun's rays on a single point as this facility does raises the temperature near the central tower as high as 1,000 degrees F, [incinerating any birds](#) that fly through. The Bundy Ranch showdown came about because multiple solar energy farms are planned for Clark County, Nevada; and land surrounding the ranch property is intended for "mitigation," i.e. to replace habitat for the endangered desert tortoise destroyed by solar facilities.

Modern wind turbines slaughter more birds than Perdue. At California's Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area, one of the first major wind generation facilities constructed in the U.S., the [Audubon Society estimates](#) that 4,700 birds die annually, including 75 to 110 Golden Eagles, 380 Burrowing Owls, 300 Red-tailed Hawks, and 333 American Kestrels. [According to Smithsonian.com](#), nationwide, wind turbines kill between 140,000 and 328,000 birds every year.

Solar and wind energy projects cannot survive on their own, requiring massive, unsustainable government subsidies to make them economically viable. Across the United States, [15,000 wind turbines](#) already stand abandoned; and throughout Europe, wind and solar energy are being reconsidered as problems mount and governments abandon the subsidies. In Spain, one study found that renewable energy jobs cost about 571,000 Euros, or more than \$776,000 each. At the same time, for each renewable energy job generated, the economy lost 2.2 jobs elsewhere. Wind generation has failed in Denmark, Spain, Greece, Portugal, and elsewhere. Stephan Kohler, [Germany's energy chief, says](#) that conventional power plants will be necessary until at least 2050 and calls Germany's Renewable Energy Act "pure insanity."

## **Fleeing the Taxpayers**

While Obama, the Democrats, and some Republicans have raised the specter of catastrophic global warming, the real "green" they seek [is greenbacks](#). **Even a cursory look into the backers of "green energy" projects reveals a who's who of the Democratic Left. Everyone from Al Gore to Bill Clinton to Barack Obama and their many friends, associates, and supporters have all lined up to cash in on "green" energy.** The idea is to use government subsidies to make the investments viable. As long as subsidies persist, the companies make money. But this can't last forever. Government subsidies must eventually end, as they are doing now in Europe and already did at many locations in the U.S. **But by the time this happens, investors have long since cashed out, leaving taxpayers holding the bag. The EPA rule, however, envisions an entirely new paradigm. Instead of subsidizing these green energy firms, the Obama administration intends to simply destroy the competition.**

James Simpson is an economist, businessman and investigative journalist. His articles have been published at American Thinker, Accuracy in Media, Breitbart, PJ Media, Washington Times, WorldNetDaily and others. His regular column is [DC Independent Examiner](#). Follow Jim on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#)

This commentary originally appeared at [AIM.org](#) and is reprinted here with permission.



## Welcome To The “No Pee” Section Of The Swimming Pool, America

by [Marita Noon](#) , EPAAbuse.com, June 7, 2014

[http://epaabuse.com/16429/editorials/welcome-pee-section-swimming-pool-america/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=welcome-pee-section-swimming-pool-america&utm\\_source=EPA+Abuse&utm\\_campaign=f8f22bf511-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_bdf7c53c9e-f8f22bf511-305309409](http://epaabuse.com/16429/editorials/welcome-pee-section-swimming-pool-america/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=welcome-pee-section-swimming-pool-america&utm_source=EPA+Abuse&utm_campaign=f8f22bf511-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bdf7c53c9e-f8f22bf511-305309409)



America is poised to become the “no pee” section of the global swimming pool, and the useless actions will cost us a bundle—raising energy costs, adding new taxes, and further crippling the economy.

On June 2, the EPA released its new rules for CO2 emissions from existing electricity-generating plants—which the New York Times (NYT) [states](#) “could eventually shut down hundreds of coal-fueled power plants across the country.”

When the plan was released, there were two key aberrations. Much can be gleaned from what didn't happen.

It was widely believed that President Obama would make the announcement himself. On May 10, regarding the proposed rule release, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy [said](#): “The president has indicated his intent to announce himself.” The

Hill [reported](#): “McCarthy called the move by Obama to announce the proposal ‘a strong indication of how important he sees this.’” But when it came right down to it, McCarthy made the announcement while Obama, according to the [NYT](#), played “a supporting role by making a telephone call to the American Lung Association.”

The White House’s own [website](#), in November 2009, announced Obama’s plans: “In light of the President’s goal to reduce emissions 83% by 2050, the expected pathway set forth in this pending legislation would entail a 30% reduction below 2005 levels in 2025 and a 42% reduction below 2005 in 2030.” Many media outlets, including the left-leaning Daily Beast, have indicated that “The EPA rules issued Monday are largely modeled on [a March 2013 blueprint from the NRDC](#) [Natural Resources Defense Council].” The NRDC plan projects 35-40 percent cuts in CO2 emissions over 2012 levels by 2025. As a result, it was reasonable to expect reductions in the 40 percent range.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce did an extensive [analysis](#) of the impacts of carbon cuts of 42 percent—and the results aren’t pretty. But when the draft regulations came out, the goal was 30 percent, not 42, or even 35-40.

Bloomberg [calls](#) the new rule “politically painful” for Democrats from coal-producing regions “as it forces power-plant closures and threatens to increase electricity rates for consumers.”

It is clear that the administration has received pushback over the reported economic impacts of the regulations—which tells us why Obama didn’t make the announcement himself and why the required reduction was lower than expected. (It is important to note that within the proposed rule is an acknowledgement that the final number could be much higher—likely, closer to the expected 40-42 percent range.)

The Chamber reported that global emissions are expected to rise by 31 percent between 2011 and 2030; yet all the pain—economic and political—the new regulations, based on the reductions in the 40 percent range, would inflict “would only reduce overall emissions levels by just 1.8 percentage points.” Now, with the 30 percent reduction number, the global impact will be much smaller.

Bloomberg states: “The administration and its Democratic allies are bracing for a political fight over the rule, which is critical to Obama’s legacy on climate and his efforts to coax other nations to agree.”

Australia has already walked away from its previous administration’s stringent climate policies due to economic pain and public backlash. Germany is

becoming more dependent on coal-fueled electricity. Wood is the number one renewable fuel in Europe. China and India have repeatedly refused to stop their economic growth by cutting back on their fossil fuel-based energy usage.

All the regulations the administration may impose will not “coax” the rest of the world to follow. Just because we declare that we won't pee in the pool won't stop the others.

*The author of [Energy Freedom](#), Marita Noon serves as the executive director for [Energy Makes America Great Inc.](#) and the companion educational organization, the [Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy](#) (CARE). Together they work to educate the public and influence policy makers regarding energy, its role in freedom, and the American way of life. Combining energy, news, politics, and, the environment through public events, speaking engagements, and media, the organizations' combined efforts serve as America's voice for energy.*



## **1 way for Americans to stop soaring electric bills**

### **New rules set to 'hurt middle class,' kill jobs**

Greg Corombos, news director for [Radio America](#), June 7, 2014

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/06/1-way-for-americans-to-stop-soaring-electric-bills/#yzVXcol2mCsRflr.99>



President Obama's new regulations on power plant carbon emissions shows he doesn't care about the coal industry, according to a coal country member of Congress, but he says there is a realistic way to stop the measures from ever taking effect that makes this year's midterms elections pivotal in the energy debate.

Earlier this week, the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, announced new rules that will force fossil fuel-based power plants to reduce emissions by 30 percent by 2030. The policy is a central piece of Obama's former “Cap and Trade” agenda that failed to pass a Democrat-run U.S. Senate four years ago. The administration is now advancing the policy through the executive branch.

Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Va., represents coal-rich southwestern Virginia. He said these rules would be devastating for his district and many others in a nation that gets at least 40 percent of its electricity from coal. Griffith said the president just made it very clear how little he regards the coal industry.

"I don't think the administration really cares about the coal industry, and I think they disregard a lot of facts when it comes to how this will impact middle-class Americans," he said. "They have shown a callous disregard for the folks in central Appalachia, the area that I represent and others.

"It just doesn't seem that they care. Their numbers are almost always wrong. They told us when they did another set of regulations relating to coal usage in utilities that we would lose around 10 megawatts of power capacity. We've actually lost about 62 by the end of this year. It's going to impact our grid and our grid system."

*Listen to the WND/Radio America interview with Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Va.:*

Griffith said there is no current technology to allow coal-based power plants to meet the new standards. He believes the advancement of technology could make it possible in 10-15 years. However, he said that doesn't help anyone right now, because the rules require states to have a plan in place within two years as to how they will reduce their emissions, and states cannot rely on technology that does not exist yet.

He believes prioritizing the development of cleaner burning of coal is a smarter way for Washington to proceed.

"That makes a lot of sense," Griffith said. "Pushing these regulations before the science is ready does not make sense. It's illogical, and it's going to hurt middle-class America."

The congressman said the coal industry would feel the initial pain from the rules, but a huge percentage of Americans would be negatively impacted.

"We will have less electricity available, and there's going to be greater costs as companies go to build new facilities to try to meet these new demands on carbon dioxide," Griffith said. "It's going to be very difficult for American families to pay those increased electric bills. It's going to be hard on American industry, so it's going to cost jobs and hurt middle-class families."

The debate continues to rage over the science behind the administration's push for its climate agenda. Griffith said before we even get into the academic



issues, its fairly clear that unilateral action by the United States is guaranteed to accomplish nothing.

“You don’t even have to get into the fight on the science. What you look at is this: Is the rest of the world going to do the same thing?” Griffith asked. “If the rest of the world doesn’t do the same thing, what we’re doing is killing jobs in the United States and sending those jobs to the rest of the world. They continue to use coal without even the reasonable regulations we had in effect before this administration took over.

“It’s a worldwide situation, and if all we’re doing is shifting the jobs to Asia, they’re going to ship us back dirty air in exchange for the jobs we have lost.”

So what recourse do opponents have since these rules are being implemented through the executive branch and not after a debate in Congress? A pretty effective one, according to Griffith. He said the midterm election results will be the deciding factor.

“Hopefully we’ll win elections and take over the Senate,” he said. “There are some Democrats who agree with us, but there are only a few. When we get control of the Senate, we then have the power to set aside regulations with a majority vote of the House and the Senate. That’s what we need to do, and the American people need to understand that elections have consequences. If they don’t want to see jobs lost and electric rates skyrocketing, then we need to change the Senate. To change Washington, we need to change the Senate.”

The congressman noted that approval from the president is not required to set aside regulations, so majorities on both sides of Capitol Hill could act on their own.



## **The Myth of the Climate Change '97%'**

**What is the origin of the false belief—constantly repeated—that almost all scientists agree about global warming?**

By Joseph Bast and Roy Spencer, The Wall Street Journal, May 26, 2014

Secretary of State John Kerry, President Obama and others frequently claim that climate change will have “crippling consequences,” and that “Ninety-seven percent of scientists agree that climate change is real, man-made and dangerous.” In reality, the assertion is science fiction. The so-called consensus comes from a handful of surveys and exercises in counting abstracts from

scientific papers – all of which have been contradicted by more reliable research.

One frequently cited source is Naomi Oreskes. She claimed to have examined abstracts of 928 articles and to have found that 75% supported the view that human activities are responsible for most of the observed warming over the previous 50 years, while none directly dissented. Ms. Oreskes's definition of consensus covered "man-made" influences but left out "dangerous" – and excluded scores of articles by prominent scientists who question the consensus. She also failed to acknowledge that a study published in the journal *Nature* noted that abstracts of academic papers often contain claims that aren't substantiated in the papers.

Another widely cited source for the consensus view is an article in *Eos: Transactions of the American Geophysical Union*. It reported the results of a two-question online survey of selected scientists, and claimed "97 percent of climate scientists agree." Most scientists who are skeptical of man-made catastrophic global warming would nevertheless answer "yes" to both questions. However, the survey was silent on whether the human impact – or the rise in temperature – is large enough to constitute a problem. It also failed to include scientists most likely to be aware of natural causes of climate change.

There is no basis for the claim that 97% of scientists believe that man-made climate change is a dangerous problem.



## **Scientists Slam Latest Doomsday Climate Report**

**NewsMax.com**

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=aj16oi7idfgmq#3345447077>

Climatologists and other experts are blasting a new climate change report from the Obama administration, calling it a "litany of doom" that objective scientists won't take seriously.

The National Climate Assessment (NCA), an 840-page report compiled by 300 scientists and experts that was released at a White House event on Tuesday, warns that climate change is a clear and present danger.

"Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present," according to the report.

Rising temperatures, it asserts, will be responsible not only for more drought, wildfires, flooding, and sea level rise, but also an increased risk of heat-related deaths.

The report states that the effects of climate change are evident in every region of the country, according to Gary Yohe, a Wesleyan University economist and vice-chair of the NCA advisory committee.

"One major take-home message is that just about every place in the country has observed that the climate has changed," he told the Guardian. "It is here and happening, and we are not cherry-picking or fear-mongering."

But that is exactly what the experts are seeking to do, critics charge.

Heartland Institute Senior Fellow James Taylor declared: "Leading authors of this report include staffers for activist groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists, Planet Forward, the Nature Conservancy, and Second Nature. Few objective climate experts will take this report seriously.

"Even those scientists who are not overtly affiliated with environmental activist groups were almost uniformly on the record as global warming alarmists before being chosen to write this report."

Mark Morano offered a round-up of reactions to the global warming report on his Climate Depot website.

Former Colorado State University climatologist Dr. Roger Pielke Sr.: "That much of the media accepted the NCA without questioning its findings and conclusions either indicates they are naïve or they have chosen to promote a particular agenda and this report fits their goal."

Dr. Judith Curry, chairwoman of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology: "The report effectively implies that there is no climate change other than what is caused by humans, and that extreme weather events are equivalent to climate change.

"Worse yet is the spin being put on this by the Obama administration."

Competitive Enterprise Institute Senior Fellow Marlo Lewis: The report is "designed to scare people and build political support for unpopular policies such as carbon taxes. Alarmists offer untrue, unrelenting doom and gloom."

Dr. Roy Spencer, principal research scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville: Part of the report "is just simply made up. There is no fingerprint of human-caused versus naturally-caused climate change."

Weather Channel Co-founder John Coleman: The report is a "litany of doom," a "total distortion of the data and an agenda-driven, destructive episode of bad science gone berserk."

Climate Depot's Morano said: "By every measure, so-called extreme weather is showing no trend or declining trends on 50-100-year timescales. Droughts, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes are not increasing due to man-made global warming.

"Why does the report now call 'global warming' a new name, so-called 'climate disruption'? Simple answer: Due to earth's failure to warm — no global warming for nearly 18 years — another name was necessary to attempt to gin up fear. "This report is predetermined science."



## Why I left California

**Joseph Farah sounds off on 'genuinely insane' move in Golden State**

[Joseph Farah](#), June 8, 2014

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/06/why-i-left-california/#qlbHaPUxExvBqQMz.99>

**Joseph Farah is founder, editor and CEO of WND and a nationally syndicated columnist with [Creators News Service](#). He is the author or co-author of 13 books, including his latest, ["The Tea Party Manifesto,"](#) and his classic, ["Taking America Back,"](#) now in its third edition and 14th printing. Farah is the former editor of the legendary Sacramento Union and other major-market dailies.**

Ronald Reagan once quipped: "I didn't leave the Democratic Party. It left me."

The same is true for me about California.

I did leave, of course, after more than 20 years of living and working there. But only because California had already left me – me and my values, me and my common sense, me and my sense of right and wrong.

I've never really looked back or second-guessed that decision. It was one of the best choices I made in life. Don't get me wrong. I *loved* California. Many of my friends still think I live there. I run into people all the time who still think I live there – 15 years after my exodus.

Here's a vivid illustration of how crazy, genuinely insane, California has become.

In last Tuesday's primary election, 287,000 Californians cast votes for suspended Sen. Leland Yee to become the state's chief elections officer. Yee was indicted earlier this year on federal charges of political corruption, gun-running, money-laundering and other crimes financed by payoffs from undercover agents.

I know, California is a big state. So what's a mere 287,000 votes? It represents 10 percent of the votes cast for that office and more than five other secretary of state candidates who had not been indicted – yet anyway.

In addition, Yee had dropped out of the race – but not in time to have his name removed from the ballot. He did not campaign. In fact, he was only recently freed from jail after posting \$500,000 bond and having his passport revoked. His indictment is 137 pages long.

Think about that. Ten percent of Californians who vote for secretary of state chose a guy facing a lot of federal prison time for political corruption!

If California were a person, he would be certifiably insane. No question about it.

But voting for a politician who railed against the right to bear arms while making deals with federal agents who said they wanted to buy guns from terrorists to turn a quick profit is not even the craziest decision Californians have made in the last 20 years.

How about electing Jerry Brown as governor? How about electing and re-electing Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer multiple times?

The one vote that sent me fleeing California in a hurry was the election of Gray Davis as governor.

Having worked in journalism in the state for more than 20 years, I was very familiar with Davis. I had seen him come up through the Democratic political ranks as an assemblyman, state senator and so on. When he ran for the Democratic nomination for governor, I actually voted *for* him. I'll tell you why.

The Republican nominee that year was Rep. Dan Lungren, a very decent guy. He wasn't facing a primary challenge. So I decided to cross over and vote for the candidate I considered least likely to beat him – Gray Davis. I assumed people saw what I saw – an extremely dull, ideologically rigid know-nothing phony.

Was I ever wrong.

He not only won the primary, he beat Lungren.

That's when I knew the great experiment known as California was over.

I told everyone I knew to expect the state to go downhill fast. And it did. Davis' policies brought on power shortages and chaos. He was actually recalled, paving the way for Arnold Schwarzenegger to be elected.

Things in California have gone from bad to worse since then. When I visit, it's still got a beautiful climate. There are parts of California that are still prosperous and lovely. But, as a state, it's finished. It's just too big to know it has failed.

It will take more than an indictment of one corrupt politician to save it – especially when that guy can still garner 287,000 votes.

Who were those people?

Were they legal voters?

Did they cast votes based on the ethnicity of the name on the ballot?

Did they know they were voting for a lying, corrupt political mobster and hustler?

Who knows?

Who will ever know?

Who even has time to think about when we have a president of the United States who decided to trade the five worst Taliban commanders, mass murderers all, for a deserter who went over the hill to join the Afghan jihadists? How can anyone understand anything going on in this crazy world of ours?



## **Electronic Cash-The End of Privacy**

**By Ted Baumann, Offshore and Asset Protection Editor, June 10, 2014**

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=63dopgs8lbs12>

Imagine cash never existed. There are only electronic records of all our financial transactions. Then imagine the reaction from the government if cash were to be introduced.

They'd be horrified. They'd consider cash a weapon of mass destruction launched against law enforcement. They'd claim that because cash is anonymous and untraceable, it's only of interest to criminals, drug cartels, terrorists, prostitution rings and money launderers. They'd demand a licensing procedure for individuals or businesses that plan to use cash, limiting it to trustworthy individuals who keep detailed, auditable records of all their cash transactions, in order to keep America safe from criminals.

Sounds crazy, right?

Not so fast. The pressure to eliminate cash — and to turn you and anyone else who prefers it into a presumptive criminal — is growing fast.

Twenty-four years ago, he correctly predicted that the first freedom we'd lose would not be civil liberties, freedom of the press or even freedom of religion. It would be something much more important to our daily lives. This "something" built this country and made it one of the greatest the world has ever known. And 99% of Americans won't realize they're trapped until it's too late. Will you?

Cash — coins and paper money — is only about 10% of the aggregate U.S. money supply, or M2. The rest is just entries on the balance sheets of banks. Nevertheless, plenty of people want to get rid of this remaining bit of real currency.

For example, Kenneth Rogoff, a professor of public policy and economics at Harvard University, recently published an article in the *Financial Times* headlined, "Paper money is unfit for a world of high crime and low inflation." He proposes that "it is time to consider whether ... phasing out currency would address the concern that a significant fraction, particularly of large-denomination notes, appears to be used to facilitate tax evasion and illegal activity."

Plenty of pointy-headed intellectuals agree with Rogoff. Matthew Yglesias believes that "Already, a movie character depicted as carrying a large quantity of cash can be reliably assumed to be doing something illegal," and therefore looks forward to the day when "cash will be left with its rump use as a medium of exchange for drug dealers, tax evaders, and other shady operators and we can expect countries to start banning it altogether."

Apparently, cash is only of interest to pimps, thieves and fraudsters. But there's more. In a cashless society, governments could easily force people to spend their wealth by decreeing a negative interest rate for all electronic deposits: use it or lose it.

Left-wing economists salivate at the prospect of “privatized Keynesianism.” There’d be no need to run government budget deficits to spur economic activity; just force people to spend their own virtual “money.” Under a negative interest rate, “money” would be like a hot potato, as each person who receives some in exchange for goods or services tries to spend it as quickly as possible to avoid loss of purchasing power that would come from storing it in a bank.

Or what if the United States decided to implement a Cyprus-style wealth confiscation one night to ease its tremendous debt burden? An all-electronic cash system would make it incredibly easy for the government to reach into your bank account and take what it needs, leaving you with...? Nothing.

Indeed, a growing number of economists and technocrats want all money to be virtual, and therefore under the control of government and corporate financial institutions. Of course, that would mean the elimination of financial privacy once and for all. In 1976, in *U.S. v. Miller*, the Supreme Court decreed that there is no legitimate expectation of privacy in any financial transaction that involves a third party. Every electronic transaction involves a third party, such as bank or credit-card processing company.

No cash = no privacy.

### **Damned if We Do, Damned if We Don't**

Cash allows private peer-to-peer transactions. It decentralizes power in society, and preserves a space where government and corporate elites can't monitor and control everything. That's why, for those elites, cash has simply got to go. And it's why we have to fight for our right to use cash.

There's a certain irony in that. After all, most cash in use today is issued by governments, and remains their property. They retain control over it and can manipulate its value at will. They can even declare it invalid and launch a new currency, as has happened numerous times in recent history. So in fighting for the right to use cash, we're fighting for one form of enforced dependence on government (state-issued cash) as opposed to another (electronic currency).

Plenty of people have tried to escape that contradiction. The most recent attempt is [Bitcoin](#), the “virtual currency” that captured everyone's attention late last year, and then collapsed in the face of hostility from a variety of governments, including China's.



The problem with Bitcoin is that it lives in the electronic ether. It's just as vulnerable to interference as a sovereign currency like the dollar or the euro. All it takes is a government decision to do so.

That's why the only real escape from the slowly closing circle of government domination of our financial lives lies in hard assets — foreign real estate holdings, gold, gemstones, rare collectible stamps, art and other valuable items.



## **Definition of the Word Conundrum**

Author Unknown

**The definition of the word Conundrum is: something that is puzzling or confusing. Here are six Conundrums of socialism in the United States of America:**

1. America is capitalist and greedy - yet half of the population is subsidized.
2. Half of the population is subsidized - yet they think they are victims.
3. They think they are victims - yet their representatives run the government.
4. Their representatives run the government - yet the poor keep getting poorer.
5. The poor keep getting poorer - yet they have things that people in other countries only dream about.
6. They have things that people in other countries only dream about yet they want America to be more like those other countries.

Think about it! And that, my friends, pretty much sums up the USA in the 21st Century.

Makes you wonder who is doing the math.

**These three, short sentences tell you a lot about the direction of our current government and cultural environment:**

1. We are advised to NOT judge ALL Muslims by the actions of a few lunatics, but we are encouraged to judge ALL gun owners by the actions of a few lunatics. Funny how that works.

And here's another one worth considering...

2. Seems we constantly hear about how Social Security is going to run out of money. How come we never hear about welfare or food stamps running out of money? What's interesting is the first group "worked for" their money, but the second didn't. Think about it.....

and Last but not least,

3. Why are we cutting benefits for our veterans, no pay raises for our military and cutting our army to a level lower than before WWII, but we are not stopping the payments or benefits to illegal aliens.

Am I the only one missing something?



## **Russian companies prepare to pay for trade in renminbi**

Jack Farhy and Kathrin Hille Financial Times, London Sunday, June 8, 2014  
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/9f686816-ed51-11e3-abf3-00144feabdc0.html>

Russian companies are preparing to switch contracts to renminbi and other Asian currencies amid fears that western sanctions may freeze them out of the US dollar market, according to two top bankers.

"Over the last few weeks there has been a significant interest in the market from large Russian corporations to start using various products in renminbi and other Asian currencies and to set up accounts in Asian locations," Pavel Teplukhin, head of Deutsche Bank in Russia, told the Financial Times.

Andrei Kostin, chief executive of state bank VTB, said that expanding the use of non-dollar currencies was one of the bank's "main tasks."

"Given the extent of our bilateral trade with China, developing the use of settlements in roubles and yuan [renminbi] is a priority on the agenda, and so

we are working on it now," he told Russian President Vladimir Putin during a briefing. "Since May we have been carrying out this work."

The move to open accounts to trade in renminbi, Hong Kong dollars or Singapore dollars highlights Russia's attempt to pivot towards Asia as its relations with Europe become strained.

Sanctions are pushing Russian companies to reduce their dependence on western financial markets while US and European banks have dramatically slowed their lending activity in Russia since the annexation of Crimea in March.

The central bank is working to create a national payment system to reduce the country's dependence on western companies such as Visa and MasterCard.

"There is nothing wrong with Russia trying to reduce its dependency on the dollar -- actually it is an entirely reasonable thing to do," said the Russian head of another large European bank. He added that Russia's large exposure to the dollar subjects it to more market volatility in times of crisis. "There is no reason why you have to settle trade you do with Japan in dollars," he said.

The chief executive of a Russian manufacturer that derives 70 per cent of its revenues from export in US dollars said his company had done the groundwork to move its contract settlements to different currencies in the event of further sanctions. "If something happens, we are ready to switch to other currencies -- for example to the Chinese yuan or the Hong Kong dollar," he said.

Alexander Dyukov, chief executive of Gazprom's oil division, has said that the company has discussed with its customers the possibility of shifting contracts out of dollars, while Norilsk Nickel told the FT that it was discussing denominating long-term contracts with Chinese consumers in renminbi.

"It looks like this is not just a blip -- this is a trend," said Mr Teplukhin of Deutsche Bank. He added that Russian companies were able to hedge the risk of further US sanctions by "changing the letter of their contracts to allow them to change currency if it is necessary."

Some politicians have suggested Moscow should respond to Western sanctions by entirely "de-dollarising" its economy.

But while in recent discussions with big business about how to make the economy less vulnerable the government has advocated listing back home and settling more trade in currencies other than the dollar, it has rejected more extreme measures.

"As long as Russia is not subject to systemic sanctions, which could bring an artificial limit to our economy's access to dollars ... then I don't think Russia will take any steps in order to bring about artificial de-dollarisation," said Andrei Belousov, economic adviser to Mr Putin.



## **Gazprom signs agreements to switch from dollars to euros**

Mikhail Dzhaparidze, © ITAR-TASS, June 06, 2014

<http://en.itar-tass.com/economy/735083>

**Nine of ten consumers had agreed to switch to euros, may be later contracts will be switch to roubles, the oil company's head Alexander Dyukov says**



MOSCOW. Gazprom Neft had signed additional agreements with consumers on a possible switch from dollars to euros for payments under contracts, the oil company's head Alexander Dyukov told a press conference.

"Additional agreements of Gazprom Neft on the possibility to switch contracts from dollars to euros are signed. With Belarus, payments in roubles are agreed on," he said.

Dyukov said nine of ten consumers had agreed to switch to euros.

ITAR-TASS reported earlier that Gazprom Neft considered the possibility to make payments in roubles under contracts. Some contracting parties agree to switch from dollars to euros and Yuans.

"The so-called Plan B is already partially worked out. The switch of dollar contracts to euros and Yuans is agreed on with some of our contracting parties. Under consideration is the possibility to switch contracts to roubles," Dyukov said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.



## **Death of the Dollar [Update]**

Dan Rubock, HiddenSecretsOfMoney.com, June 10, 2014

<https://www.hiddensecretsofmoney.com/blog/death-of-the-dollar-update-mike-maloney>

For more than four years now, Michael Maloney has been demonstrating to audiences around the world that every 30-40 years the world has an entirely new global monetary system, that the current monetary system (the U.S. dollar standard) is aging and becoming unstable, and, just like the previous monetary systems, will soon implode.

On June 1st, 2014, at the Cambridge House Investment Conference in Vancouver, Canada, he updated his "*Death of the Dollar*" presentation and showed how the "*Nails in the Coffin of the Dollar Standard*" are now coming faster and are more furious than ever before. He believes that there will be a global currency crisis before the end of this decade and that the days of the dollar standard are numbered.

In a second presentation on the same day he makes the most convincing argument yet that there is a massive deflation coming, that there will probably be an overnight devaluation of the dollar and huge overnight revaluation of gold, and, though it will be painful for most, it is the greatest opportunity in history for those who are prepared.

This 24:52 minute video presentation by Mike was posted on the *hiddensecretsofmoney.com* Internet site yesterday---and it's **definitely worth watching**.

<https://www.hiddensecretsofmoney.com/blog/death-of-the-dollar-update-mike-maloney>



## Asian gold strategy clarifying

Alasdair Macleod, Posted 06 June 2014

<http://www.goldmoney.com/research/analysis/asian-gold-strategy-clarifying?gmrefcode=gata>

**The Russians came up with an extraordinary statement recently, central to why Russia and China are buying gold, the importance of which was missed by the media. President Putin said that "Russia and China need to secure their gold and foreign reserves." He may have been overstepping the mark in making comments about China's monetary policy, but he was unlikely to have done so without good reason. Furthermore it is impossible to secure foreign currency reserves, because they are at all times under the control of the issuing central banks. So what Putin was actually implying was that China and Russia need to secure their gold.**

For those of us that follow these issues closely the emphasis on gold comes as no surprise. The reason this particular penny has not dropped in western markets is we do not think like they do. They emerged from failed communism based on Marxian creed. Keynesian and monetarist theories developed while most of Asia was in economic isolation, and is based less on Marx and more on Christianity. This means the Russians and Chinese have not automatically adopted western economic theory in the wake of communism's collapse: parts of it, yes, wholesale no.

For this reason it is far too simplistic for western commentators to analyse Russia and China in western terms. Both nations from the top down, in common with the whole Asian population, have no illusions about national currencies which always devalue over time, compared with gold which for them will always be the most secure store of value. And unlike western governments the Chinese and Russian governments regard themselves as being business-like in their affairs and so care very much about the quality of payment they receive for their nations' exports.

This is why it is likely gold will play a major role in cross-border trade in Asia. It is also worth noting that the Chairman of the State Bank of Russia is Putin's personal appointee, a woman who previously had been his own economic adviser. She would not have got this position by parroting anti-gold Keynesian and monetarist theory. All the indications are that Elvira Nabiullina is at one with Putin and that she, like him, is a commercial and economic realist. She is also one of very few central bankers who refuses to rescue insolvent banks.

The State Bank of Russia under her chairmanship is also accumulating gold, allocating what a western central bank would regard as precious foreign reserves that should be used to protect the currency in troubled times. So

Russia's view on gold is in line with China's, giving force and validity to Putin's statement.

### China's long-term plans

I have long argued that the Chinese government is working to a strategic plan, which is only partly disclosed through formal five and ten year targets. Having developed her economy on the back of rapid industrialisation China is now switching her attention to her own back yard, which ironically could be described as the maximum boundaries of Genghis Khan's empire in the thirteenth century, from the Bering Strait to the gates of Jerusalem. She will continue to trade with Europe and America and to extract minerals from Africa and Australia, but there is no doubt her commercial focus is now on Asia. And when it comes to cross-border trade settlement negotiated at inter-governmental level, we can assume western currencies will be excluded where possible. The choice will be for the balance of trade to be settled in a mutually acceptable Asian currency or gold.

China and Russia have been planning towards this outcome for a considerable time through the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and this is the backdrop to mutual trade settlement policies. Between its members, associates and future members the SCO covers almost all Asia, with the exception of the Sinophile nations of South-East Asia and the Arab states. These regional and cultural blocs are bound to be subsumed into the SCO as the west's economic and political power declines. It is a total market of over four billion people, four times that of a declining west.

Genghis Khan's old stamping ground is being moulded into an economic bloc that will become larger than the North American Free Trade Agreement and the EU together, and potentially more cohesive. It does not have the heavy baggage of the welfare state and its citizens are savers. The confidence China feels in this strategy is reflected in territorial disputes with her non-SCO neighbours. The sub-text is she is telling Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia to ditch the foreign influence of America and join the SCO.

Already governments all over Asia are beginning to recognise this pull towards a combined future. As soon as we leave Afghanistan she is likely to be fast-tracked into the SCO. Turkey is turning her back on joining the EU and is moving towards SCO membership. And coincidentally financial markets from Moscow to Dubai and perhaps even Bangkok are all gearing up to be gold-dealing centres.

The signs are as clear as daylight. With a financial system that has the structural stability of a house of cards and the prospect of eventual bankruptcy from welfare commitments, trade with the US and EU is not the future priority for China and Russia. And without the west's Keynesian and monetary baggage to carry, they have retained in large measure an understanding of the importance of gold as sound money.

This is why so much of the world's gold has ended up in Asia, including the Middle East. Gold is destined to be an integral part of Asia's financial system, leaving the west short and out in the cold. And we know from the tonnage flowing to Asia that much of this gold has come from western central bank vaults.

It amounts to an Asian gold strategy that excludes the west, and by suppressing the gold price through sales and leasing of monetary gold western central banks have unwittingly enabled China's carefully thought-out plans. How and when will western central banks break the news to us all, that the bulk of the gold reserves entrusted to them are now in Asian hands, and they have been secretly complicit since the 1970s in setting up a whole continent with what probably amounts to the largest wealth transfer in history?



## **US Expats Find Their Money Is No Longer Welcome at the Bank**

NewsMax Money News, 11 Jun 2014

[www.moneynews.com/InvestingAnalysis/bank-expats-citizenship-money/2014/06/11/id/576417#ixzz34LkR5aWp](http://www.moneynews.com/InvestingAnalysis/bank-expats-citizenship-money/2014/06/11/id/576417#ixzz34LkR5aWp)

Imagine being excluded from the financial services industry because of your passport.

That happened to Carrie Walczak, an American living in Germany, in May. She received a letter from Deutsche Bank informing her that her bank account was going to be closed because she is an American.

Walczak, a 37-year-old from upstate New York, lived in Brussels for seven years with her Belgian husband before moving to Bad Homburg, Germany, where she has resided for the past 18 months. Walczak says the letter informed her of new tax regulations required by the U.S. government, and because of that she is being dropped as a customer.

She says that a second bank account, from a financial institution based in Brussels, remains open, but only because she signed two documents allowing



the bank to disclose all of her banking information to the IRS. She has a third bank, based in Germany, which hasn't sent any letters to her.

"So that seems safe for now," Walczak says, admitting that she is rattled. "The problem is that to get paid and to have a normal life, one does need a bank account. If eventually other or all banks follow Deutsche Bank's lead, it could make my life very difficult."

Not to mention for all American expats, who number between 5 million and 6 million. In 2010, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act became law in the United States, making it harder for American taxpayers to hide assets.

Foreign banks and other financial institutions are required to give information to the Internal Revenue Service about Americans' accounts worth more than \$50,000. There is a slight reprieve: in 2014 and 2015 the law is in a "transitional period," with the IRS not taking punitive measures if a bank appears to be making a good-faith effort to comply.

Many of the account-closing complaints are coming from Americans living in Switzerland, according to David McKeegan, co-founder of Greenback Expat Tax Services, headquartered in Hong Kong.

That is due to Switzerland's banking troubles in recent years. In 2009, UBS paid a \$780 million fine to the IRS for helping American taxpayers hide money abroad. In May, Credit Suisse was fined \$1.2 billion for similar charges.

Neither firm made executives available for comment.

Still, it can be tough to keep a bank account if you're an American living in any country. "We're even hearing of some American banks closing accounts of Americans because they live overseas," McKeegan says.

### **BE PERSISTENT**

If you're an American expat and you have a bank account or have recently moved and need to get one, Michele Moore Duhon advises patience. Duhon relocated from Boston to London in April. She was able to open a bank account at Barclays, but it took some effort.

"My passport wasn't enough. They wanted bills proving I lived where my flat contract stated I lived. But you can't set up for bills until you have a bank card," Duhon says.

It took her about 10 days and several back and forth trips to the bank with various pieces of paperwork before she and her husband, a French citizen, could get accounts.

Don't assume that if a bank shuts your account you do not have other options in the same country. Darryl Daugherty, a due diligence specialist from Baltimore, says fellow Americans are having trouble opening accounts in Bangkok, where he has lived for 13 years.

"It's not yet insurmountable," Daugherty says. You just have to keep checking around for friendlier banks, he adds.

### **RENOUNCE YOUR CITIZENSHIP**

Renouncing U.S. citizenship is a drastic measure, and surely an unintended consequence of FATCA. But McKeegan says he has seen American taxpayers doing that.

"It's not just the super rich doing it," McKeegan says. "We're talking average, middle-class people, people teaching English as a second language and doing freelance jobs making \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year, simply because of the fact that they can't open locked bank accounts."

Last year, nearly 3,000 Americans, a record, renounced their citizenship or residency, according to the IRS. In the first quarter of 2014, another 1,000 people have followed suit.



## **We Will Return to Gold Standard**

Courtney Coren, NewsMax Money News, 09 Jun 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/NewsmaxTv/Steve-Forbes-gold-standard/2014/06/09/id/575984#ixzz34LmG5qzv>

Business mogul Steve Forbes says that not only is a return to the gold standard a realistic option, but "circumstances" in our economy will necessitate it.

"We were on the gold standard for 180 years in this country's history — did very well with it," Forbes told J.D. Hayworth, John Bachman and Miranda Khan on "America's Forum" on Newsmax TV on Monday.

"If we'd been on a gold standard since 1971, when Richard Nixon took us off the gold standard, today our economy would be 50 percent larger if we'd just maintained historic growth rates we had for the first 180 years of our existence," the chairman and editor-in-chief of Forbes Media explained.

The gold standard is a monetary system in which the value of currency is equal to a fixed amount of gold. The currency can also be converted into gold.

"Gold gives money . . . stability just like the ruler measures length, the clock measures time, a scale measures weight," Forbes added. "A dollar measures value and when the value is stable, you get a lot more investment, a lot more growth, a lot more opportunity."

Without the gold standard in place, the dollar has grown increasingly unstable, even though there have been "periods of strength," Forbes says.

"When you have an unstable dollar, you get more speculation," he explained. "You get the kind of thing you saw with the housing bubble, and so that spells trouble for all of us."

The dollar grows increasingly unstable over a long period of time, but it "just drains us away" and "because it's not dramatic like a German hyper-inflation, people just kind of get used to it in Washington."

And Forbes claims that "we have enough gold in our vaults now" to go back to the gold standard.

Forbes told Newsmax that had we stayed on the gold standard the Dow Jones Industrial Average "wouldn't be at 16,000 to 17,000," but "would be at 25,000 or 30,000."

The business mogul argues that the practice of quantitative easing has kept the economy from the sharp recovery that is typical in the United States during an economic downturn, and that those who have tried to use quantitative easing as a means to give the economy a hand are "guilty of economic malpractice."



## **Obama using 'Cloward-Piven maneuver'** **'Attempt to flood the border with illegals' part of** **infamous socialist strategy**

[Jerome R. Corsi](#), World News Daily, June 11, 2014

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/06/congressmen-obama-using-cloward-piven-maneuver/#T2Gi7cmeEko3EiHE.99>



NEW YORK – Two U.S. congressmen tell WND they believe the flooding of America's Southwest border with thousands of illegal-alien children seeking government handouts and citizenship is the intended outcome of policies by the Obama administration derived from a strategy by radical sociologists to transform America into a socialist state.

In the 1960s, professors Andrew Cloward and Francis Fox Piven of Columbia University, Obama's alma mater, devised a plan to provoke chaos by deliberately overwhelming governmental systems and the U.S. economy to the point of collapse, paving the way for state intervention that would ultimately replace America's free-enterprise republic with a collectivist system.

"I do feel this attempt to flood the border with illegals is a playing out of the Cloward-Piven theory," said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa.

"If you don't see them bring reinforcements down there to seal the border, that means that, yes, it's a Cloward-Piven maneuver to flood the country until we get to the point where we are an open-borders country that welcomes everybody, legal and illegal," he told WND.

Rep. Steve Stockman, R-Texas, agreed that Obama – [who studied the chaos strategy at Columbia, according to a classmate](#) – "is trying to do a Cloward-Piven thing with the border."

"Obama follows all the far-left, Leninist, socialist-type stuff," Stockman told WND.

**Read more at** <http://www.wnd.com/2014/06/congressmen-obama-using-cloward-piven-maneuver/#T2Gi7cmeEko3EiHE.99>



## **Obama's refugee crisis**

### **Joseph Farah says BHO 'practically sent out engraved Spanish-language invitations'**

[Joseph Farah](#), World News Daily, June 12, 2014

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/06/obamas-refugee-crisis/#W1JxBDPa5ZAHbUZq.99>

The way Barack Obama has fundamentally transformed America over the last six years, you might expect to see American citizens fleeing the country in massive numbers.

Who knows? We might still see it, given that he's got two-and-a-half years left in office.

But, with the economy in shambles, who would have expected a flood of refugees walking into the country – tens of thousands of children, no less? More every day.

The answer to that question is simple: anyone who recognizes that government's actions have real-life consequences. Anyone who understands that if government stops policing the border, more people will enter the country illegally. Anyone who knew that waving amnesty flags and Dream Acts would attract more immigrant children – this time not even accompanied by parents.

This is Obama's refugee crisis. He created it. He practically sent out engraved Spanish-language invitations to come to the Promised Land. He has a few accomplices who share the blame – virtually his entire party and plenty of country-club Republicans, like the late great House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. But, this humanitarian crisis was authored by Obama. It has his name written all over it. He didn't even need a ghostwriter this time.

What's ironic and tragic about the massive influx of a virtual children's army pouring across the southern border is that illegal immigration into the U.S. had actually subsided because of the rotten economy Obama has presided over for the entirety of his administration. Maybe that's why the grownups are staying home and only sending their children on a death-defying march to the U.S.

There's almost no work for Americans in America. But there are plenty of taxpayer freebies available – especially for hungry kids.

**Read more at** <http://www.wnd.com/2014/06/obamas-refugee-crisis/#W1JxBDPa5ZAHbUZq.99>



## **Ex-border agents, Immigrant flood 'orchestrated'**

**'We are not gullible enough to believe thousands came without aid and assistance'**

Bob Unruh, World News Daily, June 11, 2014

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/06/ex-border-agents-immigrant-flood-orchestrated/#p8OsW8yKuBG7zm1b.99>

An organization of former Border Patrol agents Wednesday charged that the federal government, under the administration of President Obama, is deliberately arranging for a flood of immigrant children to arrive in America for political purposes.

"This is not a humanitarian crisis. It is a predictable, orchestrated and contrived assault on the compassionate side of Americans by her political leaders that knowingly puts minor illegal alien children at risk for purely political purposes," said the statement released by [the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers](#).

"Certainly, we are not gullible enough to believe that thousands of unaccompanied minor Central American children came to America without the encouragement, aid and assistance of the United States government," the officers said.

"Anyone that has taken two six- to seven-year-old children to an amusement park can only imagine the problems associated with bringing thousands of unaccompanied children that age up through Mexico and into the United States."

[Republicans are blaming Obama's immigration policies](#) for enticing the illegals, particularly the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program launched in 2012, which recently was renewed.

More than 33,000 have been caught in Texas alone over the last eight months, the report said, overwhelming Border Patrol capabilities.

A federal judge even concluded the White House "has simply chosen not to enforce ... border security laws."

[FoxNews.com reported this week](#) Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer calls the situation a “creation” of the federal government, and Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., assigned blame for the “calamity” to Obama.

Fox News reported it had obtained a memo from an official with Customs and Border Protection who said the current policies are serving as an incentive for illegal aliens to sneak into the U.S.

“If the U.S. government fails to deliver adequate consequences to deter aliens from attempting to illegally enter the U.S., the result will be an even greater increase in the rate of recidivism and first-time illicit entries,” said Ronald Vitiello, a deputy Border Patrol chief.

Officials say among Obama’s policies that are attracting illegals is his instructions for “deferred action” for young illegals. Recently, the federal government said it was hunting for lawyers to provide legal help to children who are in the U.S. illegally.

The White House is asking for \$1.4 billion more for the illegal-alien children, which by some estimates will grow to 150,000 next year.

The former Border Patrol agents said the campaign is a “political deception,” and the responsibility rests with the political leaders who support “a path to citizenship, regularization or any other form of amnesty for illegal aliens before providing for full protections for national security (jobs and economy) and public safety (the right of the people to be secure in their property and person).”

The officers argue that the non-enforcement of immigration laws is “the next step in becoming a failed state.”

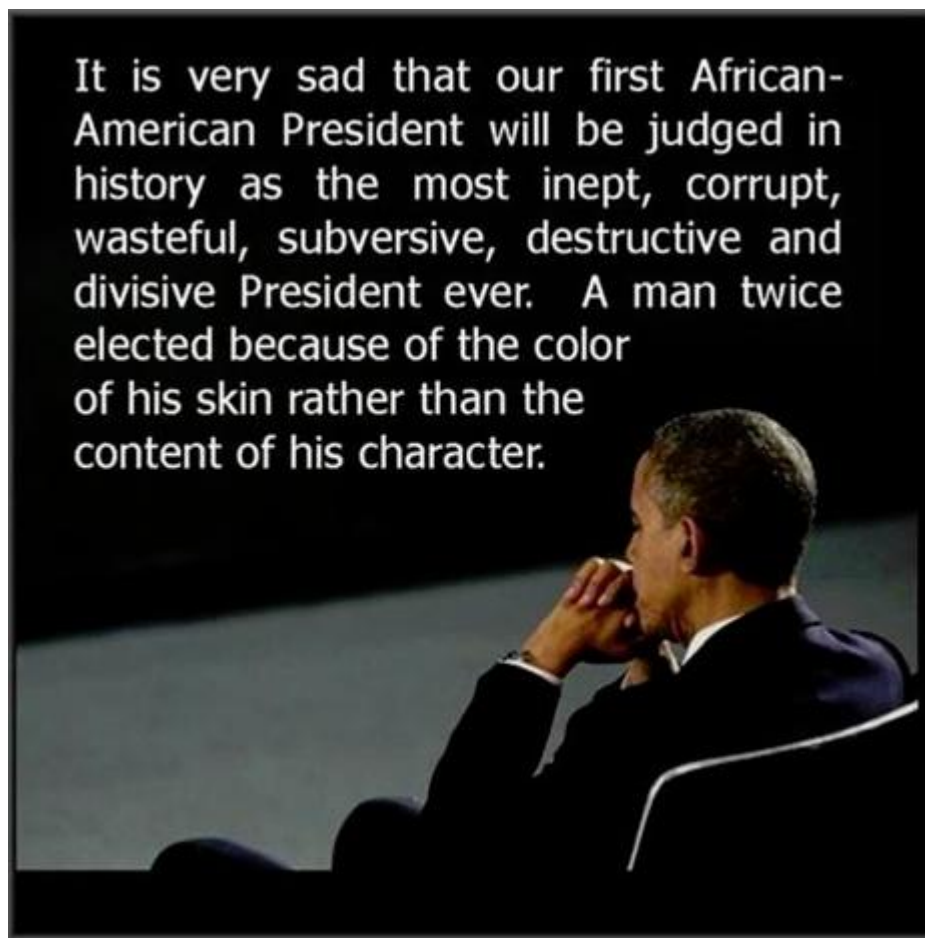
“Yes, our leaders are guilty. However, we are responsible because it is the American voter [who] has placed untrustworthy people in positions of power and kept them there when they have clearly demonstrated that they have violated that public trust.

“These successful con artists are well dressed, attractive and charming,” the statement said.

The officers even questioned whether “this heartless criminal exploitation of Central American infants and children [will] finally awaken Americans to the ruse being foisted upon them by their government, the media and other interested parties.”

“Has America lost her ability to stand up against the tyrants and do what is right rather than what is easy? Obviously, this administration thinks you are as corrupt as they are and will vote them back into office or these young children would not be streaming into America to tug at your hearts and empty your heads of reason,” the statement said.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest this week said the Federal Emergency Management Agency is leading an effort to respond to the illegal alien children arriving in the U.S. He said many are “escaping abuse or persecution” and are being sent to locations in Texas and Oklahoma.







## OREGON

### UPDATE on Efforts to Ban Lead Ammunition for Hunting

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=dnv09ee65g2dd#7812810688>

As previously [reported](#), the [Oregonian](#) newspaper recently published a series of articles about [California condors](#) and the use of lead ammunition for hunting. Now, Oregon State University has published an [article](#) detailing an upcoming collaboration between OSU and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on an effort to survey Oregon hunters about their use and knowledge of lead ammunition.

This survey, which is set to begin later this month, will consist of a random sample of 4,200 hunters from each geographic region of Oregon. Survey results are SUPPOSED be used for the dual purpose of informing discussions among agencies, groups and others about any potential restrictions in the use of lead ammunition and to gather information from the individuals who would be most impacted by any restrictions on lead ammunition - hunters. However, it seems odd to conduct a survey on the impact of lead ammunition unless there is a future intention or plan to implement a restriction on it.

The OSU article goes on to discuss the California condor and attempts to restore its population via banning lead ammunition. "Historically, Oregon has had condors, though none are known to live here now, however, there are efforts to re-establish populations in northern California and if they are successful, it is only a matter of time before condors begin frequenting the southern portions of Oregon." This could potentially be foreshadowing for an alternative ammunition agenda and an impending ban on traditional lead ammunition in Oregon?

Your NRA is keeping a close eye on this issue and the impact it may have on sportsmen in Oregon. In addition to those hunters who have been selected to participate in the survey, those not chosen are encouraged to provide feedback on lead ammunition directly to the [Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife](#). **We encourage you to share your thoughts with the ODFW.** For more

information on the all-out assault on lead ammunition throughout the United States, please visit [www.huntfortruth.org](http://www.huntfortruth.org).



~~~~~

In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107, any copyrighted material herein is distributed without profit or payment to those who have expressed

a prior interest in receiving this information for non-profit research and educational purposes only. For more information go to:  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>