



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Editor: Penny Esplin

PRESIDENT: Karen Darnell

VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Moore

TREASURER: Alice Phillips

April 23, 2015

Message from the President: Thanks for another well-attended meeting last Thursday. It is always good to meet old friends and see new faces. Let's do it again in May when we host Les and Carol Berg for an evening of fun and informative metal detecting expertise.

This is a little hard for me to do since I want everyone to enjoy Millennium Diggers membership 100% of the time, but I feel the need to pull you into the mining struggle we are having in Oregon and California. It is going to take a little bit of something from all of us to bring about the preferred outcome of fair and balanced mining and prospecting regulations in our home states and other states we prospect in.

So, please, bear with me, our legislative session concludes in July. Personally, I cannot wait until I no longer have to constantly be checking my email box to see if it is time to sprint to my keyboard or Salem in an attempt to preserve our rights.

Two months ago, I went to Olympia, Washington to the public hearing for the HB1162 anti-mining bill. The sponsors wanted to devote over a million dollars to studies. Mining interests in opposition of the bill turned out in good attendance, two or three times as many of us as them. We successfully killed the bill. Washington is out of danger for now.

Two weeks ago I attended a public hearing on SB830, Oregon's current anti-mining bill in the legislature. The bill removes the moratorium and places permitting mercy at the hands of known anti-mining groups. I knew it had been introduced and had talked about it among association leadership; I was just waiting for it to appear on the committee schedule so I could begin submitting testimony against it. The hearing was

attended by miners in Washington and, with pride, all over Oregon. Maybe more Oregon miners have day jobs because there were not a lot of us, I don't know, but I do know this: there were 23 written testimonies submitted to the committee - 18 in support of the anti-mining bill, 5 in opposition (I wrote 2 of the 5). What happened to Oregon miners? Where were they? Only one other association leader had submitted testimony and quite frankly, I'm a little disappointed in the lack of response. This bill is currently in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, so there is still action to take to try to stop it before it gets to the Governor's desk.

Fast forward to today, 4/29: California SB637 anti-mining bill received a public hearing in Sacramento. Same deal as Oregon's bill, this puts permitting duties on an agency heavily influenced by the **enviro-cartel**. Because of California's very different written testimony submission rules, I did not act quickly enough to get my opposition submitted. I did submit materials for an informational binder that was compiled by miners for the committee, though, and I watched the hearing via live feed. The verbal testimonies focused on exposing the lies, cover-ups, and omitted science of the effects of suction dredging. There were about 80 signed-in as opposing the bill and only 4 people in support of the bill! Outstanding showing! Unfortunately, we didn't win that round; the committee still voted 5-0 to send the bill over to the next step - the Appropriations Committee. Just like in Oregon, the job still exists to stop this bill.

I hate to hoist this crud up to you, and I promise only to do it when necessary. Things move at lightning speed in the state houses. Currently, it is important for each one of you to keep your radar up and trained on watching for the next action items needed in the fight against these anti-mining bills. Please stay close to your phones and check your emails a couple times each day.

Thank you for your support, patience and dedication.

Karen Darnell

Call to Order: Karen called the meeting to order @ 7:10 pm.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag –

Attendance: There were 22 members, including brand new member, Bob. We had 2 guests, Daren Marker and Scott Atkinson, who was also our guest speaker.

Treasurer's Report: Alice gave us a report on our finances. The report was approved and accepted unanimously.

Claims Info: Nothing new to report. -Need to send mining claims information and directions to all new members. -Send PDF directions to Karen. -Christoph/Jeeter Creek

Tonight's Guest Speaker: Scott Atkinson from Amboy, Washington. President of the NW Prospectors in Portland. Scott gave us his in depth personal story about how he ended up in mining, and is active in conservation efforts, mining outreach and the politics of mining. He was quite interesting, and knows a lot about the ins and outs of mining, including the major struggles we miners are up against; with the "greenies" the "stonewalling" and the **liars** in the "political arena". He is a great benefit to our cause.

Thank you Scott!



Scott Atkinson, our guest speaker

Upcoming Outings: Metal detecting outing in Hubbard; along railroad tracks area and parking lot of church. Karen is checking into this.

New Business: A motion was made by Joe and seconded by Ken: **To make Barb Parker an Honorary Member for her dedicated work on our website for many years.** All were in favor. Way to go Barb! YAY!

Down in Galice Mining District: Sugar Pine Mine has had surface rights in place **pre-1955**. BLM barged in on the site saying *they* have control of the surface rights. Then, proceeded with an order given "to remove all buildings and equipment, rock crusher, stamp mill, cabins, etc."

A Pre-Court date is being set. BLM is way out of their bounds. **Sugar Pine does not have to move anything!**

“Oath Keepers”(defenders of our constitution) have been on site at Sugar Pine, keeping order and making sure BLM does not come in Pre-Court, while defending the property rights and mining claim rights of the owners of Sugar Pine Mine. It has been a continuous operating mine since 1878, changing ownership through the years.

The **Oath Keepers** while on site do need supplies: medical, batteries, galley, etc.

For more detailed information, or to make a donation to the cause, look up **oathkeepers.com** and/or **sugarpinemine.com**.

Rally held today in Medford: On Thursday, April 23rd at NOON (Pacific Standard Time), there will be a support rally for the Sugar Pine Mine at Galice Oregon at the Medford District BLM office. For those of you who cannot attend, we are asking you to gather and peacefully protest outside your LOCAL BLM office. We are calling on all miners, loggers, farmers/ranchers and freedom lovers everywhere who are tired of government abuse to tell the BLM that the people of this country that they are sick to death of the way that they have been conducting themselves.

The Rally was held at the Medford BLM on April 23. The Oath Keepers were there supporting the little Galice Mining Group; rallying against the BLM and the blatant attack on Sugar Pine Mine (and others). There were folks from Montana, Idaho, Washington, from all over, rallying there to support those guys, and the direct attack on property rights. It was an impressive showing.

Chuck brought up the question of whether guns can be carried on federal land.

Joe and Claudia answered **“NO”**- on federal campus where federal buildings/offices are located. And **“YES”**- on federally managed forest-public domain

Available Raffles: #1) 50/50

#2) the Christmas sluice w/ accessory package

#3) the monthly table raffles

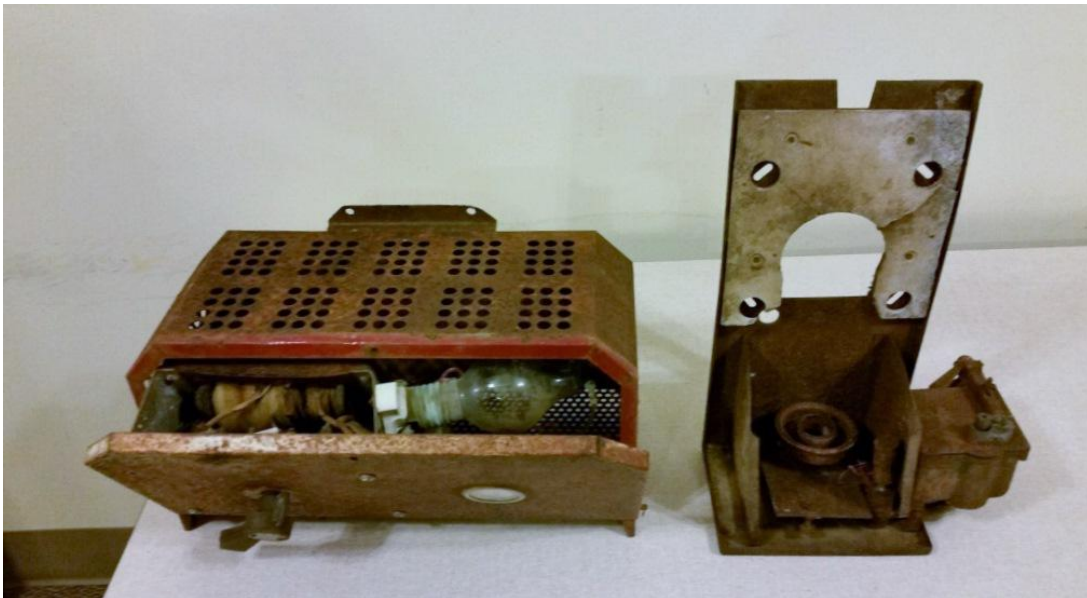
Rocks/Treasures letter “E”: Don Eshe brought Thundereggs from his claim and various site in Eastern Oregon. “Skull Springs- Oregon Hot Spot in the World”

Ken Orndorff brought ***Epidote*** from Beaumont, California and ***Astrophilite*** from Russia.

Delmon brought an old kerosene burner and an old battery charger he found amongst some junk in the brush.



Thunder eggs from Don Esch



Delmon's treasures: an old battery charger and a kerosene burner.

Snacks: We voted "YES" to have a snack donation jar on the snack counter at each meeting.

Letter for May is "F": Feldspar, flint, fuschite, fluorite, faceted gems! And more!

OUR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY MAY 28th @ 7:00pm Be There!

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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.



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## **GOLD & MINING**

***"Without justice being freely, fully, and impartially administered,  
neither our persons, nor our rights, nor our property can be protected.***

***If these, or either of them, are regulated by no certain laws, and are subject to no certain principles, and are held by no certain tenure, and are redressed, when violated, by no certain remedies, society fails of all its value; and men may as well return to a state of savage and barbarous independence.*** — Joseph Story, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Commentaries on the Constitution (1833)

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## **Millennium Digger Response to Oregon Senate Bill 830**

Claudia Wise, Joe Greene and I met a few days ago in effort to come up with amendments to SB830 that would make this an acceptable bill, and after getting halfway through it with six amendments, we decided that if we proposed ten and were given three, or even six, the bill would still be unacceptable. We used Jan Alexander's and Guy Michael's suggested amendments as a guide, and agreed with many, but still found the finished product lacking in a balanced and transparent approach. There are compromises, glaring opportunities for abuse and unfair and overreaching regulation, as well as third party interference. Indian tribes should have no say regarding federal mining claims nor should tribal representatives be meeting with DEQ to promote further regulation against small scale miners.

In the end, we must oppose this bill. Otherwise, it must exempt Mining Districts, preserving the authority of mining districts and the relationship they have with the federal government, thus allowing the state to regulate their public recreation areas without interfering with mining.

We see no possible middle road in this bill that would allow federal mining claim holders the ability to work their claims without the state meeting annually to find more ways to materially and economically interfere. The state can only offer fair environmental regulation, which they have not shown to be able to comprehend.

We are offering as our amendments to SB 830 the California 1994 Suction Dredge regulations as an example we believe Oregon small scale miners could live with that in all instances as expressed by the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (then Ca dept. Of Fish and Game) is protective of fish and wildlife. This document attached could also be amended to include upland placer mining and be rewritten into an appropriate Oregon small scale mining regulation document in

consultation with Oregon mining community associations as required by law. Proposed regulations begin on pg. 103 of EIR document.

Karen Darnell  
Millennium Diggers Association, President  
April 13, 2015

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## **MINERS DECLARE INDEPENDENCE**

### **Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC)**

Early on a crisp and clear February morning in the California Desert, a group of hardy individuals met to cheer the formation of the Federal public lands stakeholder organization: Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC). It is not often an event of great historical significance occurs; and usually the full magnitude of what those events mean are not realized at the time by those participating. I believe one of those historical events occurred near Randsburg, CA on Feb. 25th, 2015 at the Sleepy Bear Mine. It was with great pride that I joined nearly 80 patriot miners and those fighting to keep public lands open, to be a part of the launch of what is becoming the voice for mining and public land users across America. 80 people may not sound like many, but remember, there were only 56 signers on the original Declaration of Independence, and you know where that went! There were many clubs, organizations and businesses represented by those in attendance.

Our strength is in the individual, grass roots if you will. Our strongest public property rights outside the Constitution were the rights granted to us under the 1872 Mining Law. The 1872 Mining Law was based on the laws that miners had established by self-initiation when they formed Mining Districts throughout the West. Those laws/rules were working and so they became codified into Law. We have the FEDERALLY GRANTED RIGHT to access, prospect and extract minerals from our mining claims, regardless of what arbitrary designation was slapped onto the land in the latest round of land and road closures. It has been said that the people perish for lack of knowledge, and the people lose their rights for the same lack of knowledge. It's time for us to pick up the legal tools granted to us under Federal Mining Law and get to work reversing the trend that has been hammering away at our rights. We need to pick up the pieces that have been

chipped off and reconstruct what has been lost. The first thing MMAC is doing is exactly that! By organizing the historic Mining Districts in the 19 western states, miners will again have a say in what happens on public lands with Congress and BLM. This is only the first step in regaining control over the destiny of the Public Lands and our mining rights.

Just as when the Mining Districts were first formed, people were elected to run the Districts and watch out for the rights of the individuals. Mining Claim rules were successfully worked out to such a degree that the basic rule structure that was in place was preserved in the 1866 and 1872 Mining Laws and have also been reinforced by court cases and additional clarification laws down through the years. MMAC is educating folks, informing them that the rights they have are far stronger than what they realized, and they have been losing those rights by not being informed and organized.

Miners are not afraid of doing hard work and getting dirty. They know how to use picks and shovels to wrest gold and other minerals from the earth, thus creating wealth. The bureaucrats in DC and around the country seem to have forgotten this all important point: "If it's not grown, it's mined." MMAC has been created to do just that, and much more. It is the voice the miner, the off roader, the hunter, hiker, fisherman and anyone that gets "out there" on our public land. MMAC is the voice and the muscle needed to preserve the freedom to use and enjoy OUR public lands, preserving the intent of what our country and mining laws were are based on, public property rights, which in turn also protect our private property rights. When you own a Federal Mining claim, you own the minerals on that claim, which are your private property. You do not own the land, it remains Public Land.

The Mineral and Mining Advisory Council's mission is four-fold:

- ★ Bring together all the groups and organizations that are fighting for the same thing.
- ★ Organize, Modernize, Institute and Unify all Nation-Wide Mining Districts. (By May 31st 2015)

★ Minerals and Mining (MMAC) to be recognized as Federal Public Land Stakeholders. This has happened regionally and now MMAC is going for National Recognition.

★ To become Legal Federal Agents, all under ONE VOICE: MMAC!

MMAC shall be the unified voice of the Mining Districts, providing guidance and balance to the important homeland strategic minerals, metals and rare earths; as well as general mining and public land use as originally intended, coexisting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In accomplishing this mission, MMAC will tear off the bonds of over-regulations, duplicate regulations and agencies, cutting down on paperwork, law suits, and debunking flawed studies, analysis and information. This will cut state and federal spending on behalf of minerals and mining, clarify who is in charge and establish a working relationship, coexisting with BLM. In completion of this mutual coexistence, MMAC will be creating thousands of brand new, long-term, high-paying jobs. This includes mining, parts, vendors, manufacturing, rentals, wholesalers and retailers. Again, remember, "If it is not grown, it's mined".

Mining claim owners under MMAC will be electing District Administrators for all Mining Districts, as well as other positions needed in the organization to move MMAC ahead successfully. Applications are being accepted for positions in your MMAC Administrative District until April 30th on-line at the MMAC website: <http://www.mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org> or the short version: [www.usammac.org](http://www.usammac.org) Voting begins May 1st, and runs through May 31st, 2015. Get on the ballot and get out the VOTE! Spread the word about what is happening in the mining community. MMAC District Administrators will be the head and voices of their individual districts.

It takes all of us working together to make this happen. It is our time to get involved. Obviously, what we have done in the past (mostly nothing or next to it), hasn't worked. We have continued to lose access to our public land. Have you seen a land use map of our country lately? It is beginning to look a lot more like the Crown King's forest than open, free public land. I'm all for preserving pristine landscapes for future generations to enjoy, but we must have balance between preservation, the economy and recreation. Too much of any one and the other two suffer.

It's time for all of us to put our minor (and Miner!) differences aside and work together to preserve our mining and public lands rights for our kids and grandkids. As Walt Wegner, President of Public Lands for the People is fond of saying: "It's time to take it back and KEEP IT!"

MMAC's goal is to be recognized as Federal Public Land Stakeholders by summer 2015 (This actually happened on February 28th, 2015 3:30 pm PST), and a Federal Agency by the end of 2015. For more info contact: [info@mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org](mailto:info@mineralsandminingadvisorycouncil.org)

Ron Kliewer, Vice President, Public Lands for the People  
[www.publiclandsforthepeople.org](http://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org)

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## **Gold dredging situation in California is like something out of a science fiction movie!**

Dave McCracken, New 49ers, May 7, 2015

In a surprising oral ruling on 30 April in San Bernardino, Judge Ochoa instructed our attorney that we could not file for injunctive relief in Siskiyou County to prevent California Department of Wildlife (DFW) wardens from enforcing the unconstitutional suction dredge moratorium. The judge instructed that our motion for injunctive relief should be decided in his own courtroom at 8:30 am on the 23rd of June. The good news is that he also suggested that he is inclined to grant us the relief we are asking for.

Therefore, the existing status quo has not changed. Prospectors believe Judge Ochoa's Ruling allows us the right to operate our dredges. More dredgers are arriving in Happy Camp by the day to begin the 2015 season. DFW wardens warn that they will be out seizing dredging gear that is in violation of the unconstitutional moratorium. And Judge Ochoa ruled that there will be no civil remedy available for dredgers to stop the unlawful conduct of DFW wardens for another 8 weeks or so.

But in a surprising turn of events on the first of May, California Fish & Wildlife (DFW) wardens arrested two suction dredgers on the Klamath River who had

recently discovered a very substantial underwater gold deposit. The arrest was because they refused to sign the citations they were being issued. The citations were written for violating the unlawful moratorium and 2012 regulations, both which have already been struck down by Judge Ochoa in San Bernardino County. This case will allow our Siskiyou County Court to decide in early June if wardens have any authority to enforce a moratorium that has already been struck down as illegal.

This whole ever-evolving situation is like something out of a science fiction story! You can read all about it in our video-enhanced free May newsletter right here:

<http://www.goldgold.com/newsletter-may-2015.html>

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## **Showdown with Feds Over Right to Gold in Ground**

**Miners say they will 'fully disobey' government order to leave**

**THIS LAND WAS YOUR LAND**

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/04/showdown-with-feds-over-right-to-gold-in-ground/>



In a developing story some are comparing to the Bundy Ranch standoff in Nevada, Bureau of Land Management officials and miners west of Grants Pass, Oregon, are in an impasse over who has the rights to the minerals in the ground around Galice Creek.

[According to the Shasta Lantern](#), the Sugar Pine mining claim [has existed as a rightful claim since 1876 and is one of the oldest claims in the country](#). On March 18, the BLM issued two stop orders on the mining district, citing authority under BLM Surface Management 3809 regulations.

“Reportedly late this week, BLM officials accompanied by deputies of Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel issued a Cease and Desist order to the mine and its

owners," writes Red Smith of the Shasta Lantern. "The order has given the miners until April 25th to remove all equipment, buildings and supplies from the mine. It has been reported local BLM officials have threatened to burn the buildings down if they are not removed by the date."

Miners from the Galice Mining District, which encompasses the Sugar Pine Mine, say they have been arguing with the BLM since roughly 2012.

"The Galice Mining District is a private consortium of claims, owners and miners that has continuously operated since the early 1870s," writes Smith. "This means the mining district actually predates the BLM by decades."

The mining district has produced in excess of 10 million ounces of gold since its inception, and geologists estimate only 10 percent of the gold in the ground has been removed.

The miners expressed the intent to fight in court what they believe to be an illegal order, as the current cease and desist order was served on the Sugar Pine Mine even though the issue is scheduled to be heard in court later in the year. They have retained an attorney and requested the assistance of the Oath Keepers of Josephine County, who are currently staging a camp near the mine, terming the event the Sugar Pine Mine Security Operation.

[Oath Keepers reports](#), "While serving a BLM Stop Order upon the Sugar Pine Mine, BLM Contract Deputy Jason Stanton, when told by the parties involved that they were 'constitutional people,' Deputy Stanton replied, 'I have issues with the Constitution.'"

Oath Keepers has two sworn affidavits from two witnesses to the exchange. Oath Keepers say their mission is to ensure the Fourth Amendment constitutional right to due process is not being violated by the BLM.

"Under the 1955 Surface Resources Act, claims of this age have exclusive surface rights unless the Department of Interior utilizes a mechanism outlined in that Act to sever those surface rights," wrote Smith. "According to a statement by the Galice Mining District, demands made to BLM to produce evidence of their surface authority in accordance to the 1955 Act have thus far garnered only 'because we say so' answers and numerous stonewalling tactics. According to the Galice Mining District, the BLM is in active violation, on multiple counts, of federal Freedom of Information Act statutes. Documents secured appear to have been 'heavily parsed,' raising suspicion that BLM is either actively suppressing the release of documents or has been actively destroying



documents which they are obligated under Federal Law to maintain and provide on request.”

“It’s kind of an odd situation,” Jim Wittington of the Medford, Oregon, BLM, said in an interview with WND. “As far as we’re concerned, we had an inspection of the area in January after we realized there were some operations going on there. In March, we issued a notice of noncompliance, primarily because operations that were taking place at the site were not at the level of documentation – the documentation that we had allowed.

“So they have a mining claim, they were doing the kind of activity that probably demands a notice or a plan of operations. And so by virtue of sending them the notice of noncompliance, that gives them a couple of options.

“One, they can work to get into compliance and get a plan of operations in place, or they can appeal our decision that they are not in compliance. Based on what the issues were, they have two routes that they can go, depending on which issue it is. They can either appeal to the state director of the Bureau of Land Management here in Oregon and Washington, or they can appeal to the Interior Board of Appeals. In informal discussion with their lawyer, it sounds like they’re going to appeal, but they have a few days before they have to let us know.”

The Galice Mining District says although it hopes to resolve the issue legally and properly through the courts, it will “fully disobey” an order it views as “illegal and invalid.”

Law enforcement authorities have responded and are currently on the scene.

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## **BLM Won't Adhere to Freedom of Information Act, But Gives Sugar Pine Records To 3rd Party**

Rick Barclay has sent fourteen FOIA requests to BLM for the records to his Sugar Pine Mine. Despite the fact that BLM won't meet their obligations under the Freedom of Information Act and have sent Barclay very little material to date, the Oregon State BLM Office recently sent a 3rd Party over 370 pages of the mine's records.

So why are BLM giving uninvolved parties records to the Sugar Pine, but yet are stonewalling Barclay and violating federal laws to provide information under the Congressionally mandated Freedom of Information Act?

Inquiring minds want to know.

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## **Current Mining News Update**

April 17, 2015

This is an ongoing event just over the border from us into Oregon (watch the video; it is short).

How about the situation in Siskiyou County where State Wildlife officers are actively seizing mining equipment under the "authority" of a dredging moratorium which the State court has ruled as unconstitutional? It took us 10 years to bring about that ruling! Now the State is acting as if the ruling was never made?

**"Land of the free"** no longer exists when government agencies do not respect the fundamental laws which provide them with authority in the first place. America's founding fathers spoke at great length about the need to face off with tyranny when it is forced upon us at the point government becomes too big and oppressive.

I believe people are waking up to the massive nonsense that is undermining the very institutions which made America great in the first place. My own view is that this Oath-keepers is just the beginning of what will become a heated, and perhaps very violent, effort by the people to force big government back into a much smaller role of respectfully serving the people, rather than ruling us.

[Gary Franchi Covers The Oregon Mining Dispute |](#)

► [BREAKING: Militia Moves to Prevent Another Waco - YouTube](#)

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## **Constitutional Activists Staging to Protect Galice Mining Operation on BLM's Radar Screen**

Jeff Duewel, Daily Courier, April 15, 2015

[http://thedailycourier.com/articles/2015/04/14/breaking\\_news\\_free/news00000001.txt](http://thedailycourier.com/articles/2015/04/14/breaking_news_free/news00000001.txt)



An Oath Keepers sign marks the entrance to a property on Camp Joy Road, while armed Oath Keeper security guards hover in the background. The site is a gathering of people who support the rights of miners on a claim near Galice that the Bureau of Land Management wants to bring into compliance or shut down- TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

MERLIN -- Saying they do not want a repeat of last year's Bundy Ranch standoff in Nevada, a group of constitutional activists are staging in Merlin to protect a nearby mining operation they say is under threat from the Bureau of Land Management.

As of 3 p.m. Tuesday, about a dozen people, some of them dressed in military gear, had gathered at the staging area in the 2400 block of Camp Joy Road in Merlin.

The "mine security operation" was called by the local chapter of Oath Keepers, a constitutional watchdog that bills itself as an organization of present and former military and law-enforcement personnel who say there are some government orders they won't follow.

Organizers on Monday called on people from "all over the country" to help them protect the constitutional rights of a small-scale gold mining operation near Galice called Sugar Pine Mine that the Bureau of Land Management says is in violation of federal rules.

Mary Emerick, a spokeswoman for the group, said there were also “some” Oath Keepers at the mine site, but didn’t say how many. The mining claim is located in the Galice Creek drainage accessed by Peavine-Serpentine Springs Road, about 35 miles northwest of Grants Pass.

Organizers took pains to say they were hoping to avoid a repeat of the Bundy Ranch standoff last summer, when a decades-old dispute over unpaid grazing fees on federally owned land in southern Nevada degenerated into an armed confrontation between protesters and law enforcement.

“This is NOT a standoff with BLM. We are NOT promoting any confrontation with BLM. This is a security operation for the protection of Constitutional Rights,” the organization posted on its web site.

However, the call to action appeared to elicit a stir on social media such as Facebook and youtube, where several people posted they were on their way to Oregon for a “standoff” with the BLM.

“We don’t allow our neighbors to be enslaved or beaten or tortured by government jackboots because they want to steal our land and our resources to keep us under our thumb,” one man said in a video posted on youtube.

That person identified himself as a member of “Arizona state militia” and said he and a friend had been driving all night to get to Oregon. The video was posted from a moving vehicle and referenced “security teams” and even some “heavy hitters” on their way to Grants Pass.

“We are standing off with the BLM in Oregon!” the man exclaimed.

In a news release Tuesday, Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel said he has been working to avoid a showdown.

He suggested the “security operation” was sparked by a visit to the mining site last week by a BLM agent and one of his deputies. During the visit, the claim owner was provided a Notice of Noncompliance and paperwork to file an appeal by the BLM Ranger.

Daniel said he has since met with an regional BLM representative in Eugene as well as with Joseph Rice, head of the local Oath Keepers chapter. According to Daniel, the BLM told him that no enforcement action would be taken by federal authorities and that the claim owner is guaranteed his right to due process.

When asked how and why Oath Keepers got involved, Rice said Tuesday morning:

“The mine owners came to our meeting last week and requested our assistance. We are ensuring their due process is not violated.”

He declined to elaborate how their operation would work.

In an email to North Valley Community Watch, Rice warned of the potential influx of people.

“Within the next 48 hours we will have tactical, medical, communication and logistical support teams moving into the area from around the country,” the email said.

The BLM, which visited the mine in January, doesn't appear to be headed back any time soon.

The agency sent letters to the claim owners on March 25, explaining that people may not stay, or live, on public lands more than two weeks at a time. The letters also informed that the mining operation was not in compliance, and gave a 30-day deadline to begin the plan of operation application process or appeal, said Jim Whittington, spokesman for the Medford District BLM.

Whittington said Tuesday morning that the BLM has no plans to return to the mine until it hears more from the miners' attorney.

Whittington said when two BLM employees went to the mine in January they found heavy equipment, a water pipe system, one large structure and several smaller ones, with evidence someone was living there.

“There’s a fairly big footprint to it,” Whittington said. “There is no plan of operation that would cover the level of work they are doing there.”

The BLM requires plans of operations for mining on valid claims, beyond “minor exploratory stuff.”

“For something as intense as we’re seeing out there, they’re going to need a plan of operation,” he said.

One of the mining claim owners is Rick Barclay of Applegate, chairman of the Galice Mining District, and the other is George Backes of Grants Pass.

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## **“Bundy Ranch” Type Standoff Brewing in Southern Oregon Between Miners and BLM**

**For the past several years, the miners from the Galice Mining District, about 30 minutes west of Grants Pass, Oregon, have been arguing over who has the rights to the minerals in the ground around Galice Creek. The Galice mining district is compiled of a number of claims, owners and miners and has been in continuous operation since the early 1870’s, which makes it one of the longest running operations in the US. This specific operation predates the BLM bureaucracy by many decades in fact.**

[BJ Soper](http://www.lockedandloadednews.com/bundy-ranch-type-standoff-brewing-in-southern-oregon-between-miners-and-blm/), Locked and Loaded News.com, [April 11, 2015](#)  
<http://www.lockedandloadednews.com/bundy-ranch-type-standoff-brewing-in-southern-oregon-between-miners-and-blm/>

**Grants Pass, OR-** For the past several years, the miners from the Galice Mining District, about 30 minutes west of Grants Pass, Oregon, have been arguing over who has the rights to the minerals in the ground around Galice Creek. The Galice mining district is compiled of a number of claims, owners and miners and has been in continuous operation since the early 1870’s, which makes it one of the longest running operations in the US. This specific operation predates the BLM bureaucracy by many decades in fact.

The area in question has produced in excess of 10 million ounces of gold since its conception, and geologists estimate that only 10% of the gold in the ground has been removed, which makes this area highly sought after by any standard. It is said that children find gold with their hands in the creeks to this day.

BLM has made several attempts to disband the operation of the sugar pine mine through multiple unsubstantiated stop orders and now a cease and desist order. The owners of this mine have spend tens of thousands of dollars to date requesting documents, researching the claims of the BLM, and preliminary attorney fees. The sugar pine has made requests to produce the official rulings that show they are in violation which have gone unanswered. They simple reason given by the BLM is that "they say so". The BLM claims that the mine has no surface rights to the area and in turn says that all structures and equipment need to be removed. The BLM also claims that this violation is grounds for the operation to cease and tunnels filled in. The mine predates more recent rulings about surface rights so the sugar pine feels that the new ruling is not applicable to this specific situation.

Late last week, BLM officials accompanied by Josephine County Sheriff deputies issues a cease and desist order to

the district without any official ruling by the courts. Specifically, the issue is not even scheduled to be heard in court until later in the year. The order has given the mine until April 25th to remove all equipment, buildings and supplies from the location. Local BLM officials have threatened to burn the buildings down if they are not removed by the date.

The owners of the sugar pine have stated that they will fully disobey the order as they claim that it is illegal and invalid. A call for assistance to the Oath Keeper's has been made and there is no intention to leave the area by the deadline.

This issue has far reaching implications. The outcome from this issue and the court ruling to come will affect all of America. The issue at hand is not just about the Galice Miners and the gold in the ground, but more about what the government says you can do with the ground in your control. These miners have the rights to the minerals in the ground and the government wants that changed. What comes next could effect every American. What if your backyard has a specific mineral that the government values. By any means, can come in and tell you that you cannot grow your broccoli on your land because it absorbs this "special" mineral? The bigger picture would effect farmers. What if gold, oil, or something like uranium was found under a farmer's corn crop. Does the government have the right to those minerals and have the ability to over ride your use of your own land? This issue will have the ability dictate the future use of our public and private lands.

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# **BLM Documentation for Sugar Pine Mine is NOT a Legal Document**

May 5, 2015

According to Jim Whittington at BLM Medford District, they are supposedly in possession of a document conveying the surface rights of the Sugar Pine Mine to BLM. This document is below, and proves that BLM's claim to the surface of the mine is based on **NOTHING**.

The document below is a 'verified statement withdrawal' by Jack Gordon and is supposedly BLM's 'smoking gun' that they control the surface to the Sugar Pine Mine.

**This is NOT a legal document.**

**It is NOT notarized.**

**It is NOT recorded in any county mining record book.**

**Jack Gordon did NOT own the Sugar Pine Mine until six years after the date of this document, in 1969.**

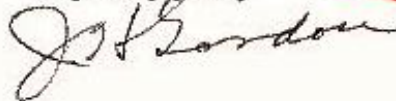
Manager, Land Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
710 N. E. Holladay  
Portland 12, Oregon

Dear Sir:

I withdraw my verified statement dated July 30, 1959 for thirteen mining claims located in Josephine County, Oregon.

The verified statement was filed in the Land Office on August 13, 1959 under serial number Oregon 06656-I.

Very truly yours,



Date June 19-1963



This document was obtained from BLM geologist, Diane Parry, and was later provided in digital format in FOIA #OR-2015-039 as the document which Parry gave to Sugar Pine Mine co-owner, George Backes, as **proof of BLM's surface control**.

The statement Jack Gordon was 'withdrawing' was in a previous document where he exerted the surface control of the Sugar Pine Mine.

The first problem with this withdrawal of that statement is that Jack Gordon (whose signature is allegedly on this document,) was **NOT THE OWNER of the Sugar Pine Mine** at this time. This document is from 1963, during which time he was the mine manager. Jack Gordon did go on to own the Sugar Pine, but not until 1969. He had no legal authority by ownership, nor power-of-attorney to relinquish rights nor convey ownership to BLM or any other party.

Secondly, **this is NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**

★ *It is NOT notarized.*

★ *It is NOT recorded in any county mining records ledger.*

★ *Jack Gordon was not the owner and could not legally relinquish the surface rights of the Sugar Pine Mine.*

**ORS 93.410 - Execution and Acknowledgements of Deeds** - Requires that any deed or transfer of property shall be signed by the grantor and shall be acknowledged before a judge, a justice of the peace, or a notary public within the state.

This is NOT signed by the owner of record, who at the time of this document was Evelyn M Allen Niebel.

Evelyn M Allen Niebel's conveyance (transfer of ownership) to Jack Gordon is in the Josephine County Mining Conveyance Records, Volume 17, Page 458.

She was awarded ownership of the mine by way of sheriff's deed on 14th February, 1958, as a result of liens she had placed upon the Western Metal Mines Company. The liens were assigned on 22nd June, 1957 for non payment of \$6,000 of development work against the shareholders of Western Metal Mines Company. She succeeded in court on 10th October, 1957.

Her deed is located in Volume 62, Page 354, Josephine County Mining Conveyance Records.

Jack Gordon took ownership of the mine from Evelyn M Allen Niebel on 17th November, 1969.

In a telegram to Jack Gordon's attorney, written by Evelyn (from Santa Clara County, Ca where her conveyance to him was notarized) she wrote - "I hope he makes his million out of them."

He didn't. He was too busy fighting BLM.

[www.sugarpinemine.com](http://www.sugarpinemine.com)

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## **Breaking news from Galice, via Oath Keepers**

**EVERYONE WILL BE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF  
OATHKEEPERS OF JOSEPHINE COUNTY!!!!**

April 13, 2015

Person of contact at the mine **Joseph Rice 541-326-1911**

Resource **Alex Sealey 541-786-8372** oregoniiiipercen@hotmai.com

Rally point 42.550514, -123.529695 Needs 60 minute leeway before you arrive to rally point

This will be off I-5 exit 61 Galice Rd.

Mailing address **Oath Keepers of Josephine County PO Box 553, Grants Pass, OR 97528**

### **LOGISTICS**

We need 50 + people on the ground within the next 24 hours They need to be self sustained for 7 days with food and gear. There is water and firewood on site. This is mountain terrain plan for adverse weather conditions Do to some lack are real-estate we are asking people to carpool if they can. There will be limited cell phone coverage. They have the ability to program some radios (baofengs and others) to the frequencies they are running.

### **SUPPLIES WE NEED AS OF RIGHT NOW**

Fuel cards from chevron Fred Meyers Medical supplies Batteries Food Side by side or 4-wheeler

### **SUPPLY DUMPS**

At this time we will be setting up supply dumps in Oregon and activating the Patriot railroad. If you can help with manning a dump or have supplies for a dump please let Alex Sealey know by one of the means above or getting on the Patriot railroad on facebook.

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## **OathKeeper Medical Team Save Life of AP Reporter at Sugar Pine Mine**

On the other side of the continent, while mainstream media is focused on Baltimore and New York City, a few reporters are watching the Sugar Pine Mine (Oregon) versus the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) situation, a hot issue as we speak.

Oath Keepers have been on location for weeks to fend-off any attempts by BLM agents to remove and/or burn down more camp sites (before) the issue enters the court room.

In the meanwhile....Oath Keepers have requested any and all personnel that are trained in various life saving positions, including tactical and strategic planning to sign-up.

While a medical exercise training drill was underway at the mine....an Associated Press (AP) reporter suffered a stroke, but was saved by an OathKeeper medical team and was assisted by a Reuters reporter. (See story below)

*From the desk of Capt. Dave Bertrand (Ret.)*

*Opinions and discussion of today's hard hitting topics. If you wish to be removed....reply within, or enlighten someone else by forwarding.*

<http://oathkeepers.org/oktester/sugar-pine-mine-security-operation-medical-team/>

## Sugar Pine Mine Security Operation – Medical Team



[From the Josephine County Oath Keepers website.](#) 28 April 2015

### **Oath Keepers security operation and the staging area both have medical teams available.**

We set those teams up to cover any issue that might arise. We are fortunate to have skilled medical people in our local chapter and other medical volunteers have joined us. They have set up aid stations, collected supplies, stocked portable first aid bags and keep a strict inventory of everything.

We actually have run drills up at the mine with a simulated injury that was handled very professionally. Unfortunately that drill became reality when we had a serious emergency a few days later. We had invited three media people up to the mine and it was on that trip that the Associated Press reporter suffered a stroke.

His symptoms were immediately recognized by those of us standing by. We radioed for the medical team while the rest of us managed to get the gentleman into the back of his truck. Our Coordinator and the medical team nurse were in the back of the truck attending to the man while the reporter from Reuters drew the duty of driving down the mountain. At the same time we radioed to the staging area to have them call an ambulance to meet us. An additional security team responded from the base as well.

We were able to get the man to the hospital within the golden hour of treatment protocol. The reporter was life-flighted to Portland (about 240 miles away) and had brain surgery that night.

The reporter's car and camera remained with us secured at our base reminding us of what had happened. We are amazed to report that the reporter dropped by a week later to bring home baked pies to thank us. He walked in with no ill effects and is allowed to go back to work. His doctors said it may have been a fatal incident if it weren't for our quick response and our medical team. The reporter's main concern was, "Can I still have my trip to the mine?"

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## **U.S. Must Return Rare Double Eagle Gold Coins to Family**

By Jonathan Stempel,  REUTERS, April 17, 2015

<https://news.yahoo.com/u-must-return-rare-double-eagle-gold-coins-185510525--finance.html>

(Reuters) - The U.S. government must return 10 exceptionally rare gold coins worth millions of dollars each to a Pennsylvania family from which the purloined coins were seized a decade ago, a federal appeals court ruled on Friday.

By a 2-1 vote, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia said Joan Langbord and her sons Roy and David are the rightful owners of the double eagle \$20 gold pieces, after the government ignored their claim to the coins and missed a deadline to seek their forfeiture.

"The government knew that it was obligated to bring a judicial civil forfeiture proceeding or to return the property, but refused," Circuit Judge Marjorie Rendell wrote. "Having failed to do so, it must return the Double Eagles to the Langbords."

Patricia Hartman, a spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Zane Memeger in Philadelphia, said: "We are weighing our options."

The Philadelphia Mint in 1933 produced 445,500 double eagles. But they were not circulated because President Franklin Roosevelt, trying to halt a bank panic, removed gold coins from circulation and made ownership of large amounts illegal.

Most of the coins were melted down, but a few were smuggled out, including one that fetched \$7.6 million at a 2002 auction after having once been possessed by Egypt's King Farouk.

The government had long suspected without proving that the late Israel Switt, a gold dealer and father of Joan Langbord, had smuggled some of the coins with the help of a Mint employee.

It seized the Langbords' double eagles after the family located the coins in a safe deposit box once belonging to Switt, and sought to have the Mint authenticate them.

But when the Langbords filed a "seized asset claim" in September 2005, the government neither returned the coins nor sought their forfeiture within 90 days, as required under the federal Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.

The family sued, but a federal jury in July 2011 said the government could keep the coins, and the trial judge later agreed. Rendell, though, said the CAFRA violation justified the coins' return.

Barry Berke, a lawyer for the Langbords said: "The Langbords are thrilled to receive their property back after fighting to vindicate their rights for over a decade."

The case is Langbord et al v. U.S. Department of the Treasury et al, 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 12-4574.

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## **Why We're Not Concerned About the Increase in Gold Miner Hedging**

Doug Casey, Casey Research, May 1, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=1rnv6oui7h1gn#1847299654>

Gold miners stopped hedging against the risk of lower gold prices in the early 2000s. Gold was in a raging bull market, and miners got tired of locking in a price only to miss out on the upside when gold kept climbing.

A resurgence in hedging would be big news—it would indicate that miners have turned bearish on gold. So the Reuters report that miners hedged more last year than in any year since 1999 caught our attention.

It sounds ominous, but the statistics are misleading. Senior Precious Metals Analyst Jeff Clark dug into the data himself and set the record straight: the industry as a whole has *not* returned to hedging.

Why Haven't More Mining Companies Gone Bankrupt?

A wave of bankruptcies would actually be healthy for the mining sector. It would weed out the poorly run companies and make it easier to identify the ones with real potential.

But it's not going to happen. Rather than declare bankruptcy, most failed junior miners simply become shell companies, hoping for a new life in the next boom, says Chief Metals & Mining Investment Strategist Louis James. Their shares remain listed on the exchange, but they're effectively dead money.

James warns: "There is no point in holding on to shares in a company heading for hibernation."

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## **Gold is Near an All-Time Inflation-Adjusted Low**

**Jeff Clark, Casey Research**, Senior Precious Metals Analyst, April 24, 2015  
<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=1rnv6oui7h1gn#6671063672>

If you're someone who's skeptical of government-reported numbers, you'll find the following chart confirms your suspicions. And if you're someone who's attracted to value, you'll love the chart.

There is a lot of criticism of the government's CPI number simply because it doesn't really seem to reflect what the average person experiences. Even with gas prices in decline, other segments of our society have seen prices accelerate. Healthcare and college costs are two biggies, rising far more than the current 0.2% reading. And many food items have scary trajectories—ground beef has more than doubled since 2010.

Meanwhile, the gold price has fallen by roughly a third over the past three-plus years and been flat for the past four to five months. But is it a good value at current prices?

Since 1980, the CPI formula has been modified at least a dozen times. Heck, they even implemented a new "estimation system" this year. Most nongovernment economists (like you and I) think those changes have made the reading less accurate, not more.

So I asked John Williams of Shadow Stats to calculate the gold price in March 2015 dollars (the latest data available) **based on the CPI-U formula from 1980**. Here's what he found.

Inflation-Adjusted Gold Price Using 1980 CPI Formula — Monthly Average Gold Price



Source: ShadowStats.com, St. Louis Federal Reserve



Adjusted for the 1980 inflation measure, the gold price is approaching its bear market low of 2001. In fact, gold is now below the 1975 price when it became legal to own it again!

These data clearly show that when measured against a more realistic view of inflation, gold is dramatically undervalued.

And with total worldwide debt levels up by a whopping \$57 trillion since the end of 2007, the need to own it is as important as ever.

Don't worry about the current rangebound price. Buying now represents tremendous value and tremendous protection against the next economic crisis.

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## It's Shopping Season for Gold Miners

Casey Research, May 5, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=4hdvsl21ckce7>



Each year around this time, the spring thaw in northern Canada creates a buying opportunity in mining stocks. Miners must wait for the mud to dry before they restart their drills, so progress is slow and news is sparse. Impatient investors lose interest and sell their shares.

This year's "[shopping season](#)" could be epic. Miners have cut exploration budgets to the bone, and it's unlikely that gold production can keep up with demand. [Our Senior Precious Metals Analyst Jeff Clark just reviewed gold producers' year-end reports](#), and he found that reserves are *already* falling. ("Reserves" is a mining term for ore that is economically mineable.)

Clark discusses three developments that "paint an ominous picture for new gold supply." Exploration won't pick up until gold prices are significantly higher. With [the stock market on the brink](#), that day may not be far off.

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## **AGENDA 21 WILDLANDS PROJECT**

# **TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE WILDLANDS PROJECT AND HOW IT IS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE LANDS IN THE UNITED STATES**

by Tom McDonnell

[http://citizenreviewonline.org/april\\_2002/wildlands\\_project\\_history.htm](http://citizenreviewonline.org/april_2002/wildlands_project_history.htm)

During the past several years, resource industries, state and local governments and communities nationwide have been buried under an avalanche of: new species listings; appeals and litigation to stop water development, logging, mining, grazing and recreational activities.

There have been vast amounts of legislation proposing *new wilderness areas, heritage areas, scenic rivers, biological corridors, state and national parks or wildlife refuges, as well as management plans involving critical habitat, watersheds or ecosystems.*

While many of these actions seem to be isolated incidence, a review of Wildlands Project documents suggests that *the actions are often well coordinated activities aimed, according to the Project's text, at establishing a 'regional reserve system which will ultimately tie the North American continent into a single Biodiversity Reserve.'*

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## **GOP Bill Could Mean 'No More National Parks,' Public Land Advocates Warn**

[Mark Johanson](http://www.ibtimes.com/gop-bill-could-mean-no-more-national-parks-public-land-advocates-warn-1563152), International Business Times, March 24 2014  
<http://www.ibtimes.com/gop-bill-could-mean-no-more-national-parks-public-land-advocates-warn-1563152>



**Tourists hike through Glacier National Park in Montana**

Could too many national parks be a bad thing for the United States? Some congressional Republicans think so.

The House of Representatives will meet Tuesday to discuss a Republican-sponsored bill that could drastically curtail the number of new parks created each year. The "Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation (EPIC) of National Monuments Act," which is the full name of the bill, was described by the left-

leaning Center for American Progress as a “de facto ‘No More National Parks’ policy.”

**At the heart of the debate is the 1906 Antiquities Act, which gives the president powers to unilaterally designate a site a national monument without going through a National Environmental Policy Act process, as Congress must do.**

Utah Republican Rep. Rob Bishop, sponsor of H.R. 1459, which is the bill's official name, believes that this more than 100-year-old law creates a dangerous loophole whereby the president can bypass the deliberative (and often lengthy) process of receiving public input before establishing a national monument. **“The American people deserve the opportunity to participate in land-use decisions regardless of whether they are made in Congress or by the President,”** Bishop said Friday. “This bill ensures that new national monuments are created openly with consideration of public input.”

He said that **decisions impacting the livelihoods of so many people “deserve to be made out in the open, not behind closed doors.”**

Bishop said the Antiquities Act, part of Theodore Roosevelt's groundbreaking conservation agenda, was created before any of today's modern environmental and preservation laws were enacted, and it was intended to be used in emergencies to protect historic artifacts and sites of scientific value from imminent threat.

The bill is largely seen as a response to Obama's decision last week to extend the Coastal California National Monument to reach a stretch of California's shoreline near Point Arena. Bishop said President Obama had “punked” the House by undermining its own efforts to protect the land under the Congressional process.

The Center for American Progress argued that there are dozens of land conservation bills stalled in Congress that meet the common sense principles that have guided protections for more than a century.

“There is a widening gap between American families who want more parks and open spaces to get outdoors and a Congress that has slashed conservation budgets, shuttered parks and blocked nearly every community-led effort to protect lands for future generations,” said Matt Lee-Ashley, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. “With Congress so broken, the president is rightly stepping up to help conserve the places that matter most to our landscape, our history and our culture.”

Lee-Ashley cited as an example the six consecutive house sessions that failed to make the Boulder White-Clouds area in Idaho a national monument, despite ample local support for the measure. The local community has spent decades working to permanently protect the beauty and abundant wildlife of the Boulder White-Clouds area, and Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) introduced legislation on six occasions to protect the area as a national monument, but the bill has yet to pass.

Boulder White-Clouds is one of 10 high-profile land conservation bills examined in a [report](#) released last week by the campaign group Equal Ground, with support from the Center for American Progress. The Denver-based organization, which promotes greater balance between conservation and energy development, found that members of both political parties introduced legislation to protect these 10 “languishing lands” a combined 52 times over the past 30 years.

Congress, meanwhile, protected only one new wilderness area in the last five years, which constituted the longest drought of conservation legislation since World War II.

President Clinton used the Antiquities Act to create 19 new monuments and enlarge three others, and President George W. Bush used the Antiquities Act just five times. President Obama’s expansion of the California Coastal National Monument this month marked the tenth time he’s used executive powers to conserve land.

Advocates for creating more public lands point to statistics released earlier this year by the Department of the Interior that show that visitors to National Park Service properties generated \$26.8 billion in economic activity and supported 243,000 jobs in “gateway” communities last year.

The new secretary of the interior, Sally Jewell, made it abundantly clear in her agenda-setting speech that President Obama was “ready and willing to step up where Congress falls short” in pushing through backlogged conservation bills that could bolster rural economies. President Obama himself reiterated this stance in his State of the Union speech, saying he’d use his authority “to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations.”

However, his ability to do just that will be the topic of much debate this week. If House Republicans get their way (and manage to sell the idea to the Senate), each president would be allowed to designate just one new park per four-year term.

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## **WILL A FOUR-DECADE OLD LAW LIMIT OBAMA'S LAND POWERS?**

William Perry Pendley, Esq., President and Chief Operating Officer,  
Mountain States Legal Foundation

A "Sagebrush Rebellion" like the one that propelled Ronald Reagan ("Count me in as a [sagebrush] rebel.") into the Oval Office is making national news because President Obama governs like President Carter. Obama's Interior Secretary, for example, threatens more unilateral land lockup decrees if westerners do not embrace legislation putting vast areas off-limits to "multiple [economic and recreational] use." In fact, Congress long ago tired of this abuse by the Executive of a power the Constitution gives Congress alone and enacted legislation to end it. That law is headed to the Supreme Court.

Because the "Property Clause" vests solely in Congress the power to manage federal lands ("Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States."), for the Executive to exercise power over federal lands Congress must delegate it that power. For almost 200 years, no single act defined the Executive's power over public lands; on occasion however, Congress passed legislation delegating power to withdraw federal lands to the Executive.

Not surprisingly, therefore—given that nature and the law abhor a vacuum—in the absence of statutory authority, the president often temporarily withdrew public lands from operation of federal lands laws, as to mining for example, in aid of legislation regarding those lands. Perhaps unexpectedly, in 1915, the Supreme Court held that acquiescence by Congress to these withdrawals provided the president with implied authority to make them, but the Court acknowledged Congress could legislatively revoke that authority.

Meanwhile, in 1910, Congress passed legislation delegating to the Executive limited authority to make temporary withdrawals “for waterpower sites, irrigation, classification of lands, or other public purposes...,” but the Supreme Court declined to rule on whether that act repealed the Executive’s implied authority. In 1941, FDR’s Attorney General opined that the Executive had implied authority to make any withdrawal, even beyond that authorized by the 1910 Act. In 1958, Congress limited the Executive’s individual defense withdrawals to less than 5,000 acres each. In 1964, Congress created the Public Land Law Review Commission, which reported in 1970 that Executive withdrawals were “uncontrolled and haphazard,” and proposed “Congress assert its constitutional authority by enacting legislation reserving unto itself exclusive authority to withdraw or otherwise set aside public land for specified limited-purpose uses.”

In 1976, with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress did just that. It repealed 29 withdrawal statutes, overruled the Supreme Court’s 1915 ruling, and revoked any and all implied power the Executive may have had to withdraw public lands. It delegated the Executive authority to make specific and limited withdrawals of less than 5,000 acres, but all larger withdrawals required that Congress be notified—with documentation as to the necessity for and impact of the withdrawal—and that the withdrawal survive a “one-House veto”—either a Senate or House concurrent resolution could kill it. In 1983, however, the Supreme Court struck down a different “one-House veto” provision thus invalidating the check on Executive authority Congress sought to impose with its 1976 Act.

In 2012, then Secretary of the Interior Salazar withdrew over a million acres of uranium-rich federal lands in northwestern Arizona—Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service operated lands north of Grand Canyon National Park, the so-called Arizona Strip. Its mineral value has been long known, which is why it was excluded from the Arizona Wilderness Act. A 120-year old mining organization sued arguing the authority relied upon by the Obama administration would not have existed but for the “one-House veto” and that, with the veto’s unconstitutionality, the delegation of withdrawal authority is likewise null and void. An Arizona federal district court held Congress would have delegated its power anyway and dismissed the case. Now at the

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the lawsuit could yield one of most decisive constraints on unlimited Executive power in the Republic's history.

If you would like to support Mountain States Legal Foundation, [click here](#). MSLF's sole source of support is the tax-deductible contributions it receives from people like you.

**Mountain States Legal Foundation** 2596 South Lewis Way Lakewood, Colorado 80227 Phone: (303) 292-2021 | Email: [info@mountainstateslegal.com](mailto:info@mountainstateslegal.com)

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## California's Drought of Common Sense?

[Steven Greenhut](#), Human Events, Apr 14, 2015  
[http://humanevents.com/2015/04/14/californias-drought-of-common-sense/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/04/14/californias-drought-of-common-sense/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



SACRAMENTO — Californians seem to have remarkably good attitudes about the sacrifices they'll make as the drought heads into its fourth year. [Based on polls](#), they even are supportive of crackdowns on excessive water use, which may explain [Gov. Jerry Brown's recent call for \\$500 fines](#) for those who over-water their lawns or take excessively long showers.

***But how tolerant will the public remain about slashing water use once they realize how state and federal officials are using — some would say squandering — the [state's dwindling resources](#)?***

On Tuesday, I attended a packed meeting at the [Oakdale Irrigation District east of Modesto](#), where farmers and residents questioned a plan to lower water

levels at the massive New Melones Reservoir — and possibly drain Lake Tulloch, a small lake surrounded by homes in the Sierra foothills.

Here's the rub: The water isn't being released to benefit farms and homes. It is being released to help coax a handful of steelhead trout to swim to the ocean. A ["pulse flow"](#) was scheduled for Wednesday, but has been delayed amid the dispute. But large releases are imminent.

When one official said he anticipated the "need" to release more water, a board member snapped back: "The need or the want? What will be the flow for those nine steelhead?" That's dark humor given the [small number of fish](#) that would potentially benefit from the planned releases.

"It's not just about depleting the water supply for people and pitting people against fish," said [Andrea Fuller, a biologist and co-owner of Fishbio](#), which counts fish on the Stanislaus River for the irrigation district. "They (the government agencies) are putting in jeopardy the very fish they are trying to save." That's because the agencies want to release so much water that it is depleting the cold, deeper water the fish thrive in. Yet in meetings with officials, she's found it hard to have a logical discussion.

"Fish and people, people and fish," said [Oakdale Irrigation District general manager Steve Knell](#), during the board meeting. In his view, that's a false dichotomy. Both can be served – but he said there's a need for "off ramps" during times of crisis so that water can be diverted to the highest needs, namely people and the economy. ([Environmentalists](#) argue that even though the numbers of fish are small, it's an indicator of bigger ecological problems.)

In March, [the federal agencies had negotiated a compromise with the irrigation districts](#). Water releases would continue and the districts agree to give up a significant amount of their allotment. In exchange, the feds would allow New Melones to fall to a lower level than they preferred given they want more water available in the fall to boost seasonal salmon runs. In the meantime everyone would do what signs on nearby farms say: ["Pray for rain."](#)

But the Bureau of Reclamation had been backing away. Then the environmentalist-oriented [State Water Resources Control Board](#) released an order critical of the deal. It wants more water flows now to benefit the Delta – and a much higher water level in the fall for the salmon. That means more water now and later, all of which must come from the irrigation districts and their customers. [This set up the first round of civil disobedience.](#)



The feds last week released water from [New Melones](#). It feeds into Tulloch, which the irrigation districts control. The districts would not release that water. "What if we told them to go to hell?" asked one Oakdale Irrigation District board member. That's the 100,000 acre-foot question now at issue. A deal was worked out that reduced the tensions, but it still includes large water releases to benefit the fish even as the state struggles with drought.

"The policy is breathtakingly stupid at both the state and federal levels and is being administered by ideological zealots who can't be reasoned with," said [U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock](#), a Republican who [represents the district](#). "I was beating the drums on this last year and nobody paid any attention." That's because no one believed government policy could be so misbegotten.

Now we have [sizable communities](#) that eventually might open the spigots and have no water, to help a fish so common I had it for dinner this week. When will Californians start noticing?

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## **Withdrawal of Public Lands, North and Middle Fork of the American River, California**

### **Public Land Order No. 7834**

FEDERAL REGISTER, A Notice by the [Land Management Bureau](#) on [04/16/2015](#)  
[https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/04/16/2015-08687/public-land-order-no-7834-withdrawal-of-public-lands-north-and-middle-fork-of-the-american-river?utm\\_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/04/16/2015-08687/public-land-order-no-7834-withdrawal-of-public-lands-north-and-middle-fork-of-the-american-river?utm_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov)

### **Action**

Public Land Order.

### **Summary**

This order **withdraws 6,737.42 acres of public lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws for 20 years** on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management to protect and preserve the riparian areas, wildlife habitat, scenic quality, and high recreational values of lands within the North and Middle Fork of the American River and to provide protection of lands associated with the congressionally designated Auburn Dam Reclamation Project Area pending a decision on future development of the site. The lands, which are located in El Dorado and Placer Counties, California, will remain open to leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws.

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# Rim of the Valley National Park Proposal Draws Reaction

By [Steve Scauzillo](#), San Gabriel Valley Tribune, January 23, 2014  
<http://www.dailynews.com/lifestyle/20140123/rim-of-the-valley-national-park-proposal-draws-reaction>

The proposed Rim of the Valley National Recreation Area would run from the Simi Hills, the Verdugo Hills, the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Fernando Valley and into the western part of the Angeles National Forest. Here, a hiker and her dogs make their way along a trail in the hills above Simi Valley Ca January 23, 2014.

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE >> **Designating nearly 400,000 acres from the coastal edge of the Santa Monica Mountains through Simi Hills, the Santa Susanna, Verdugo and San Gabriel mountains** as a new National Recreation Area managed by the U.S. National Park Service will be an uphill battle.

The idea — percolating in Congress since 2003 — faces opposition from property rights groups, anti-government activists and the NPS itself which has said it doesn't have the money to take on new parks. Although many grass-roots and even national environmental groups support the proposal, it suffers from confusion over where to place the boundaries and what to name it.

And that assessment comes from the author of the plan, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, who held a town hall meeting Wednesday night at the Crescenta-Cañada YMCA to collect input and keep what's called the Rim of the Valley Corridor proposal on the front burner.

"This is going to be enormously challenging to accomplish," Schiff said in his introductions. He concluded with a call for unity: "The only prayer we have for success is if we are all in this together."

The meeting drew a standing-room-only audience of about 125 people. About a dozen residents asked questions or made comments. Those in opposition were concerned about loss of property rights and government intrusion. Supporters said it would help bring more resources such as park rangers and trail builders, while at the same time protect lands for wild animals.

The NPS study offers four alternatives: no action, forming partnerships and two alternatives that create different boundaries for a new park unit or an expanded unit of the Park Service.

Schiff and most of the 5,000 people who submitted comments so far favored combining Alternatives C and D. This expanded proposal would link existing urban parks with wildlands into a new NRA. Such a broad boundary would incorporate cultural resources such as: Hansen Dam, Sepulveda Basin, Debs Park, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, Griffith Park, the Rose Bowl and JPL with existing wilderness areas, such as the Arroyo Seco and the western portion of the Angeles National Forest and the Simi Hills.

Alternatives C and D exclude the San Fernando Valley, Simi Valley, Conejo Valley and Santa Clarita, according to the NPS study. An updated study is expected to be released by early summer, said Ann Dove, project manager with the NPS.

The new draft will include comments from the meeting and a refined look at alternatives and boundaries. A final recommendation from Jonathan Jarvis, director of the NPS, will be presented to Congress at the end of 2014. Schiff then would presumably introduce legislation and seek approval of Congress and the president.

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## **Oppose Proposed Rim of the Valley National Park**

### **ACTION ALERT**

[BRAD JONES](http://www.goldprospectors.org/News/News-Details/ArtMID/636/ArticleID/88/ACTION-ALERT-Oppose-proposed-Rim-of-the-Valley-national-park), Gold Prospectors Association of America, Tuesday, April 14, 2015  
<http://www.goldprospectors.org/News/News-Details/ArtMID/636/ArticleID/88/ACTION-ALERT-Oppose-proposed-Rim-of-the-Valley-national-park>

The National Park Service will accept public comments in its Rim of the Valley Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment for a proposed national park, which mining rights groups such as [Public Lands for the People](#) say will restrict or ban prospecting and mining activities as well as other outdoor activities on federally managed public lands.

**PLP has opposed the plan for the Rim of the Valley national park, since it was first proposed in 1990.**

A summary newsletter and the full draft report and link to the National Park Service online public comment system are available on the study website: <http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley>.

The National Park Service initiated this study in 2010 and published preliminary management alternatives in late 2012.

The National Park Service invites you to review and comment on the Rim of the Valley Corridor Draft Special Resources Study and Environmental Assessment. The alternatives presented and analyzed in this draft report were developed based on National Park Service criteria for evaluating potential new park units and additions to existing park units, and reflect the comments that we heard from you during previous public comment periods.

The executive summary of the draft study report is available [here](#)

The full report is available at:

[http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rimofthevalley\\_draftreport](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rimofthevalley_draftreport)

The National Park Service has also updated its "[frequently asked questions](#)" page to answer commonly asked questions that we heard at the public forums.

This draft study report is available for public review for a minimum of 60 days, with comments due to NPS by **June 30, 2015**. Comments may be submitted through e-mail, the National Park Service website, mail, or at one of the public meetings. [Click here for public meeting schedule.](#)

**The NPS is hosting six public meetings between April 21 and June 2 to discuss the findings and alternatives presented in the draft study report.**

**[Online/Virtual Public Meeting:](#)**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2015 12:30 p.m.(PDT)/ 3:30 p.m.(EDT) (WebEx Connect Time)**

**Please check-in early as there could be some software downloads that you may need to install to participate. The meeting presentation will start promptly at 1:00 pm PDT/4:00 pm EDT.**

Click [here](#) for instructions on how to participate in the online meeting.

**Local Public Meetings Schedule:**

**Monday, May 4, 2015, 7–9 pm**

**La Crescenta Public Library, Community Room**

**2809 Foothill Blvd.**

**La Crescenta, CA 91214**

**Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 7–9 pm**

**William S. Hart Regional Park, Hart Hall**

**24151 Newhall Avenue**

**Newhall, CA 91321**

Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 7–9 pm  
Conejo Recreation and Parks District  
Community Room  
403 West Hillcrest Dr.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 7–9 pm  
Mason Recreation Center  
10500 Mason Ave.  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 3-5 pm\*  
El Pueblo de Los Angeles  
Hellman-Quon Building  
130 Paseo de la Plaza  
Los Angeles CA 90012

If you would like to receive updates and newsletters about this study, you are welcome to [join](#) the mailing list at any time.

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## **California Coastal National Monument Adds Breathtaking New Land**

Mary Forgione, [March 11, 2014](#) | By | Daily Deal and Travel Blogger  
<http://articles.latimes.com/2014/mar/11/news/la-trb-california-coastal-national->



**The view from Stornetta Public Lands, which will become part of California Coastal National Monument**

The California Coastal National Monument runs the length of the state and is filled with offshore islands, reefs and rocks -- until now. President Obama on Tuesday will add 1,665 onshore acres near Mendocino to the parkland said to be the most viewed but least recognized of U.S. national monuments.

[Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands](#), as the new area is known, will receive added federal protection for a stretch of breathtaking shoreline north of Port Arena. Locals who campaigned to beef up the federal parkland hope to stimulate tourism to the area.

"This is now going to be part of the national monument — the only land-based gateway to the coastal monument," Rep. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) told the [Santa Rosa Press Democrat](#). "I think that's a big deal."

The original national monument protects a zone that extends 12 miles out to sea and wildlife such as seals and sea lions as well as seabirds.

Things that make the Stornetta land special:

- ★ --It contains the estuary of the Garcia River, which is prime Coho and Chinook salmon habitat.
- ★ --It also includes a small island called Sea Lion Rocks that is accessible during low tide.

At the moment, hiking, picnicking and wildlife viewing are the only activities allowed (no overnight camping) on the land overseen by the Bureau of Land Management.

Obama used the federal [Antiquities Act](#) to establish the national monument, a move that bypasses Congress. The president will hold a ceremony at the White House on Tuesday to celebrate the new parkland.

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## **Plight of Imperiled Montana Insect Draws Lawsuit**

### **Efforts to close off Glacier National Park**

By **MATTHEW BROWN**, April 16, 2015

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_GLACIER\\_INSECT?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_GLACIER_INSECT?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

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BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Wildlife advocates asked a judge Wednesday to force federal officials to decide if a rare aquatic insect that's found only in Montana's Glacier National Park should be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Western glacier stoneflies were first identified by scientists in 1963. They live in streams fed by cold water from glaciers in northwest Montana.

Those glaciers are predicted to vanish by 2030 — in part because of warmer temperatures due to climate change — and researchers say the stoneflies also could disappear.

In a Wednesday lawsuit, the Center for Biological Diversity said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to follow through on a 2011 finding that protections might be needed for the insects.

The group asked U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan in Washington, D.C., to declare the agency violated federal law by not issuing a final determination on whether the species should be listed as threatened or endangered.

Even if the group prevails, it's uncertain what can be done to preserve the insects.

"The difficult thing about listing a species based on climate change is we don't really know what to do about it," said Joe Giersch, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist.

When Giersch and other researchers recently looked for the insects in six streams that stoneflies historically occupied, they found them in only one.

There have been preliminary discussions among biologists about raising glacier stoneflies in laboratories and seeding different streams with the species. Giersch said it's unclear if the insects could survive because the new streams likely would be warmer than those with native glacier stonefly populations.

Center for Biological Diversity scientist Tierra Curry said wildlife officials have a chance to raise the profile of climate change's impact on species around the globe with their decision on the stonefly.

"This stonefly is a story people can wrap their heads around," she said. "It's a specific species in a specific park that tells the story of what's happening around the globe right now."

Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Ryan Moehring said the agency does not comment on pending litigation.

The lawsuit also seeks a decision on several fish species in the southeastern U.S. that Curry says are threatened largely by water pollution.

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## **Why Apple Just Bought 36,000 Acres of Forest Land**

Yoni Heisler, [BGR News](#), April 16, 2015

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/s/why-apple-just-bought-36-000-acres-forest-213500536.html>



**apple forest trees**

Together with The Conservation Fund, [Apple](#) on Thursday announced its plan to acquire upwards of 36,000 acres of forest land in the eastern United States, in Maine and North Carolina to be precise. The purpose behind the purchase is that so Apple can exert even further control over its paper supply chain, thus ensuring that the paper used in its packaging and marketing materials come from sustainably managed wood sources.

In announcing Apple's new partnership, Apple VP of Environmental Initiatives Lisa Jackson took to *Medium* where she and Larry Selzer of The Conversation Fund [explained the impetus behind](#) the partnership.

*The Conservation Fund has developed an entirely new, private sector-based approach to conserving forests—raising corporate and charitable funds to purchase and manage these forestlands sustainably so they can thrive and continue fulfilling their vital role in the ecosystem while supplying business paper and packaging needs.*



This partnership is mutually beneficial. Apple is quantifying the virgin paper footprint from its packaging. Apple is committed to zeroing out that impact by using paper more efficiently, increasing recycled paper content, sourcing paper sustainably, and conserving acreage of working forests around the world equivalent to its virgin paper footprint. The Conservation Fund is committed to identifying and conserving those acres in the U.S. Through conservation easements, they will ensure these lands remain forests in the future. This helps preserve the supply of raw materials for paper while providing permanent environmental protection and fighting climate change.

On a related note, Apple today also [announced a new partnership](#) with SunPower to build two new solar power projects in China with an expected completion date of late 2015.

These days, you'd be hard pressed to find a "greener" company in tech than Apple, which is quite a marked shift from the days when we seemingly couldn't go 3 months without hearing Greenpeace complain about all of the things Apple wasn't doing to keep its environmental footprint as small as possible.

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## **UNITED NATIONS AGENDA 21**

### **The American People Aren't Stupid Enough to Buy the Manmade Climate Crisis Narrative**

**If the climate thugs cannot convince us, they will brutalize us into submission**

[Marita Noon](#), CFact, April 14, 2015

<http://www.cfact.org/2015/04/14/the-american-people-arent-stupid-enough-to-buy-the-manmade-climate-change-crisis-narrative/>



Late last year, the name Jonathan Gruber became part of the public consciousness for his newly public declarations that Obamacare passed due to the "**stupidity of the American voter**." While there are many cases one can cite

affirming that most Americans don't closely follow politics and/or the political process and, therefore, may be called "stupid," ***the campaign to sell the manmade climate change crisis narrative proves otherwise.***

We are smarter than they think. We are not buying what they are selling.

Global warming has been the most expensive and extensive "public relations campaign in history"—as **David Harsanyi** [calls](#) it in his post at [TheFederalist.com](#). He identifies the "25 years of political and cultural pressure," as *including "most governmental agencies, a long list of welfare-sucking corporations, the public school system, the universities, an infinite parade of celebrities, think tanks, well-funded environmental groups, and an entire major political party."* Yet, despite all the "gentle nudging," "stern warnings," and "fear mongering," Harsanyi states: "Since 1989, there's been no significant change in the public's concern level over global warming."

Based on new [polling data](#) from Gallup, Harsanyi points out that with the past 25 years of messaging, even among Democrats those who "worry greatly" about global warming has only increased "by a mere four percentage points"—with no change in the general public in the past 2 years.

A pew research [poll](#) on the Keystone pipeline—also the target of years of intense messaging and fear mongering—offers similar insights: "Support for the Keystone XL pipeline is almost universal," [reads](#) the *Washington Post* headline. The poll results report that only those who self-identify as "solid liberals" oppose the pipeline.

Clearly, Americans aren't that stupid after all. We can smell a rat.

It isn't that we don't believe the climate changes—it does, has, and always will—but, as Harsanyi states: "There is a difference in believing climate change is real and believing that climate change is calamitous." He continues: "As the shrieking gets louder, Americans become more positive about the quality of their environment and less concerned about the threats." And: "As the fear-mongering becomes more far-fetched, the accusations become more hysterical, and the deadlines for action keep being pushed right over the horizon, fewer people seem to really care."

Harsanyi concludes: "If you haven't been able to win over the public in 25 years of intense political and cultural pressure, you are probably down to two options: You can revisit your strategy, open debate to a wide range of ideas, accept that your excited rhetoric works on a narrow band of the Americans (in any

useful political sense), and live with the reality that most people have no interest in surrendering prosperity. Or, you can try to force people to do what you want.”

With the huge investment of time and money, it appears the fear mongers have chosen the latter option. The regulatory scheme coming out of Washington reflects an acknowledgement that the PR campaign has failed, but that the effort is continually being forced on people who don't want it—though they may not be following it closely; they may not be politically engaged.

The climate campaigners are continuing to do that which hasn't worked for the past 25 years—somehow believing they'll get different results (Isn't that the definition of insanity?).

On March 6, “a documentary that looks at pundits-for-hire,” *Merchants of Doubt* was released. It aimed to [smear](#) the reputations of some of the most noted voices on the realist side of the climate change debate—specifically **Fred Singer**, who has been one of the original climate skeptics. But nobody much wanted to see it. In its opening weekend, [BoxOfficeMoJo.com reports](#) *Merchants of Doubt* took in \$20,300.

A week later, former Vice President **Al Gore**, as [reported](#) in the *Chicago Tribune*, called on attendees at the SXSW festival in Austin, TX, to “punish climate change deniers”—which is the tactic being used now.

We've seen it in the widely publicized case of Dr. **Willie Soon**, a scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, who “claims that the variations in the sun's energy can largely explain recent global warming.” *The New York Times* [accused](#) him of being tied to funding from “corporate interests.”

Similar, though less well known, [attacks](#) have been made on **Henrik Moller**—Denmark's leading academic expert on noise research, who was fired by his university after exposing a wide-reaching coverup by the Danish government of the health risks caused by wind turbine noise pollution. And, on eminent meteorologist **Lennart Bengtsson**, who received world-wide pressure after he [stated](#): “I believe it is important to express different views in an area that is potentially so important and complex and still insufficiently known as climate change.”

Even Sen. **Edward Markey** (D, MA) and Rep. **Raul Grijalva** (D-AZ) recently joined the crusade. **Paul Driessen** (a CFACT senior policy advisor, by the way) draws attention to a letter they sent to “institutions that employ or support climate change researchers whose work questions claims that Earth and humanity face

unprecedented manmade climate change catastrophes." *The lawmakers warn of potential "conflicts of interest" in cases where evidence or computer modeling emphasizing human causes of climate change are questioned—but no such warning is offered for its supporters.*

Driessen [states](#): "Conflicts of interest can indeed pose problems. However, it is clearly not only fossil fuel companies that have major financial or other interests in climate and air quality standards—nor only manmade climate change skeptics who can have conflicts and personal, financial or institutional interests in these issues." He quotes Dr. **Richard Lindzen**, MIT atmospheric sciences professor emeritus and one of Grijalva's targets: "Billions of dollars have been poured into studies supporting climate alarm, and trillions of dollars have been involved in overthrowing the energy economy."

But somehow, only those who may receive funding from "fossil fuel companies" are suspect. The anti-fossil fuel movement has been vocal in its funding for candidates who support its agenda.

I've experienced this on a small scale. I wrote on [op-ed](#) for the *Albuquerque Journal* warning New Mexico residents about concerns over SolarCity's arrival in the state—which included offering 30-year financing for rooftop solar panels. A week later the paper published an [op-ed](#) that didn't discount my data, but accused my organization of receiving funding from the fossil-fuel industry. The op-ed was written by an employee of SolarCity—but this didn't seem incongruous.

The little attack on me allowed me to ask for people to counteract the claim that the Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy is not an "alliance of citizens." The outpouring of support astounded me—though the newspaper didn't post every comment.

Others, with whom I have been in contact, while researching for this writing, provided similar stories of support following the attacks.

In a *Desmog* post titled: *Climate deniers double down on doubt in the defense of Willie Soon*, the author [states](#) that Soon's supporters "circled the wagons."

In a *Scientific American* story about the *Merchants of Doubt*, **Andrew Hoffman**, a professor at the University of Michigan, who studies the behavior of climate skeptics, [says](#): "Tit-for-tats between mainstream and contrarian researchers tend to raise the profile of skeptical scientists." He concludes: "Frankly, this degradation benefits the skeptics."

Because of the failure of the manmade climate-crisis campaign to capture the hearts and minds of the average American—who, after all, isn't that stupid—we can expect the Gore-ordered attacks to continue. Expect the fear mongering to become more far-fetched, the accusations to become more hysterical, and the deadlines for action to keep being pushed right over the horizon. When this happens, “fewer people seem to really care.”

Like the mythical Hydra, when one “skeptic” is cut down, supporters “double down”—two more grow to take its place. While designed to silence, the attacks draw attention to the fact that there is another side to the “debate.”

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**OOPS! Perhaps the citizens of Corvallis, Oregon do not fall within the subject of the previous article, *"The American People Aren't Stupid Enough to Buy the Manmade Climate Crisis Narrative"*. Perhaps some of them are!!!**

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## **Taking Action on Climate,**

### **Corvallis begins work on ambitious plan to address issue**

James Day, Corvallis Gazette-Times, April 13, 2015

The city of Corvallis is moving forward on a plan to address global warming.

The City Council has adopted climate change as a goal for this two-year council term and will work with citizen volunteers on developing a plan of action.

The volunteers, which include members of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, the League of Women Voters, the Sierra Club and 350 Corvallis, submitted a 71-page plan to the city in January that will help serve as a blueprint.

## **SUMMARY**

This Climate Action Plan is an attempt to create a framework that offers direction and focus on the most serious threat facing the world today and to set priorities and a course for progress for our community.

Drawing on similar plans developed by other cities, the state of Oregon and other states, it pinpoints issues critically important not only to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but to maintaining our quality of life in the face of a changing climate that threatens food and water sources, power supplies, public safety and health, forests and local economies.

Identifying strategies and actions that can feasibly and effectively reduce our community's greenhouse gas emissions would achieve numerous benefits that not only would move Corvallis toward realizing its 2020 vision but also would build a more secure and resilient community for future generations.

## **COUNCIL GOAL**

Over the next two years, take bold action to address climate change by (1) supporting the energy conservation efforts of the Corvallis Georgetown University Energy Prize team, and (2) adopting and beginning to implement a comprehensive, long-term climate action plan that will significantly reduce Corvallis' greenhouse gas emissions and foster Corvallis' resilience to the effects of climate change.

of the issue (and) billions

Many of the actions the task force recommended already are the focus of community-wide attention. The city has added

## THREATS

According to climate change experts the Corvallis area will see a number of important changes:

- Average annual temperatures will increase by 8 to 12 degrees fahrenheit by around 2080.
- Reduced snowpack and changing snowmelt will result in lower stream flows in summer. This will reduce the availability of irrigation water even as higher temperatures increase the demand for water for agricultural uses.
- More intense storms (rain and snow) will increase flood risk and stormwater management challenges.
- Increased river flooding and winter flows, decreased summer flows, and higher stream temperatures will threaten many species, particularly salmon, steelhead, and trout.
- Field crops, fruit trees, and livestock will face an increased probability of heat stress.
- The combined impacts of increasing wildfire, insect outbreaks, and tree diseases will increase forest mortality and transform forest landscapes.

- Field crops, fruit trees, and livestock will face an increased probability of heat stress.

- The combined impacts of increasing wildfire, insect outbreaks, and tree diseases will increase forest mortality and transform forest landscapes.

- Humans will suffer higher rates of heat-related illness, exhaustion, asthma, and respiratory diseases.

**Source:** Corvallis Climate Action Plan ([www.corvallisCAP.org](http://www.corvallisCAP.org))

## PROCESS

Here are the suggested steps for a climate action plan from the volunteer task force:

**Milestone One:** Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast.

**Milestone Two:** Establish an emissions reduction target for the forecast year.

**Milestone Three:** Develop a local climate action plan to implement actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Milestone Four:** Implement the climate action plan.

**Milestone Five:** Measure, verify and report performance.

More from this article can be found online at the Gazette-Times website.

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## **Climate Plan Troubling**

David E. Williams, Ph. D.

Opinion, Editor's Mailbag, Corvallis Gazette-Times, May 3, 2015

Reading the extensive and ambitious recommendations to the City Council by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (Mailbag, April 12) and specifics of plan objectives, I was reminded of the five year plans of the Soviet Union during the last century of Josef Stalin. Both plans have the common theme of relinquishing individual freedoms for the common good. The major difference is the Soviet Union plans set milestones for achievement in a realistic time frame.

As a scientist I have been concerned for a number of years about the "science" of global warming (morphed into climate change). Predicting climate change based on models is not an exact science. Critical hypotheses cannot be tested and small errors in model predictors can result in large difference in resulting conclusions; errors magnified by the interval of time the prediction spans.

The science, to a troubling degree, has been hijacked by luddites with a social agenda. Any scientist should be deeply troubled by the comment of Ms. Mills: "*I think the conversation needs to be over.*" This is not how science works. It is how totalitarian regimes work.

Ms. Lovett's comment, "*I won't be around in 50 years and I have a child and would like her to live in a better world,*" is touching. Will it be a better world? I don't know. I do know that meeting these objectives for Corvallis, such as 40 percent of households being car-free in 15 years, will do absolutely nothing to alter whatever global climate change there may be. Your child will grow up in a world where individual choices and freedoms will be taken away, the economy stalled by a premature elimination of fossil fuels and a general decline in the standard of living, This will be the legacy of the Climate Coalition if adopted.

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# The Environmental Insane Asylum

[Alan Caruba](#), CFact, April 21, 2015

[http://www.cfact.org/2015/04/21/the-environmental-insane-asylum/?utm\\_source=CFACT+Updates&utm\\_campaign=0e6d70a079-Earth\\_Day\\_radicalism4\\_22\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a28eaedb56-0e6d70a079-270344661](http://www.cfact.org/2015/04/21/the-environmental-insane-asylum/?utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=0e6d70a079-Earth_Day_radicalism4_22_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-0e6d70a079-270344661)



Earth Day was declared in 1970 and for the past 45 years we have all been living in the environmental “insane asylum,” being told over and over again to believe things that are the equivalent of Green hallucinations. Now the entire month of April has been declared Earth Month, but in truth not a day goes by when we are not assailed with the bold-faced lies that comprise environmentalism.

Around the globe, the worst part of this is that we are being victimized by people we are told to respect from the President of the United States to the Pope of the Catholic Church. Their environmentalism is pure socialism.

Organizations whom we expect to tell the truth keep telling us that “climate change is one of the biggest global security threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” This was a recent statement by “world leaders” like the G7, a group of finance ministers and central bank governors of seven advanced economies, the International Monetary Fund, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States. On April 17 they adopted a report about the “threat” put together by think tanks that included the European Union Institute for Security Studies and the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.

When I speak of “climate” I am referring to data gathered not just about decades, but centuries of the Earth’s cycles of warming and cooling. When I speak of “weather”, the closest any of us get to it other than today’s, are local predictions no longer than a few days’ time at best. The weather is in a constant state of flux.

The threat of "climate change" is constantly exaggerated and there has been no meaningful global warming since the 20th century. There was not much then. As Prof. Bob Carter, a geologist at James Cook College in Queensland, Australia, has written, "For many years now, human-caused climate change has been viewed as a large and urgent problem. In truth, however, the biggest part of the problem is neither environmental nor scientific, but a self-created political fiasco."

The fact that the Earth is now into the nineteenth year of a natural planetary cooling cycle seems to never be acknowledged or reported. "The problem here," says Prof. Carter, "is not that of climate change per se, but rather that of the sophisticated scientific brainwashing that has been inflicted on the public, bureaucrats and politicians alike."

In a book I recommend to everyone, "Climate for the Layman" by Anthony Bright-Paul, he draws on the best well-known science about the Earth noting that "Since there is no such thing as a temperature of the whole Earth all talk of global warming is simply illogical, ill thought out, and needs to be discarded for the sake of clarity. The globe is warming and cooling in different locations concurrently every minute of the day and night."

"Since it is abundantly clear that there is no one temperature of the atmosphere all talk of Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) is simply an exercise in futility." A look at the globe from either of its two poles to its equator and everything in between tells us with simple logic that being able to determine its "temperature" is impossible. The Earth, however, has gone through numerous warming and cooling cycles, all of which were the result of more or less solar radiation.

The Sun is a crucial factor that warming campaigners ignore. The assertion that humans influence the climate and nature need not be considered is absurd.

The Earth had passed through warming and cooling cycles for billions of years before humans even existed, yet we are told that the generation of carbon dioxide through the use of machinery in manufacturing, transportation or any other use is causing the build-up of "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere. We are told to give up the use of coal, oil and natural gas. That is a definition of insanity!

Here's the simple truth that most people are not told: The Sun warms the Earth and the Earth warms the atmosphere.

As for carbon dioxide, the amount generated by human activity represents a miniscule percentage of the 0.04% in the Earth's atmosphere. There has been

more carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere—well before humans existed—contributing to the growth of all manner of vegetation which in turn generated oxygen.

Without carbon dioxide there would be no life on Earth. It feeds the vegetation on which animal life depends directly and indirectly. As Anthony Bright-Paul says, "A slight increase in atmosphere of carbon dioxide will not and cannot produce any warming, but can be hugely beneficial to a green planet."

The Earth's atmosphere is approximately 78% Nitrogen, 21% Oxygen, 0.9% Argon, 0.04% Carbon Dioxide, and the rest is water vapor and trace gases in very small amounts. They interact to provide an environment in which life, animal and vegetable, exists on Earth.

When you live in a Global Environmental Insane Asylum, you are not likely to hear or read the truth, but you can arrive at it using simple logic. We know instinctively that humans do not control the waves of our huge oceans, nor the vast tectonic plates beneath our feet, the eruptions of volcanoes, the jet stream, cloud formation, or any of the elements of the weather we experience, such as thunder, lightning, and other acts of nature.

Why would we blindly assume or agree to the torrent of lies that humans dominate the climate? The answer is that on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, we will be deluged with the propaganda of countless organizations worldwide that we are, in fact, endangering a "fragile" planet Earth. We hear and read that every other day of the year as well.

The achievement of the human race and the last 5,000 years of so-called civilization is the way we have learned to adapt to Nature by creating habitats from villages to cities in which to survive and because we have devised a vast global agricultural and ranching system to feed seven billion of us.

As for the weather, John Christy, the director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama, says he cringes "when I hear overstated confidence from those who describe the projected evolution of global weather patterns over the next one hundred years, especially when I consider how difficult it is to accurately predict that system's behavior over the next five days."

"Mother Nature," says Christy, "simply operates at a level of complexity that is, at this point, behind the mastery of mere mortals—such as scientists—and the tools available to us."

Whether it is the President or the Pope, or the countless politicians and bureaucrats, along with multitudes of “environmental” organizations, as well as self-serving “scientists”, all aided by the media, a virtual Green Army has been deliberately deceiving and misleading the citizens of planet Earth for four and a half decades. It won't stop any time soon, but it must before the charade of environmentalism leaves us all enslaved by the quest for political control over our lives that hides behind it.

We must escape the Environmental Insane Asylum in which they want us to live.

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## **Lawsuit Accuses Feds of Closing Forest, Locking Door**

**Agency is 'restricting access to thousands of roads'**

Bob Unruh, WND, March 18, 2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/03/lawsuit-accuses-feds-of-closing-forest-locking-door/>



**Plumas National Forest in California**

In a dispute over access to publicly owned property that could ripple across dozens of states, a lawsuit has been filed in California challenging a federal bureaucracy move essentially to shut down a national forest and lock the door.

“This lawsuit challenges the closure to motorized travel of thousands of unclassified but previously lawfully used roads and trails, representing hundreds of miles of recreational and access opportunities in Plumas National Forest,” explains the document filed by the [Pacific Legal Foundation](#), which previously has defeated the government in several land-use battles that have gone to the Supreme Court.

The new case, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, alleges the government is blocking thousands of recreation roads and roads commonly used by the public for years in the Plumas National Forest.

Bringing the complaint are Butte and Plumas counties, several recreational associations and a number of individuals, including Clarksburg resident Amy Granat, a disabled woman who now is prevented from using public lands.

The Plumas forest in is northern California, and the lawsuit alleges the U.S. Forest Service violated several mandatory procedures outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedure Act to block access to “much of Plumas National Forest.”

[Plumas officials declined to comment on the dispute](#), and there was no response from a regional office.

“We are suing to stop federal officials from illegally ‘fencing off’ a vast portion of Plumas National Forest from responsible recreational use by the public,” said PLF senior staff attorney Ted Hadzi-Antich in a prepared statement.

“Federal officials have a duty to protect the environment, but not to keep humans out of the environment. One of the primary purposes of our national forests is to provide for recreational uses. Yet the Forest Service is now prohibiting responsible recreation, by restricting access to thousands of roads and trails that the public has long had the right to use in motorized vehicles.”

The policy at issue is the recent Plumas National Forest Public Motorized Travel Management Record of Decision and Environmental Impact Statement and how it is being applied.

That decision, Pacific Legal explained, “excluded thousands of roads and trails that had been used by the public for motorized travel and recreational purposes for decades.”

“Although these routes had been previously unclassified and not officially part of the National Forest Transportation System, they were always open to the public and it was entirely lawful to use them for motorized travel.”

Then they were closed without proper documentation and sometimes without even a visit from the officials closing them down, the action alleges.

“This kind of drive-by decision-making isn’t just a careless way to make policy for our national forests. It’s also illegal. When decisions affect public lands, NEPA requires site-specific analysis of the environmental and human consequences, and that didn’t happen here,” Hadzi-Antich said.

He continued: "The Forest Service failed to adequately consider the human toll that results from denying Californians and others the ability to continue cherished and family friendly recreational activities that have been taking place in the forest for generations. Particularly egregious is the fact that the closure of these roads and trails deprives disabled persons, who require motorized vehicle transport to enjoy many parts of Plumas National Forest."

The complaint notes even some access to private land was cut off by the decision.

Granat said: "When you're disabled and can't walk like everybody else can, the only avenue open to you is in a vehicle. To me, what the Forest Service has done seems like an incredible overreach of what a federal agency can do. We have to bring fairness back. We have to insist that it is part of our right to be able to access public land in an environmentally responsible way. The beauty that is inherent in this American landscape has been closed off to so many people now."

Pacific Legal told WND the same issue is becoming apparent widely across the western United States, where many states have designated national forests, as well as across the South.

At Plumas, the complaint explains that the Forest Service banned travel across the more than 1.14 million acres of the public land.

It reported the agency allowed continued use of only 200 of a total of approximately 3,236 routes in the forest, based on various reasons, including wildlife habitat.

But, the complaint explained, "Forest Service biologists admitted that several roads that were eliminated from consideration for vehicle because of species protection were actually in areas that are unsuitable habitat for the red-legged frog."

There are a dozen claims for relief cited in the complaint, which asks the courts to set aside the agency decisions until and unless the proper procedures are followed.

In a blog post, Hadzi-Antich said: "In a democracy, there are few things more troublesome to the body politic (or to just plain folks) than bureaucrats who ingest large doses of self-importance while trying to expand their limited powers. If it weren't so dangerous, it'd be pitiful."

He continued: “There is an overarching issue here. The Forest Service is taking similar actions at the approximately 150 national forests located throughout the nation, which makes this an issue of concern to those living in every nook and cranny of the country within driving distance of a national forest.

“The Forest Service cannot violate the law with impunity. Even more broadly, federal administrative agencies must stay within the bounds of the law established by our elected officials. Isn’t that how our government is supposed to work?”

It was a 5-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that gave the organization victory in a Florida case. There, the justices called a halt to a government “shakedown” procedure requiring a landowner to pay up to \$150,000 to be allowed to develop several acres of his own ground.

“Extortionate demands for property in the land-use permitting context run afoul of the Takings Clause not because they take property but because they impermissibly burden the right not to have property taken without just compensation,” [the opinion](#) said. “It is settled that the unconstitutional conditions doctrine applies even when the government threatens to withhold a gratuitous benefit.”

In the Florida case, a water district demanded a property owner pay up to \$150,000 to develop land originally purchased by his father.

[WND also reported](#) when the Supreme Court knocked down the Environmental Protection Agency’s attempt to issue a “drive-by” decision that a parcel of land in Idaho was a protected wetlands and prohibit the owner from using it.

The decision came in the case of the Sackett family of Priest Lake, Idaho. Mike and Chantell Sackett bought a piece of land in a residential subdivision that was about two-thirds of an acre, purchased the appropriate building permits and started work on their dream home.

Then the EPA arrived, ordered them to restore the land to its pristine condition, protect it for years and then go through a ruinously expensive application process to request permission to use their own land.

Further, the EPA, in collusion with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, told the couple they could not even challenge the decision unless they went through that expensive process.

The high court said the EPA must provide a process through which a challenge to its decision can be addressed in a meaningful way. The law firm working on behalf of the Sacketts called the decision a “precedent-setting victory for the rights of all property owners.”

The EPA previously had threatened the couple with fines of up to \$75,000 per day for failing to follow the agency’s intrusive “compliance” plan through which federal officials not only effectively seized control of the land, but also the couple, by demanding their paperwork records and other detailed information.

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## **OREGON SHERIFF GIL GILBERTSON CONTINUES STAND AGAINST U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

By Sarah Foster, November 23, 2011, © 2011 NewsWithViews.com  
<http://newswithviews.com/NWV-News/news287.htm>

**Josephine County, Ore.** -- Two months ago Gil Gilbertson, the sheriff of this rural county in southern Oregon, [drafted a 10-page report](#) exploring the origins and extent of federal power within a state and emailed his findings to various parties, asking for comment.



Since the report was in rough-draft form he was somewhat surprised that it went viral, but it shows there are a lot of people hungry for information about how much power (particularly law-enforcement power) the federal government actually wields within a state, where that power comes from, and the limits to that power.

Gilbertson continued his research and recently completed a 13-page revised and updated version, retitled: [Unraveling Federal Jurisdiction within a State](#). It is highly footnoted with references to statutes and court decisions.

This a “must read” for anyone concerned about infringements against the 10th Amendment and federal encroachments in general – like road closures, Wild Lands and Monument designations, mining and other resource uses. In other words, this is for anyone and everybody with an interest – no matter how casual – in accessing the public lands, either as a “resource user” (a rancher or miner) or simply a casual vacationer who enjoys weekend camping.



“If you’d told me two years ago that I would be writing such a document, I would have probably walked away from you shaking my head,” the sheriff notes in the introduction.

“This paper is a result of a clash with the federal [U.S. Forest Service] law enforcement in this county, from citizens complaining of what can only be described as harassment and violations of their rights,” he explains. “The first time I approached the USFS the door closed regarding any discussion. The USFS advised me to file a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. “

Eventually Gilbertson was able to discuss the issue with the Forest Service. “Most of my questions were answered except for one: **Where does the USFS’s authority come from?** (bold-face in original). The answer(s) were surprising.”

Finding the answer is one of five tasks he set himself, which he lists as follows:

1. Identify true jurisdictional authority of the Federal Government
2. Examine and expose how the reserved powers of the States are usurped by federal agencies writing and enforcing their self-imposed codes and regulations
3. Examine how the health, safety, and welfare of the Citizens within the State are undermined
4. Provide a positive and equitable solution
5. Coordinate with like-minded Sheriffs to take a formal stance on these issues.

### **Mission Creep**

To sum up his conclusions regarding federal authority in a very small nutshell: the original idea was for the federal government to hold public lands within a state in trust, with the intention being for eventual disposal. Gilbertson writes:

“The public lands (out West) were considered by many as the ‘problem lands.’ However, the approved procedure, since the passage of the Resolutions of October 1780, was that the central government held the lands in trust. Upon a state being admitted to the Union, the federal government had the trust authority and obligation to dispose of the lands for expansion, exploration, occupancy, and production by settlers.

“Slowly, over the years many of these ‘public lands’ held in trust seemingly became more desirable to retain, rather than for disposal. Newly formed federal regulatory agencies worked their way into existence, each taking an increasingly expanding role (enter ‘mission creep’). By 1976 complete and total disregard for the trust obligation to dispose of public land was made clear in the Federal Lands Policy and

Management Act (FLPMA), which states: ‘...**that it is the policy of the United States that the public lands be retained in Federal ownership.**’”

Sheriff Gilbertson talked with NWV about his report, expanding on his views about the division of power between federal and state governments.

He strongly questions the legality and constitutionality of executive orders and various regulations, as well as laws like FLPMA, observing that Congress has the sole authority to make law, not the president, not the agencies. Not surprisingly he takes sharp issue with President Obama who has declared he'll “circumvent the Constitution” through the use of executive orders.

“The Constitution is clear on who has police and legislative powers. Those executive orders are not law,” said Gilbertson.

And while FLPMA is a congressionally passed statute, it delegates undue powers to the agencies. “Congress cannot give an agency the ability to write rules and regulations and enforce them as if they were law,” he said. “Congress has to do that. These agencies write their own rules and regulations as they go along and enforce these as law.”

“The big issue, as I see it,” he continued, “is that all these things combine. You have DEQ, EPA, all these federal entities. And as all these federal agencies evolved over the years, there's been mission creep. They decided, well, we need to fix this; this gives us more powers, and so forth, so we'll just write down more rules and regulations. They were allowed to get away with it for whatever reason, and now they enforce those as laws. But it's clearly stated that that can't be done -- I spelled that out in my document,” he said.

Moreover, “Forest reserves were not federal enclaves subject to the doctrine of exclusive legislative jurisdiction of the United States. Local peace officers were to exercise civil and criminal process over these lands. Forest Service rangers were not law enforcement officers unless designated as such by state authority.”

The federal government sees it otherwise, so in addition to expanding claims for general regulatory power agencies like the Forest Service are attempting to extend the reach of law enforcement authority – a matter that adds to Gilbertson's concerns.

“The U.S. Forest Service and BLM are really stepping outside their authority in that the Constitution does not give them that,” he observed. “The Tenth Amendment clearly reserves police rights to the states.”

## **Law Enforcement Power Grab**

Sheriffs in other counties have taken note of this development. In his report Gilbertson refers to a [one-page position paper](#) by the Western States Sheriffs' Association that concurs with his observations, and in fact grew from his earlier one. He writes, quoting from the WSSA statement:

*"The USFS recently sent out a communication dated July 15, 2011, titled **Federal Register publication of Final Proposed Rules [Title 36] 262, 261, and 212 purportedly to clarify and expand their authority.***

*On Sept. 21, the Western States Sheriffs Association responded with a position paper to this USFS publication by writing: "The membership of the Western States Sheriffs Association has reviewed the proposed rule changes and believes they exhibit the following: (1) an absolute disregard for the sovereignty of the individual States, (2) a disregard for the authority of the Office of Sheriff, and (3) A continued inability of the Forest Service to understand the mission and function of its Law Enforcement component."*

*Additionally, "This effort is viewed as an unnecessary and unauthorized expansion of federal police powers. The ultimate legal and constitutional authority for the protection of the public and the land within an individual county is vested in the Office of Sheriff. The Roles and responsibilities for the Office of Sheriff are well enumerated within the laws of each State, and the Sheriff possesses the authority to extend enforcement powers as appropriate.*

*"It is the position of this committee that the membership of the Western States Sheriffs' Association utilizes all appropriate methods and resources to oppose this effort."*

Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations deals with the U.S. Forest Service. Section 212 is about Travel Management within the national forests.

NWV contacted Dave Brown, Sheriff of Skamania County, Wash., for additional information. Sheriff Brown is the chair of the Public Lands Committee of the WSSA that drafted the Position Paper. He said he hoped to have it adopted by the association at its annual meeting.

"It has not been adopted, but my hope is that it will be at our spring conference next March when it's presented to the entire membership," Brown said.

Brown said his committee relied for background on the first report Gilbertson sent out in mid-September. His further observations to NWV were particularly chilling.

"Essentially they are nationalizing their ability to do law enforcement. Right now the ability for them to enforce is based on ... rules that are made at the district ranger's office or the forest supervisor's office," he said. "They want to take that authority away from local rangers and forest supervisors and basically put it into their back pocket to do consistent enforcement nationally."

### **A National Police Force in the Making**

And this is about more than simply the road closures which are going on in all the national forests. As Brown sees it, *these new provisions spell the way to a national police force*. The new rules will give the federal law enforcement the authority to enforce state laws on county roads across national forest land and on roads outside the national forests.

Asked if they'd be enforcing all laws and ordinances on land outside the national forests, Brown said, "no – They would essentially be enforcing those state traffic laws that we would currently enforce and some drug enforcement laws, abandoned property issues, things like that." "Most people don't follow this or pay attention to it, but if we don't [the federal government] will have everything the  
y want to basically create a national police force," he said.

Which is why the proposal has created a "firestorm" among western sheriffs. "We recognize it as them kicking us in the face and saying, 'We don't really care about you being the sheriff: we are going to give ourselves this authority,'" Brown said.

### **Corralling Runaway Government**

The question for concerned Americans is how to stop the train, something easier said than done, though not necessarily impossible. "The real solution is to encourage Congress to comply with, and enforce the Constitution with the intent and guidance as written," Gilbertson writes. "The PEOPLE vested the authority in Congress to accomplish this task. Put law enforcement aback where it belongs, within the several states. "It is my hope this letter [report] will serve as an awakening to the public and for elected officials to exercise the proper conduct to stop this runaway government. It is also my hope that Sheriffs throughout the United States will join to bring our Republic form of government back to the people."

NOTE: Josephine County is on the California-Oregon state line across from Siskiyou County, a county that ranchers, farmers, miners and their allies are calling “ground zero” in the intensifying battle over land use and access to public lands. Siskiyou County is where the federal government, in lockstep with local environmentalists, seeks to remove three clean hydro-power dams on the Klamath River – an action that will wipe out what’s left of the once vibrant ranching and farming communities. A fourth dam, in Klamath County, Ore., is also slated for demolition.

On Oct. 22, eight brave sheriffs – seven from northern California and one from central Oregon -- put their careers in law enforcement on the line by addressing an audience of nearly 1,000 people at a rally in Yreka, the county seat of Siskiyou County. The event was sponsored by Support Rural America and other groups; the panel was introduced and chaired by Jon Lopey, Sheriff of Siskiyou County.

“By their testimony these fine sheriffs’ verbally documented the assault on sovereignty and the abridgement of individual rights ... that they have personally witnessed,” says retired Sheriff Jim R. Schwiesow in a recent NewsWithViews column.

Sheriff Gilbertson was not among the eight panelists. He and his wife had made vacation plans and reservations over a year ago and it was not possible to change these. But although not able to attend in person, his report on federal jurisdiction speaks eloquently for him.

The event was videotaped and posted at [ConstitutionalSheriffs.com](http://ConstitutionalSheriffs.com).

Contact [Sheriff Gil Gilbertson](#)

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# Why Environmentalists Will Eventually Hate Renewable Power

[Donald Kendal](#), Human Events, Apr 13, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/04/13/why-environmentalists-will-eventually-hate-renewable-power/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/04/13/why-environmentalists-will-eventually-hate-renewable-power/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



The proliferation of renewable energy will never please environmentalists. In fact, the more efficient and inexpensive energies like solar and wind become, the more environmentalists will fear and eventually hate them.

Currently, arguments against renewable energy are based on the accurate claim they are too inefficient to become widespread. The technology behind solar and wind power are just not where they need to be to justify widespread use.

In October 2014, data revealed the massive Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in the Mojave Desert fell [well short of its anticipated output](#). During an eight-month period in 2013, the solar plant missed its goal by a whopping 40 percent.

Because of stories like these, many are reluctant to support large government subsidies for renewable energy projects. The lackluster performance of alternative energies have led several states to reconsider legislation requiring a portion of their energy to come from renewable sources. In January, [West Virginia made headlines](#) when the state ended its mandate in full.

*The inability of alternative energies to compete with fossil fuels does not deter environmentalists. They see renewables as a solution to the problem of rising CO2*

*in the atmosphere and the climate change they say inevitably results from it. Their goal is to save Earth from climate disruption.*

But what happens when renewable technology does become efficient enough to replace fossil fuels? What if another energy technology is developed that supplies us with abundant and pollution-free energy? *The resulting scenario is one environmentalists fear the most: Civilization growth unconstrained by the threat of climate disruption.*

This [fear was exposed in 1989](#), when two scientists announced they produced excess energy through the process of cold fusion. This revelation, which turned out to be false, would have the potential to produce inexpensive and inexhaustible energy. People believed we were on the verge of creating free energy. This concept caused many environmentalists to show their true colors.

*While people rejoiced at the prospect of free energy, author and activist Jeremy Rifkin was [quoted by the Los Angeles Times saying](#), “It’s the worst thing that could happen to our planet.” Rifkin envisioned a world filled with waste—a world where people were free to use up Earth’s resources.*

Biologist Paul Ehrlich said, “[It’s] like giving a machine gun to an idiot child.”

*These environmentalists and many others reacted this way because the real threat, in their eyes, is human development and growth.*

In the same article referred to above, environmentalists voiced concerns that abundant energy would open the door to an increase in population growth, the result being a “crowded earth.” This fear is still held today by environmentalists like Bill McKibben.

McKibben, considered to be “America’s most important environmentalist” by the Boston Globe, became a big name in the global warming debate in 1989 with the publishing of *End of Nature*. Since then, McKibben has written several more books about mankind’s impact on the environment, such as *Maybe One: A Personal and Environmental Argument for Single Child Families*.

In *Maybe One*, McKibben makes the [case for potentially painful](#) population control. Population control is necessary in the minds of many environmentalists like McKibben because large populations inevitably lead to more homes, office buildings, cars, shopping centers, and trash. This is why McKibben wrote in his

two books *Deep Economy* (2007) and *Earth* (2010) that *he did not want to see an increase in development but rather a “controlled decline.”*

**Environmentalists do not see fossil fuels and CO<sub>2</sub> as a threat to mankind; they see mankind as a threat to the environment.** Advocating for renewable energy is just an excuse to implement a constriction of fossil-fuel use and development across the world. If the time comes where renewable, clean, and abundant energies become a reality, environmentalists will surely withdraw their support in the name of protecting the planet.

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**From:** "US Environmental Protection Agency" <[noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov](mailto:noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** April 16, 2015 6:30:01 AM PDT  
**Subject:** EPA Seeks Public Comments on Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda Framework



**CONTACT:** Jennifer Colaizzi (News Media only) [colaizzi.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:colaizzi.jennifer@epa.gov) (202) 564-7776

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2015

## **EPA Seeks Public Comments on Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda Framework**

WASHINGTON - Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is asking for public comment on the draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda (EJ 2020) framework, the *EPA's next overarching strategic plan for environmental justice.*

EJ 2020 is a strategy to advance environmental justice through EPA's programs, policies and activities, and *will support the cross-agency strategy on making a visible difference in environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically-distressed communities.* Stakeholders and the general public can review the framework and submit comments, starting today through June 15, 2015, by visiting [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej2020/](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej2020/).



“EJ 2020 will build on the foundation established by EPA’s Plan EJ 2014, where we were able to improve on EJ in permitting, support community-based programs and develop science tools to access and facilitate grants,” said Mustafa Santiago Ali, Senior Advisor to Administrator Gina McCarthy on Environmental Justice. “Although we’ve made good progress, there’s still more to do. We need to strategically identify opportunities for targeted collaboration that benefit overburdened communities. Your voices, experiences and expertise can help shape a strategy that addresses the needs of your communities.”

The goals of EJ 2020 are to:

- ★ Deepen environmental justice practice within EPA programs to improve the health and environment of overburdened communities;
- ★ Collaborate with partners to **expand our impact within communities**; and
- ★ Demonstrate progress on outcomes that matter to communities.

Under Plan EJ 2014, EPA laid a foundation for **integrating environmental justice into all its programs, including rule-writing, permitting, enforcement, science and law**. Plan EJ 2014 helped to build environmental justice **into the agency’s regulatory practice**, revitalized environmental justice planning across the federal family, and initiated the development of a cross-cutting Environmental Justice Research Roadmap. To learn more about the accomplishments under Plan EJ 2014, visit <http://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/plan-ej/index.html>.

During the public comment period for EJ 2020, EPA will conduct informational and dialogue sessions with partners and stakeholder groups. Audiences are encouraged to participate in these sessions and request additional sessions if needed. For more information about EJ 2020, and to view a schedule of these sessions, visit [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej2020/](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej2020/).

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA’s goal is to provide an environment where all people enjoy equal access to the environmental decision-making process to maintain a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. EPA’s environmental justice work is an outgrowth of Executive Order 12898, signed by President Clinton in 1994, that requires federal agencies to address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs on minority and low-income populations.

For more information about EPA’s environmental justice work, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/>.



that federal agencies consider the impacts of their significant decision-making actions on “the quality of the human environment,” anytime they issue permits for projects, provide government funding or conduct the projects themselves.

The law has avoided many needless impacts but has also enabled activists to delay or block projects they oppose on ideological grounds. The new [White House/CEQ “guidelines”](#) were issued on Christmas Eve 2014, to minimize public awareness and response. They require that federal agencies henceforth consider potential impacts on climate change, whenever they provide permits, approvals or funding for any federal, state or private sector projects, on the assumption that such projects will always affect Earth’s climate.

Problems with the new diktats are far too numerous for a single article, but several demand discussion.

First, CEQ uses U.S. carbon dioxide emissions as proxy for climate change. This assumes CO<sub>2</sub> is now the dominant factor in climate and weather events, and all the powerful natural forces that ruled in past centuries, millennia and eons are irrelevant. It presumes any increases in U.S. “greenhouse gases” correlate directly with national and global climate and weather events, and any changes will be harmful. It also considers emissions from China and other countries to be irrelevant to any agency calculations.

Second, CEQ employs the same [“social cost of carbon”](#) analyses that other agencies are using to justify appliance, vehicle and other efficiency and emission standards. This SCC assessment will now examine alleged *international* harm up to 300 years in the future, from *single project* emissions in the *United States*, despite it being impossible to demonstrate any *proximate relationship* between asserted global climate changes and any US project emissions (which are generally minuscule globally).

Moreover, the entire SCC analysis is based on arbitrary, fabricated, exaggerated and manipulated costs, with no *benefits* assigned or acknowledged for using hydrocarbons to improve, safeguard and save countless lives – or for the role that rising atmospheric [carbon dioxide](#) plays in improving crop and other plant growth, thereby feeding more people, greening our planet and bolstering wildlife habitats.

Third, the expensive, time-consuming, useless, impossible exercise is made even more absurd by CEQ’s proposed requirement that agencies somehow calculate the adverse global climatic impacts of any federally approved project that could emit up to 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide or its equivalents per year. A single shopping mall, hospital or stretch of busy highway

could meet this threshold – triggering endless “paralysis by analysis,” environmentalist litigation, delays and cost overruns.

Fourth, CEQ also wants agencies to somehow evaluate “upstream” and “downstream” emissions. In cases reviewing highway or hospital projects, this would entail examining emissions associated with mining, processing, shipping and using cement, steel, other building materials and heavy equipment *before and during* construction – and then assessing emissions associated with people and goods that might conceivably be transported to or from the facility or along the highway *following* construction.

CEQ likewise wants project proponents to offset these alleged impacts with equally spurious mitigation projects, which will themselves be subjected to still more analyses, contention, litigation and delays.

Fifth, the proposed CEQ guidelines would supposedly evaluate any and all adverse impacts allegedly caused by climate changes supposedly resulting from fossil fuel use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But they do not require federal agencies to assess harms resulting *from projects delayed or blocked* because of the new climate directives. Thus agencies would endlessly ponder rising seas and more frequent and/or severe hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and droughts that they might attribute to particular projects.

However, they would not consider the many ways people would be made *less safe* by an analytical process that results in more serious injuries and deaths, when highway improvements, better levees and other flood protections, modern hospitals and other important facilities are delayed or never built.

Nor has CEQ factored in the roles of ideologically motivated anti-development bureaucrats in the federal agencies – or the ways Big Green campaigns and lawsuits are sponsored by wealthy far-left foundations, [Russian money](#) laundered through a Bermuda law firm, and even grants from the government agencies.

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# **CLEAN WATER ACT**

## **U.S. Supreme Court Reaffirms Settled Precedent For Regulating Transfers Of Water Through Stormwater Systems And Other Water Infrastructure**

Last Updated: January 14 2013

Article by [Lawrence R. Liebeman](#), [Jerrold J. Ganzfried](#) and [Amy L. Edwards Holland & Knight](#)

### **Ruling Provides Greater Clarity for Clean Water Act Compliance**

On January 8, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously overturned a judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit that would have had vast consequences for stormwater systems and other water infrastructure across the country.

In *Los Angeles County Flood Control District v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, *the Court held that "the flow of water from an improved portion of a navigable waterway into an unimproved portion of the very same waterway does not qualify as a discharge of pollutants" under the Clean Water Act.*<sup>1</sup> By overturning the Ninth Circuit's ruling that the flood control district had violated its stormwater permit, the Justices awarded an important victory to Los Angeles County.

### **Background**

In many areas, stormwater, snow melt and other runoff from various non-point sources is conveyed through a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) before being discharged into navigable waters that are regulated subject to the Clean Water Act. Because such runoff is often polluted, every MS4 serving a population of at least 100,000 people must obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which limits the quantity of specified pollutants that can be discharged via the MS4.<sup>2</sup>

In this case, the Los Angeles Flood Control District (District) has operated its MS4 under an NPDES permit since 1990.<sup>3</sup> The Natural Resources Defense Council and Santa Monica Baykeeper filed a citizen suit, claiming that the District had failed to comply with the water quality standards mandated by its MS4 permit, based on data from monitoring stations in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers.<sup>4</sup> The district court dismissed these claims, finding that because the water quality monitors measured stormwater combined from multiple sources, including but

not limited to the District's MS4, there was insufficient evidence that the District had definitely violated the terms of its permit.<sup>5</sup> However, the Ninth Circuit reversed the district court's ruling, reasoning that the stormwater was "discharged" when it passed from concrete channels to unimproved portions of both rivers. Because the District controlled the improved portion of the rivers, the Ninth Circuit held that it alone had discharged the water.

### **The Court's Decision**

In its opinion, the Supreme Court flatly rejected the Ninth Circuit's reasoning. The specific issue before the court was whether a discharge of pollutants occurs when polluted water flows from one portion of a navigable water of the United States, through a concrete channel or other engineered improvement, into a lower portion of the same river. Based on well-settled precedent, the Court's answer to this question was clearly no.

In arriving at its decision, the Court relied on its 2004 opinion in *South Florida Water Management District v. Miccosukee Tribe of Indians*, in which it held that the transfer of polluted water between two parts of the same water body did not constitute a discharge of pollutants under the Clean Water Act.<sup>7</sup>

In *Miccosukee*, the polluted water was removed from a canal, transported through a pump station and then deposited into a nearby reservoir. <sup>8</sup> The Court held that this water transfer would count as a discharge of pollutants under the CWA only if the canal and the reservoir were "meaningfully distinct water bodies," relying on the reasoning that a "discharge" of a pollutant into a water body requires that pollutant to be added to that water body, and that no pollutant is added when already-polluted water is merely transferred from one location to another. To support this reasoning, the Court cited the *Miccosukee* Court's analogy that "if one takes a ladle of soup from a pot, lifts it above the pot and pours it back into the pot, one has not 'added' soup or anything else to the pot."<sup>9</sup> Finding that reasoning to be equally applicable in this case, the Court stated "it follows, *a fortiori*, from *Miccosukee* that no discharge of pollutants occurs when water, rather than being removed and then returned to a water body, simply flows from one portion of the water body to another."<sup>10</sup> As a result, Court reversed the Ninth Circuit's judgment.

Interestingly, the Court also flatly rejected NRDC's alternative argument for upholding the Ninth Circuit's ruling, which it had raised for the first time in its reply brief. The NRDC had argued that "the Court of Appeals reached the right result albeit for the wrong reason," because "the monitoring system proposed by the District and written into its permit showed numerous instances in which water quality's standards were exceeded," which therefore was "sufficient to establish

the District's liability under the CWA for upstream discharges." In a direct rebuke of NRDC, the Court expressly refused to address this alternative argument because "it is not embraced within, or even touched by, the narrow question on which we granted certiorari."<sup>11</sup>

### **Implications**

In reaffirming its *Miccosukee* decision, the Court further clarified that the mere movement of water through an engineered structure within a single navigable water cannot constitute the "addition" of a pollutant. Indeed, the implications of this decision extend far beyond Los Angeles County's MS4 system.

The decision averts what could have been potentially disastrous consequences for thousands of engineered water management systems across the country, including MS4s, dams and flood control systems, ecosystem preservation projects, and irrigation and drinking water supply networks, some of which convey crucial water supplies over long distances to meet important public needs. Had the Ninth Circuit's decision been upheld, movement of water through any one of myriad in-stream structures would have required a Clean Water Act NPDES permit. This new level of regulation would have been particularly onerous for authorities charged with transferring significant amounts of water over long distances to meet critical public needs. Instead, by reversing the Ninth Circuit, the Supreme Court upheld existing precedent and provided managers of such water transfers systems with greater degree of clarity and stability in the Clean Water Act's regulatory landscape.

### **Foototes**

<sup>1</sup>Los Angeles County Flood Control Dist. v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc., No. 11-460, slip op. at 4 (U.S. Jan. 8, 2013) (hereinafter, *LA Flood Control Dist. V. NRDC*).

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## **THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

### **United Nations Resolution 2117**

This resolution lists 21 points dealing with firearms control, but perhaps of most interest is point number 11. It: "***CALLS FOR MEMBER STATES TO SUPPORT WEAPONS COLLECTION and DISARMAMENT of all UN countries***".

By a 53-46 vote - The U.S. Senate voted against the U.N. resolution.

This is that brief, glorious moment in history when everyone stands around...reloading.

Now, Which 46 Senators Voted to Destroy Us? Well, let their names become known! If you vote in one of the states listed with these 46 "legis..traitors"... vote against them.

In a 53-46 vote, the Senate narrowly passed a measure that will stop the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. The Statement of Purpose from the Senate Bill reads:

*"To uphold Second Amendment rights and prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty." The U.N. Small Arms Treaty, which has been championed by the Obama Administration, would have effectively placed a global ban on the import and export of small firearms. The ban would have affected all private gun owners in the U.S. and had language that would have implemented an international gun registry, now get this, on all private guns and ammo.*

Astonishingly, 46 out of our 100 United States Senators were willing to give away our Constitutional rights to a foreign power.

Here are the 46 senators who voted to give your rights to the U.N.:

|                         |                       |                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Baldwin (D-WI)          | Gillibrand (D-NY)     | Nelson (D-FL)       |
| Baucus (D-MT)           | Harkin (D-IA)         | Reed (D-RI)         |
| Bennett (D-CO)          | Hirono (D-HI)         | <b>Reid (D-NV)</b>  |
| Blumenthal (D-CT)       | Johnson (D-SD)        | Rockefeller (D-WV)  |
| <b>Boxer (D-CA)</b>     | Kaine (D-VA)          | Sanders (I-VT)      |
| Brown (D-OH)            | King (I-ME)           | Schatz (D-HI)       |
| <b>Cantwell (D-WA)</b>  | Klobuchar (D-MN)      | Schumer (D-NY)      |
| Cardin (D-MD)           | Landrieu (D-LA)       | Shaheen (D-NH)      |
| Carper (D-DE)           | Leahy (D-VT)          | Stabenow (D-MI)     |
| Casey (D-PA)            | Levin (D-MI)          | <b>Udall (D-CO)</b> |
| Coons (D-DE)            | McCaskill (D-MO)      | <b>Udall (D-NM)</b> |
| Cowan (D-MA)            | Menendez (D-NJ)       | Warner (D-VA)       |
| Durbin (D-IL)           | <b>Merkley (D-OR)</b> | Warren (D-MA)       |
| <b>Feinstein (D-CA)</b> | Mikulski (D-MD)       | Whitehouse (D-RI)   |
| Franken (D-MN)          | Murphy (D-CT)         | <b>Wyden (D-OR)</b> |
|                         | <b>Murray (D-WA)</b>  |                     |



These Senators voted to let the UN take OUR guns. They need to lose their next election. We have been betrayed.

46 Senators voted to give your 2nd Amendment Constitutional rights to the U.N.

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## **Major Shift in Americans' Opinion on Guns**

**High crime rates fuel big change of heart**

[Cheryl Chumley](#), WND, April 22, 2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/04/major-shift-in-americans-opinion-on-guns/>



**Gun rights have become a top concern for Americans.**

Since the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newton, Connecticut, Americans' views of guns have gone through a shift to the point where record-high numbers of citizens now say firearms are necessary for personal protections.

Crime rate increases have in part fueled a 25-year-high, the Washington Examiner reported.

According to a recent survey from Pew Research Center, support for gun control once soared to 66 percent, especially in the days following the Sandy Hook shooting and the concerted Obama administration effort to platform that tragedy into crackdowns on the Second Amendment. But that number is long gone.

Now, support for more gun control stands at 46 percent and gun rights, at 52 percent – the highest level in 25 years.

“We are at a moment when most Americans believe crime rates are rising and when most believe gun ownership, not gun control, makes people safer,” Pew reported.

Fully 63 percent of Americans believe a gun is the best defense against crime, Pew found.

As the Examiner reported, the Pew numbers coincide with the National Rifle Association's record-high participation at its national convention, and soaring membership rate of five million.

"In the 1990s, the rate of violent crimes plummeted by more than half nationwide," Pew said. "Public perceptions tracked right along, with the share saying there was more crime in the U.S. over the past year falling from 87 percent in 1993 to just 41 percent by 2001. In the new century, however, there's been a disconnect. A majority of Americans (63 percent) said in a Gallup survey last year that crime was on the rise, despite crime statistics holding near 20-year lows.

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## **SHERIFF WON'T ENFORCE GUN CONTROL LAW HE CALLS 'BORDERLINE TREASONOUS'**

By [patti](#), 100percentfedup.com , Apr 6, 2015

<http://100percentfedup.com/2015/04/06/sheriff-wont-enforce-gun-control-law-he-calls-borderline-treasonous/>

**The gun grabbers are at it again...pushing for more oversight and background checks for gun owners. The sheriff says it's "borderline treasonous" and will be a "nightmare" for law enforcement. He's refusing to enforce these efforts at gun control and we salute him for his stance! Bravo!**

While Oregon Democrats stood with Gabby Giffords and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence to push expanded background checks on April 1, Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer stood for the law-abiding citizens whom the checks will target by describing the gun control push as "borderline treasonous."

Palmer also made clear that if the Democrats pass the measure there is zero chance of his office enforcing it.

The push for expanded background checks in Oregon is being spearheaded by state senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene). His efforts are strongly supported by the Brady Campaign and Giffords.

Giffords, in particular, believes every potential gun purchaser should have to pass the same background check her attacker passed to acquire his firearm, which the same background check Jerad and Amanda Miller (Las Vegas),

Aaron Ybarra (Seattle Pacific University), Elliot Rodger (Santa Barbara), Ivan Lopez (Fort Hood 2014), Darion Marcus Aguilar (Maryland mall), Karl Halverson Pierson (Arapahoe High School), James Holmes (Aurora theater), Nidal Hasan (Fort Hood 2009), and many, many others passed to get the guns they used in their crimes.

The irony is not lost on Sheriff Palmer, who sees the push for expanded background checks as just another way to infringe on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens without impacting crime or criminals. For these reasons, Oregon Live said Palmer described the push as “borderline treasonous.”

Moreover, Palmer said the background checks pose a nightmare scenario for law enforcement officers who will be straddled with the responsibility of determining when a background should have been done but was not, as well as when a background check is not necessary to begin with.

Palmer said he has “no intention” of enforcing Prozanski's bill if it becomes law.

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## FINANCE & MONEY

### Russia Loads Up on Gold, Dumps US Treasuries

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=3gupk9msb98o5#4228878536>



Just a few months ago, traders were betting that Russia would have to sell its gold reserves. But the newest data show the exact opposite. Russia is now *buying* more gold than it has since the days of the Soviet Union.

It's a smart strategy that has helped to stabilize its currency, the ruble. And it will prove even more beneficial if China really is planning to create a gold-backed super-currency, as some speculate.

Russia is also selling off its US Treasuries. This is all part of Russia's (and its pal China's) plan to undermine the US dollar. Casey Research analyst Laurynas

Vegys parsed the data, and he says the message is clear. “By offloading treasuries and loading up on gold, Russia is making an all-in bet against the US dollar, in favor of the yellow metal.”

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## **Governments Have Declared War on Paper Cash**

Casey Research, May 1, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=1rnv6oui7h1gn#1847299654>



Governments have been waging a quiet war on cash for decades. Now they're becoming bolder as they try to corral savers into a broken banking system.

Senior Editor Nick Giambruno discussed the war on cash with Dr. Joe Salerno of the Mises Institute. An Austrian economist, Salerno says governments should actually *encourage* people to withdraw money from banks they don't trust. That would give banks incentive to act responsibly.

But as usual, the US government isn't just doing the wrong thing, it's doing the exact opposite of the right thing. FDIC insurance gives depositors comfort that their money is safe, so depositors have zero reason to care about what the bank is doing with their money. The result is a populace that's clueless about how banking really works.

Salerno says that governments “are bankrupt, both literally, in the sense that they can't pay what they've promised, and intellectually.”

Meanwhile, prominent Keynesian economists like Kenneth Rogoff are peddling dangerous nonsense about why we should abolish cash.

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## **Governments Want to Enslave You with Digital Cash**

Casey Research, April 24, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=1rnv6oui7h1gn#6671063672>



Governments want to get rid of physical cash. Paper currency is just too private. Digital cash is much easier to track, tax, and confiscate.

Unfortunately, most Americans are too clueless to resist what's coming. Casey Research contributor Jeff Thomas says the sheeple will agree to anything that's sold as a panacea to their economic woes.

The US government is just waiting for the right opportunity... which Jeff believes will be the next financial crisis. Politicians will blame it on people who "hoard" their cash. Good citizens, you see, give their cash to a bank for safekeeping. We can't have people hiding cash outside the system under their mattresses.

You can almost hear President Hillary on TV: "Effective immediately, all cash will be digitized. You have 60 days to deposit your paper dollars with a bank. This is for the good of the people."

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## **Largest Bank In America Joins War On Cash**

[Tyler Durden](#), zerohedge.com, 04/23/2015

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2015-04-23/largest-bank-america-joins-war-cash>

***The war on cash is escalating.*** Just a week ago, [the infamous Willem Buiter, along with Ken Rogoff, voiced their support for a restriction \(or ban altogether\) on the use of cash \(something that was already been implemented in Louisiana in 2011 for used goods\)](#). Today, as Mises' Jo Salerno reports, the war has acquired a powerful new ally in Chase, the largest bank in the U.S., which has enacted a policy **restricting the use of cash in selected markets; bans cash payments for credit cards, mortgages, and auto loans; and disallows the storage of "any cash or coins" in safe deposit boxes.**

Buiter defended his "controversial" call for a ban on cash, as [Bloomberg reports](#): "The world's central banks have a problem. When economic conditions worsen, they react by reducing interest rates in order to stimulate the economy. **But, as has happened across the world in recent years, there comes a point where those central banks run out of room to cut — they can bring interest rates to zero, but reducing them further below that is fraught with problems, the biggest of which is cash in the economy.**

In a new piece, Citi's Willem Buiter looks at this problem, which is known as the effective lower bound (ELB) on nominal interest rates. Fundamentally, the ELB problem comes down to cash. **According to Buiter, the ELB only exists at all due to the existence of cash, which is a bearer instrument that pays zero nominal rates. Why have your money on deposit at a negative rate that reduces your wealth when you can have it in cash and suffer no reduction?** Cash therefore gives people an easy and effective way of avoiding negative nominal rates. Buiter's note suggests three ways to address this problem:

1. **Abolish currency.**
2. **Tax currency.**
3. **Remove the fixed exchange rate between currency and central bank reserves/deposits.**

**Yes, Buiter's solution to cash's ability to allow people to avoid negative deposit rates is to abolish cash altogether.** (Note that he's far from being the first to float this idea. Ken Rogoff has given his endorsement to the idea as well, as have others.)

Before looking at the practicalities of abolishing currency, we should first look at whether it could ever be necessary. **Due to the costs of holding large amounts of cash, Buiter puts the actual nominal rate at which the move to cash makes sense as closer to -100bp. So, in order for a cash abolition to become necessary, central banks would need to be in a position where they wished to set nominal rates much lower than that.**

**Buiter does not have to go far to find an example of where a central bank may have wanted to set interest rates much lower to -100bp. He uses (a fairly aggressive) Taylor Rule to show that Federal Reserve rates should have been as low as -6 percent during the financial crisis."**

**As mentioned above, no meddling by a central bank is ever too extreme or too crazy for Mr. Buiter.**

But now the banks themselves are getting involved, ([as Mises' Joseph Salerno notes](#)).

The war against cash has, up to now, been waged almost exclusively by national governments and official international organizations, [although there](#)

[are exceptions](#). **Now the war has acquired a powerful new ally in Chase, the largest bank in the U.S.** and a subsidiary of JP Morgan Chase and Co., according to Forbes, the world's third largest public company.

**Of course , it is hardly surprising that a crony capitalist fractional-reserve bank, [which received \\$25 billion in bailout loans from the U.S. Treasury](#), should want to curry favor with its regulators and political masters** and, in the process, ensure its own stability by helping to stamp out the use of cash. For the very existence of cash places the power over fractional-reserve banks squarely in the hands of their depositors who may withdraw their cash in any amount and at any time, bringing even the mightiest bank to its knees literally overnight (e.g., Washington Mutual).

What is a surprise is how little notice the rollout of Chase's new policy has received.

- As of March, **Chase began restricting the use of cash in selected markets**, including Greater Cleveland.
- The new policy **restricts borrowers from using cash to make payments on credit cards, mortgages, equity lines, and auto loans.**
- Chase even goes as far as to **prohibit the storage of cash in its safe deposit boxes** . In a letter to its customers dated April 1, 2015 pertaining to its "Updated Safe Deposit Box Lease Agreement," one of the highlighted items reads: "You agree not to store any cash or coins other than those found to have a collectible value." **Whether or not this pertains to gold and silver coins with no numismatic value is not explained.**

As one observer commented:

*This policy is unusual but, since Chase is the nation's largest bank, I wouldn't be surprised if we start seeing more of this in this era of sensitivity about funding terrorists and other illegal causes.*

**Bet on it.**

[As we previously concluded](#),

We keep being bombarded by moves to restrict the use of cash and demands to ban it altogether. **These demands seem to mainly revolve around two arguments:**

one is that **"only criminals need cash"**, which is on a par with the absurd assertion that we should all be fine with Stasi-like ubiquitous government surveillance "if we have nothing to hide".

The other one is that a cash ban would **make life easier for the central planners who are actively undermining the economy with their policy of debasement.**

We would argue that central banking and fiat money have done more than enough harm already and that the eradication of financial privacy has gone way too far. Money and banking should be freed from the clutches of government-directed monopolization and cartelization and should be returned to the free market.

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## **We are Giving Up Liberty in Exchange for Convenience?**

- ★ Paper receipts are easier to carry and exchange than silver or gold.
- ★ Paper "redeemable on demand" is more convenient than paper receipts made payable to an individual
- ★ One-size of paper is easier to use than multi-size currency
- ★ Paper issued in common denominations is easier to use than paper of inconsistent amounts
- ★ Checks are easier than paper
- ★ Credit cards are easier than checks
- ★ Keychain credit cards are easier than wallet/purse credit cards
- ★ Smartphone taps are easier than credit cards
- ★ Smartwatch taps are even easier (think Apple Pay on iWatches)
- ★ Biometric chip scans are the easiest of all

**Voila! We willingly walk along the golden brick road right into the trap.**

History proves each prior form of "currency" is eliminated once the new form is widely accepted, inevitably leading to nothing but RFID chips ... unless the Public wakes up.

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## **Most of the World's Banks Are Headed for Collapse**

Doug Casey, Casey Research, April 21, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=1rnv6oui7h1gn#9342103518>

Banking has been fundamentally unsound ever since the first central bank was created. That's when bankers started making promises they couldn't keep.

In 2008, excess debt pushed the global financial system to the brink. It was a golden opportunity for governments and banks to reform the system. But rather than deal with the problem, they papered over it by issuing *more* debt. Worldwide debt levels are now \$57 trillion higher than in 2008. Even the IMF is waking up to the fact that financial risks are rising.

**Doug Casey, Chairman of Casey Research, has a dire warning. He says the ultimate day of reckoning is drawing near and that banks are headed for collapse.**

Comparing how the government handles financial problems to how it handles forest fires, Doug said:

*“Extinguishing them quickly provides an immediate and visible benefit. But the delayed and forgotten consequence of doing so is that it allows decades of deadwood to accumulate. Then when a fire starts, it can be a once-in-a-century conflagration.”*

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## **Are Oil Markets Heading Back to the 1980s?**

**Bernstein's Neil Beveridge doesn't expect prolonged low prices and sees ample investment opportunities.**

[Neil Beveridge](#), Barrons, April 13, 2015

<http://online.barrons.com/articles/are-oil-markets-heading-back-to-the-1980s-1428910271>

The recent collapse in crude prices has raised fundamental questions for investors as to where oil prices are heading. Are we heading for a decade of decline in oil prices, or will there be a rebound?

Should investors avoid oil and gas stocks, or take advantage of a buying opportunity? In seeking answers, we have just published a Blackbook 'Are Oil Markets Heading Back to the 1980s?' that address these important questions.

Many have noticed similarities between the recent collapse in crude and that of 1986, which we believe is the closest analogue to today.

- Over the past 50 years, there have been only four other events where oil prices have corrected by 50% or more (1985-86, 1990-91, 1997-98, 2008-09). The 2014-15 event marks the fifth. Each collapse was triggered by a collapse in demand, related to an economic recession, with the exception of 1986, where it was supply driven. This is the closest analogue to today's market.

- The seeds of the 1986 price collapse were sown in the early 1980s, when high oil prices swelled new non-OPEC supply and crimped demand growth. With the market out of balance, OPEC decided in late 1985 to defend share over pricing, triggering a collapse in crude prices. If this sounds familiar, it should. This is precisely what has happened in oil markets in the past year.

- If history is any guide to the future, how worried should investors be, given that the collapse in oil prices in 1986 was the prelude to a decade of decline in real oil prices?

The good news for oil bulls is that, besides the similarities to the 1980s, there are four fundamental differences between today and 1986 that make us confident history will not repeat itself.

- First, OPEC cannot double production, as it did following 1986's collapse, when low-cost barrels replaced high-cost barrels. Spare capacity is only 4% of demand today, compared to 15% in 1986.

Although the return of Iran's production seems highly probable, it will take time for exports to grow and increased Iranian supply could be offset by plenty of other geopolitical risks.

- Second, the resource base opened up in the 1970s was bigger and less price elastic than North American shale is today. Non-OPEC supply will respond more quickly to price than in the past as the decline in rig count foretells.

- Third, although cost deflation will impact the industry, it will likely be less significant than the 1980s, when technology gains (offshore horizontal drilling and 3-D seismic) and efficiency savings were arguable greater than today.

- Fourth, while demand will be less elastic to price than it was in the 1980s, it will respond, and we believe that the market is underestimating demand's response to low oil prices, just as it did in 1986. We have unearthed 30-year old analyst reports on the oil sector from the 1980s, where it is clear that price elasticity of demand was massively under-estimated by the market.

The bad news, however, is that oil prices are unlikely to rebound quickly to triple digits. While we do not expect oil to remain at current levels, we believe that Brent will average less over the next five years than the previous five years (US\$104/bbl) in real terms.

Does this mean investors can't make money in the energy sector? No. We think they can, as was proven following the 1986 collapse when some energy sub-sectors went on to outperform the market, even in a flat commodity price environment.

- In the near term, we expect falling investment and strengthening demand to tighten markets in the second half of 2015, allowing oil prices to recover. This will be positive for oil-linked equities

- We also expect a reversion to the mean for industry returns. The upstream industry's returns have dropped to 5%, or one standard deviation below their long-term average of 10%. One hundred years of data show that returns always mean-revert, and we expect returns to improve again, through cost deflation, cost-cutting, and restructuring, providing opportunities for companies that can deliver.

- We also expect a period of more intense M&A activity within the industry. Underperforming large caps, selective deep water names and E&Ps with LNG assets could be targets for acquisition by oil Majors and NOCs.

### **Investment Conclusion**

Although there are similarities between the collapse in crude prices today and the 1980s, there are good reasons to believe we are not heading for a 'decade of decline'. At the same time, we do not expect a quick return to triple digit prices either. In the "new normal" oil price environment we foresee, companies that either can grow returns through restructuring or cost-cutting, or that are low down the cost curve and can continue to grow profitably at lower prices will outperform.

Within energy, certain subgroups will do better than others.

North American companies seem to be well-placed relative to international energy, especially the larger, well-funded E&Ps. Their outperformance has gone hand in hand with growth in shale. Assuming the region's shale production continues to grow, it would be reasonable to assume that well-placed North American companies can continue to benefit.

Following the 1986 collapse, oil Majors went on to outperform the market, aided by massive restructuring, cost cutting, and divestments. In contrast, the higher-beta parts of the energy spectrum, such as E&Ps and oil services, remained challenged, although there may be opportunities through M&A.

The outlook for global emerging market oil could be challenging, for a group that historically has had a high beta to oil. With reform and restructuring, there are opportunities however given the large-scale inefficiencies that exist. Even though the valuation discount of global emerging market Majors to international peers is wide by historical standards, only companies that are capable of reform and restructuring will be able to close the gap.

Within the Asia-Pacific region, we prefer companies that are either low down the cost curve or can grow returns more sustainably by focusing on value over volume. In the Asia-Pacific region, our top picks are CNOOC ( [883.HK](#) ), Oil Search ( [OSH.AU](#) ), InterOil ( [IOC](#) ), and Inpex ( [1605.JP](#) ).

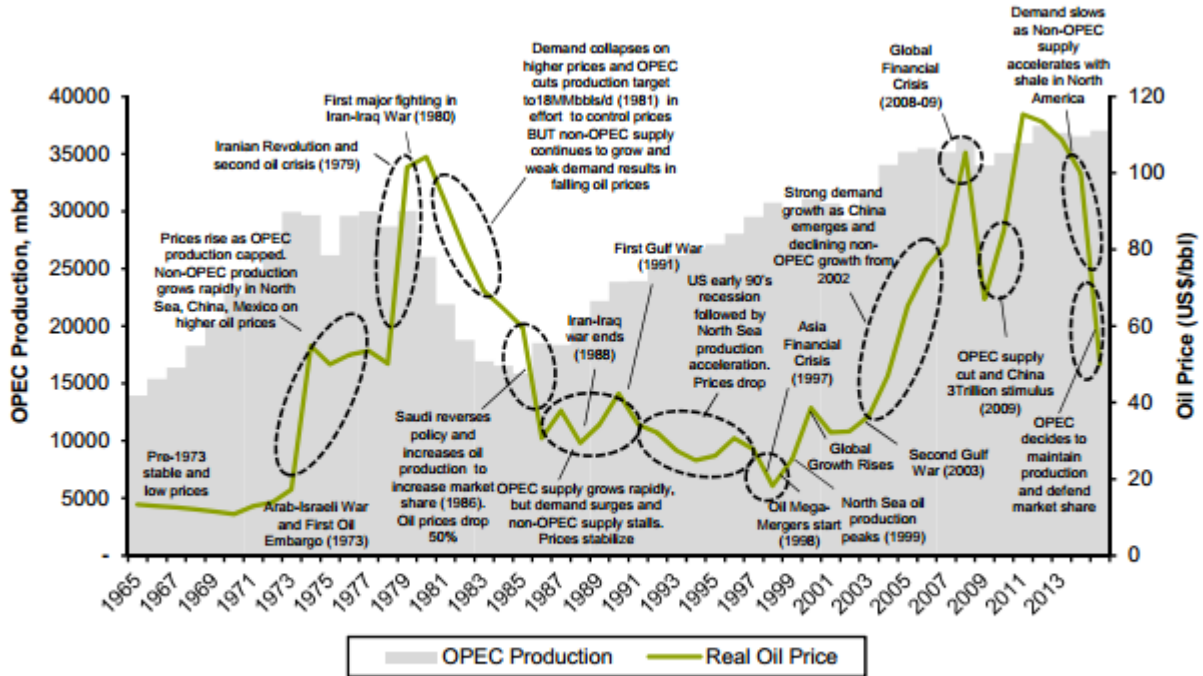
For European Integrated Oils, we remain positive on the group believing they're well positioned in this oil price downturn and will see returns rise over next five years. Our top picks are ENI ( [ENI.IT](#) ), Shell ( [RDSA.UK](#) ) and Statoil ( [STL.NO](#) ) amongst the Majors, and the Brazil pre-salt exposed names i.e. GALP ( [GALP.PL](#) ) and BG ( [BG.UK](#) ).

For North American E&Ps we believe that EOG Resources ( [EOG](#) ), Anadarko Petroleum Corp ( [APC](#) ), Apache Corp ( [APA](#) ), Chesapeake Energy Corp. ( [CHK](#) ), and Cobalt International Energy ( [CIE](#) ) will all benefit from the price rise given their oil-focused business models driving a significant "beta" to oil price. EOG and APC have more modest beta and are equally more defensive. APA, CHK and CIE are higher beta and thus could have greater outperformance.

For European Oil Services, we forecast a three-year recession in new offshore activity that is largely immune to arising oil price. As new work falls away and pricing pressure increases, we expect earnings for almost every global oil service company to struggle out to 2017. And yet a rising oil price will, in the near term, drive a rebound in share prices. Tactically then we favor structural winners that

offer the 'least risky' way of participating in an oil price rebound, hence we rate Technip ([TEC.FP](http://TEC.FP)) and Petrofac ([PFC.UK](http://PFC.UK)) outperform.

### A brief history of oil prices — are we heading for a decade of decline?



Note: Oil prices are real, 2013 dollars.

Source: BP Statistical Review and Bernstein analysis.

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# **Foreign Firm Funding U.S. Green Groups Tied to State-Owned Russian Oil Company**

**Executives at a Bermudan firm funneling money to U.S. environmentalists run investment funds with Russian tycoons**

BY: [Lachlan Markay](#), PowerLine, January 27, 2015

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/foreign-firm-funding-u-s-green-groups-tied-to-state-owned-russian-oil-company/>



**Rosneft, owned by the Russian state, is the world's largest oil company / AP**

A shadowy Bermudan company that has funneled tens of millions of dollars to anti-fracking environmentalist groups in the United States is run by executives with deep ties to Russian oil interests and offshore money laundering schemes involving members of President Vladimir Putin's inner circle.

One of those executives, Nicholas Hoskins, is a director at a hedge fund management firm that has invested heavily in Russian oil and gas. He is also senior counsel at the Bermudan law firm Wakefield Quin and the vice president of a London-based investment firm whose president until recently chaired the board of the state-owned Russian oil company Rosneft.

In addition to those roles, Hoskins is a director at a company called Klein Ltd. No one knows where that firm's money comes from. Its only publicly documented activities have been transfers of \$23 million to U.S. environmentalist groups that push policies that would hamstring surging American oil and gas production, which has hurt Russia's energy-reliant economy.

With oil prices plunging as a result of a fracking-induced oil glut in the United States, experts say the links between Russian oil interests, secretive foreign political donors, and high-profile American environmentalists suggest Russia may be backing anti-fracking efforts in the United States.

The interest of Russian oil companies and American environmentalist financiers intersect at a Bermuda-based law firm called Wakefield Quin. The firm acts as a

corporate registered agent, providing office space for clients, and, for some, “managing the day to day affairs,” according to its website.

As many as 20 companies and investment funds with ties to the Russian government are Wakefield Quin clients. Many list the firm’s address on official documentation.

Klein Ltd. also shares that address. Documents filed with Bermuda’s registrar of companies list just two individuals associated with the company: Hoskins, Wakefield Quin senior counsel and managing director, and Marlies Smith, a corporate administrator at the firm.

According to documents filed with Bermuda’s registrar of companies, Klein Ltd. was incorporated in March 2011 “exclusively for philanthropic purposes,” meaning “no part of the net earnings ... inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.”

“The company does not propose to carry on business in Bermuda,” the documents stated.

The only publicly available documentation of any business conducted by Klein Ltd. were two Internal Revenue Service filings by the California-based Sea Change Foundation, which showed that Klein had contributed \$23 million to the group in [2010](#) and [2011](#). Klein Ltd. was responsible for more than 40 percent of contributions to Sea Change during those years.

The foundation passed those millions along to some of the nation’s most prominent and politically active environmentalist groups. The Sierra Club, the Natural Resource Defense Council, Food and Water Watch, the League of Conservation Voters, and the Center for American Progress were among the recipients of Sea Change’s \$100 million in grants in 2010 and 2011.

Neither Wakefield Quin nor Sea Change responded to multiple requests for more information about their relationships with Klein Ltd.

“None of this foreign corporation’s funding is disclosed in any way,” the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee wrote of the company in a [report](#) last year. “This is clearly a deceitful way to hide the source of millions of dollars that are active in our system, attempting to effect political change.”

The Sierra Club, which received nearly \$8.5 million from Sea Change in 2010 and 2011, launched its “Beyond Natural Gas” campaign the following year. The

effort has become one of the largest and best-funded environmentalist campaigns combating fracking and the extraction of natural gas in general.

Sea Change's "skeletal staff quietly shovels tens of millions of dollars out the door annually to combat climate change. And that's pretty much all it does," [noted](#) Inside Philanthropy, which awarded the foundation its "sharpest laser focus in grantmaking" award last year.

Nathaniel Simons and his wife run the foundation and are, except for Klein Ltd., its only donors. Simons, a hedge fund millionaire who [commutes](#) to work across San Francisco Bay aboard a 50-foot yacht, also runs a venture capital firm that [invests in companies](#) that benefit from environmental and energy policies that Sea Change grantees promote.

Simons himself has ties to Klein Ltd. Several Wakefield Quin attorneys are listed as directors of hedge funds that his firm manages, and in which Sea Change has assets.

Senior counsel Rod Forrest was [listed](#) on documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a director of two investment funds, Medallion International Ltd. and Meritage Holdings Ltd., in which Sea Change had tens of millions invested while it received money from Klein Ltd.

Simons' company runs the Meritage Fund. The Medallion Fund is run by Renaissance Technologies, the hedge fund management firm run by his father, billionaire and Democratic mega-donor Jim Simons. Both funds listed Wakefield Quin's Hamilton, Bermuda, address on SEC filings.

Wakefield Quin's Hoskins and Smith, as well as a number of other employees of Wakefield Quin, have worked in some capacity for companies or investment funds owned by or tied to Russian state-owned corporations and high-level officials in the country.

Hoskins, Forrest, and another Wakefield employee named Penny Cornell were all [listed](#) as executives of Spectrum Partners Ltd., a fund with [offices](#) in Moscow, Cypress, and Bermuda, Cornell at the address of Wakefield Quin's offices.

According to a performance [report](#) for one of Spectrum Partners' funds, its portfolio consisted of "Russian and CIS [former Soviet state] securities and securities outside of Russia or CIS but having significant economic or business involvement with Russia and/or CIS."

As of 2008, more than half of the fund's holdings were in the oil and gas sectors.



Numerous executives at Wakefield Quin have ties to Russian oil and gas companies, including Rosneft, which is majority-owned by the Russian government and in 2013 became the largest oil company in the world.

Hoskins is the vice president of a London-based company called Marcuard Services Limited, and a member of the firm's board, according to its website.

The company's president, and the chairman of its parent company, Bermuda-based Marcuard Holding Limited, is Hans-Joerg Rudloff. Rudloff is also a former [vice-chairman](#) of the Rosneft's board.

Hoskins is also a [director](#) at a Bermuda-based subsidiary of Russian investment bank Troika Dialog. That firm organized an initial public offering for Timan Oil & Gas, which is run by Russian oligarch Alexander Lebedev.

The Environmental Policy Alliance, which provided the *Washington Free Beacon* with a [copy](#) of an upcoming report on Klein Ltd.'s Kremlin ties, said Wakefield Quin's ties to environmental financiers and Russian oil barons merit closer scrutiny.

"The American public deserves to know whether environmentalists are attacking US energy companies at the behest of a Russian government that would like nothing more than to see their international competition weakened," Will Coggin, a senior research analyst at the EPA, said in an emailed statement.

"In the face of mounting evidence, environmental groups are going to have to start answering hard questions about their international funding sources," Coggin said.

The overlap between executives at firms with ties to Russian oil interests and a multi-million-dollar donor to U.S. environmentalist groups has some experts worried that Russians may be replicating anti-fracking tactics used in Europe to attack the practice in the United States.

"I have met allies who can report that Russia, as part of their sophisticated information and disinformation operations, engaged actively with so-called non-governmental organizations—environmental organizations working against shale gas—to maintain European dependence on imported Russian gas," Anders Fogh Rasmussen, formerly NATO's secretary general, [said](#) last year.

It is unlikely that the Kremlin is directly involved in doing so in the United States, according to Ron Arnold of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise.

“If anybody in Russia is behind all the secretive Bermuda investment house and law firm action, it’s most likely some oligarch bidding against U.S. competition,” he said in an email.

Arnold, the author of *Undue Influence: Wealthy Foundations, Grant Driven Environmental Groups, and Zealous Bureaucrats That Control Your Future*, said that the opacity of Klein Ltd.’s involvement with the Sea Change Foundation exemplifies attempts to shield the source of donations to such groups.

“In my experience of trying to penetrate offshore money funnels for U.S. leftist foundations and green groups, I have found that Liechtenstein, Panama and Bermuda are the Big Three green equivalents of the Cayman Islands for hedge fund managers—totally opaque and impervious to my specially designed research tools,” Arnold said.



## **Is Russia Financing the Anti-Fracking Campaign?**

by [John Hinderaker](#), Powerline, January 27, 2015

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2015/01/is-russia-financing-the-anti-fracking-campaign.php>

The production of natural gas by fracking has been an enormous boon to America’s economy and to its hard-pressed consumers. Yet there are some who oppose fracking, and these opponents are lavishly funded. By whom? Investigations by the [Washington Free Beacon](#) and the [Environmental Policy Alliance](#) indicate that the answer may well be: the Russian government and Rosneft, the world’s largest oil company.

The Russians’ motive to suppress American natural gas production is obvious, but what is the evidence? It starts with the California-based Sea Change Foundation, one of the principal sources of money for American environmental groups. In 2010 and 2011, Sea Change gave the Sierra Club \$15 million, the Natural Resources Defense Council \$13.5 million, and the League of Conservation Voters \$18.1 million. The Sierra Club launched its “Beyond Natural Gas” campaign in 2012. The Free Beacon notes that “[t]he effort has become one of the largest and best-funded environmentalist campaigns combating fracking and the extraction of natural gas in general.”

But where does Sea Change get its money? Its disclosures list only two sources of funds. One is the Nathaniel Simons family. Simons runs a fund that [invests in crony projects](#)—government-sponsored “green” energy. The “green” Mr. Simons [commutes to work across San Francisco Bay](#) in a 54-foot motor yacht. Naturally,

the Simons family are major donors to Barack Obama and the Democratic Party.

Beyond Simons, Sea Change has only one source of funds: Klein Ltd. You've never heard of Klein Ltd? No wonder: the company exists only as a paper entity in the office of a Bermuda law firm called Wakefield Quin. Klein Ltd. doesn't conduct business; it launders money. Whose money? You can follow the links to the Free Beacon article and the Environmental Policy Alliance report for the details. The connections between Klein/Wakefield Quin and the Russian oil industry are way too deep to be coincidental:

Wakefield Quin's Hoskins and Smith, as well as a number of other employees of Wakefield Quin, have worked in some capacity for companies or investment funds owned by or tied to Russian state-owned corporations and high-level officials in the country.

Hoskins, Forrest, and another Wakefield employee named Penny Cornell were all listed as executives of Spectrum Partners Ltd., a fund with offices in Moscow, Cypress, and Bermuda, Cornell at the address of Wakefield Quin's offices.

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Hoskins is also a director at a Bermuda-based subsidiary of Russian investment bank Troika Dialog. That firm organized an initial public offering for Timan Oil & Gas, which is run by Russian oligarch Alexander Lebedev.

A representative of the Environmental Policy Alliance writes:

The American public deserves to know whether environmentalists are attacking US energy companies at the behest of a Russian government that would like nothing more than to see their international competition weakened.

In the face of mounting evidence, environmental groups are going to have to start answering hard questions about their international funding sources.

Well, maybe. But it's going to take a lot more pressure than we have seen so far. Democrats have obsessively tried to change the law relating to 501(c)(4) non-profits so they can identify and attempt to intimidate American donors to conservative causes. Will they bring the same enthusiasm to bear on suspected foreign entities who are out to undermine America's energy economy, in concert with major Democratic Party donors? Don't hold your breath.

This whole concept is not entirely new, of course. The anti-fracking movie "Promised Land" was funded by the United Arab Emirates, and Steve Hayward noted [here](#) that Russia has financed anti-fracking protests in Eastern Europe. Steve wrote, presciently:

The really interesting story to chase down is to see whether Russia (or any other foreign interest) is somehow supplying funds for American environmental opposition to fracking and the Keystone pipeline.

It appears that the answer to that question is beginning to emerge.

## OREGON

### **Is Oregon's in-Migration Sustainable with the Rise of Pro-Growth States?**

By [Chana Cox, Ph.D.](#) WatchDog ((ARENA)), April 9, 2015

[http://watchdog.org/211357/oregon-taxes-migration-report/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=wdarena\\_16](http://watchdog.org/211357/oregon-taxes-migration-report/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wdarena_16)



The American Legislative Exchange Council's 8th annual *Rich States Poor States* report, released Wednesday, reveals the anomaly of Oregon, a state whose rate of newcomers has risen despite its poor economic policies.

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING: Looking at the Oregon's climbing taxes and strong in-migration, the state is an anomaly in a new report's high ranking of its economic performance.

The [report](#) examines trends that impact state economic growth, and ranks states' economic outlook based 15 equally weighted policy variables such as tax rates, regulations, and labor policies.

On a conference call with reporters on Tuesday, the authors of the report—Reagan economist Dr. Arthur Laffer, Heritage Foundation Chief Economist Stephen Moore, and ALEC Vice President Jonathan Williams—shared their optimism over this edition's findings. At the state level, pro-growth policies may have reached a critical mass. Thirty-one states now have pro-growth governors and 30 states have pro-growth legislatures.

While the ALEC report ranks Oregon at 45<sup>th</sup> in pro-growth policies, the report's charts summarizing economic performance from 2003–2013 place Oregon as 7<sup>th</sup>

in the nation with a strong net migration *into* the state. Judging from those figures, it would seem that Oregon's anti-growth policies have not yet had a significant effect on the economy.

Last year, in [\*An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of States\*](#), Laffer and Moore compared states with no income taxes to states with relatively new income taxes, using Texas and California as a case study. The thesis of the book was that while all taxes and regulations tend to inhibit economic growth, certain taxes, particularly high marginal income taxes and inheritance taxes, are so inhibitory that tax rate increases may result in decreased state revenue.

They showed that states with no income taxes had 26 percent more growth than states with high income taxes. As a result, there were large net migrations of economically productive people out of states with high taxes and many regulations like California into states like Texas with lower taxes and less regulation. California was left with higher levels of poverty and the services to taxpayers were most costly.

On the face of it, Oregon doesn't seem to conform to this theory. Oregon has among the highest personal and corporate income tax rates, and very high estate taxes. Oregon is also heavily regulated.

When Watchdog Arena asked the *Rich States, Poor States* authors about this seeming anomaly, they explained that Oregon had been the beneficiary of California's implosion. There was a massive migration out of California into Oregon. According to Williams, during the study period, \$6.2 billion moved from California to Oregon, and for several decades, Oregon has had high *in* migration from other non-growth states like Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Ohio.

Michigan and Ohio now have pro-growth policies, Illinois now has a pro-growth governor, and Williams predicts that the out migration from those states will lessen. So although \$2.1 billion flowed from Oregon into Washington and Idaho, the net movement of capital and people into Oregon prevented the worst of the economic outcome predicted by Laffer and Moore's thesis.

The ALEC economic data spans 10 years and covers the state as a whole. However, if we examine the Oregon economic data more closely, we can see seeds of impending economic decline.

Although there is a large net in-migration, more economically productive people are leaving the state and less economically productive people are

moving in. State Employment Economist Nick Beleiciks of Oregon's Employment Department [writes](#):

To the extent that people moving to Oregon are young adults early in their careers or retirees without wage income, the in-migrants would put downward pressure on PCPI (per capita personal income). Oregon PCPI in recent years may have been a "victim" of the state's attractiveness, and a resulting population influx, particularly by those without incomes significantly higher than the Oregon average.

According to [Dr. Randall Pozdena](#), senior project director for consulting firm ECONorthwest and a former Federal Reserve economist, Oregon's tax policy is worse than California's for those with more wealth.

"The income distribution of Oregonians reflects this. We have a much smaller share of households with incomes in excess of \$200,000, and a higher share of those in the lowest income strata," Pozdena told Watchdog Arena. In Pozdena's opinion, "Oregon may be in a tax and spend death spiral, in the sense that we are attracting low-income households that are raising the costs of public services and exporting high-income households as we attempt to tax them to support these services."

In 2014, Oregon had only two Fortune 500 companies, and between 2000 and 2014, Oregon was in the bottom 10 states in retention of Oregon 1000-level companies. Between 1990 and 2000, the Portland metro area [lost 7 percent](#) of its corporate headquarters and Portland was one of only eight of the 50 metro areas to lose headquarters during that period.

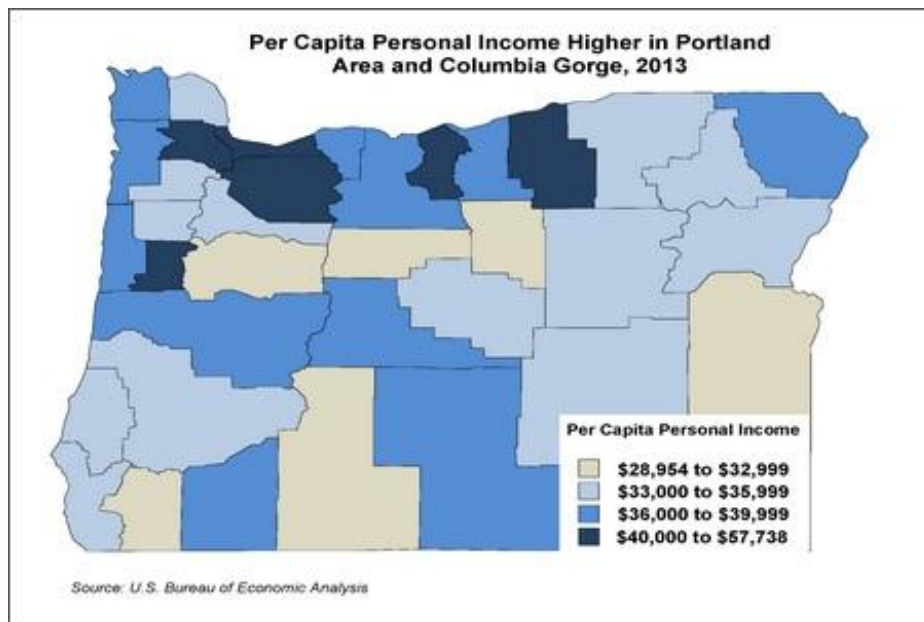
Oregon's per capita personal income, or PCPI, has been falling farther and farther behind the national averages since the 1990s. In 2014, Oregon had the second highest minimum wage in the nation, but Oregon's average income lags behind the national average and that gap is widening. [Will Burchard](#) and [Nick Beleiciks](#), both employment economists for the state, explain some of the reasons why.

Oregon was particularly hard hit by the recession, but even historically, Oregon wages, particularly for management and highly technically skilled work, have been relatively low. In the past, those low wages have served as a comparative advantage for high-tech firms to locate plants in the state.

But as [reported](#), due to Oregon's restrictive land use planning, the cost of housing, particularly in metro areas, is skyrocketing so that even the high-tech comparative advantage is threatened. According to Pozdena, "The price of a

building lot in PDX has increased by a factor of five since 1990 due to this supply constraint in the metropolitan areas. The result is that Oregon has a ratio of median home prices to median income that is second only to California cities according to the National Association of Home Builders Housing Opportunity Index."

As one of Burchard's map below shows, all but one of the counties with high PCPI border Washington State which has no income tax and lower housing costs. People working in Oregon can live in Washington State and avoid some taxes, and shop in Oregon and avoid sales taxes. [Portland's mayor, Charles Hales, did so for years.](#)



**Source: State of Oregon Employment Department**

Still, the Portland, Salem, and the Eugene areas, which are home to many government employees, are doing fairly well, while the economy of rural Oregon has been harder hit.

According to Blanchard and Beleiciks, the PCPI in rural Malheur County is roughly half that of Portland metro area. And in urban Washington County, which has become an economic engine of high-tech in Oregon, net earnings—wages, employee benefits, and proprietor's income—made up 70.5 percent of the PCPI. In rural Curry County, net earnings made up just 38.8 percent. The balance is made up of interest and transfer payments. Relative to the national averages, according to Burchard and Beleicik, Oregon has a higher unemployment rate, a lower employment-to-population ratio, shorter average work weeks, and more part-time work.



As the Laffer-Moore theory would predict, poverty is growing more rapidly in Oregon than in most other states. One out of every two children in Oregon is born to a woman who [qualifies for Medicaid](#) (most recent data from 2010) and Oregon has the [third greatest increase in poverty in the U.S.](#)

The Oregon Legislature is now busily raising [more and more taxes](#) and increasing regulations which may further [weaken](#) Oregon's private economy.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **The Democrat Party of Oregon**

The Democrat Party of Oregon certainly doesn't live up to its name. Oregon's constitution guarantees the right of the people to make laws or revoke laws at the ballot box. But yesterday, democrat party members in the legislature voted in a new anti gun law and banned the voters from shooting it down.

Remember that two years ago, the same bunch of lawmakers voted in the illegal alien drivers license law. A year later, voters killed the law in a two-to-one landslide. So much for representative government!

But lawmakers learned their lesson. Don't let the voters vote. So this year, the legislature approved a law requiring new background checks on any gun transfer...even loaning a gun to a friend who fears domestic violence.

This time lawmakers put in ***an emergency clause that FORBIDS a public vote on the law.***

So much for democratic government from the Democrat Party majority in Salem, Oregon. Unelected Governor Kate Brown will now make it law with her signature, and your civil rights go up in smoke. So much for the Oregon Constitution.

\* \* \* \* \*

# **An Open Letter to the Oregon House of Representatives: Planning on voting for "Universal Background Checks"**

Saturday, May 2, 2015

<http://sipseystreetirregulars.blogspot.de/2015/05/open-letter-to-oregon-house-of.html>

Open Letter to the Oregon House of Representatives: Planning on voting for "Universal Background Checks"? The NRA is the least of your personal worries. The Law of Unintended Consequences, Armed Civil Disobedience, and Lex Talionis.

*NOTE: I would be indebted if readers will forward this to anyone they think might benefit from it, especially firearms rights activists in Oregon and blogs and websites read by them. -- Mike.*



**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: PLANNING ON VOTING FOR "UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS" ? THE NRA IS THE LEAST OF YOUR PERSONAL WORRIES. THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, ARMED CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, AND LEX TALIONIS.**

-----Original Message----- From: [georgemason1776@aol.com](mailto:georgemason1776@aol.com)

**To:** Rep.JeffBarker@state.or.us; Rep.PhilBarnhart@state.or.us;  
Rep.GregBarreto@state.or.us; Rep.BrentBarton@state.or.us;  
Rep.CliffBentz@state.or.us>; Rep.DeborahBoone@state.or.us;  
Rep.PeterBuckley@state.or.us; Rep.KnuteBuehler@state.or.us;  
Rep.BrianClem@state.or.us; Rep.JohnDavis@state.or.us;  
Rep.MargaretDoherty@state.or.us; Rep.SalEsquivel@state.or.us;  
Rep.PaulEvans@state.or.us; Rep.ShemiaFagan@state.or.us;  
Rep.LewFrederick@state.or.us; Rep.JoeGallegos@state.or.us;  
Rep.VicGilliam@state.or.us; Rep.DavidGomberg@state.or.us;  
Rep.ChrisGorsek@state.or.us; Rep.MitchGreenlick@state.or.us;  
Rep.JodiHack@state.or.us; Rep.CedricHayden@state.or.us;  
Rep.DallasHeard@state.or.us; Rep.KenHelm@state.or.us;

Rep.PaulHolvey@state.or.us; Rep.ValHoyle@state.or.us;  
Rep.JohnHuffman@state.or.us; Rep.MarkJohnson@state.or.us;  
Rep.BillKennemer@state.or.us; Rep.AlissaKenyGuyer@state.or.us;  
Rep.BettyKomp@state.or.us; Rep.TinaKotek@state.or.us;  
Rep.WayneKrieger@state.or.us; Rep.AnnLininger@state.or.us;  
Rep.JohnLively@state.or.us; Rep.CaddyMcKeown@state.or.us;  
Rep.SusanMcClain@state.or.us; Rep.MikeMcLane@state.or.us;  
Rep.NancyNathanson@state.or.us; Rep.MikeNearman@state.or.us;  
Rep.RobNosse@state.or.us; Rep.AndyOlson@state.or.us;  
Rep.JulieParrish@state.or.us; Rep.CarlaPiluso@state.or.us;  
Rep.BillPost@state.or.us; Rep.DanRayfield@state.or.us;  
Rep.TobiasRead@state.or.us; Rep.JeffReardon@state.or.us;  
Rep.GregSmith@state.or.us; Rep.BarbaraSmithWarner@state.or.us;  
Rep.SherrieSprenger@state.or.us; Rep.DuaneStark@state.or.us;  
Rep.KathleenTaylor@state.or.us; Rep.JessicaVegaPederson@state.or.us;  
Rep.JimWeidner@state.or.us; Rep.GeneWhisnant@state.or.us;  
Rep.GailWhitsett@state.or.us; Rep.JenniferWilliamson@state.or.us;  
Rep.CarlWilson@state.or.us; Rep.BradWitt@state.or.us

**Sent:** Sat, May 2, 2015 9:23 am

**Subject:** Planning on voting for "Universal Background Checks"? The NRA is the least of your personal worries. The Law of Unintended Consequences, Armed Civil Disobedience, and Lex Talionis.

**Dear Legislator,**

In the interest of full disclosure, I am an unindicted criminal. For the past two years, my friends and I have been breaking the state firearm laws of Colorado, Connecticut, New York, Maryland and, most recently, the state of Washington, that were passed in the wake of Sandy Hook. In those states where standard capacity magazines were banned, we have smuggled in such forbidden items in defiance of those laws. We have hardly made a secret of it. We want the authorities to arrest us. To date, they have not dared. In Connecticut and New York, the non-compliance rates on the registration of firearms and magazines are estimated to be as much as 85% to 90%. In New York, county sheriffs have put the state police on notice that if they try to enforce the SAFE Act in their jurisdictions that THEY will be arrested, not their intended victims. The authorities of those states have made noises that they will enforce these unconstitutional laws. But again, to date THEY HAVE NOT DARED.

In Washington state, Michael Bloomberg bought himself a "universal background check" law much like the one you are about to pass. In response,

two thousand of that state's uncompromising firearm owners gathered on the steps of the state capitol in Olympia -- armed to the teeth -- and defied Bloomberg's law despite threats that they would be arrested if they did. The rally, one of the largest pro-firearm rights demonstrations ever held in Washington, came off without a hitch and the "lawbreakers" were complimented by the state police afterward for the professional way that they conducted themselves. I know, I was there. Why did they not enforce Bloomberg's law? *Because they did not dare.* In June, a firearms expo will be held in Yakima by the group Liberty For All -- a background-check-free gun show -- testing further the resolve of the state authorities to enforce a plainly unenforceable law. Will they dare? We will find out, because WE WILL NOT COMPLY.

The lesson of the past two years is clear for anyone paying attention to see -- *THERE IS NO UNCONSTITUTIONAL LAW THAT CAN BE PASSED THAT CANNOT BE DEFIED, RESISTED, EVADED, SMUGGLED IN VIOLATION OF AND COMPLETELY NULLIFIED BY ARMED CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.*

And that includes the state of Oregon.

This is dangerous ground, truly dangerous ground. *But it is not ground that we chose.* All the law abiding firearm owners of this country wish is to be left alone. But collectivist control freaks like Michael Bloomberg will not leave us alone. Still, pass what laws they like, they cannot escape from the Law of Unintended Consequences. In Connecticut, the state legislators who voted for their Intolerable Act discovered that when I posted on my blog, Sipsey Street Irregulars, [a list of their names, home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses](#). I discovered something from their hysterical reaction -- people who like to put other people on lists (you know, like the bill you are considering on Monday) do not react well when they themselves get put on a list.

Which brings us to you, today. The NRA has sent out a [legislative alert](#). You will no doubt be contacted by many, many outraged citizens. Let me reassure you, this is the least of your personal worries. What you must remember is that we understand intimately, even if you choose to ignore it, that the velvet lies of your "good intentions" are wrapped around the iron fist of the threat of state violence against those who do not comply. Now this is true of any law you pass -- all are backed up by the threat of arrest and incarceration and, yes, death at the hands of the state police if anyone resists your good intentions and refuses the honor of arrest and incarceration. The thing is, we are not your average criminals. In fact, we are not criminals at all, no matter if the last election has placed you in the position of power to declare us so. However, if you make us criminals, we will be the very best, most successful criminals we can be. For we will not comply.

For there is a difference, [as I have said in speeches in the past](#), between "the law" and the rule of law as codified by the Founders' Republic in the Constitution. Our natural, God-given and inalienable rights are not subject to negotiation, dilution, diminution or infringement, by you or anyone else. For us, it is the height of cruel irony that those of us who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law find ourselves required to become "lawbreakers" to remain in fidelity to that oath. Again, this is not ground we chose. Michael Bloomberg and his collectivist fellow travelers, domestic enemies of the Founders' Constitution, picked this ground. It is ground we have sworn to fight on, and if need be, die on. The question before you today is this: Is it ground that YOU are prepared to actually fight and die on? If we resist your "good intentions," how many of us are you willing to see dead in order to enforce your will upon us? And once we and our families begin dying at the hands of the state police you send to our doors, can you blame us if your victims return the favor to the people who sent killers operating under color of law?

This is not ground we chose. It is deadly dangerous ground. By your votes on Monday, we will discover if it is ground that YOU choose for Oregon. But kindly remember the words of John Locke, who wrote them nearly a century before the Founders wrote the Constitution:

*"Whenever the legislators endeavor to take away and destroy the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary power, they put themselves into a state of war with the people, who are thereupon absolved from any further obedience and are left to the common refuge, which God hath provided for all men, against force and violence."*

For there is another law, ancient and unyielding, available to the lowliest slave, and that is Lex Talionis -- an eye for an eye. And history shows that the distance between laws like the one you are considering passing on Monday and Lex Talionis is often unexpectedly short and frequently taken in mortal error. For as the ancient Chinese warned, "Be careful what you wish for, you may get it." Or, put differently, the rule of law protects you from us far more than it protects us from you and your tyrannical intentions.

Again I ask, how many of us are you willing to see dead to enforce your "benevolent" will upon us? Understand in advance, if you wish to enforce such a law, you will have to kill us. FOR WE WILL NOT COMPLY. We will greet it with the same tactic that we used to nullify every such law passed since Sandy Hook -- armed civil disobedience. And who do you suppose, after the bodies are all stacked up and the butcher's bill calculated, that history will judge to be guilty

for passing such a dangerous, unenforceable "law" that is absolutely destructive of the constitutional rule of law? Us? Or the people who passed it?

Sincerely,  
Mike Vanderboegh  
PO Box 926  
Pinson, AL 35126

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## **Yet Again, Government Screws Up and Tries to Blame the Private Sector**

[Seton Motley](#), Human Events, Apr 30, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/04/30/yet-again-government-screws-up-and-tries-to-blame-the-private-sector/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/04/30/yet-again-government-screws-up-and-tries-to-blame-the-private-sector/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



Government is terrible at...well, pretty much everything. The examples are legion – and myriad.

In large part because government doing anything violates the [Wallet Rule](#).

*You go out on a Friday night with your wallet. You then go out the following Friday night with my wallet. On which Friday night will you have more fun?*

If it's money you've earned, you'll be a lot more wise and frugal with it. If you have it handed to you – earned by and taken from others – these human nature restraints on how you spend it are out the window.

Government is always operating on other peoples' money – so titanic amounts of waste, fraud and abuse are going to happen. It's inherent – it's human nature.

Which is why government is terrible at...well, just about everything.

It's so elementary, [even \(some\) Ivy League professors get it.](#)

*Peter Schuck is an emeritus professor at Yale Law School and the author of the provocative new book "Why Government Fails So Often, and How It Can Do Better."...*

Professor Schuck gets most of it. Government can't do better – because the Wallet Rule is immutable.

*"Essentially, I use a criterion of cost-effectiveness, arguing that no other criterion is workable and makes sense."*

When you hear "government program" – I'm sure you immediately think "cost-effectiveness." The federal government is already [over \\$18 trillion in debt](#) – and that's peanuts compared to what's coming down the pike.

[Federal Unfunded Liabilities Total \\$84 Trillion](#)

Not exactly cost-effective. And that tally was from 2012 – before ObamaCare really kicks in.

Speaking of ObamaCare – there was a bit of a blowup regarding Oregon's version.

[Oregon \(Democrat\) Gov. Kitzhaber Announces His Resignation Amid Scandal](#)

[Kitzhaber's Resignation Invites New Scrutiny Over Oregon's Disastrous Health Care Exchange](#)

Scandal? Disastrous health care exchange?

[Ex-Gov. John Kitzhaber Put His Top Political Consultant in Charge of Cover Oregon](#)

No cronyism there.

[Cover Oregon Director Still Getting Paid \\$14K a Month After "Resignation"](#)

No cronyism **there**.

With all of this government going on – I can't imagine why Cover Oregon was a disastrous mess.

Is government taking responsibility? Of course not – it's not what government does.

Despite all of the (inherent) government fail, despite all of the cronyism – Oregon is blaming the private sector.

### [Oregon Blames Oracle for Health Exchange Failure](#)

*Oregon...hired Silicon Valley giant Oracle to lead its state health insurance exchange – a project that received nearly \$250 million in federal funds.*

### [Oregon Sues Oracle Over Failed Health Care Website](#)

Oracle is obviously a very successful company. Oregon's choosing them was not the foolish notion the federal government had for ObamaCare.

### [Feds Reviewed Only One Bid for ObamaCare Website Design](#)

*Rather than open the contracting process to a competitive public solicitation with multiple bidders, officials in the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid accepted a sole bidder, CGI Federal, the U.S. subsidiary of a Canadian company with an uneven record of IT pricing and contract performance.*

*CMS officials are tight-lipped about why CGI was chosen or how it happened. They also refuse to say if other firms competed with CGI, or if there was ever a public solicitation for building Healthcare.gov, the backbone of Obamacare's problem-plagued web portal.*

(At least) one problem with Oregon blaming Oracle – it appears Oracle did what they were supposed to do. The fail began [when they delivered to government](#).

*Cover Oregon did manage to sign several hundred thousand people up for Obamacare and Medicaid before making the decision to dump everyone into the federal exchange. How did it do that?...*(T)*hese centers were registering people using the backend of that never-launched (Oracle-built) website.*

*Further, we know from February 2014 emails from Cover Oregon boss Bruce Goldberg to Kitzhaber — emails that Kitzhaber tried to get the state to purge, by the way — that his agency thought the system could “function with a 90+ percent of accuracy for 90-95 percent of the population”; that the beta reviews were “more positive than negative”; and that many problems “can be*



overcome with training." On the last point, he explained, "You need to use your mouse to click the 'next' button.... using your return key sends you back a page."

*These quibbles sound like typical beta testing concerns, not the stuff of lawsuits and dramatically failed exchanges. And yet, here we are.*

*Oracle contends that the site was ready to launch in February of 2014. The head of Cover Oregon basically agreed with that assessment when he was being candid with the governor. Instead, the state chose in April to fold the project and funnel all Oregonians into the federal exchange. Why?*

*If you think Oracle is basically right, then there is no sane answer to that question.*

Anyone tethered to Reality knows looking for sanity from government is a fool's errand.

And deciding whether Oregon or Oracle is right in all of this mess is a variation of a [Hobson's choice](#).

*A Hobson's choice is a free choice in which only one option is offered.*

Given the history of government, the history of failures of government – and Oracle's history of private sector success – whom are you going to choose is to blame here?

Hobson would know. A Yale Law professor knows. We should too.

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## GOVERNMENT



### **Despite Alarms About Global Warming, Obama Blames Cold Winter for Stalled Economy**

[Dave Boyer](#) - The Washington Times - Wednesday, April 29, 2015  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/apr/29/white-house-blames-cold-winter-slow-growth/#.VUDue2uzRbl.twitter>



President Obama often raises the alarm about global warming, but his top economic adviser said Wednesday that an especially cold winter was to blame for slow growth in the U.S. in the first quarter.

“As measured by heating degree days, this quarter was the third coldest in twenty years,” said White House economic adviser [Jason Furman](#). “Indeed, winter weather likely reduced both consumption and investment, contributing to this quarter’s below-trend output growth.”

The Bureau of Economic Analysis said first-quarter growth in gross domestic product contracted to an annual rate of 0.2 percent, far below projections and much slower than the previous three quarters.

[Mr. Furman](#) the first quarter “was only the fourth in 60 years on record with three or more snowstorms sufficiently severe to be rated by the National Climatic Data Center’s northeast snowfall impact scale.” He said the winter was “especially harsh” and may have lowered growth by a full percentage point.

The president’s top economic adviser even said first-quarter growth has been “especially weak in recent years,” a trend that he said “at least partially reflects generally worsening weather over the past decade.”

Some climate researchers say warmer ocean temperatures contribute to heavier snowfall totals, such as the Boston region experienced last winter.

[Mr. Furman](#) said the economic slowdown also resulted from declines in fixed investment, net exports and lower energy prices worldwide.

“Another major contributor to the slowdown was declining investment in mining exploration, shafts, and wells — likely reflecting the response to the sharp decline in oil prices — that subtracted more than half a percentage point from quarterly growth,” he said.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said the disappointing economic performance is a reason to reject Hillary Rodham Clinton as the next president.

“Hillary Clinton embraces many of the same policies that are holding back the American economy,” Mr. Priebus said in a statement. “We must prevent Hillary Clinton from continuing the Obama-Clinton economic policies so we can put our country back on the road to prosperity.”

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## **The Children Are Our Future**

Jessica Cohn-Kleinberg, Sovereign Digest, May 03, 2015

**The children are our future. And, so, I am sad to report further news that our future isn't looking too bright.** Results from the 2014 National Assessment of Education Progress test were released last week and they reveal that more than half of 29,000 eighth graders believe that the U.S. government should guarantee them a job when they grow up. There were some other concerning findings, too — only 25% were proficient in history, geography and civics ... a reflection of why Americans are generally clueless about the world they live in.

When Jeff read the statistics, he was disturbed:

It's that expectation of a government job that is so troubling.

Kids learn their belief system in one of two places: school or home. And believing that the government should provide a guaranteed job means that one of two realities is endemic today and warping the belief system of the upcoming generation of Americans:

- ★ Under the guise of unwanted federal programs like No Child Left Behind (or, as it should rightly be called, Every Child Mediocre), our public school system is surreptitiously engineering a Socialist-oriented society. Or...
- ★ Conversations inside the average American household are instilling in children an entitlement-minded belief system structured round the notion that government is the answer.

Whatever the case, our future is dim. These eighth graders represent tomorrow's workers who will expect government to give them a job, and they will vote for the politicians who will provide that. Worse, they represent those politicians of tomorrow who will give those Socialist-minded voters exactly what they want.

I've said it before; I'll say it again. America is following the path laid out by Sweden between the 1920s and about 1990 ... a path that ended in economic devastation. Luckily the Swedes are a small, largely homogenous lot that generally cares about one another. America is not Sweden. When the Socialist/entitlement architecture collapses here one day — and it will — society won't be so caring.

Be very fearful of tomorrow's children. Their belief system is warped ... and apparently most can't even find America on a map.

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## **Lee Iacocca Says, "Where Have All The Leaders Gone?"**

"Am I the only guy in this country who's fed up with what's happening? Where the hell is our outrage with this so called president?"

We should be screaming bloody murder!

We've got a gang of tax cheating clueless leftists trying to steer our ship of state right over a cliff, we've got corporate gangsters stealing us blind, and we can't even run a ridiculous cash-for-clunkers program without losing \$26 billion of the taxpayers' money, much less build a hybrid car.

But instead of getting mad, everyone sits around and nods their heads when the politicians say, 'trust me, the economy is getting better..'

Better ?

What the Hell ! You've got to be kidding. This is America, not the damned Titanic.

I'll give you a sound bite: 'Throw all the Democrats out, along with Obama!'

You might think I'm getting senile, that I've gone off my rocker, and maybe I have. But someone has to speak up. I hardly recognize this country anymore.

The most famous business leaders are not the innovators but the guys in handcuffs.

While we're fiddling in Afghanistan, Iran is completing their nuclear bombs and missiles and nobody seems to know what to do.

The liberal press is waving 'pom-poms' instead of asking hard questions.

That's not the promise of the 'America' my parents and yours traveled across the ocean for.

I've had enough. How about you?

I'll go a step further. You can't call yourself a patriot if you're not outraged.

This is a fight I'm ready and willing to have. The Biggest 'C' is Crisis! (Iacocca elaborates on nine C's of leadership, with crisis being the first.)

Leaders are made, not born. Leadership is forged in times of crisis. It's easy to sit there with thumb up your butt and talk theory. Or send someone else's kids off to war when you've never seen a battlefield yourself.

It's another thing to lead when your world comes tumbling down. On [September 11, 2001](#), we needed a strong leader more than any other time in our history. We needed a steady hand to guide us out of the ashes.

We're immersed in a bloody war now with no plan for winning and no plan for leaving, but our soldiers are dying daily.

We're running the biggest deficit in the history of the world, and it's getting worse every day!

We've lost the manufacturing edge to Asia, while our once-great companies are getting slaughtered by health care costs.

This country has the largest oil reserves in the WORLD, and we cannot drill for it because the politicians have been bought by the tree-hugging environmentalists.

Our borders are like sieves and they want to give all illegals amnesty and free healthcare.

The middle class is being squeezed to death every day.  
These are times that cry out for leadership.

But when you look around, you've got to ask: Where have all the leaders gone?  
Where are the curious, creative communicators?

Where are the people of character, courage, conviction, omnipotence, and common sense?

I may be a sucker for alliteration, but I think you get the point.

Name me a leader who has a better idea for homeland security than making us take off our shoes in airports and throw away our shampoo?

We've spent billions of dollars building a huge new bureaucracy, and all we know how to do is react to things that have already happened.

Everyone's hunkering down, fingers crossed, hoping the government will make it better for them. Now, that's just crazy. Deal with life.

Name me an industry leader who is thinking creatively about how we can restore our competitive edge in manufacturing.

Who would have believed that there could ever be a time when 'The Big Three' referred to Japanese car companies? How did this happen, and more important, look what Obama did about it.

Name me a government leader who can articulate a plan for paying down the debt, or solving the energy crisis, or managing the health care problem. The silence is deafening.

But these are the crises that are eating away at our country and milking the middle class dry.

I have news for the Chicago gangsters in Congress.

We didn't elect you to turn this country into a losing European Socialist state.

What is everybody so afraid of? That some bonehead on NBC or CNN news will call them a name? Give me a break. Why don't you guys show some spine for a change?

Had Enough? Hey, I'm not trying to be the voice of gloom and doom here.

I'm trying to light a fire. I'm speaking out because I have hope - I believe in America...

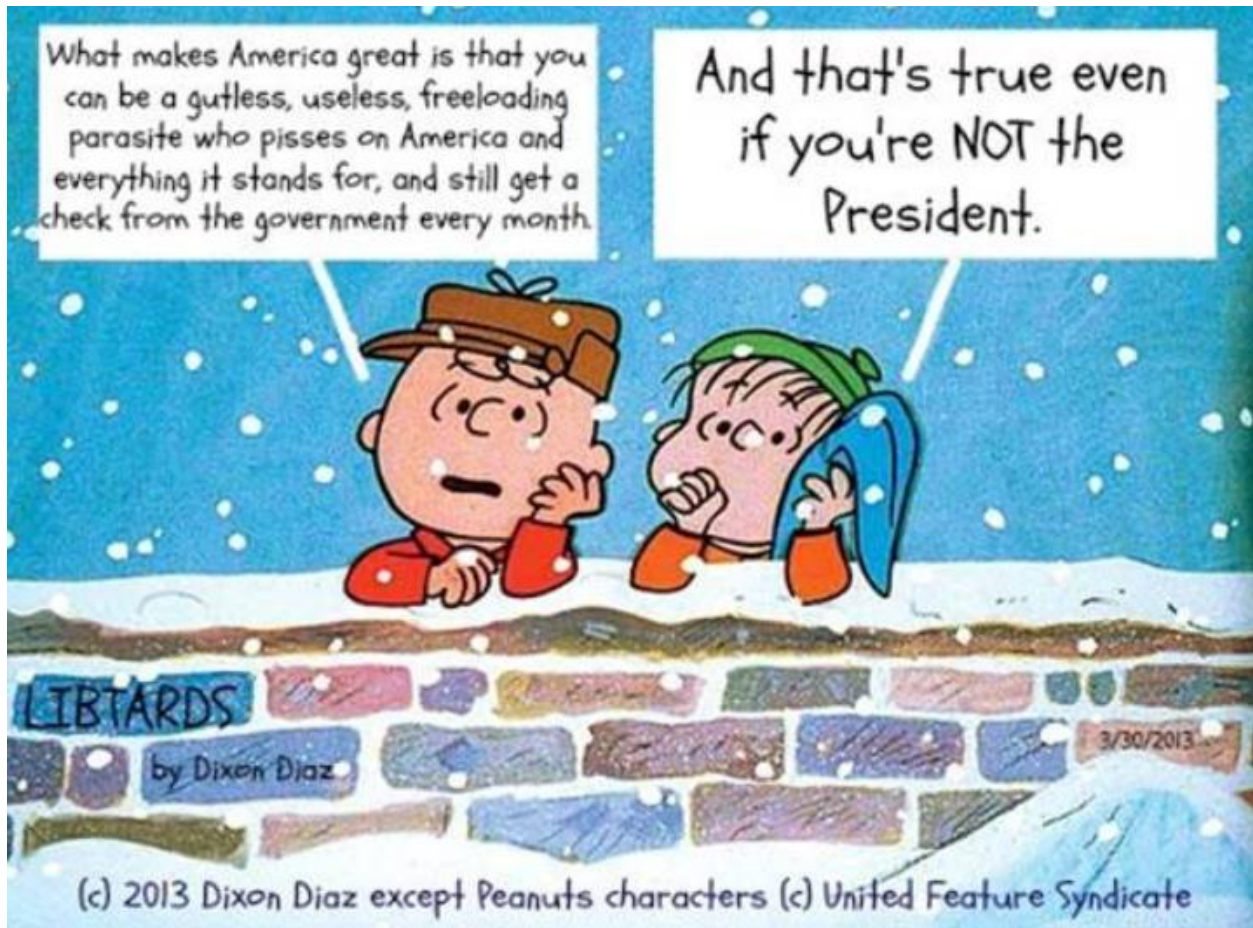
In my lifetime, I've had the privilege of living through some of America's greatest moments.

I've also experienced some of our worst crises:

The 'Great Depression,' 'World War II,' 'the 'Korean War,' the 'Kennedy Assassination,' the 'Vietnam War,' the 1970's oil crisis, and the struggles of recent years since 9/11.







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## **Time is Like a River.**

**You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again.**

Written by a USMC Vet.

*The American Dream ended (on November 6th, 2012) in Ohio. The second term of Barack Obama will be the final nail in the coffin for the legacy of the white Christian males who discovered, explored, pioneered, settled and developed the greatest Republic in the history of mankind.*

*A coalition of Blacks, Latinos, Feminists, Gays, Government Workers, Union Members, Environmental Extremists, The Media, Hollywood, uninformed young people, the "forever needy," the chronically unemployed, illegal aliens and other "fellow travelers" have ended*

*Norman Rockwell's America. The Cocker Spaniel is off the front porch... The Pit Bull is in the back yard. The American Constitution has been replaced with Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals" and Chicago shyster, David Axelrod, along with international Socialist George Soros will be pulling the strings on their beige puppet to bring us Act 2 of the New World Order.*

*Our side ran two candidates who couldn't even win their own home states, and Chris Christie helped Obama over the top with a glowing "post Sandy" tribute that elevated the "Commander-in-Chief" to Mother Teresa status. (Aside: with the way the polls were run, he didn't need any help!) People like me are completely politically irrelevant, and I will never again comment on or concern myself with the aforementioned coalition which has surrendered our culture, our heritage and our traditions without a shot being fired.*

*You will never again out-vote these people. It will take individual acts of defiance and massive displays of civil disobedience to get back the rights we have allowed them to take away. It will take Zealots, not moderates & shy not reach-across-the-aisle RINOs to right this ship and restore our beloved country to its former status.*

*Those who come after us will have to risk their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to bring back the Republic that this generation has timidly frittered away due to "white guilt" and political correctness...*

*\*\*\*\*\**



## LT. COL. PETERS NAILS IT AGAIN

"I thought it was pretty damn sad that the American people have to hear the truth from the prime minister of Israel about Islamist fanaticism and the struggles we're seeing in the Middle East. And our own president won't even call Islamist terrorism 'Islamist terrorism.' There is no question the vituperative, vicious Democratic reaction to the speech was because Benjamin Netanyahu told the truth and Obama has NOT. Netanyahu called him out... And Democrats in response, including the president, acted like snitty, bitchy high school girls."

~ Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters - U.S. Army (Ret.)

Politifake.org

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### **QUOTE OF THE DECADE**

Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff's Office

"A liberal's paradise would be a place where everybody has guaranteed employment, free comprehensive healthcare, free education, free food, free

housing, free clothing, free utilities, and only law enforcement has guns. And believe it or not, such a place does indeed already exist: It's called Prison."

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## **Big Government Means Big Losses of Freedom and Choices and Big Cronyism**

[Seton Motley](http://humanevents.com/2015/04/06/rfra-big-government-means-big-losses-of-freedom-and-choices-and-big-cronyism/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl), Human Events, Monday Apr 6, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/04/06/rfra-big-government-means-big-losses-of-freedom-and-choices-and-big-cronyism/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/04/06/rfra-big-government-means-big-losses-of-freedom-and-choices-and-big-cronyism/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)

The solution to many, MANY public policy problems is less government.

*Governments' regulatory hammers and checkbooks are simply gi-normous. The federal government alone spent last year nearly \$4 trillion – and its regulations cost the economy more than \$2 trillion more.*

That's \$6 trillion a year with which to [punish enemies and reward friends](#). Which sets up the Leviathan to be the Crony Deal Broker.

**Government is so huge – way, WAY beyond the bounds proscribed by the Constitution – it keeps bumping up against the individual freedoms of a free society.**

There is in Indiana (and elsewhere) no religious freedom “tension” with respect to their Religious Freedom Restoration Acts. There is only government dramatically overreaching. The Constitution mandates government make no law abridging the freedom of religion. The Constitution mandates government its own self treat everyone equally before the law. The Constitution does not empower the government to mandate that every individual treat every other individual equally.

Have you said yes to every person who has ever asked you out on a date? If the answer is no – congratulations, you discriminated. Do you want the government to mandate that you say yes to everyone? Because that would end your discrimination.

You want real campaign finance reform? Reduce the power and money government wields (again, to its Constitutional limits) – and the pay-to-play donations go away. If the Feds can’t write multi-billion dollar checks – or regulate your competitors while leaving you alone – there will be less campaign contribution “investments” on the front end.

And then there’s the Regulations-for-Thee-Not-for-Me cronyism that is now rampant beyond words. To wit:

Amazon is warning (Federal Communications Commission-FCC) federal regulators not to saddle its upstart video service with new regulations by treating it like a traditional cable service....

(S)haking up the process “could impair the success” of the current “thriving” market, Amazon warned....

Of course Amazon doesn’t want to be regulated. No one who is in – or understands – business does. But they were specific – “don’t regulate us like cable.”

That’s interesting. Because the FCC just jammed down our throats [Network Neutrality](#) and [the entire 1934 landline telephone regulatory regime](#). And did so by totally ignoring all other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) – wireless, satellite, etc. – and pretending only cable Internet service exists. And then decrying the lack of ISP choices as “justification” for their ridiculous power grab.

But as Amazon rightly (if accidentally) points out – governments and their massive regulatory regimes are why there are fewer cable providers.

Local governments and their public utilities charge ISPs far more (for building rights) than these things actually cost. For example, rights of way and pole attachments fees can double the cost of network construction....

These (government) incumbents – the real monopolists – also have the final say on whether an ISP can build a network. They determine what hoops an ISP must jump through to get approval.

This reduces the number of potential competitors who can profitably deploy service.... The lack of competition makes it easier for local governments and utilities to charge more for rights of way and pole attachments.

It's a vicious circle...(A) system of forced kickbacks....(also) includ(ing) ISPs...building out service where it isn't demanded, donating equipment, and delivering free broadband to government buildings.

How bad does it get?

**Video franchises are the revenue-sharing agreements that cable TV companies sign with local governments in return for the exclusive right to offer video services to customers.** (Emphasis ours.)

Get that? It's governments beating down private sector competitors – and creating monopolies – not the (very un-free) market.

You can certainly understand why Amazon wouldn't want to be regulated like that. If only they were consistent in their deregulatory perspective.

Amazon is ignoring the governments-induced problem – just like the governments are.

Why would Amazon favor yet another regulatory body blow to ISPs? Because it is a bandwidth hog company – it uses a LOT of Internet capacity. And the government just outlawed Amazon's being charged for being a bandwidth hog company. That's great for them – [not so great for us](#).

ISPs can only charge two people for the bandwidth they build. The Bandwidth Hogs – and us. So our prices will skyrocket – to augment the profits of the Bandwidth Hogs. Net Neutral, right?

So Amazon just received a huge Crony anti-ISP regulatory boost from the Obama Administration – while beseeching the Obama Administration not to uber-regulate them in similar anti-ISP fashion. Regulate thee – not me. How did this come to pass?

(S)ince 1988 some 88 percent of Bezos' donations went to Democrats.

Of course. More anti-freedom, anti-choices, Crony Socialist business as usual from Big Government.

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## **Bone-Dry California Dumps Water to 'Make Fish Happy'**

**Congressman scorches left's 'lunacy'  
during worst drought in state history**

Greg Corombos, WND, April 11, 2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/04/bone-dry-california-dumps-water-to-make-fish-happy/>



Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., is working feverishly to reverse federal and state policies that give fish and rivers priority over people in the distribution of water during the worst drought in California history.

The state is now in the fourth year of the drought, and water reserves are running frighteningly low. McClintock said *it's a result of stunningly stupid policies dating back to the last time Democrat Gov. Jerry Brown was in office.*

*"We haven't built a major dam in this state since 1979,"* McClintock said. *"Meanwhile, the population has nearly doubled.* We aren't going to solve our water problems until we begin building more dams. We can't build more dams as long as the radical environmental laws make their construction impossible."

*Brown chalks up the shortage to climate change,* saying higher temperatures mean less snow in the Sierra Nevada mountains and less water come spring.

"If you happen to worship at the church of global warming, you should be pressing very hard to build more dams," he said. "It means, with a warmer climate, we will not be able to store as much water in the mountains as snow. Therefore, we need to store that water behind dams. Yet, *Gov. Brown has been one of the leading opponents to new dam construction.*"

If those rules appear hard to believe, McClintock doesn't blame anyone.

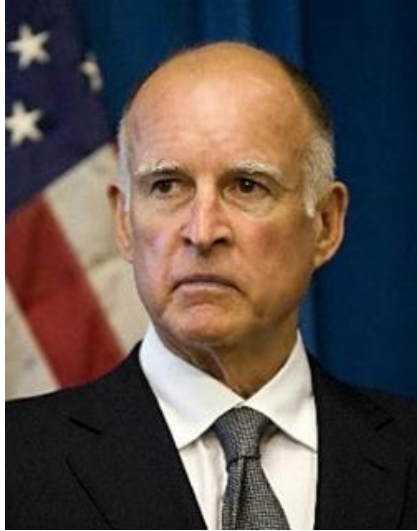
"A year ago, I was beating the drums to sound warnings on these policies, and nobody paid any attention," he said. "It began to occur to me, the reason they're not paying attention is because they don't believe me. *They don't believe that our policy could be so breathtakingly stupid as to dump millions of gallons of precious water in the middle of a drought to adjust river water temperatures.*

"But those are the policies. They are being carried out. As our reservoirs now near empty, people are beginning to focus on that finally. Hopefully, *it is going to cause a major re-evaluation of the many leftist environmental laws that have built up in our system over the past 20 years or so that are the very definition of lunacy.*"

Last week, Gov. Brown imposed water restrictions on many California residents, demanding they reduce consumption by 25 percent and face fines up to \$500 if they fail to comply.

*McClintock said the restrictions are not coming because reserves are tapped out but because humans are not the government's first priority.*





**Gov. Jerry Brown, D-Calif.**

*“We’re now in the fourth year of the worst drought in the history of California,” he said. “Yet, Brown and the environmental left continue to release what little water remains behind our dams, not for essential human consumption but rather to adjust the water temperatures in the rivers so the fish are happy.”*

The congressman is working feverishly to pass House Resolution 1668, the Save Our Water Act. The bill would put an end to releasing massive amounts of water during a time of drought. Time is of the essence. Another major water release into the rivers is already scheduled.

“The Federal Bureau of Reclamation has ordered another pulse flow,” he said. “These are massive releases of water, billions of gallons of water. If this order is allowed to stand, they will drain several of our major reservoirs before the end of the summer for the fish, which means there will be no water left for the human population.”

But the issue gets even more maddening for McClintock. He said the biggest problem for the fish is not the drought but another government policy.

“Mainly, we’re talking about a three-inch minnow called the delta smelt,” he said. “In the case of the new orders, it involves steelhead trout. *In most of these cases, the principal cause for the decline in the populations has nothing to do with our water projects. It has to do with non-native predator fish that were introduced into our streams and rivers by the government years ago.*”

According to Reason magazine science correspondent Ronald Bailey, 50 percent of water in the reservoirs goes to the rivers and streams. And he said the vast majority of the remaining water goes to the farmers. Yet, he said the restrictions are all aimed at the people using 10 percent of the resources. He also said enforcing the restrictions requires a nanny state nightmare.

“What will happen is that they’re going to have to have a whole elaborate enforcement procedure, with people spying on their neighbors and reporting and so forth. It’s a clunky, stupid system to do it,” Bailey said.

McClintock thinks Brown has a lot of nerve imposing the restrictions.

“It’s going to be very hard for him to summon any kind of moral authority to fine people \$500 if they waste a gallon of water on their lawn or sidewalk and yet have no problems wasting millions of gallons of water in the pursuit of making the fish perfectly happy,” he said.

***The congressman stresses this mess is a result of federal and state policies.*** He said the House of Representatives is trying to restore sanity to the law, but it is racing against the clock.

“I’m very confident that we will pass that bill out of the House this year, but it will not be in time to prevent the releases that could literally drain to empty reservoirs that are now in California before we even get to the next rainy season,” he said.

Within six months, McClintock said, misguided government policies could mean the end of some towns in his state.

“Copperopolis, a community of about 10,000 in the Sierra Nevada, will simply be without water because the water we had been storing behind our dams had been released during this period for the fish,” he said. “It means that when people turn on their water faucets, no water comes out. ***It means entire communities dry up and blow away. These are communities of a long-neglected species, called homo sapiens.***” [Editors Note: Exactly as desired under the guidelines of United Nations Agenda 21]

In addition to putting a halt on pulse flows, McClintock said the federal government needs to make other obvious changes to the laws.

“The House has acted several times now to modify those laws, to ensure that there’s an equitable distribution of water and that we approach the

Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements with a little more common sense," he said.

"For example, why shouldn't we be meeting these requirements (on fish numbers) by building fish hatcheries? Right now, the hatchery fish are not allowed to be included in the population counts," he said.

But could the free market solve the problem more efficiently than changing federal laws?

Bailey thinks so.

"Giving secure property rights to water to people would be the first step toward implementing markets," said Bailey, who believes water is badly under-priced in California, and giving farmers more options for their water could benefit everyone.

"What I would do is give free and clear title to the water to the farmers," Bailey said. "Then they can decide if they want to farm or if they want to sell the water. My bet is that the price would be sufficiently high that a whole bunch of farmers will say, 'You know what? I don't need to raise any rice this year. I'm going to sell my water to San Francisco or Los Angeles.'"

McClintock said that approach fails to take the dire situation of farmers into consideration.

"The problem with that is we've already lost about a half-a-million acres of the most fertile farmland in America because of these regulations, compounded by the drought," he said. "When you turn off the water to an almond orchard, for example, that's not a one-year deal. Those trees die, and it takes many, many years to re-grow them so they're once again bearings nuts and fruit."

**While California's water crisis is a perfect storm of a major drought and what he considers extreme California environmental policies, McClintock said the U.S. government is a major player in this, and that means the rest of America is not immune.**

**"This can come to any community in America at some time in the near future," he said. "If there's an ESA biological opinion requiring the release of this water, what that means is fish come first and people can fend for themselves."**

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# Who's The Real "Chickenshit" ...?



**BARACK HUSSEIN  
OBAMA**

Smoked  
Choom



**BENJAMIN 'BIBI'  
NETANYAHU**

Smoked  
Terrorists

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## **Democrats Awash in 'Green' Energy Deals on Public Land**

### **Harry Reid, big donors cash in on dozens of Nevada projects**

Jerome Corsi, WMD Money, April 17, 2014

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/04/democrats-awash-in-green-energy-deals-on-public-land/>



**Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid at ground-breaking ceremony for First Solar's Moapa Southern Paiute Solar Project, March 21 (Nevada Business)**

NEW YORK – In the wake of the Bundy Ranch standoff, Nevada's public energy utility confirmed it has so many renewable-energy projects in the works that it has no need for the \$5 billion solar-power project with the Chinese government and ENN Group that was withdrawn last year.

Fay Andersen, spokeswoman for NV Energy, told WND the state currently has 39 producing renewable energy projects, with an additional project under construction and another in the development phase.

"Nevada has one of the highest Renewable Portfolio Standards in the country, determined as a percent of retail energy sales, and requiring the company to achieve 25 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2025," she explained to WND.

She said NV Energy has exceeded its renewable energy requirement of 18 percent for 2013-14, with 20.3 percent in southern Nevada in 2013 and 34.7 percent in northern Nevada.

The public utility was on track to issue a Request for Proposal, or RFP, for 100 megawatts of renewable energy for each of the years 2014, 2015, and 2016, in accordance with the requirements of Nevada state law, Anderson said.

[As WND reported](#), bloggers made a connection between the Bureau of Land Management's raid of rancher Cliven Bundy's land and a solar energy project in southern Nevada financed by the communist Chinese energy firm ENN. It was to be the largest solar farm in the U.S.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada had lobbied heavily for the company's business, even traveling to China. Reid's son, Rory Reid, formerly a Clark County commissioner, became a lobbyist for ENN while Sen. Reid's former senior adviser, Neil Kornze, now leads the BLM.

The project died last year, but the BLM's library of renewable energy projects revealed it was only one of more than 50 solar, wind and geothermal projects planned for Nevada, California, Arizona and other Western states.

### **Big payout**

The plan to convert an increasingly large share of Nevada's public land to renewable-energy projects appears to have been a key motivation for Reid to run a war against coal-burning electric power in Nevada that began during the second term of President George W. Bush.

On March 21, [Nevada Business published a photograph](#) showing Reid breaking ground on a project with representatives of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, executives with First Solar Inc. and representatives of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The 250 megawatt Moapa Southern Paiute Solar Project is planned to deliver renewable energy to the city of Los Angeles for the next 24 years.

[The leaseholder on the Moapa Southern Paiute Solar Project is K Road Power, LLC, a New York City-based energy company](#) that employs as business manager Jonathan Magaziner, formerly an associate at the Clinton Climate Initiative of the William J. Clinton Foundation.

[Jonathan Magaziner is the son of Ira Magaziner](#), who served President Bill Clinton in the White House as senior policy adviser for policy development from 1993 through 1998, and is now the chief executive officer and vice chairman of the Clinton Health Access Initiative and chairman of the Clinton Climate Initiative. He also is a board member of the Clinton Hunter Development Initiative.

[According to research conducted by investigator reporter Christine Lakatos](#), First Solar Inc. was an early green investment funded by Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment banking firm that ranked as a top \$1 million contributor to Obama's 2008 presidential campaign. Lakota also documented that First Solar investors include bundlers Bruce Heyman and David Heller, two Goldman Sachs executives who sat on Obama's 2008 Finance Committee.

Peter Schweizer, on pages 91-92 of his 2011 book "Throw Them All Out," also lists Michael Ahearn, First Solar's chief executive officer, as having given generously and exclusively to Democrats. He also pointed out that billionaire investor Paul Tudor Jones, another Obama bundler, owns a major stake in First Solar.

In March 2012, [the Washington Examiner reported First Solar](#), an Arizona-based manufacturer of solar panels, received in 2010 a \$16.3 million subsidy to expand its factory in Ohio. The grant came after a \$455.7 million taxpayer-funded loan guarantee awarded by the Export-Import Bank to subsidize the sale of solar panels to two solar firms in Canada.

One of the Canadian firms, St. Clair Solar, was a wholly owned subsidiary of First Solar, so when First Solar was shipping its solar panels from Ohio to a solar farm it owned in Canada, the U.S. taxpayers were subsidizing the "export," the Examiner said.

In 2012, NV Energy rebuffed pressure by Reid to get behind the \$5 billion solar project that ENN Group wanted to build near Laughlin, Nev. [Steve Tetreault noted in the Las Vegas Journal-Review in July 2012](#) that Reid said the envisioned ambitious complex "would start tomorrow if NV Energy would purchase the power," but the company "has not been willing to work on this and that's a shame."

Tetreault said the Senate majority leader's remarks were the linkage between the Nevada utility and the clean energy project.

Previously, he wrote, the project was aimed at serving utilities in California, but state officials there said they had no interest in importing power from other sources.

"NV Energy is a regulated monopoly," Reid said, according to Tetreault's report. "They control 95 percent of all the electricity that is produced in Nevada and they should go along with this."

The Las Vegas Review-Journal further reported that in response to Reid, an NV Energy spokeswoman said the utility was not in the market for more renewable

energy, having exceeded the state's requirement that 15 percent of its portfolio originate from clean sources.

Tetreault noted Reid has a personal stake in pushing NV Energy to use more solar power. Reid had teamed up with the Chinese firm to invest \$8 billion in the U.S. on renewable energy projects in the coming decade. Also, Reid had invited ENN Group's chairman, Wang Yusuo, to speak at the senator's clean energy summit in Las Vegas during the summer 2011.

### **Chinese pull the plug**

In April 2012, [Bloomberg reported](#) the Reid-sponsored deal to have ENN Group invest \$5 billion in a solar plant and energy-generating farm in Laughlin, Nev., was on the ropes because Reid and ENN were unable to find a utility company willing to buy the solar energy.

According to Bloomberg, Reid never stopped pressuring California, evidently concerned he would need an alternative if NV Energy could not be convinced.

The energy plant "will generate the electricity California must have in just a few years," Reid said in March, referring to a state mandate requiring 33 percent of a utility's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020. "This project is close to California. It's within walking distance."

Reid's spokeswoman, Kristen Orthman, said the senator was working on introducing ENN to utilities.

Laughlin officials were getting calls every week from investors, job seekers and local business owners wanting to know the status.

"It's extremely frustrating," [Clark County Commissioner] Steve Sisolak said at the time. "Everybody is so anxious and wants this project to move forward."

Then, on June 17, 2013, [the Associated Press reported](#) ENN Group dropped its plans to build the \$5 billion solar project. ENN officials informed Clark County officials the company was terminating its agreement to purchase 9,000 acres because it was unable to sign up public utilities in either Nevada or California to agree to purchase the solar energy generated.

On June 14, 2013, [Clark County Commissioner explained to the Las Vegas Sun](#): "Alternative energies are still more expensive than fossil fuels and they [ENN] couldn't get (the costs) down to a point where they could sell any of the power.



Even if we had given them an extension for a year or two, it wouldn't have made a difference."

### **Bundy's 'trespass cattle'**

On April 9, [the U.S. Senate in a 71-28 vote confirmed Neil Kornze, a former senior adviser to Reid](#), to head the Bureau of Land Management.

At BLM, an agency Kornze originally joined in 2011, [Kornze distinguished himself by spearheading BLM's "Western Solar Energy" plan](#) that produced the following year a "Final Pragmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States."

The document currently serves as a blueprint for the federal government to "mitigate" the potential environmental impact of the planned Solar Energy Zones, or SEZs.

The government seeks to transform thousands of acres throughout six Southwestern states into alternative habitats to relocate endangered species from private land sold to accommodate renewable energy projects.

[A BLM study titled "Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone, Technical Note 444,"](#) dated March 2014, identifies Bunkerville, Nev., the site of the Bundy Ranch approximately 80 miles northwest of Las Vegas, as a mitigation area for the Dry Lake SEZ.

The Dry Lake SEZ, about 15 miles northeast of Las Vegas, encompasses approximately 5,717 acres under management of the Clark County BLM office.

A BLM map identifying the "Bundy Cattle Trespass Overview," the area designated by black diagonal lines, also shows cattle from the Bundy Ranch ranging on public land adjoining the Moapa Indian Reservation, site of the previously referenced First Solar project.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**Northeast Clark County Cattle Trespass**  
Home Page

**Cattle Trespass Impacts**

Cliven Bundy has no legal authority to graze cattle on federal lands in the Gold Butte area, including Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The U.S. District Court of Nevada has permanently enjoined Cliven Bundy's trespass grazing, ordered him to remove his trespass cattle from public lands inside and outside the former Bunkerville Allotment (including from the Lake Mead NRA) before December 2013, and stated the U.S. is entitled to seize and impound any cattle that have not been removed by the judicially imposed off-date and that remain in trespass. A large number of the trespass cattle on the federal lands are feral cattle that can pose a threat to members of the public recreating or traveling over the federal lands. The trespass cattle have also caused damage to private property, as well as to the federal lands and natural resources.

Trespass Cattle

- [Daily Public Land Closure Maps](#)
- [Impound Status Update](#)
- [History of Trespass Cattle](#)
- [Cattle Trespass Impacts](#)
- [Notices](#)
- [Court Orders](#)
- [News Releases](#)

**Examples of Recent Incidents of Private Property Damage Caused by Bundy's Trespass Cattle**

- One feral cow was hit by an automobile within Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Cattle are frequently seen on public roads, including State Route 170 and pose a danger to vehicles and to members of the public traveling on public roads.
- Overton Wildlife Refuge (State of Nevada) employee attacked by a Bundy bull.
- Crop destroyed by Bundy cattle on private land.
- Mesquite Heritage Community Garden damaged by trespass cattle.
- Mesquite golf course damaged by trespass cattle.

**Examples of Restoration Funding and Viability Impacted**

- A \$400,000 matching grant to restore Southwest Willow Flycatcher habitat along the Virgin River from the Walton Family Foundation was withdrawn until the trespass cattle have been removed.
- A \$160,000 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act project to restore Southwestern Willow Flycatcher has been delayed until trespass cattle are removed.
- Non-Governmental Organizations have expressed concern that the regional mitigation strategy for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone utilizes Gold Butte as the location for offsite mitigation for impacts from solar development, and that those restoration activities are not durable with the presence of trespass cattle.
- The Nevada State Department of Wildlife has built extensive fences to protect state and federal lands protected as the Overton Wildlife Refuge from the trespass cattle.

**Examples of Public Concerns**

- Residents of the communities of Bunkerville and Mesquite have complained about the impact of cattle on city facilities.
- Within the last month, letters requesting action have also been received from several individuals, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Friends of Gold Butte and Friends of Joshua Tree Forest.
- The Center for Biological Diversity has demanded action to resolve trespass in designated critical desert tortoise habitat in several letters.
- Western Watersheds has requested a verbal status update and later filed a Freedom of Information Act request.

**Examples of Natural and Cultural Resource Damage**

- Cattle have crushed artifacts at the "Red Racer" and St. Thomas cultural sites.
- Damage to springs, including fecal contamination, trampling soils and vegetation and impacts to wildlife. Wildlife will avoid springs with large numbers of cattle.
- Damage to springs with sensitive amphibians, including the rare relict leopard frog.
- Multiple instances of vegetation damage to rare plants, including on monitoring plots after extensive wildfires within critical habitat for Desert Tortoise.
- Unauthorized reservoir constructed with bulldozer twice.

Last updated: 03-26-2014

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**Page removed from BLM website on the Bundy Ranch "cattle trespass"**

That means the grazing of Bundy's cattle on federal lands in the Gold Butte area is not compatible with moving the endangered tortoises there as part of the "mitigation strategy" planned for the Dry Lake SEZ.

**Reid's war against coal power plants**

The Democratic Party plan to convert an increasingly large share of Nevada's public land to solar power projects appears to have been a key motivation prompting Reid to run a war against coal-burning electric power in Nevada that appears to have begun during the second term of President George W. Bush.

The Laughlin site on which ENN had planned to build its solar project was the home to the 1,580 megawatt coal-fired Mohave Generating Station, owned by Southern California Edison, that Reid and other Democrats in Congress [forced closed in 2005](#).

After the Mohave Generating Station had been closed down and demolished, [Reid contacted Southern California Edison, the majority owner of the demolished coal-fueled power plant, to ask permission to use the site for a solar power plant.](#)

“When the plant closed down, the local communities and Native American tribes lost valuable jobs,” Reid said in a statement published by his office. “I am urging Southern California Edison to convert the plant and its assets into a vibrant solar power producer to give the area an economic boost.”

Reid further suggested to Southern California Edison that industrial plants could sell sulfur dioxide credits, rather than continue to operate and spew out pollution, and the company could use that money to build a solar power plant.

In 2007, [the Las Vegas Sun reported](#), Reid was opposing three plants proposed in Lincoln and White Pine Counties in Nevada, despite their plans to burn environmentally safe clean coal.

“They say, ‘We’ll use clean coal technology,’” Reid said. “It doesn’t exist. There is no such thing as clean coal technology. There is not a coal plant in America that is clean.”

Reid claimed the three plants would emit a combined 31 million tons of carbon dioxide each year for about 50 years, despite reduced emissions of sulfur, nitrogen, mercury and other pollutants.

Reid’s argument was that the emitted carbon dioxide for the proposed three new clean coal-burning power plants made them as bad as the Mohave Generating Station, a coal-burning electric power plant consisting of four units built between 1965 and 1983. Located near Reid’s hometown of Searchlight, Nev., Reid and his Democratic colleagues in Congress had labeled it the dirtiest power plant in the nation.

Speaking at the first Nevada Clean Energy Summit in Reno in 2007, Reid said he was “going to do everything I can to stop” the construction of new coal-fired power plants in Nevada, [the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported](#).

“There is no clean coal technology,” Reid said, according to the newspaper report. “There is cleaner coal technology, but there is no clean coal technology.”

Reid argued Nevada was wasting its sunlight by not capturing solar power.

“Fifty percent of the power comes from outside the state of Nevada, even though we have fuel shining on us every day – the sun,” Reid said.

The newspaper reported that Reid was determined to block the plans of Michael Yackira, the chief executive officer of Reno-based Sierra Pacific Resources, the company that sought to build the coal-fired \$3.7 billion Ely Energy Center that would generate 1,500 megawatts of electricity.

The company also had signed in 2006 nine contracts for approximately 300 megawatts of geothermal and solar energy to be produced in Nevada, with the company and others investing \$2 billion in the renewable energy projects between 2007 and 2015.

“We are going to build the cleanest coal plant in the world,” Yackira said.

But Reid objected, claiming it was a “matter of conscience” because he believed the proposed coal plant would pollute areas of Nevada, including national park lands.

In November 2008, [the Wall Street Journal reported](#) Reid wrote a letter to then-Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons, praising a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency’s appeals board to block the construction of a proposed coal plant in Utah. Reid argued the EPA decision “makes it overwhelmingly clear” that Nevada should not approve any new coal-fired plants without considering the “extremely high greenhouse gas emissions” of such plants.

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## Does Leadership Still Matter?

Ted Baumann, Editor, *Offshore Confidential*, April 14, 2015

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=dd7qksvf1ko5k#4666516423>

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015** — in other words, as I write this — marked the [150th anniversary of the assassination](#) of arguably America's greatest president, Abraham Lincoln. On that day, for the first time in a long while, Lincoln was approaching something like happiness. The surrender of Richmond on April 3, followed by Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9, had changed Lincoln's world: He would no longer be required to send armies of young men to die. That morning he had told his wife, Mary, that "We must both be more cheerful in the future. Between the war and the loss of our darling Willie (Ed: He died of typhus in 1862) we have both been very miserable." Lincoln's magnificent leadership qualities were appreciated by a wide variety of observers, including one [Karl Marx](#), who regarded his conduct preceding the Emancipation Proclamation as a brilliant example of shrewd political tactics. The anniversary of the great man's death has led many to remind us "that leadership matters, and that much depends on the occupant of the White House." Or does it? John W. Whitehead, one of my favorite thinkers and writers, [fears it may not](#), saying "It really doesn't matter what you call them — the 1%, the elite, the controllers, the masterminds, the shadow government, the police state, the surveillance state, the military industrial complex — so long as you understand that no matter which party occupies the White House in 2017, the unelected bureaucracy that actually calls the shots will continue to do so." Does the ghost of Honest Abe rest easy as it surveys our Republic? We fear not.

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**Hamas is attacking. Israel is defending.**

**Russia is invading.**

**The Middle East is smoldering.**

**Boko Haram is massacring.**

**ISIS is marching.**

**Iran and N Korea are threatening.**

**American cities are crumbling.**

**Our southern border is dissolving.**

**Our debt is skyrocketing.**

**Americans are hurting.**

**Our enemies are laughing.**

**Obama Is Fundraising**

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## Obama Funds Left-Wing Hit Squad With Your Tax Dollars

**1 of many groups deployed in melding of state, political advocacy**

By Matthew Vadum, WND, 03/29/2015 at 2:28 PM

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/03/obama-funds-left-wing-hit-squad-with-your-tax-dollars/>

***[Editor's note: If it sounds convoluted, it's on purpose. This is the first in a series of stories exposing a massive shell game with taxpayer funds that, while not new, is being perfected by the Obama administration as a means to deploy and reward non-profit co-laborers in an effort to fulfill the president's stated aim of radically transforming America. It's a system in which complexity serves as a useful tool to avoid drawing scrutiny. The series will offer a tour of the landscape and ultimately address the implications for every citizen.]***

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration is using your tax dollars to back a super-wealthy, left-wing charity that cuts checks to a myriad of avowedly "progressive" causes, including the notorious Media Matters for America, founded by Hillary Clinton ally and Fox News nemesis David Brock.

It's just one of many examples of how in the Obama era, government is handing out money to nonprofits that share the ideology and political inclinations of a president who looks back warmly on his time as a community organizer in Chicago.

"Barack is not a politician first and foremost," first lady Michelle Obama has said. "He's a community activist exploring the viability of politics to make change."

In this case, the charity receiving federal funding is called Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a favorite philanthropy of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Based in Mountain View, California, it is already awash in private funds.

On its website, [the foundation acknowledges having \\$4.7 billion in assets under its management.](#)

Zuckerberg pledged in December 2013 to give Facebook shares to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation shares worth \$1 billion. He previously gave \$500 million worth of Facebook shares to the foundation and another \$100 million to the foundation earmarked for public schools in Newark, New Jersey.

## **Blurring the lines**

The federal government has been funding left-wing groups like the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for at least a half-century, ever since the so-called “War on Poverty” was launched by President Lyndon Johnson.

But President Obama is aggressively using taxpayer funds in a way that blurs the line between government functions and political activism, while at the same time stealthily fostering a steady increase in the overall size and scope of government.

Another example of the Obama administration's funding and deployment of left-wing groups in governmental functions to carry out its ideological agenda, [reported exclusively by WND last year](#), was the IRS hiring of the avowedly progressive Urban Institute, supported by far-left billionaire activist George Soros, to process the Form 990s of non-profit groups.

At the time, revelations of the IRS targeting of conservative groups that oppose Obama's agenda were continuing to emerge.

Together, the two stories present a picture of an administration that rewards its friends, punishes its enemies and, in the process, fundamentally changes the character of government.

Similarly, President Obama's nomination of Loretta Lynch to succeed Eric Holder as attorney general has put a spotlight on the administration's decision to “defer prosecution” against banking giant HSBC despite laundering billions of dollars in funds for Middle Eastern terrorists and Mexican drug cartels. It was Lynch, in her role as a U.S. attorney, who handled the HSBC charges, which [were brought to light in a series of stories reported exclusively by WND beginning in 2012](#), based on charges by John Cruz, a former vice president and relationship manager for the bank. Lynch's nomination has been delayed as, among other issues, the [Senate Judiciary Committee investigates](#) Cruz's allegations that Lynch engaged in a Department of Justice cover-up.

Meanwhile, [the Daily Caller reported](#) the Obama administration has quietly killed an IRS tax-preparation program designed to help low-income and disadvantaged citizens, choosing instead to give millions of dollars to liberal groups for the same purpose.



Also, [WND was first to report](#) a State Department-financed non-profit based in Israel was engaged in a major effort to get young Arab citizens to the voting booths in the recent Israeli elections.

In its rewarding of friends, a pattern emerges of nonprofit groups creating a program, pitching it to the White House, the White House accepting it and then handing it over to the very nonprofit that conceived of the idea.

Asked by WND to comment, Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, called the Obama administration's pattern of behavior "yet another profound example of how extreme leftists have conspired to use American taxpayers' funds for their far-left destructive agenda."

"Once again, that means that most Americans who are privately paying to preserve and pass on their love for our American heritage to our children are also having money forcibly taken by the federal government to fund those who want to become Castro-led-Cuba, Chavez-led-Venezuela or an anti-Judeo-Christian, Stalin-led-Soviet state," said Gohmert.

*See how taxpayer dollars end up in the hands of left-wing activists:*

# TAXPAYERS\$



Corporation for  
**NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE** | **SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND**



## **Media Matters for America**

(\$931,000 since 2008)

## **Tides Center and Tides Foundation**

(\$2,546,888 since 2005)

## **Planned Parenthood and affiliates**

(\$2,007,950 since 2005)

## **(Jimmy) Carter Center**

(\$1,346,500 since 2007)

## **Center for American Progress**

(\$1,696,000 since 2007)

## **Center for Responsible Lending**

(\$275,000 since 2009)

## **ACLU**

(\$204,075 since 2005)

## **Center for Constitutional Rights**

(\$106,500 since 2007)

## **People for the American Way Foundation**

(\$90,000 since 2010)

## **Clinton Global Initiative**

(\$59,000 since 2011)

## **New Organizing Institute**

(\$20,000 in 2012)

## **National Immigration Forum**

(\$15,000 in 2012)

## **Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence**

(\$6,950 in 2012)

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FROM: WILLIAM PERRY PENDLEY

As a supporter of Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF), you may be interested to know that, on April 2, the *Wall Street Journal* published this article regarding the rage being experienced by westerners today:

## **This Land Is Your Land. No, It's Washington's Land**

**State management of these lands may not be a panacea.**

**The Clean Water, Endangered Species and National**

**Environmental Policy Acts wouldn't go away.**

April 9, 2015 4:11 p.m. ET

Shawn Regan didn't need an apocryphal "script of a John Wayne film" to describe the "showdown brewing in the American West . . . between the states and the feds" ("The U.S. Department of Land-Hogging," op-ed, April 3). Ronald Reagan said it better: "From the Rockies, across the deserts and all the way to the Pacific the western states are voicing their angry resentment of a powerful absentee landlord—the Federal government, which has overlaid the West with controls and regulations as irksome as barb wire was in an earlier day." Reagan called himself a "sagebrush rebel."

There was no less federal land, but there was less acrimony because Reagan sought "to restore the division of governmental responsibilities between the national government and the States that was intended by the Framers of the Constitution" and to reverse the extreme environmental policies of President Carter. The rebellion is back today because President Obama governs as

President Carter did. To cite one example, the president's Interior Secretary Sally Jewell travels the West threatening westerners that if they don't embrace federal legislation locking up more land from "multiple [economic and recreational] use," President Obama will issue more national monument decrees to close such lands by fiat. No wonder there is a new sagebrush rebellion.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/shawn-regan-the-u-s-department-of-land-hogging-1428015833>

I sent in this Letter to the Editor:

Re: The U.S. Department of Land-Hogging – Opinion - April 2

Shawn Regan did not need an apocryphal "script of a John Wayne film" to describe the "showdown brewing in the American West...between the states and the feds." Reagan said it better, "From the Rockies, across the deserts and all the way to the Pacific the western states are voicing their angry resentment of a powerful absentee landlord—the Federal government, which has overlaid the West with controls and regulations as irksome as barb wire was in an earlier day." Reagan called himself a "Sagebrush Rebel" and, after his election but before his inauguration, sent a telegram to sagebrush rebels meeting in Salt Lake City to "renew my pledge to work toward a sagebrush solution." Reagan asked Interior Secretary Jim Watt to implement a good neighbor policy; Newsweek headlined, "'Watt Defuse[d] a Rebellion."

There was no less federal land, but there was less acrimony because Reagan sought "to restore the division of governmental responsibilities between the national government and the States that was intended by the Framers of the Constitution" and to **reverse the extreme environmental policies of President Carter**. The rebellion is back today because **President Obama governs like Carter**. To cite but one example, Obama's Interior Secretary **Jewell travels the West threatening westerners that if they do not embrace federal legislation locking up more land from "multiple [economic and recreational] use," Obama will issue more national monument decrees to close such lands by fiat**. No wonder there is a new sagebrush rebellion.

William Perry Pendley, Esq.  
President, Mountain States Legal Foundation

Author, Sagebrush Rebel: Reagan's Battle With Environmental Extremists and Why It Matters Today (Regnery, 2013)

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# All Politicians Don't Lie Equally, and Lying Does Matter

[David Limbaugh](http://humanevents.com/2015/04/07/all-politicians-dont-lie-equally-and-lying-does-matter/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl) | Tuesday Apr 7, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/04/07/all-politicians-dont-lie-equally-and-lying-does-matter/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/04/07/all-politicians-dont-lie-equally-and-lying-does-matter/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



Far too many people have become unacceptably cynical about the issue of integrity in politics, and it is having disastrous consequences. Only the scofflaws and reprobates benefit from such an unraveling of our ethical sensitivities.

***I'm sure you won't be surprised to find that I believe this phenomenon is occurring largely on the political left today, and no, I won't violate the very premise of my piece and lazily concede that both sides are equally culpable. It's inevitable that the side that believes in moral relativism and that the end justifies the means would lie far more often.***

Indeed, the right generally believes in and adheres to higher standards, which is one reason it's always at a disadvantage in the political arena. Test it sometime; challenge someone to a fight using Marquess of Queensberry rules while your opponent is under no constraints.

Consider the claim by Harry Reid, the Democratic leader in the Senate, in 2012 that someone with investment firm Bain Capital had told him that Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney hadn't paid taxes for the previous 10 years. This was the reason, Reid charged, that Romney wouldn't release his tax returns.

This was a particularly effective lie because President Obama's strategy centered on depicting Romney as an uncaring rich person with no concern for the middle class or the poor. It paired nicely with Romney's statement at a supposedly private meeting that he had no chance for the vote of 47 percent

of the population. When added to news about Romney's vast personal wealth, his connections with Bain Capital and his proposal to reduce the tax burden, including on the top income earners, it was potentially devastating.

Reid refused to provide evidence for his charge, and when challenged on it, he defiantly taunted Romney. "Let him prove he has paid taxes, because he has not."

Now, two-plus years later and after we've suffered through another couple of long years of the Obama presidency, Reid is virtually admitting he lied and not only is unrepentant but appears to be proud of himself for doing so.

When CNN's Dana Bash told Reid many considered his baseless claim to be "McCarthyite," he replied: "They can call it whatever they want. Romney didn't win, did he?" In other words, it worked, so it was morally justified.

That's Reid's response. How about the White House's?

Fox News reporter James Rosen asked White House press secretary Josh Earnest whether he or Obama would condemn Reid's lie as conduct unbecoming of one of our highest elected officials. Earnest said, "Not for something that's 3 years old."

I've heard liberal commentators dismiss this episode with their usual response: "We all know that people often lie in politics. Both parties are equally guilty of this type of behavior."

I am so tired of the left's claims of moral equivalence, which ultimately lead to a degeneration of our ethical standards in governance. I'm also weary of the intellectual laziness and cynicism that cause so many, including on the right, to let this type of statement stand, unchallenged. If you can assert this cynical defense at every turn, then there is nothing sacred anymore and nothing matters.

If, as an electorate, we are going to be so cynical as to pretend that all politicians lie equally, especially about the things that matter most, then we might as well give them our blessing and a license to do whatever they please.

People should not invoke "politics" as a defense on questions pertaining to integrity. It should be an exacerbating factor; **if you lie in politics, it's even worse because politics is governance, which substantially affects our lives, our liberties and our pursuit of happiness.**

Moreover, it's one thing to say "politicians often lie" as a sheer assertion of fact. It's altogether another to say it with the purpose of excusing those lies and saying truth doesn't matter, and sadly, that is the context in which the statement is usually made.

None of us really believes that lies in politics don't matter. Otherwise, everyone on both sides of the aisle wouldn't moralize so much about it. Why else would Democrats have expended so much energy engaging in the lie that George W. Bush lied about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? Hey, all politicians do it. What difference, at this point, does it make?

But when you embrace moral relativism, you can actually elevate lying to a virtue, as Reid does when he boasts that his lie helped Obama win.

***This is an insidious path we're on, for when you effectively glorify lying in politics, you are disenfranchising the people. You are justifying your lie based on your arrogant belief that you know better than the people what is in their best interests or, more likely, revealing that you just don't care.***

Consider Obama's whispering to the Russian official that he would be able to be more flexible on missile defense after his re-election. Translation: I'm pretending to be a hawk now because I know that the American people won't elect me if I'm not, but after I'm elected, I'll do what I want, not what I know they want, because my will is more important than the people's.

Shame on any of us who lazily or recklessly reject that truth in politics is a virtue, because that is the very type of attitude that is undermining our republic. It's unacceptable.

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## **America's Job Divide: Young vs. Old**

### **Seniors cleaning up labor market, Millennials can't find work**

WND, April 11, 2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/04/americas-job-divide-young-vs-old/>



The truth about employment statistics is ugly when laid out in black and white.

Last month, the U.S. economy added a mere [126,000 jobs](#), the weakest growth in more than a year. These were disappointing numbers. The [Washington Post reports](#) economists had expected employers to have added 245,000 jobs in March.

But what's even more shocking about these figures is *who* is getting those jobs.

*Those 55 and older saw an increase in 329,000 in the past month. Every other age group saw losses, resulting in the net gain of only 126,000 jobs. The 25-54 age group lost 64,000 jobs, while the 20-24 age group lost a staggering 291,000 jobs.*

*The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reports labor participation for older people 55-69 has been steadily rising, while labor participation for people 25-54 is steadily decreasing.*

Essentially, as Tyler Durden notes on [ZeroHedge](#), "The labor force has been turned upside down, and the only jobs being created are those for aged workers."

What accounts for these wildly skewed statistics? Why are younger workers losing jobs in droves while older workers are gaining so many positions?

Many older workers are still in the workforce because they aren't confident they've saved enough to live comfortably during retirement. More than half admit they're not saving as much as they should, simply because they can't afford it with the high cost of living.

Additionally, savings vehicles have altered. Employer-provided defined benefit pensions are nearly a thing of the past, making early retirement less affordable. Many retirement and savings plans took a severe hit during the recent economic downturn, a hit that was particularly devastating for those nearing or already in retirement.

“While the stock market has recovered most of its pre-recession value, housing prices have not, and for most people their house is their biggest asset,” says David Weir with the [Institute for Social Research](#).

“There are a variety of factors about why there are glaring job gains in the older demographic group and very little job creation for young adults,” Dr. Mark Thornton, senior fellow economist at the Mises Institute, said in an interview with WND. “***The foundations for retirement are being killed off.*** The only financial investment benefits come from the stock market, which is risky – too risky to throw in an entire nest egg.

“Many times older people don’t have the savings to retire,” he continued. “Social Security doesn’t cover even a lower middle-class income, especially if you don’t own your home outright, so people are forced to stay in, or get back into, the workforce to build a nest egg.”

Some people saw their nest egg wiped out in the 2008 financial crisis. “That hurt a lot of older workers,” said Thornton. “And even for those with substantial savings, there’s no place to earn interest due to ZIRP [Zero Interest Rate Policy] and quantitative easing. A \$1,000 CD at two-tenths of one percent interest only earns \$2 per year, and a good chunk of that is taken up by inflation and taxes. So there’s no way people can retire unless they have a substantial amount of wealth, where they can afford to take risks in the stock and bond market.”

On the other side of the equation, young people who are unwilling to accept entry-level minimum-wage positions out of high school are desperately staying in college (courtesy of government student loans) and accruing multiple diplomas. For many, this academic bubble must end at some point and the former students, now saddled with crushing debt, enter an unforgiving job market with little demand for their particular areas of study. The frequency of baristas with a master’s degree in something is almost becoming a stereotype.

Predictably, opinions vary for reasons young people face high unemployment. Some shrug and believe it’s nothing unusual. [The Atlantic](#) states the challenges concerning employment are: (1) young people aren’t *looking* for work because they’re in school; (2) young people can’t find work for the simple reason that

they're young, and this demographic has always suffered from higher unemployment than the rest of the country (unless they have a college degree); and (3) young people face the same deep recession and slow recovery as everyone else. Besides that, concludes the Atlantic, "There is nothing *uniquely* wrong with the youth job market" (emphasis in original).

*But even the Atlantic admits what the [New York Fed](#) reports: "It has become more common for underemployed college graduates to find themselves in low-wage jobs" since the 2001 recession.*

*Others, such as this opinion piece in the [Wall Street Journal](#), point out that jobs for young people are scarce because of government policies, which make entry-level jobs more expensive.*

But beyond the issues of a sluggish economy, *a 2014 study by [Bentley University](#) illustrates an enormous gap between what employers want and what Millennials give on the job.* Companies report a *lack of work ethic, lack of hard skills, and lack of preparedness* as some of the reasons behind the high employment rate for young people. "Among the perceptions from the survey were that *recent college graduates are harder to retain, lack a strong work ethic and aren't as willing to pay their dues as previous generations were.*"

"The younger generation has a different skills set than the older generation," said Thornton. "They don't have a lot of work experience. During my generation, by the time kids graduated from high school they would have had several types of jobs already, which built up an early work history. In this generation, young people may be college grads, but they may lack certain abilities.

"Younger people are highly skilled in some areas – computer science, coding, technical skills – but deficient in practical, blue-collar skills such as welding or wiring," he continued. "Right now in our economy, we have a glut of workers for management, liberal arts and computer skills but a shortage of workers for practical skills. *Public schools and universities have not kept up when it comes to preparing students for a realistic place in the workforce. They're not looking at supply and demand.* There's either a huge surplus or a huge shortage."

The problem won't get any easier in matching supply and demand as industries change. "In banking, for example, more people are banking online so there will be less of a demand for physical banks. Financial education will have to accommodate this trend," said Thornton.

Younger and older workers alike must face the future and recognize the changes taking place in the workforce. Thornton concludes, "One of the main forces of modernization and development is this: Technology, which increases productivity, is destroying jobs in certain areas while creating jobs in other areas. It's our job in education and technology to convey this to younger people."

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## **Why We Are Losing the Culture War and How We Can Win It!**

**Scott Wheeler, Republican Trust, April 7, 2015**

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=c3rojrpjrtco3#6635375423>

We are all appalled by what Obama is doing to our nation, but few understand how he is doing it *and getting away with it*. Obama is the result of the liberal/left/progressive/Democrat Party war on American values and our Constitution.

The reason they are winning is because they have been fighting this like a war against us while we have not taken them very seriously. There are many reasons for that, such as our understanding of how ridiculous they are and expecting that the culture and voters at large will also see them that way. They don't. The left uses weapons that we REFUSE to use against them. That is why I created this organization seven years ago...to fight them the way they fight us.

Progressive Democrats get power by attacking us and our institutions using vicious tactics--and our side does little back to them because it is our nature! We do not want to rule over people, we just want to be left alone--they want to rule over everyone--including us, and believe they have a right to do so!

The brilliant writer Daniel Greenfield described the Left's war on us and what our response should be in a column last week:

*This war may be fought with social media or in classrooms, it may be fought by bureaucrats with pens and by movie stars in front of cameras, but it's not all that different from a conqueror and his army of brutes riding into a village and enforcing his own rule of law. The forms are different, but the underlying dynamic is the same. We are being conquered. And we continue to resist.*

*The left is not fighting this as a war of ideas. It attacks the area of least resistance with whatever slogan or argument is most convenient at the time. Don't debate its ideas. Indict its hypocrisy. It mocks the values of others, but demands that what is sacred to it be off limits. This is a weakness. Don't defend your own values. Attack its values. You aren't the establishment. You lost. You're the rebels. Be rebellious. They are the owners. Wreck what they have made without counting the cost.*

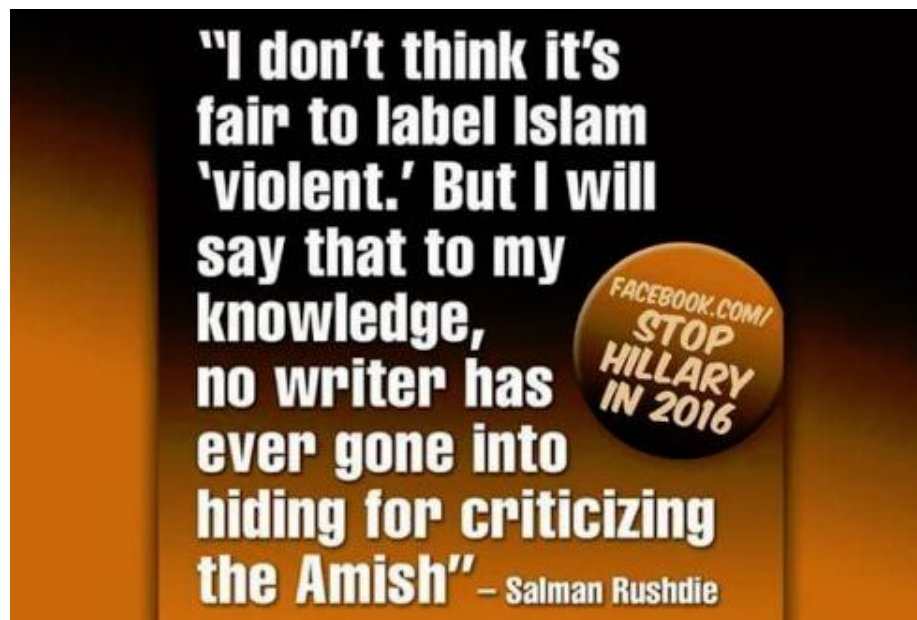
Despite the fact that we constantly explain that we are not the Republican establishment, but rather the rebels fighting the progressive/liberal/Democrats who are trying to impose their will upon us, many of you still blame us for the weak Republican leadership. We have no control over the establishment, we are here to use the tactics the Democrats have used to destroy our country against them so that we can take it back! We have made huge progress, but sometimes it feels like we are the only ones fighting this battle.

We have reported to you many times that we have that 40% of the country self identifies as conservative and only 20% liberal. So how is it that we have such a hard time getting traction with our ideas of government? Many believe they know the answer, but few do. The other side wins because our side refuses to engage them with the same tactics they used to take over our nation.

We can pave the way for a true conservative to win the presidency in 2016, but we must start dismantling the Democrat Left's apparatus or Hillary Clinton will be

the next president. We need to use mockery, ridicule, and say the things about them that no one on our side is willing to say--this has been a big problem. The Democrats and their media allies lie, slime, and smear us, but our side refuses to tell the truth about them. We need to attack them personally and make them unpalatable for the low-information voters to support them. That is what they have done to us. If we are to elect a conservative in the next election, we need to prep the battlefield and start clearing a path by putting Democrats on defense.

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## **Exploding Sunni-Shia Conflict! Impact on Oil, Stocks, and More**

**Martin D. Weiss, Ph.D.** , Money and Markets, April 6, 2015

<http://www.moneyandmarkets.com/sunni-shia-conflict-impact-oil-stocks-70598#.VSwHgqPLep9>

Seven thousand miles from New York City, in a country about the size of Spain, a brutal civil war is raging that could change global markets for many years to come.

In September, the rebels forces invaded the capital of that country.

In February, they took control of its parliament.

Last week, backed by tanks and heavy machine guns, they pushed deeper into the country's largest port city.

And now, the United Nations has declared that the country is on the verge of collapse and chaos.

Yet, most investors seem to believe that all these events — in the far-away nation of Yemen — are of little consequence. They buy and sell stocks as usual. They go about their business as if nothing has changed.

In their minds, the Yemen civil war is just another, passing conflict among the many that pop up suddenly in the headlines, only to fade into the background with equal speed.

Today, I will show you exactly why they're misguided and why you should not be among them ...

The conflict actually started 860 years before Columbus discovered America and 1,369 years before terrorists attacked the United States on 9/11.

It traces its roots to the death of the Prophet Muhammad in the year 632 ... when a major dispute arose over his succession as the caliph of the Islamic world ... when the ruling caliph killed a man considered by many to be the rightful heir ... and when the Muslim world was split into two rival groups, Sunni and Shia.

That's when the war now raging in Yemen truly began. And that's why it's bound to get a lot worse.

Bloody Sunni-Shia wars are also raging in Iraq and Syria, killing hundreds of thousands and displacing millions.

Shia minorities have sought to rise in revolt — or have been put down with vengeance — in Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait and Pakistan.

And now, in the wake of the Sunni-Shia war in Yemen, the two most powerful countries in the Muslim world — Saudi Arabia (Sunni) and Iran (Shia) could be on the brink of an all-out war.

Just in these countries involved in Sunni-Shia conflicts, 380 million people are living today. And in the Muslim world as a whole, over 1.6 billion are potentially affected. That's more than the population of China or India. And it's roughly

double the total population of the United States and the European Union, *combined*.

They don't realize that, even if there were such a thing as a "right" or "wrong" side in this 14-century-old blood feud, the fact remains that, under President Obama's leadership, *the United States and its allies are fighting on **both** sides*.

**In Syria**, the U.S. has inadvertently wound up on the Shia side, bombing Sunnis. And, although that was not the intent, the U.S. is giving every strategic advantage to Shia President Bashar al-Assad. That's ...

The same man who is directly supported by Iran and Russia ...

The same man who is General Secretary of the Ba'ath Party, the party closely associated with Saddam Hussein's banned Ba'ath party in Iraq ...

And the same man who's commander-in-chief of the Syrian Armed Forces, which have routinely used chemical weapons against their own people.

**In Iraq**, the United States is also on the Shia side. But in this case it *is deliberate*. The U.S. directly or indirectly supports ...

The Iran-backed Shia government ...

The Iran-backed Shia militias, who killed thousands of Americans in years past and even ...

The Iranian generals themselves, who are on the ground right now, directing some of the most crucial battles of the entire Iraq war.

But ...

**On the all-important Arabian Peninsula** (including Yemen), the United States is on the *Sunni* side.

The U.S. has forever been a major supplier of arms to the Sunni-dominated armed forces on the peninsula, especially those of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and Kuwait.

The U.S. has (until now) forever been behind the Sunni government of Saudi Arabia in many of its proxy wars against Iran all across the region.

The U.S. has fully backed the Sunni-led government of Yemen, which has just crumbled to the Shia rebels.



And right now, the U.S. is providing full-scale logistic support to the 10-nation Sunni military alliance that's bombing those Shia rebels, while the alliance amasses troops for a major land invasion.

The fact is, the United States has no plan and is continually *changing sides*.

Right now, it's not changing sides in a relatively small country like Yemen. Nor is it changing sides in a further-away conflict like Libya or even in a pivotal nation like Iraq.

(It has *already* done that a couple of times in each of those countries!)

Where the United States is changing sides right now is in the most important Sunni-Shia conflict of all — Saudi Arabia vs. Iran.

Like I said, until now, the U.S. was firmly and unambiguously on the Saudi (Sunni) side against Iran (Shia).

Like I said, the head of the Saudi royal family, considered the de-facto leader of the Sunni Arab world, could almost always count on the United States in his conflicts against Iran throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

But now, in the process of negotiating a nuclear pact with Iran, the United States and its allies are again shifting the balance in their allegiance — toward the Iranian side.

Does the Obama administration deny this? Yes.

Is their denial valid? Maybe. Partially.

But the message they're sending — and the perception throughout the Sunni Muslim world — is unmistakable:

The Sunni leaders of the Muslim world see that the United States is inadvertently behind the Iran-backed Shia forces in Syria ... *deliberately* behind the Iran-backed Shia forces in Iraq ... and now *aggressively* behind a nuclear pact with Shia Iran itself.

So if you were the Sunni King of Sunni Saudi Arabia, what would you think?

And more importantly, as you lose America's full-fledged support, what would you *do* to push back the Shia forces around the world?

Needless to say, you would jump into action.

You would form a military alliance with the Sunni-led countries of the Muslim world — not just in the Middle East, but also in North Africa ... not just with Arab countries, but also with non-Arab Muslim countries like Pakistan and Indonesia.

You would quickly step up your military and financial support to other powerful Sunni forces in the region, especially those in Syria and Iraq, *even if those forces are aligned with al-Qaeda*.

And you would squash the Shia rebels now about to take over all of Yemen with everything you've got.

Sound far-fetched? Perhaps.

But that's exactly what the new Saudi Arabia King, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, is *already* doing:

He has *already* formed a new military alliance with at least ten Sunni-led countries all over the world. He has *already* stepped up support for a coalition of Sunni extremists in Syria, including those affiliated with al-Qaeda. And much more!

It has *everything* to do with U.S. investments.

First of all, it impacts oil. Countries involved in the Sunni-Shia conflict control 555 billion barrels of oil. That's nearly four-tenths of the world's total oil reserves.

Among those, the two countries with the largest reserves of all are precisely the two countries that are facing off most directly in the Sunni-Shia conflict — Sunni Saudi Arabia with 268 billion barrels of oil reserves and Shia Iran with 158 billion.

Clearly, any escalation in the hostilities between the two countries would be a game changer for global oil markets.

It would impact oil production, oil shipping, and, of course ultra-sensitive oil *prices*.

Second, if oil prices rise, that, in turn, would be a game changer for global stock markets. Energy stocks, already bouncing off their bottoms, would be among the biggest winners. Airline stocks — frontline beneficiaries of recent energy-price plunges — would be among the biggest losers.

Third, the global outlook would change for deflation vs. inflation ... zero interest-rate policy vs. central bank rate hikes ... bullish bond markets to bearish bond markets ... and more.

Later, interest rates could then impact earnings, real estate, and the strategy of every investor that weighs risk and reward.

I am not predicting that all these changes will happen. Nor am I saying you should suddenly change your investment strategy because of them.

But whatever you do, don't underestimate the impact of what's happening in Yemen and what *could* happen next in the millennial Sunni-Shia conflict.

Do everything you can to become fully informed about this epic battle. And our *Money and Markets* team will do our part to help keep you informed.

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## Will the EPA Set a Killer Free?

William Perry Pendley, April 01, 2015

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=c3rojprjtco3#8287722079>



***PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) HAS EARNED A REPUTATION AS THE MOST LAWLESS AGENCY IN AN ADMINISTRATION INFAMOUS FOR ITS ABUSES OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE RULE OF LAW.*** The EPA, for example, implemented a “cap and trade” regime Congress rejected, brought criminal actions against citizens for “wetland” violations ***AS IT SOUGHT POWER OVER MORE LANDOWNERS***, and declared a “war on coal” that will put thousands out of work, drive up the price of electricity, and render its delivery unreliable. Now, the EPA may set a convicted killer free.

In late 2013, the EPA declared over a million acres in west-central Wyoming, including the town of Riverton (pop. 10,000), as part of the Wind River Indian Reservation, that is, “Indian country.” Purportedly, the EPA's action is required by a Clean Air Act provision allowing tribes to obtain the authority available to States to regulate their air quality programs but, in doing so, the

EPA subjected land—long known to be outside the Reservation—to the tribal jurisdiction of the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone.

The Reservation was established in 1868, but in 1904, the Tribes agreed with the United States to cede 1.48 million acres of land in exchange for per capita payments to tribal members and capital improvement projects. In 1905, Congress ratified the agreement, declared the lands were “ceded, granted, relinquished, and conveyed” to the United States, and referenced the new Reservation as “the diminished reserve.” In 1906, the ceded lands were opened for settlement by Presidential Proclamation; the land was sold to non-Indians, including land that became Riverton. In 1939, some unsold ceded lands were restored to the Reservation, but no lands inside the Riverton city limits were ceded.

Over the decades, Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Wyoming Supreme Court wrote of “lands formerly embraced in the [Reservation],” of a “diminished reservation,” and of lands “ceded, granted, and relinquished.” Challenges by tribal members of their convictions in state court for crimes committed in Riverton—putative “Indian country”—were all rejected, on one occasion with *amicus* support for Wyoming from the United States. In 1998, a unanimous Supreme Court rejected a tribal attempt to void a similar grant.

Westerners, elected officials, and commentators nationwide heaped abuse on the EPA, but there is plenty of blame to go around; the EPA's “determination is consistent with a 2011 Opinion of the Solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior.” Alas, the Solicitor, President Obama's top lawyer at the Interior Department, made utter hash of unquestionable history. Worse yet, her opinion slavishly tracks the Tribes' 2008 application to the EPA in which they cherry-picked bits of congressional hearings and self-serving tribal documents but ignored court rulings, the 1904 agreement, the 1905 Act, and their binding language.

In early 2014, Wyoming and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation sued the EPA. In early 2015, the lawsuit drew an *amicus curiae* brief from ten States arguing the EPA is “owed no deference with respect to its application of federal common law principles to historical facts [and that] Wyoming's and the other parties' views on the diminishment issue accordingly have as much weight as the [EPA's].”

Meanwhile, there is much fear and uncertainty in Wyoming. Citizens of Riverton and ranchers and farmers throughout the 1.48 million acres that the EPA says is now “Indian country,” are in a panic. Housing prices have plummeted. Non-Indians fear they will fall under the legal jurisdiction of the Tribes—both civilly and criminally.

There is an unintended but not unexpected outcome of the EPA's pursuit of its brand of “environmental justice;” a convicted murderer says he must go free! Andrew Yellowbear—a Northern Arapahoe tribal member who lived in Riverton—was convicted in a Wyoming court of killing his young daughter. Arguing the crime occurred in “Indian country,” he challenged his conviction up to the Supreme Court, but lost. Now, it appears the EPA agrees with him.

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## **Colorado Legislature Isn't Waiting for Supreme Court Decision on EPA's Mercury Rule**

By [Marjorie Haun](#), WatchDog ((ARENA)) April 10, 2015

[http://watchdog.org/211667/colorado-legislature-isnt-waiting-supreme-court-decision-epa-mercury-rule/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=wdarena\\_16](http://watchdog.org/211667/colorado-legislature-isnt-waiting-supreme-court-decision-epa-mercury-rule/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wdarena_16)



Colorado is not bending easily to the new federal restrictions from Environmental Protection Agency's [Mercury and Air Toxics Standards](#) (MATS), also known as the “Mercury Rule,” which is currently being disputed in the United States Supreme Court. Twenty-two states, including Colorado, have sued the federal government over the new regulations.

The regulatory burdens of MATS, combined with economic and pragmatic considerations are driving states like Colorado to take on the EPA Mercury Rule and other facets of its Clean Power Plan prior to the Supreme Court ruling.

On April 9, the Colorado State Senate passed the [Colorado Electric Consumers' Protection Act](#), *a bill which forces regulatory federal agencies, including the EPA, to coordinate with the state Legislature and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in its decision-making processes*. This bill states that the emission guidelines of the EPA “will have a major impact on the economy of Colorado by regulating how electricity is produced, transmitted, distributed and consumed within Colorado.”

In an attempt to give back a measure of control to the state in the regulation of a critical energy resource, the Colorado Electric Consumer's Protection Act goes on to say: “The Colorado Air Quality Control Commission shall not submit a state plan to the EPA pursuant to the Federal Emission Regulations unless the proposed state plan is first reviewed by the commission.”

One single mother, who wanted to remain anonymous, testified at the Senate committee hearing for the Colorado Electricity Consumers' Protection Act and summed up the issue with this statement:

*I'm a single mom and every dollar counts to me. Sure, I want a clean environment for my kids, and I believe that where I live in Colorado it is clean and the air is clear. But if I'm paying 2 or 3 hundred dollars a month for electricity, the real problem is that when my kids get sick, I have to choose between having lights and heat or medicine. This is what is really hurting people like me.*

Colorado's coal-fired electricity-generating plants have been targeted by federal “clean air” regulations for decades. The EPA's 2012 MATS accelerated the nationwide shuttering process of these plants which, in 2010, generated 45 percent of electricity in the United States.

Since 2010, in Colorado alone, four major coal-fired power plants have been closed with more retirements planned in the coming years. The so-called “War on Coal” has also been waged on the jobs front, where MATS in Colorado have contributed to the closure of numerous mines and [the loss of hundreds of jobs](#) during that same time period. According to the Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety, Colorado coal production is down nearly 40 percent in the last 10 years.

The current Supreme Court case, [State of Michigan v. Environmental Protection Agency](#), is emblematic of the growing pushback by states against untenable federal regulations. One complaint against the EPA in the case is the **\$9.6 billion yearly implementation cost** of MATS. Another charge is that the EPA uses

dubious cost-benefit analyses to exert its regulating authority over states, and imposes unnecessarily stringent requirements on energy producers.

The EPA has argued that its MATS standards were created to protect [public health](#) and mitigate the effects of [anthropogenic climate change](#). Measuring the success of these goals is highly subjective, given the complexity of determining what factors may or may not impact human health related to mercury and other air toxins, and the fact that climate change science is highly disputed and inconclusive.

**The science may not be settled, but the fact that electricity consumers are struggling with the costs of the new EPA rules is unarguable. MATS, at \$9.6 billion per year, is one of the most expensive single regulations in the nation's history.** Since many states have resorted to mandating “renewable” energy resources to meet the EPA regulations, electricity rates are up an average of 38 percent where those mandates have been imposed.

For example, the annual [average energy cost](#) per household for coal-generated electricity is around \$2,300. But the same household would pay an annual rate of \$8,600 for solar-generated electricity. Although solar power is in compliance with the EPA's Mercury Rule, the cost to the ordinary electricity consumer is crushing.

The Environmental Protection Agency was created in the 1970s in response to genuine environmental problems caused by some industries. But as industries have worked to correct past errors, and pollutants and toxins have been removed from the environment through general best practices, the EPA has only grown to become more overreaching and punitive.

While the Supreme Court decides how it will rule on MATS, states are fighting back on behalf of consumers and their own economies, against regulations they believe go too far at too great a cost.

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## **Brings Tears to My Eyes...**

Are you irritated when people come down on our police officers, saying that they don't care about or respect others? Well, here is a story that clearly shows not all cops are in that category.

This story involves the police department in the small town of Columbus, Nebraska who reported finding a man's body last Saturday in the early evening in the Platte River near the State Highway-30 bridge.

The dead man's name would not be released until his family had been notified. The victim apparently drowned due to excessive beer consumption while visiting "someone" in Central City. He was wearing black fishnet stockings, 6 inch spiked heels, a red garter belt, a pink G-string, purple lipstick, dazzle dust on his eyelids, 2 1/2 inch false eyelashes and an Obama T-shirt.

The Columbus police removed the Obama T-shirt to spare his family any unnecessary embarrassment.

## **SPORTSFISHING**

### **Sportfishing Faces Threat of “Death Spiral”**

California Sportfishing League.

<http://www.sportfishingconservation.org/index.php/csl-study-sportfishing-faces-threat-of-death-spiral/>

The California Sportfishing League has released a study that finds that the high cost of purchasing an “annual” recreational fishing license has proven to be a formidable barrier to access and has contributed to an unprecedented decline in recreational fishing.

This comprehensive study may be the first time an effort has been made to compare the cost and value of annual fishing licenses, state-by-state. The results provide California policy makers an insight as to how costly annual fishing licenses are impacting participation rates, and how it could harm the State's economy and communities dependent on recreational fishing for \$4.9 billion in economic activity each year.

The study finds that, since 1980, annual recreational fishing license sales have declined by over 55% in a state that has witnessed a near 60% increase in population. It also reaches an alarming conclusion that there could be less than 500,000 annual licenses sold by 2027 – a 77% decline from 1980.

“The dramatic decline in fishing participation should be a wakeup call for California anglers and state politicians,” said Marko Mlikotin, executive director of the California Sportfishing League. “If the State recognizes recreational fishing's economic value, it will need to take immediate action to stop a rapidly-declining participation rate from turning into an out-of-control death spiral.



Reforming a costly and antiquated licensing program, and lifting unwarranted restrictions on fishing, is the first step to protecting a great form of family recreation that supports jobs and our state's economy."

[Click here](#) to read the study.

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## **State Announces Plan to Regulate/Ban Fishing Gear!**



California Sportfishing League, April 16, 2015

<http://www.sportfishingconservation.org/>

Today, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced that common fishing tackle WILL REMAIN on a list of consumer products marked to undergo a costly and onerous regulatory process. This reckless move may accelerate the decline in fishing participation, threaten jobs and reduce state revenue.

If the regulations/ban moves forward, common fishing gear could increase in cost 10- to 20-fold! With California's fishing participation rate already last in the nation, onerous and costly fishing gear regulations could be the death blow to recreational fishing's \$4.9 billion annual contribution to the California economy.

Anglers can continue to express their objections to new fishing tackle regulations or a potential ban by signing our Stop the Fishing Gear Ban Petition. To date, over 1,900 California anglers have signed the petition. Join us, and stop the State of California from taking away your tackle boxes!

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## **PLF PRESS RELEASE**

Pacific Legal Foundation -- [www.pacificlegal.org](http://www.pacificlegal.org) -- (916) 419-7111

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### **Grassroots Support Fuels PLF's Pro-Freedom Mission**

**Sacramento, CA; April 20, 2015:** In the wake of this year's tax filing day, Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) is pleased to report that again in 2014, PLF's mission of defending liberty and the victims of overreaching government was made possible through charitable donations from thousands of average Americans, nationwide.

PLF is a nonprofit, public interest watchdog organization that litigates for limited government, property rights, individual rights, free enterprise, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations, in courts nationwide. Founded in 1973, PLF has always been donor-supported, and all donations are tax deductible up to the limits allowed by law.

Here is some key data about the nationwide support that made PLF's work possible in 2014 (these numbers are still unaudited, pending completion of our yearly audit and the formal publication of PLF's annual report later in 2015):

- ★ In 2014, PLF received approximately \$8.418 million in annual gift donations (our "2014 contributed income"). This amount was contributed by 9,811 donors — an increase of 1,016, or more than 11 percent, from the previous year. Donations came from every part of the country.
- ★ Of the 9,811 donors, 8,804 — or 89.7 percent of our donors — gave less than \$1,000.
- ★ The majority of PLF's 2014 contributed income came from individuals — 52.28 percent.
- ★ About a third of PLF's 2014 contributed income — 32.24 percent — came from foundations (including small family foundations).
- ★ Associations accounted for 1.78 percent of PLF's 2014 contributed income.
- ★ Companies (including small mom-and-pop companies) provided 13.7 percent of PLF's 2014 contributed income.
- ★ \$3.8 million — or 40 percent of PLF's 2014 contributed income — came from donors who gave \$25,000 or more (this included PLF's foundation grants).
- ★ In addition to the \$8.418 million in 2014 contributed income, PLF also received \$1,233,313 in 2014 in the form of estate gifts from individuals who had passed on and wanted to leave a lasting legacy for freedom, bringing PLF's total donor-related income for 2014 to \$9.652 million.

"Once again in 2014, the vast majority of donations to PLF came from thousands of everyday Americans — individuals, families, and small business people who understand the importance of freedom for everyone, and who recognize PLF's vital role as a defender of liberty in the courts," said PLF President Rob Rivett. "It is an honor to be supported by this broad-based, grassroots family of donors nationwide. I speak for everyone at PLF when I say, they have our thanks — and our respect. Every day, PLF attorneys head to the office — or head to court —

with a determination to make the most effective, vigorous use of the resources that have been entrusted to us, to defend America's legacy of liberty for this generation and those to come."

**About Pacific Legal Foundation**

Donor-supported Pacific Legal Foundation ([www.pacificlegal.org](http://www.pacificlegal.org)) is a nonprofit, public interest watchdog organization that litigates for limited government, property rights, individual rights, free enterprise, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations in courts nationwide. PLF attorneys represent all clients free of charge.

Contact: [Robin L. Rivett](mailto:Robin.L.Rivett)  
President  
Pacific Legal Foundation  
[rlr@pacificlegal.org](mailto:rlr@pacificlegal.org)  
(916) 419-7111  
[www.pacificlegal.org](http://www.pacificlegal.org)

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