



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

- *PRESIDENT: Karen Darnell***
- *VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Moore***
- *TREASURER: Alice Phillips***

DATE: October 22nd, 2015

PREZ SEX:

Update of the Miner's Request for Injunction files in federal court.

The case has been filed in federal court in Medford and the Millennium Diggers is a plaintiff in the case. Currently, attorney James Buchal is preparing testimony to submit to the court.

There has been some media interest in the case. FoxNews interviewed and printed quotes from a few of us - The journalist hacked mine up to convey ideas that were not mine, but were her own. I was not happy about that, but she did provide some balance in the article. I did an interview with "Gator's Radio Experience" on KYKN out of Keizer. If you would like to listen to it, you can find it at <http://www.kykn.com/podcasts/>. Look for Nov 2, Hour 1. Skip ahead to the 5 minute mark.

I received an interview request by the once Al Gore-owned news outlet, Al Jazeera, Los Angeles office. I invited an email interview, but declined when it became clear that the journalist was beginning from the false premise of "suction dredging harms fish." I decided that we would not be able to receive fair and balanced reporting and told her why the interview was declined. She did not contact me again after that.

I plan on doing the best I can to keep the issue in front of the public, but in the light of truth, not agenda narrative.

That's all I have for now on the case.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving, full of memory-making moments!

Thanks,
Karen Darnell
Herbalist, Traditional Chinese Medicine
503-951-2058

Call to Order: Sitting in for President (Karen was absent) was Vice President, Bill Moore. The meeting was called to order and we all stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Attendance: We had a total of 15 in attendance, including guest Anita Eckstein.

Minutes from August: The motion was made that the minutes from the September meeting have been read by all, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alice was absent.

Claims: Claudia brought up the idea of a future outing to our claims on Brigg's Creek (Fossil Flats and DT#1), where we can possibly fix the deep ruts in the road and clean up around the campsite, where others have cut down lots of madrone trees and left branches laying all over. (That is some excellent firewood, or will be for the campsite when we get down there.) We should also take a look at the DT#1 claim and campsite and see what kind of shape it is in. It is a 5 hour trip to get there. Fossil Flats has easy access to the campsite and creek. But in order to get to the DT#1 claim, you have to ford the creek, so a 4wd is necessary. We plan to discuss this during one of our upcoming meetings.

OCTOBER'S OUTING: **Saturday, October 24th TRIP TO HAMPTON BUTTE** to look for petrified wood. Ken Orndorff is heading off this expedition. He is only going for the one day, leaving Salem @ 5:30am and arriving at the digging area around 8:30am.

Old Business: The federal injunction case has been filed. Here is the email that was sent out regarding the court case in which the Diggers voted to be litigants:

COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST SB 838 MORATORIUM IN FEDERAL COURT, MEDFORD DIVISION

Galice Mining District et. al (with assistance from Waldo Mining District) have filed a Complaint on Monday, Oct. 19, 2015, in The United States District Court for the District of Oregon, Medford Division against SB 838. Named as Defendants are: State of Oregon, Ellen Rosenblum in her official capacity as the

Attorney General of the State of Oregon, and Mary Abrams, in her official capacity as the Director of the Oregon Department of State Lands.

In our Complaint we ask for:

1. "Injunctive Relief" restraining defendants from enforcing SB 838 and declaring SB 838 to be preempted by federal law.
2. For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

WISH US LUCK -- WE'LL NEED IT!

At this point we want to thank all of those that have donated to this cause. Your immediate and generous response(s) have been enough to get this all important litigation filed -- and then some. Although we have enough funds to just maybe see this through, we have no idea of whom, or how many may intervene - and each intervening party will drive up the cost of this litigation. In other words, we will gladly accept further Donations, which can be sent to:

WALDO MINING DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 1574
CAVE JUNCTION, OR 97523

Please make checks/MO's payable to Waldo Mining District, and on memo line put **Moratorium**.

Now that the ball is rolling and we are committed, and while we wait for the State's Response, we will be preparing and documenting our Arguments.

Exciting times ahead - to say the least.

Tom Kitchar

Waldo Mining District

New Business: Because of Thanksgiving, **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING IN NOVEMBER.**

So...this is important:





Our annual Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner is scheduled for Thursday December 3rd, at 6:00pm. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall (our usual meeting place).

This is a potluck, Penny will bake a ham. So, we will need salad(s), side dishes, drinks, and desserts! And how about decorations? Penny will send out invitations and the details to all members via email.

This is also when we draw the winning tickets to the **Christmas raffle**- **1st prize is a sluice** (donated by Walt Evens, plus he is supplying all the accessories to go with sluice), **2nd prize is a large mortar and pestle** (donated by Marlea). We will also draw the winning ticket to the **50/50 raffle**.



- Elections will be held during January's meeting.

- It was mentioned that in the Applegate River areas, the BLM has been placing obstructive rocks and logs in the waterways, some of them right on top of established mining claims. The logs and rocks provide shade, hiding and holding places for fish. But it's not surprising what the BLM does to thwart the miners, given their recent track record.

- Joe is scheduled to give a presentation to the SW Corridor Republican Club (GOP) on Wednesday, October 28th, in King City, Tigard. It is about Agenda 21, and the lies and propaganda inflicted on us in the name of "saving the environment". So, it will prove to be a real wake-up call to the people in that club! Go Joe!

- On the 15th of October, the Stream Savers gathered for a trial run in Mill Creek at the city park in Aumsville. Using a 3" dredge, Karen and Don Esch (along with other members of the Stream Savers), and working for 3 to 4 hours, cleaned an area of Mill Creek. They wore red vests, had a table set up with test tubes and lab equipment for testing water. The dredging let out a 10ft "turbidity plume". They pulled out lots and lots of glass and beer cans. The entire event was filmed for the record. It was a fabulous success!

-The Legal Council has given Stream Savers the "Yes! Go-Ahead"! A real plus-positive for them! SS asked the Legal Council if they can keep gold if they find it as a result of their work. The LC said "No problem"! Hey, that's just plain good news.

As far as the permitting and certification process goes, that still needs to be discussed by the Stream Savers officers at their board meeting.

Rocks/Treasures Shared Letter "K": Penny brought several small crystal specimens of blue/green **Kyanite** (aluminum silicate), also some of the gold she and Walt found recently from Jeeter, Fossil Flats and So. Umpqua @ Bunker Hill Rd. **Ken** brought **thunder eggs** from Succor Creek and McDermmit. **Chuck** brought an interesting and unique treasure: he had a small **old iron kettle** that he hung from a **tripod** he had made, sitting upon a **marble slab**, with pieces of **petrified wood in the "fire pit"**, and other pieces stacked **like firewood**. **Don Esch** assisted him in this project. (I really wish that I had thought to take a picture of it, it was pretty special!)

Break and Raffle ticket sales: Bill didn't get much of a break, busy as he was selling raffle tickets for the Christmas Raffle, the 50/50 Raffle and the Table Raffle; all the while trying to keep the raffles from getting mixed up! Busy, busy, busy!

After break, Bill called out the winning tickets for the prizes on the table raffle.

Meeting Adjourned

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY! THURSDAY, DECEMBER
3rd, 2015 @ 6:00pm Be There!**

Here are a few photos Penny took while on a recent camp trip down south



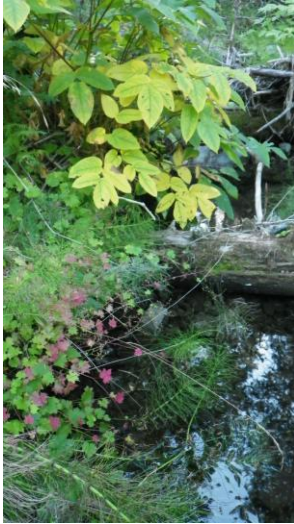
Karen and Claudia on our hike up Soldier Creek to Claudia's claim



down by Fossil flats/Brigg's creek



Jerusalem cricket found in dirt by old camp



"Spikenard" hanging over watering hole



Briggs Creek/Fossil Flats



South Umpqua River/Bunker Hill Rd. site

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

The Millennium Diggers Association is a group based in Keizer, Oregon, which is near Salem, Oregon. The Association is for people that share an interest in searching for things of value. The club's charter is to provide members with an Association that will help promote the activities 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 Association meetings to share information about locating gold, silver, coins, jewelry, gemstones, fossils and metal detecting. We plan Association outings each month where we can help each other learn all aspects of our outdoor activities.

This is a great family activity, bring the kids! Please feel free to drop in on one of the monthly meetings.

We meet the 4th 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 which is locted behind the church.

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MINING

Gold vs. salmon: Oregon miners blast ban on suction dredging

By [Hollie McKay](#), FoxNews Science, October 28, 2015

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2015/10/28/gold-vs-salmon-oregon-miners-blast-ban-on-suction-dredging.html?intcmp=hpbt1>



A TECHNIQUE KNOWN AS 'SUCTION DREDGING' is the 'only effective way' to get the gold in the rivers and streams of Oregon, miners say, but there are salmon in the waters as well — and state officials looking to protect the fish are not on the prospectors' side.

There's gold in them there rivers and streams of Oregon, but there are salmon, too – and state officials are on the side of the fish, not the prospectors.

At issue is a technique known as “suction dredging,” in which sediment from waterway beds is sucked up to the surface and mechanically sifted for gold particles carried down from mountain mother lodes. The state is imposing a ban on the practice in the interest of protecting salmon, while miners, who insist in a federal lawsuit that their efforts don't harm wildlife, say the state lacks the authority to stop them.

“Dredging is important to many small, rural Oregon communities that have suffered a long line of economic attacks based on environmentalist propaganda and outright lies,” James Buchal, an attorney representing the plaintiffs told FoxNews.com. “We trust that the federal court will join every other court that has recognized that states lack power to ban mining on federal land.”

“It is really the only effective way to get the gold.”

- Shannon Poe, American Mining Rights Association

Part of the plaintiffs’ argument is that the state does not have jurisdiction to impose a ban on mining on federal property. The lawsuit, filed in federal District Court in Medford on Monday, names the State of Oregon, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and former Director of the Oregon Department of State Lands Mary Abrams, and contends the prohibition is pre-empted by at least seven federal laws dating back to the Mining Acts of 1866, and by federal regulations.

Miners have long been able to pay for claims that allow them exclusive mining rights on federally protected rivers and streams, or to hunt for gold on any unclaimed lands. Shannon Poe, of the American Mining Rights Association, said claimants who paid fees to the Bureau of Land Management should not be barred from suction dredging.



The technique involves sucking up sediment from the bed of the creek or river, sifting out gold and spitting the rest back into the water.

The technique involves sucking up sediment from the bed of the creek or river, sifting out gold and spitting the rest back into the water. (Courtesy: American Mining Rights Association)

“It is really the only effective way to get the gold,” said Poe, who owns five dredges and holds claims in five states, including Oregon. “You could still go in with a shovel and a pan, but it wouldn’t be efficient and, of course, the environmental effect would be the same - a non-factor.”

Oregon’s proposed five-year moratorium, set to take effect on Jan. 2, 2016, comes as smaller-scale regulations on suction dredging, imposed in 2013, sunset. Those laws were put in place for two years to give lawmakers time to develop more permanent rules, something that never happened.

While suction dredging on coastal waters, depicted on Discovery Channel’s “Bering Sea Gold,” involves divers who descend to the ocean floor and pump sediment up to crew-manned barges on the surface, most suction dredging taking place in Oregon freshwater bodies involves small machines powered by a lawn mower engine and operated by one or two miners.



Critics say suction dredging disturbs the habitat of salmon

Karen Darnell, president of Millennium Diggers and one of the plaintiffs in the suit, said thousands of Oregon families rely on motorized mining methods for their livelihoods. And government revenues from permit fees, income taxes and sales tax on equipment add up to as much as \$10 million per year, she told FoxNews.com.

Environmental and wildlife advocates argue suction dredging leaves Oregon taxpayers with huge cleanup bills and disturbs the fish habitat. Critics of the activity also argue that the problem for Oregon was made worse after California banned dredge mining in 2009, prompting more miners to practice the capability in bordering Oregon. Although no suction dredging is allowed while fish are spawning, critics say the damage left endures after prospectors leave.

“Salmon are part of the identity of the Pacific Northwest and are on the decline throughout much of their historic range,” said Forrest English, the Oregon-based program director for environmental activist organization, Rogue Riverkeeper. He said suction dredge mining stirs up mercury in the sediment, alters stream channel structure, degrades gravel and kills fish eggs and small invertebrates.

As it stands, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife lists three species of fish – including Lower Columbia River Coho Salmon – as “endangered” – while six other species such as Chinook Salmon bear the slightly less menacing “threatened” status.



Proponents say the process adds nothing new to the water, and even helps eliminate mercury and lead.

Oregon is following the lead of California, where the practice was banned despite claims by proponents like Scott Harn, publisher of *Prospecting & Mining Journal*, that gold dredging was generating over \$100 million per year in the Golden State. He and others claim suction dredging actually improves the fish habitat by providing deeper channels and cooler water, and removing hazards such as lead fishing sinkers.

"There is benefit for all of us in cleaning up our waterways," Harn said, contending that mercury levels have actually risen since California's tight dredging moratorium came into effect. "The vast majority of suction dredge miners are environmental stewards."

Representatives for the director of the Department of State Lands and the Oregon Department of Justice declined to comment on the pending litigation.

Poe said he has seen the anti-gold mining movement hurt his industry throughout the west.

"They don't care a whole lot about the science, or the facts or the truth that conclusively proved suction dredging does not harm fish," Poe said.



**Conservation, Fishing Groups Move to Join Lawsuit
to Protect Oregon From Gold Mining Impacts**
*Groups Defend Restrictions on Mining Practices Harmful to
Salmon, Waterways, Wildlife*



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Because life is good.

For Immediate Release, November 20, 2015

Contacts: Forrest English, Rogue Riverkeeper, (541) 261-2030

Nick Cady, Cascadia Wildlands, (314) 482-3746

Jonathan Evans, Center for Biological Diversity, (510) 844-7118

Glen Spain, PCFFA, (541) 689-2000

MEDFORD, Ore.— To defend an Oregon law designed to protect wildlife from damaging gold mining along waterways, a broad coalition of groups moved to intervene today in a lawsuit by mining interests challenging the restrictions. Passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2013, Senate Bill 838 placed restrictions on gold mining using suction dredges and other motorized equipment along streams to prevent harmful impacts to salmon and develop a permitting process to better protect Oregon's waterways. Miners are now alleging that the state law conflicts with federal laws passed in the 1800s to encourage westward expansion.

“We are defending the state of Oregon and the choice by its residents to protect iconic waterways and scenic rivers from damaging mining practices,” said Nick Cady, legal director of Cascadia Wildlands. “Asserting there is a ‘right to mine’ granted by an antiquated law from the 1800s is simply ridiculous.”

Suction dredge mining involves the use of a large, gas-powered vacuum to suck up gravel on the bottom of rivers in search of gold flakes. This practice targets gravel beds critical to salmon spawning and reproduction, as well as damaging water quality and river hydrology. Motorized mining along streams clears riparian vegetation important for keeping streams cool for salmon survival, increases erosion, damages streamside wetlands and alters the floodplain.

“Suction dredge mining pollutes our waterways with toxic mercury, clouds streams with sediment, hurts endangered fish and wildlife and destroys cultural resources,” said Jonathan Evans, environmental health legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity. “Oregonians have the right to safeguard the health of their families, waterways and wildlife from this damaging, outdated form of mining.”

The bill does not ban motorized mining practices but simply puts in place temporary restrictions to protect areas critical to salmon and bull trout reproduction. These restrictions buy the state time to develop a regulatory regime for the relatively new mining practice.

“Motorized mining in and along our sensitive salmon streams is harmful to fish and water quality,” said Forrest English with Rogue Riverkeeper. “It’s high time to put the brakes on these methods of mining until long term solutions are developed that protect clean water and habitat for salmon.”

Concerns over this mining practice were heightened when miners began targeting iconic and high-use Oregon waterways and their tributaries.

“Several south coast salmon-rich rivers are under threat from heavy suction-dredge mining every summer, especially the world-famous Rogue River, the Chetco River and their tributaries,” said Cameron La Follette with Oregon Coast Alliance. “The salmon economy is critically important to local communities on the south coast such as Brookings and Gold Beach. Oregon must restrict suction dredging to protect salmon habitat, water quality and community livelihood.”

There are also concerns by numerous commercial and recreational organizations that suction dredge and other motorized mining practices are disruptive and harmful to fishing, an industry that generates approximately \$780 million a year in spending in Oregon.

“Letting a handful of people suck up whole river bottoms looking for flecks of gold makes no economic sense, since it destroys salmon habitat and just puts more commercial fishing families out of work,” said Glen Spain of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, a major commercial fishing industry association that is also intervening. “Senate Bill 838’s passage by the legislature simply recognized that it is not a good idea for the state of Oregon to continue to use taxpayer money to heavily subsidize the destruction of our rivers.”

The groups moving to intervene are also looking to protect the public’s investment in salmon restoration. Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars have been expended to restore streams damaged by past mining and industrial practices. The use of suction dredges and motorized mining equipment has been undoing many of these efforts.

“Allowing gas-powered dredges and heavy equipment to damage our delicate salmon streams directly undermines the \$254 million investment Oregonians have made in salmon habitat restoration,” said Mark Sherwood with the Native Fish Society. “Oregonians and wild salmon deserve better.”

The intervening organizations include Rogue Riverkeeper, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations and Institute for Fisheries, the Center for Biological Diversity, Oregon Coast Alliance, Native Fish Society and Cascadia Wildlands. They are represented by Pete Frost of the Western Environmental Law Center and Roger Flynn of Western Mining Action Project.



Gold miners remove mercury, lead from California streams, rivers

AMRA — American Mining Rights Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday Nov. 18, 2015

The American Mining Rights Association has recently launched an public awareness campaign to educate Californians about the facts and myths associated with mercury in California’s watershed.

“Our elected leaders in California are developing policy based on fallacy,” said AMRA President Shannon Poe. “They don’t have a good grasp on modern mining practices, and are making assumptions based on the myth that prospectors and small-scale miners are still dispersing mercury into our rivers and

streams. Myths about mercury have been unscrupulously perpetuated by the environmental industry at the expense of California taxpayers.”

“While legacy mining operations at the turn of the century and earlier did use mercury, such is not the case today—an indisputable fact that both the state government and the environmental lobbyists have been far too slow to acknowledge,” Poe said. “In fact, modern-day gold miners do NOT use mercury but instead remove 98 percent of the mercury, and other toxic metals such as lead from old lead shot and fishing weights from our rivers and streams. Today’s suction dredge mining equipment is environmentally friendly and far less invasive than destructive methods used a century ago.”

“The government has also turned a blind eye to the fact that much of the mercury that exists in California rivers originates from the mineral cinnabar, which is where the old-timers obtained mercury in the first place,” Poe explained.

“Our state legislators don’t seem to be able to grasp the concept that much of California’s mercury was naturally formed and is contained in a mineral called cinnabar, which is prevalent in the state. When cinnabar breaks down through the natural process of erosion, it releases liquid mercury, or quick silver, into our rivers and streams,” Poe said. “It’s nature—not mining. Miners did not introduce mercury to the environment; the environment introduced miners to mercury. Cinnabar has always existed in nature.”

While the term “dredge” evokes images of huge, wooden crates, called bucket-line dredges, that scraped the bottoms of our river beds with large metal scoops or buckets, today’s dredges are much more environmentally friendly. In fact, they do not “dredge” at all even though they are still called a dredge. Small-scale suction dredges could more accurately be described as a portable underwater vacuum cleaner or “wet-vac,” used to suck heavy metals such as gold, mercury and lead from the bottoms of riverbeds, Poe said.

Meanwhile, many so-called environmental groups are bilking taxpayers. Groups such as the Sierra Fund and the Center for Biological Diversity have allegedly made millions of dollars by using the Equal Access to Justice Act and the Endangered Species Act to sue government agencies that are working in collusion with them, Poe said.

“The way this scam works is that the environmental groups target a species on the ever-growing Endangered Species List. Then, these groups collude with the federal or state agencies to shut down access to public lands or ban mining and other primary industries such as timber and agriculture. How this works is that the environmental groups get paid through the Equal Access to Justice Act to

pay attorneys on their payroll for suing the government agencies for violating the Endangered Species Act or another type of environmental law," Poe said.

Both the Sierra Fund and the Center for Biological Diversity are listed in sue-and-settle cases, or friendly lawsuits, documented in a 54-page report, "Sue and Settle, Regulating Behind Closed Doors," published in 2013 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Report. Sue-and-settle cases have also been under investigation in Washington, D.C.

"What makes matters worse is that the state of California has illegally placed a de facto ban on suction dredge mining when the California Superior Court has ruled that the state does not have the authority to override the federal Mining Law of 1872, when it comes to mining on public lands in the western United States," Poe said.

"After years of legal wrangling, California Superior Court Judge Gilbert Ochoa ruled in January 2015 that the federal mining law trumps state law under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and that California legislators have defied the supreme law of the land by imposing a ban on suction dredge mining. The federal Mining Law of 1872 states that miners have the right to prospect and mine for gold and other minerals on public lands owned not by the federal government as many mistakenly believe but by the people of the United States," Poe said.

"Ironically, some environmental groups are now receiving millions of dollars in government grants to dredge for these same toxic metals—something that thousands of suction dredge miners were doing for free before California imposed an illegal ban on dredging. And, these so-called environmental groups are also getting paid by California taxpayers to mine gold, a byproduct of the mercury removal programs," Poe said.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce "Sue and Settle, Regulating Behind Closed Doors" report: <https://www.uschamber.com/.../fi.../SUEANDSETTLEREPORT-Final.pdf>

For more information, please contact:

American Mining Rights Association is a national non-profit organization, locally based in California.

AMRA President Shannon Poe

Phone: (209) 878-3910 (office)

Email: shannonp@americanminingrights.com

Website: www.americanminingrights.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/americanminingrights



Update on suction dredging litigation and agreement



Posted on [October 9, 2015](#)

Legislature Passes Measure To Protect Rivers And Fisheries From Suction Dredging Impacts In California's Streams And Rivers

SB 637 Requires Clean Water Act Permits for Small Scale Motorized Gold Miners

At the end of the legislative sessions, lawmakers passed SB 637 authored by Ben Allen (D, Santa Monica). The measure will require all small-scale miners (who use motorized suction pumps to search for gold in streams and rivers) to get a Clean Water Act Permit. This legislation and other changes in management direction by the State helps resolve a lengthy legal challenge by conservation and tribal groups.

"This is a great victory for all of us concerned about clean water and healthy fisheries," said Elizabeth Martin, of the Sierra Fund.

"We are very pleased that our Tribal fisheries and sacred sites will receive additional protections from the ravages of gold mining clubs who have been damaging our resources for decades," said Josh Saxon, council member of the Karuk Tribe.

CSERC has been working with the Sierra Fund, the Karuk Tribe, and a diverse coalition of river protection interests, for several years to reform small-scale mining laws and regulations.

The legislation affects suction dredge mining, high banking and any other form of mining that relies on motorized suction pumps to process materials for the banks or bed of rivers and streams. Suction dredges are powered by gas or diesel engines that are mounted on floating pontoons in the river. Attached to the engine is a powerful vacuum hose that the dredger uses to suction up the gravel and sand (sediment) from the bottom of the river. The suctioned material is sifted in search of gold. Dredging alters fish habitat by altering the contour of the river bottom and often reintroduces mercury left over from historic mining

operations to the water column threatening communities downstream. These machines can turn a clear running mountain stream into a murky watercourse unfit for swimming or fishing.



Similarly, high banking suctions water to process material excavated from riverbanks, causing erosion and sediment issues as well as affecting cultural sites.

Getting a Clean Water Act permit means that “no discharge of dredged or fill material may be permitted if: (1) a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment or (2) the nation’s waters would be significantly degraded. In other words, when you apply for a permit, you must first show that steps have been taken to avoid impacts to wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources; that potential impacts have been minimized; and that compensation will be provided for all remaining unavoidable impacts.” (Source: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/cwa/dredgdis/>)

The measure comes after nearly a decade of litigation between tribes, conservationists, and miners. “We hope this lays the issue to rest,” commented Jonathan Evans from the Center for Biological Diversity and one of the lead attorneys representing Tribes and conservation groups. “We believe that the Clean Water Act is the appropriate law to apply to these environmentally damaging activities.”



A Miners Experience in California

In January 2015 superior court judge Gilbert Ochoa ruled: ***"The extraordinary scheme by the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to require a suction dredge***

permit then refuse to issue it, is illegal, unenforceable and unconstitutional."

Yet public servants working for the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife are still arresting suction dredge miners and confiscating dredges and equipment especially in Siskiyou county.

Their excuse is : ***"Our boss ordered us to do it."*** The brown shirts that California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife wear everyday would have made Hitler proud!!

Not one local sheriff has come to the defense of the miners in California. They refuse to get involved! Even after the SEIR proved dredging causes no harm and DF&W approved 1500 permits first come first served. Follow the state funding threats. Remember that when the next election comes around.

Josh Brennan a California Dept. of Fish & Game officer from Butte County threatened to drag the dredges on the Feather River in Plumas county out of the river with a tow truck **and didn't care if they destroyed the dredge taking it out.** BECAUSE HIS BOSS ORDERED HIM TO DO IT!

Threats and intimidation is the new policy. I thought they took an oath to protect our constitutional rights not violate them!! Article XX Sec. 3 of the Cal. State Constitution means nothing to DF&W. Mining is a RIGHT! It only becomes a privilege when you are dumb enough to request a contract called a dredging permit. The state of California violated the law of impossibilities by requiring a jurisdictional contract (permit) and then refusing to issue it when requested. This was a clear violation of a citizens ABSOLUTE RIGHT OF CONTRACT.

Only liberal agendas and socialist engineering matter. This experiment of freedom called America, where the rights of the individual supercede majority rule is nothing more than the Titanic leaving port to hit an iceberg named socialism.

Thanks for your time,
Joe Felix



Miners rally in support of Rinehart

SARAH REIJONEN, GPAA **Pick & Shovel Gazette**, November 19, 2015

<http://www.goldprospectors.org/News/News-Details/ArtMID/636/ArticleID/129/Miners-rally-in-support-of-Rinehart>

Three-and-a-half years and \$50,000 later, Brandon Rinehart is still waiting for an answer from the California courts.

But, it's not just Rinehart who wants to hear a favorable outcome in his suction-dredge mining case. Miners across the state and the country have got their hopes riding on a Rinehart win.

What started as a citation for suction dredging without a permit in Plumas County in June 2012—resulting in two misdemeanors, an \$832 fine and three years probation—is now a case before the California Supreme Court.

“I was the first dredger they tried to prosecute,” Rinehart said. “The rest of the miners went away, and that's what they [the state and environmental groups] were hoping for. I attempted to fight it and I've become their enemy and a pain in their side. If it wasn't for my case, they probably would have settled it and it wouldn't have been in the miners' favor. My case has put a wrench in their gears.”

Rinehart's case has even caught the watchful eye of the United States government. In August, U.S. Assistant Attorney General John Cruden submitted an amicus curiae brief in opposition of Rinehart.

“The United States Supreme Court stated that the intent of Congress in enacting the mining laws ‘was to reward and encourage the discovery of minerals that are valuable in an economic sense.’ Coleman, 390 U.S. at 602. But, these general statements of Congressional purpose are too broad for purposes of determining whether a specific state law conflicts with federal law and is preempted,” according to the amicus curiae brief submitted by the U.S. government.

Rinehart's attorney James Buchal said the brief is a direct reflection of the current administration's environmental agenda. Just 30 years ago, the scene would have played out much differently, Buchal said.

“What's ironic about this is back in 1986, when every single statute was exactly the same, the Solicitor General of the United States filed a brief that was quite stronger than the position we're taking,” Buchal said. “So, what it shows is this

particular administration—in this regard as in so many others—doesn't really feel bound by precedent or prior law or the language of statutes or their purpose."

Feds side with the state

The main points of the federal government's brief revolve around environmental impacts and the right of the state to regulate mining.

According to the amicus curiae, "It is not 'a physical impossibility' for Rinehart to comply with both state and federal law. Arizona, 132 S.Ct. at 2501 (citation omitted). And although the Court of Appeal concluded that state law posed such an 'obstacle' to fulfilling Congress's intent that it was preempted by federal law, that conclusion was erroneous."

In addition, the brief stated that "all state laws governing mining operation must be complied with so long as they are not 'inconsistent with the laws of the United States.' 30 U.S.C. § 22. Whether they are 'inconsistent' with federal law is determined by whether or not they conflict with federal law. Otherwise, they are not preempted, and the Mining Law of 1872 requires that miners comply with them fully."

In other words, federal law does not trump state law, according to the government's brief.

"The Supreme Court made a historic mistake back in 1987 when they decided by a vote of 5-4 that the comprehensive federal regulation of mining did not occupy the field of mining regulation and that there was a role for state's to regulate as well, and the state wormed its way in through that decision," Buchal said.

The decision to give power to the states has brought the western states into the legal quagmire they find themselves in today, Buchal said.

"They get the power and 20 years later the answer is, 'Now we're just gonna prohibit it completely, and there's a fig leaf of maybe some way in another 10 years we'll figure out how to regulate it, and so we're really just thinking about it. And, in the process of shutting it down forever while we think about it, it's really like regulation.' But it's not! It's prohibition," he said.

At this point, Rinehart said anything can happen when the California Supreme Court convenes to hear his case—whenever that may be. He has hopes for January, but Buchal said that seems a little too soon. The case is shrouded in uncertainty and oddities, as it has been every step of the way. From the

beginning, it has been a curious case, as Rinehart was never given the opportunity to present his side in the first place.

“The judge in Plumas County refused to allow the Rinehart to present his defense and convicted him. Rinehart appealed and the appeals court agreed he should have been allowed to present a defense. Rather than allowing a trial, the State then moved to have the Supreme Court overturn a decision which essentially says Rinehart should have a fair trial,” according to Western Mining Alliance’s January 2015 newsletter.

Whether the U.S. government’s brief will have any weight on the case is just one more unanswered question.

“It may not have any bearing at all,” Rinehart said. “What is at stake here is the role the state will have in controlling federal mining claims, whether or not they can prohibit mining in the name of environmental regulations. It’s too unpredictable now.”

Criminal case overtaken by environmental agenda

“The federal government expects that states may impose restrictions on mining activity that are designed to protect the environment, and federal law requires miners to comply with those restrictions unless they directly conflict with federal law,” the U.S. government’s brief stated.

The environmental agenda is crystal clear with the current administration, Buchal said.

“It’s a fairly results-oriented administration and they’re getting somebody in California a result that they want,” Buchal said.

At some point, the case morphed into this different beast. It began as a criminal case, but extreme environmental groups, such as the Center for Biological Diversity, which also filed a brief in opposition of Rinehart, have attempted to make it a green issue.

“I don’t see it so much as an environmental case; that’s what the environmentalists say,” Buchal said, instead pointing to the state’s inadequate approach. “It’s a refusal to exercise discretion to regulate.”

the extreme environmentalists are using to roadblock mining, Buchal said. “The miners are under attack by environmentalists, and there’s an awful lot of jurisdiction across the country where a small minority of people can block

projects of national interest and frustrate mining if the state and local governments are given free range to reach into federal land and shut down what's going on there," Buchal said. "It's a great threat to mining, generally, throughout the country to have the notion that these states can regulate and ban mining."

The issue at hand is not just the "refusal to exercise discretion to regulate," but also extreme over-regulation that is reaching a fever pitch, he said.

"The great disease of our time—the disease that's steadily sending our generation back into the Dark Ages — is the notion that we have to have 500 or 600 different types of police forces and five or 10 different types of permits, and it just becomes more and more complicated until everything grinds to a halt," Buchal said.

This is exactly what has happened in the case of miners.

"We see this now with the poor suction dredgers in California where there's the state permit and then there's the federal operating agreement they might need to have and then there's a state water board permit and there's a federal water permit and there's the state certification of the federal permit," Buchal said.

"And, these agencies sort of one-up each other to put more and more restrictions on something, and ultimately, it's just this guy digging in the bottom of the river that won't even leave a mark the following year. And, that has no effect on anybody, nobody even sees it, except the army of police—they call them wardens in California—that are out there citing people like Brandon. It's a terrible thing."

So, what are the miners to do? Buchal said the answer lies in action.

"These politicians who do these crazy, stupid, evil things just to make environmentalists happy, they need to be knocked off — they need to lose their power," he said.

"There are opportunities to do that, and when the mining community doesn't rise up and take those opportunities, the people who are oppressing them become emboldened."

And, it's not just about miners getting involved; all outdoorsmen and women and rural community members must join the fight if they ever want to see an end to it, Buchal said.

“The mining community and a whole lot of other natural resource and rural communities are going to have to get a lot more active if they want to lift the oppression they’re experiencing,” he said.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN RINEHART CASE

June 2012: California Department of Fish & Wildlife cites Brandon Rinehart for possession and use of a small-scale suction dredge in a closed waterway. Rinehart was operating without a permit, as the state of California refused to issue permits at the time and was working his federal mining claim in the Plumas National Forest. Equipment was confiscated.

May 2013: Rinehart goes to court and is found guilty of two misdemeanors, fined \$832 and given three years probation. Confiscated equipment returned.

October 2013: Rinehart appeals decision to Third District Appellate Court.

September 2013: Third District Appellate Court issues favorable opinion in support of Rinehart and reverses judgment. The court decides that the state does not have the authority to impose restrictions that “materially interfere with the commercial viability of mining on the public lands.”

October 2014: Third Appellate Court of California formally publishes its decision in Rinehart case due to a large volume of letters in support of publication sent in by the mining community. In response, State files petition for rehearing of Appellant Court decision. Order denying rehearing filed.

November 2014: State of California petitions California Supreme Court to review and depublish the Court of Appeal ruling in favor of Rinehart.

January 2015: California Supreme Court grants review of Appeals Court decision, which overturned Rinehart’s conviction for dredging without a permit.

May 2015: Pacific Legal Foundation files amicus brief in support of Rinehart.

July 2015: American Exploration and Mining Association files amicus brief in support of Rinehart. Karuk Tribe and law professor John D. Leshy file amicus brief in support of the State.

August 2015: United States Assistant Attorney General submits amicus curiae in opposition of Rinehart.

September 2015: Rinehart files response briefs to Karuk Tribe, John D. Leshy, and United States amicus briefs and files second conditional request for judicial notice.

October 2015: Rinehart awaits notice of hearing date, expected to be sometime in January 2016.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

For more information about AMRA, and to find out how you can help in the fight to sustain your right to mine, go to www.americanminingrights.com

Western Mining Alliance has been a key contributor to Brandon Rinehart's defense fund from the beginning. American Mining Rights Association has also been a key contributor, giving Rinehart \$2,200 in checks in a two-week span in early October. In addition, AMRA will host its First Annual Fundraiser Dinner at 5 p.m. on Dec. 12 in Oakdale, Calif. to help Rinehart with additional legal fees.

"WMA has raised substantial funds on my behalf," Rinehart said. "AMRA comes in second. I've got a few gold groups and one individual that contacted me through WMA. Everyone's working together to try and support me. The New 49ers paid for my oral arguments at appeal."

As the process has gone on, and now, as Rinehart prepares to face the Supreme Court, legal fees continue to roll in with more zeros behind them.

"I haven't got the bill for the reply briefs last month, but my guess is \$6,000 to \$8,000. The case is tipping the scale at \$50,000. I have about \$6,000 into the pot myself and the rest has been donated," said Rinehart, who was awaiting the latest bill for briefs. "Last time (Buchal) did a reply brief to the state, that bill came in at \$9,000. Just the Supreme Court part of the case has cost \$25,000. It adds up fast."

Donations can be made directly to Rinehart's lawyer:

Brandon Rinehart
c/o James Buchal
Murphy & Buchal LLP
3425 SE Yamhill Street #100
Portland, OR 97214

For details on AMRA's fundraiser dinner benefiting the Rinehart case visit: <https://americanminingrights.com/dinner/>

(Article as featured in the December '15/January '16 edition of the Pick & Shovel Gazette. To subscribe, go to www.goldprospectors.org/join)

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Prospectors rail against million-acre land grab

Feinstein stages meeting to pitch three proposed national monuments

BRAD JONES, GPAA Managing Editor, November 13, 2015

[From the Pick & Shovel Gazette](#)

<http://www.goldprospectors.org/News/News-Details/ArtMID/636/ArticleID/127/Prospectors-rail-against-million-acre-land-grab>

Prospecting and mining groups have united to fight against the creation of three national monuments in Southern California.

After two failed attempts to get legislation passed in the Senate, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., made a third pitch for her bill, known as S. 414, at a public meeting on Oct. 13 held at Whitewater Preserve near Palm Springs, Calif.

The event, described in news reports as having a pep-rally-like atmosphere, was hosted on land owned by The **Wildlands** Conservancy, a group that supports S. 414. The bill aims to designate more than a million acres of public lands as national monuments — Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains:

- The proposed Mojave Trails National Monument would encompass 942,000 acres between Mojave National Preserve and the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base.
- The proposed Sand to Snow National Monument would cover 135,000 acres of land from the desert floor in Coachella Valley in Riverside County to the peak of Mount San Gorgonio in San Bernardino County. It includes 25 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail and the headwaters of the Santa Ana and Whitewater rivers.
- The proposed Castle Mountains National Monument would add about 21,000 acres to the eastern Mojave National Preserve. The land was an active gold mine until 2001. It includes the historic mining town of Hart and the remaining portion of the 340-mile Lanfair Valley watershed that is not part of Mojave National Preserve.

Feinstein was met by friends and foes as about 70 miners, including members of Public Lands for the People, the American Mining Rights Association, Minerals and Mining Advisory Council, Gold Prospectors Association of America and local prospecting clubs, showed up to protest what they are calling a million-acre land grab.

But, Feinstein told the raucous crowd that if she can't get her bill passed through Congress, she will push President Barack Obama to use his presidential authority

under the Antiquities Act to declare the national monuments by executive order before the end of his second term.

“This legislation protects additional land and helps manage desert resources by carefully balancing conservation, recreation and renewable energy,” Feinstein said. “It provides for off-road vehicle recreation, and its cornerstone is the establishment of the Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow national monuments. Unfortunately, despite the support of more than 140 organizations, the two counties affected, business owners, environmental groups, off-road vehicle associations, energy companies, public utilities and others, it still has to move in the Senate. Because of this very long delay many people, including former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, began coming to me and suggesting we consider executive action by the president as a way to establish the monuments.”

Miners protest land grab

PLP President Walt Wegner, who could not attend the meeting, said the PLP opposes any and all national monument designations on public lands.

“I don’t know the exact acreage of Feinstein’s bill, but I do know that it’s one acre more than we will ever accept,” Wegner said. “Public Lands for the People will not tolerate even one acre being taken out of the public domain and put into monument status. Enough is enough!”

Over the past 25 years since PLP was founded, too much land has been lost already, said Wegner, explaining that prospecting and mining on public lands is a congressionally granted right under the Mining Law of 1872, and that PLP’s mandate is to defend the public’s right to access these lands, not only for prospecting and mining, but for hunting, fishing, off-roading and other outdoor pursuits.

The land grabs have only been accelerated under the Obama Administration. Last year, for example Obama declared by executive order more than 350,000 acres in Southern California as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

“When it comes to the public domain, the government does not hold title to this land,” Wegner said. “The Bureau of Land Management doesn’t hold title; Dianne Feinstein doesn’t hold title; the U.S. Forest Service doesn’t hold title. The title is held in trust for the people of the United States. We own that land. It’s ours.”

But, when land is taken out of the public domain and designated as a national monument, the ownership of the land is taken away from the people and given to the federal government, he said.

“They own it. It’s no longer ours and we have no right to access it,” Wegner said. While environmentalist groups contend that public lands represent wildlife and valuable cultural and natural resources that need to be protected, they always downplay the mineral wealth,” Wegner said.

“It’s what our economy, our health and all our lives depend on,” he said. “And, when a federal government takes all of that ... we are no longer a free people. The people don’t have ownership of our country at all anymore ... It has become like Venezuela where the government has come in and taken over all resources. And, when you control all the resources, you control all the people.” Wegner also fears the federal government may be setting aside public lands to use as collateral against trillions of dollars in foreign debt to China and other nations.



Paul Cook's bill

Adding even more confusion to the mix is a competing Republican bill that Rep. Paul Cook, R-Apple Valley, served up to the House of Representatives in October. Cook's bill, the “California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act,” has left a bad aftertaste with miners.

Cook met with mining rights advocates in Kern County last year in the hopes of finding some common ground, and he appeared sympathetic to the plight of miners. He showed up at last year’s Oktoberfest event at Sleepy Bear Mine near Randsburg, Calif., and mingled with prospectors, including PLP and the newly formed Minerals and Mining Advisory Council board members.

A year later, it’s now clear that Cook has abandoned MMAC’s proposed bill “Minerals and Mining Reform Act — A Clear Path Respecting Mining Rights,” and has instead chosen to author his own bill, CMORCA, or HR 3668.

MMAC's draft legislation essentially calls for the reactivation of already established Mining Districts on public lands in the western United States. The bill is available on the PLP and MMAC websites.

Although Cook did not attend the meeting at Whitewater Preserve, his Chief of Staff John Sobel was there to pitch the bill.

PLP, AMRA oppose HR 3668

Both PLP and AMRA have rejected Cook's bill which supports the proposed Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments but allows mining in 10 percent of a 965,000-acre proposed Mojave Trails Special Management Area, instead of Feinstein's Mojave Trails National Monument.

Matt Knox, district director for Cook, suggested that even if Congress did pass the MMAC bill, that it is likely President Barack Obama would veto it.

"All along, our goal has always been to put together a bill that has the potential to be signed into law," Knox said. "You know, we still have to keep in mind we are dealing with a Democrat administration and a Democrat president, and ... the bill that the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council put together—I mean with all due respect to their position and we do understand where they are coming from — there is no way in hell a Democrat president is ever going to sign something like that into law, so what's the next best alternative?"

Knox suggested that miners should support HR 3668 because it allows for 96,500 "floating acres" that could be open to "permitted mining projects" at any given time within his proposed Mojave Trails Special Management Area.

"We're hearing a lot of uproar from the mining community over the fact that a national monument wouldn't allow for future new mining claims," he said.

Knox is convinced that if no compromise is reached, Obama will grant Feinstein's wish and declare the national monuments by executive order under the Antiquities Act, which would be worse than congressional approval of Cook's bill.

"Obama is going to declare it. You are going to hear something before the end of his presidency. That's been made abundantly clear to us ... If that happens and you have national monuments, you guys are going to be — pardon my French — [expletive] out of luck."

And, while HR 3668 may sound better than Feinstein's land grab, it still means losing 90 percent of the land to prospecting and mining.

And, even though Knox said it is a better deal for "permitted mining projects," most prospecting and mining groups say it only protects larger mines and does not protect the right to access and prospect for gold and other minerals. They remain adamantly opposed to Cook's bill, which includes wilderness areas and wild, scenic and recreational rivers among other restrictive land use designations.

AMRA President Shannon Poe said declaring a national monument by executive order is an abuse of presidential power and opposes all national monuments.

"We don't support the Cook bill at all. I think conceding any more of our public lands under this disguise they call national monuments is just another land grab. We all know that," Poe said.

And, as far as Feinstein's call for an executive order from Obama to create national monuments, AMRA is vehemently opposed, he said.

"You have to go back to what executive orders and executive actions were intended to do. It was supposed to be for emergencies when Congress was not in session. What it has morphed into is more of a dictatorial move on the president's part to just force his will," Poe said. "This is not the will of the people; this is the will of a handful of people — the Feinsteins of the world that are being driven by special interests"

Poe called on all outdoor user groups to not only oppose both Feinstein and Cook's bills but to speak out against all land grabs.

"We have tyranny, and that is what we are witnessing now." Poe said. "You can't just take millions and millions of acres and then just make 'em off limits to the public who owns them, and yet that is exactly what they're doing."



The MMAC bill

Meanwhile, Wegner said PLP would rather see the MMAC bill passed by the House and Senate and be vetoed by

Obama than agree to a so-called compromise that would be devastating to miners and other outdoor user groups.

“Absolutely, we are taking a stance against his bill. We do not support it and we will fight this bill every inch of the way,” Wegner said. “No way in the world will we accept a bill that takes one acre of public domain and puts it into monument status, or wilderness status or any other status they want to call it where the title of ownership goes to the federal government.”

Wegner said he hasn't slammed the door on dialogue with Cook, but said the congressman needs to act quickly if he hopes to save face with the small-scale mining community.

“We are willing to give him one more chance to come back into the fold ... but he's a politician and I'm not very optimistic,” he said.

Bad for business

Jim Jeffrey, who owns American Prospector Treasure Seeker, a family-run prospecting store in Temecula, Calif., rallied miners to attend the meeting and protest Feinstein's backdoor attempt to restrict mining.

Jeffrey said impending mining restrictions expected at the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument have already hurt his business and he expects an even worse decline in small-scale mining equipment sales with a loss of another million or more acres of public lands. Cook's bill may support big mining companies but has snubbed the small-scale miners, Jeffrey said.

“It's for the big miner, not the little guy,” he said.

Brad Jones is the Managing Editor/Communications Director for the Gold Prospectors Association of America and the Lost Dutchman's Mining Association. He can be reached at bjones@goldprospectors.org



PLP update on the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council



PLP would like to bring you up to date on the Minerals and Mining Advisory Council (MMAC) meeting with General John F. Kelly, USMC Commander, U.S. Southern Command, and Howard “Buck” McKeon, former Chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

This meeting took place Friday, November 6th, 2015 where the parties discussed MMAC's new proposed legislation “Minerals and Mining Regulatory Reform Act a Clear Path Respecting Mining Rights”. PLP and MMAC are in negotiations with the [McKeon Group LLC](#).to have the firm deliver the MMAC Bill to the House and Senate Floor as soon as possible. Also present at this meeting was MMAC Counsel Bill Jensen, PLP Board Member Pat Keene, PLP President Walt Wegner, and MMAC Founder Joe Martori.

PLP's primary responsibility in its association with MMAC is to administer the donations received on MMAC's behalf. We are supporters of the MMAC mission to pass legislation to put miners on equal footing with other Federal agencies and have miners control their destiny within the organized mining districts. Even with our MMAC involvement, PLP's primary energy will continue to focus on our ongoing court litigation and the interests of our members.

It is critical for our community at large to donate in order to move this process forward. By clicking on the link below you can:

- Learn more about MMAC's mission.
- Review key documents of interest.
- Contact a MMAC counsel with questions you may have.
- Learn how you can donate to support this legislation.

[MMAC FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN](#)

Thank you very much,
Walt Wegner
President, PLP



The PLP/MMAC team with Chairman Buck McKeon discussing the new proposed legislation “Minerals and Mining Regulatory Reform Act a Clear Path Respecting Mining Rights”.



The PLP/MMAC Team at the McKeon Leadership Forum. (L-R) Walt Wegner, Pat Keene, Joe Martori, and Bill Jensen.



The PLP/MMAC Team with Morris Thomas, Regional Director of The McKeon Group LLC.



Members of the PLP/MMAC Team with Howard "Buck" McKeon (center) and General John F. Kelly.



American Mining Rights Association

[<shannonp@americanminingrights.com>](mailto:shannonp@americanminingrights.com)

September 20, 2015

AMRA members and former members:

AMRA is very pleased to announce our 1st annual dinner and fundraiser for the miners legal fund, the Brandon Rinehart legal fund and WMA's legal fund. The event will be on December 12th in Oakdale CA, just east of Modesto CA.

Attached are two documents, one is the dinner announcement and the other is some of the prizes we will be giving away at the event. There are literally 10's of thousands of dollars in prizes which will be given away this night.

As you all know, we face some serious issue's with an out of control government. Closed roads, closed lands, new bills being passed to further the destruction of our rights, new monuments being declared by Executive Action and rogue agencies arresting upstanding citizens for excersising their rights. We need your help and this dinner will be the event of the year!

This will be a complete catered dinner by "The House of Beef" and drinks will be served all evening at our no-host bar. Live music, videos, games and fun all night long!

Reserve your seat today by going to:

<https://americanminingrights.com/dinner/>

Attachments:

[AMRA dinner prizes.docx \(478K\)](#)

[Dec Dinner Revised.docx \(265K\)](#)

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What's So Wrong with Dredging?

By D.M. Perkins

So what's wrong with suction dredging? Based on many dozens of tests and studies over the past decades by environmental scientists, not much is wrong with suction dredging.

Almost every type of test and study imaginable has been performed by our government agencies and special interest groups. There have been tests on the fish and surrounding aquatic life, tests on stirring up mercury (methylmercury), tests on water clarity, tests on silt contamination, tests on destabilization of the river placers and tests on everything they could possibly think of. So after decades of tests and many millions of tax payer dollars spent, how many times has dredging been stopped due to harmful environmental effects? Zero.

In fact, environmental groups spend four billion dollars a year to try to convince the public that the environment is in dire trouble. Despite their efforts, they have never been able to prove that anything is wrong with suction dredging.

Our trout in the Sierra have long been a target to be used as a tool in an attempt to shut down dredging but the tests and studies do not even come close to supporting their outrageous allegations.

The California Water Board has concluded that California sport fish are safe to eat throughout the Sierra. California's trout in the Sierras are some of the safest fish to eat in the country.

There is not a single documented case of a suction dredger harming even one fish during the past 50 years of dredging operations. The mother-lode region is the most heavily dredged area in California yet it has some of the healthiest trout in the country.

The data clearly show mercury is not an issue in gold country: the fish all measured well below advisory criteria, and mercury levels have been consistently dropping over the past 20 years. That is mainly due to dredging, because dredging cleans the rivers of heavy contaminants and toxins. But Kelly Morse, spokeswoman for the Sierra Fund, blew-it off as spin. So the Sierra Fund thinks that the California Water Board is wrong. No, the California Water board is not wrong.

An EIR (environmental impact report) speculated that a suction dredge would disturb the mercury and release molecules of it, but the theory was never proven. In fact during the test, using an instrumented suction

dredge, the researchers found mercury levels below and behind the dredge measured lower than mercury levels on the surface. Once again another test backfired and proved absolutely nothing is wrong with dredging. The EIR instead decided to ignore these test results and instead used a hand dug pit in the most mercury contaminated location in the state to try and achieve their desired goals. It would have been impossible for a real suction dredge to ever operate where they dug their pit. Even with efforts like this they still couldn't shut down dredging. In fact it never even went to court because they knew they would lose: they still have no case.

We need these tests, dredgers welcome them because they prove our point, that dredging does not have a big impact on our environment, in fact in many cases it actually helps the surrounding environment.

Down in southern California on the East Fork of San Gabriel Canyon, there exists a fish, the Santa Ana Sucker fish. A small native fish (found only in three rivers, San Gabriel Canyon being one of them) that grows to a length of about four inches. Various agencies and special interest groups banded together in an effort to shut down dredging, claiming that dredging was harming the fish. We tried to tell them that the fish love it when we dredge but they didn't care what we said, they just wanted to shut down dredging no matter the cost. So the environmentalists hired a testing company that looked into the plight of the Santa Ana Sucker Fish. The test results were very clear and indisputable. The results showed that everywhere dredging was outlawed, the fish was found to be almost non-existent but everywhere that dredging was allowed, the fish was flourishing. OOPS!

The dredgers care: last year several of us met at the East Fork River of San Gabriel Canyon. We put on dive masks and walked for half-a-mile looking in the water for fish. We saw a few trout (not as many as when we were dredging) but we did not see one Santa Ana Sucker Fish. The very first bit of information I received about this fish told me this fish thrives on turbidity, which dredging supplies briefly. So why were the D. F. & G. and special interest groups trying to shut down dredging if it they knew it would harm the fish in an extreme manner?

As I write this article, I am sitting next to a two foot stack of environmental dredging

test results that represents two decades of tests and studies. Fortunately in April of 2013, the Oregon Chapter of American Fisheries Society summarized these reports and published a paper titled; "Effects of Suction Dredge Mining on Oregon Fishes and Aquatic habitats." The following statements were taken directly from this summary: "To date, the most complete literature review regarding impacts to fish and aquatic habitats from suction dredge mining was completed for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Subsequent Environmental Impact Review (EIR; HWE 2011). Best management practices required by California suction dredge mining permits are similar to Oregon's and provide a surrogate to evaluate the potential impacts in Oregon's waters. This EIR found the impacts on fish from suction dredge mining in California to be 'LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT', as long as mitigation efforts specified in the permitting process were adhered to (HWE 2011). By definition, 'less than significant' indicated a measurable impact, but not that will result in an adverse population-level on a particular species, or a widespread or long-lasting adverse effect on a natural community." In fact, most of the tests show very little impact at all. So the summary of the dredging impact tests and studies for the past twenty years clearly shows that it has been determined that dredging causes a "less than significant impact on the surrounding environment."

The conclusion of this summary states: "Existing literature suggests that suction dredge mining, when properly managed and regulated, has localized and short term impacts to fish and aquatic habitats. Maintaining these relatively low impacts, however, requires that best management practices are followed and properly enforced. Aquatic habitat impacts are largely caused by activities prohibited under current permitting regulations." In other words, if dredgers obey the laws and regulations that are already established, then dredging will have a less than significant impact on the environment. So that is the summary of the decades of tests and studies that have been performed on the effects of suction dredge mining on the environment. Test after test after test show the same results, dredging has a short term, less than significant impact on the environment.

Taken from the Mountain Messenger 11/12/15 Sierra County Newspaper



Gold & Treasure Shows Unveiled

[BRANDON JOHNSON](#), GPAA/LDMA President, , September 24, 2015
From the October/November Issue of the Pick & Shovel Gazette

The Gold Prospectors Association of America's Gold & Treasure Shows were initially conceived to introduce the public to the local prospecting community. Each event presents a unique opportunity where local chapters, state directors, land rights advocates, leading industry manufacturers, dealers and experts come together to welcome a new audience pursuing an interest in gold prospecting.

This year's Gold & Treasure Shows will feature hands-on instruction of gold panning techniques for those looking to hone their skills, one-of-a-kind lectures from industry professionals on a wide range of topics, and product demonstrations from best in class manufacturers to develop your equipment operation efficiency!

It is my pleasure to announce our Spring Schedule for 2016. Stay tuned for announcement of East Coast events before the end of 2015.

2016 Gold & Treasure Show Schedule

[Pomona, California](#), Feb. 20-21
Fairplex, CA
1101 W. McKinley Ave
Pomona, CA 91768

[Las Vegas, Nevada](#), Feb. 27-28
Cashman Center
850 N Las Vegas Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89101

[Phoenix, Ariz.](#), March 12-13
Arizona State Fairgrounds
1826 W. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

[San Francisco, California](#), April 2-3
Solano County Fairgrounds
900 Fairgrounds Dr.
Vallejo, CA 94589

[Portland, Oregon](#), April 9-10
Portland Expo Center
2060 North Marine Dr.
Portland, OR 97217

[Seattle, Washington](#)
April 16-17
Evergreen State Fairgrounds
14405 179th Ave SE
Monroe, WA 98272

[Boise, Idaho](#), June 11-12
Expo Idaho
5610 Glenwood
Boise, ID 83714
Website:
<http://www.expoidaho.com>

[Denver, Colorado](#), June 18-19
Adams County Fair

9755 Henderson Road
Brighton, CO 80601

This coming year we have added San Francisco and Seattle to our circuit and we are excited to share a fun and educational experience in both of these venues.

Involvement from the local GPAA chapters will be the first focus. Hosting chapters have become more involved with our show circuit over the last three years and this coming year presents another opportunity for members of our local chapters to get involved. Planning and execution of our shows will feature a local touch incorporating show specific hands-on events, kids' activities and involvement of groups with similar interests. Past events have raised funds and awareness for organizations that advocate for youth involvement in outdoor activities and canned food drives for local Red Cross efforts!

The GPAA's Gold & Treasure Shows would not be possible without the support and involvement from manufacturers and vendors in the prospecting industry. This year, supporters of our events will contribute tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment for each show to be raffled off for the benefit of the local prospecting community and land rights efforts. Select manufacturers will take part in lectures offering education and instruction on fine gold recovery, local prospecting, geology, filing and maintaining your mining claims, metal detecting basics and techniques to name a few. Last, but not least, they will be on hand to demonstrate their equipment and answer questions.

Make no mistake, GPAA Gold & Treasure Shows offer a great opportunity to develop your understanding from basic prospecting and panning techniques for beginners to advanced prospecting equipment operation and regulatory compliance. Each show will feature multiple manufacturers of gold pans, sluice boxes, highbankers or power sluices, drywashers, recirculating prospecting and clean-up equipment, gold refinery kits, rock crushers, gold dredges and multi-use metal detecting technology. Many manufacturers will offer show specials exclusively available to attendees you don't want to miss!

For fans of the popular series *Gold Trails*, sponsored by the Gold Prospectors Association, come to next year's shows for your chance to meet Kevin Hoagland. The host of the popular new series will be in attendance for each event signing autographs, taking pictures with fans, conducting technical lectures covering geology and advanced metal detecting techniques, and planning his third season of the popular television series. Keep an eye out for other celebrities frequently found in attendance from popular television shows on the History Channel and Discovery Channel.

You won't want to miss the 2016 GPAA Gold & Treasure Shows, kicking off in Pomona, Calif., at Fairplex California! To receive updates for each major market trade show, please log on to our website at www.goldprospectors.org and sign up for an account. Registration and advanced tickets will be available saving you 50 percent on the cost of admission. Children 12 and younger are free, so come out and help your son or daughter learn to pan for real gold to take home as a souvenir of their experience.

Of course, the Gold Prospectors Association of America continues to strive to help you find more gold. Keeping public lands open for mineral entry lies at the heart of that effort, and we would not have our public lands without the efforts of our active military and honorable veterans. To show our appreciation, members of our military receive free admission with a copy of an active military or veteran identification. The Gold Prospectors Association would like to thank you for your service, and welcome you to our events and the prospecting community.

Updates to hosting chapters, daily activities, manufacturers and vendors who will be in attendance, show sponsors who will donate equipment to major prize raffles, and industry professionals who will conduct lectures will be featured on our website at goldprospectors.org/goldshows, on the GPAA Facebook page and will be announced in our publications in coming issues.

We look forward to seeing you, your family and your friends at one of this year's GPAA Gold & Treasure Shows.

Brandon Johnson is the President of the Gold Prospectors Association of America and the Lost Dutchman's Mining Association. He can be reached at: bjohnson@goldprospectors.org.



CLEAN WATER ACT

Just Hours After a Separate Attack Failed, the Senate Voted to Overturn the EPA's Clean Water Rule

by [Natasha Geiling](#), Climate Progress, Nov 4, 2015 2:31pm
<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/11/04/3719340/clean-water-rule-senate-overturn-ernst/>



Almost immediately after [failing to pass](#) a bill that would have required the EPA to rewrite its [Waters of the United States](#) rule, the Senate voted to advance a measure that would block the rule entirely under the Congressional Review Act.

The resolution, put forward by [Sen. Joni Ernst](#) (R-IA), passed with a simple majority vote of 55-43. The resolution earned the support of all Senate Republicans — with the exception of Susan Collins (R-ME) — and three Senate Democrats: Sens. Joe Donnelly (D-IN), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and Joe Manchin (D-WV).

The vote came just an hour after the Senate failed to pass a separate bill, sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), which would have nullified the Waters of the United States rule — also known as the Clean Water Rule — and set strict parameters for the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers in rewriting the rule. Under Barrasso's bill, the EPA would have been required to consult with private industry, as well as local and state governments, in redrafting the rule.

Ernst's resolution, under the Congressional Review Act, would kill the rule entirely, but it's unlikely to get much further than the president's desk, as the Obama administration has already [threatened to veto](#) it.

Finalized in May, the Clean Water Rule seeks to clarify the waters that can be regulated by the EPA under the Clean Water Act. The rule, if implemented as written, would expand protection to two million miles of streams and 20 million

acres of wetland. Previous court decisions made it unclear whether or not these waters, which supply drinking water to a third of the country, could be regulated under the Clean Water Act.

Opponents have argued that the rule is too broad, encompassing things like irrigation ditches and seasonal ponds. The rule has drawn especially sharp criticism from the agriculture industry, [which claims](#) that it would subject farmers to burdensome permitting requirements for things like building fences or applying fertilizers.

The EPA, for its part, denies these claims, arguing that the rule would not require any additional permitting requirements, and would preserve all existing exemptions and exclusions allowed under the Clean Water Act.

Despite the unlikelihood that Ernst's resolution will actually succeed in overturning the rule, Tuesday's decision drew swift cries of anger from environmental groups.

"Even under normal circumstances, using the Congressional Review Act to repeal administrative actions is extreme — but using it to undermine clean water safeguards shows an uncommon level of reckless disregard for the health of American families," Dalal Aboulhosn, senior Washington representative for the Sierra Club, said in a press statement. "This vote proves that the Republican leadership cares more about allowing polluters to do whatever they want to our waters than protecting the 17 million Americans whose drinking water and recreational places are protected by the Clean Water Rule."

Industrial groups, meanwhile, praised the Senate's actions, saying that they would continue support efforts to overturn the rule both in Congress and in the courts.

"Protecting our nation's waters is a priority for manufacturers, but we need a balanced regulatory approach that yields a regulation consistent with law and policy," Ross Eisenberg, vice president of energy and resources policy for the National Association of Manufacturers said in a statement. "The final waters rule does not meet this standard. Manufacturers will continue to fight this regulation in the courts and will support Congress as it seeks to send this rule back to the Obama Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency."

The National Association of Manufacturers is one of several business groups that have [filed lawsuits against the rule](#). A total of 27 states have also sued over the rule. In late August, a North Dakota federal judge [issued a temporary injunction](#) against the rule, preventing it from being implemented in at least 13 states.



AGENDA 21 FOR 2030

UN Set to Launch ‘New Universal Agenda’ for Global Governance

What happens to freedom of conscience, individual liberty, and free enterprise in those nations that do go along?

By [Jerry A. Kanes](#), *Canada Free Press*, September 22, 2015
<http://canadafreepress.com/article/75485#.VgGLorOHcws.twitter>



The United Nations is set to launch its “new universal agenda” for humanity and the planet September 25, 2015. The UN’s “[2030 Agenda for Sustainable](#)

[Development](#)” document is a blueprint to “[transform our world for the better by 2030](#),” and yet most major media outlets in the United States refuse to report on the far reaching implications of this document.

“This is probably the most difficult task we have ever given ourselves, which is to intentionally transform the economic development model, for the first time in human history. This is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of intentionally, within a defined period of time, to [change the economic development model](#) that has been reigning for ... 150 years, since the industrial revolution.”—Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Unlike the [UN Agenda 21 action plan](#), which mainly focused on the environment, the 2030 Agenda action plan will strictly regulate nearly every human activity in every area of life. The preamble to the document states:

“This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognise that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. [We](#)

[are determined to take the bold and transformative steps](#) which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets ... demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. ... They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental."



Obama affirmed radical U.N. agenda in lesser-known speech

Addressed General Assembly day before high-profile appearance

[Jerome R. Corsi](#), World News Daily, 09/29/2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/09/obama-affirmed-radical-u-n-agenda-in-lesser-known-speech/>



President Obama addresses United Nations General Assembly in New York Sept. 28

UNITED NATIONS – President Obama's speech to the opening session of the United Nations' 70th General Assembly on Monday drew considerable attention, but most Americans likely were unaware of a speech he gave the previous day to the same world body in which he affirmed America's commitment to a controversial, utopian plan to "transform" the world.

As many focused on week three of the National Football League season Sunday, [Obama spoke with little fanfare](#) to the closing session of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Summit](#) that was convened Sept. 25-27 as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

The U.S. and the 192 other U.N. members unanimously adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” a plan to “end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.”

It's a plan [some critics call a “blueprint for global governance.”](#) As [WND reported](#), Agenda 2030 is seen as a “reboot” of the controversial Agenda 21 plan, adopted in 1992, which the U.N. has described as a “comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations system, governments and major groups, in every area in which human impacts on the environment.”

“And so, today, we commit ourselves to new Sustainable Development Goals, including our goal of ending extreme poverty in our world,” Obama [told the U.N. meeting Sunday, committing the United States to Agenda 2030](#). “We do so understanding how difficult the task may be. We suffer no illusions of the challenges ahead. But we understand this is something that we must commit ourselves to.”

Also receiving little attention was the fact that when Pope Francis spoke to the United Nations on Friday, his speech served as the opening address to the 2030 Agenda summit.

[In introducing the pope, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said](#), “Your visit today coincides with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

[“The Beast on the East River” spells out how America is headed for globalization at the hands of the U.N. Get this eye-opening book now at the WND Superstore!](#)

Ban referenced the papal encyclical on climate change, [“Laudato Si,”](#) translated as “Praise Be To You,” a Medieval Italian phrase taken from [St. Francis of Assisi’s 13th century poem prayer “Canticle of the Creatures,”](#) written to praise God as the creator of all.

“This message of [‘Laudato Si’] is critical as we approach the pivotal climate change conference in Paris in December,” Ban continued. “Across the global agenda, His Holiness is a resounding voice of conscience. He has cried out for compassion for the world’s refugees and migrants, and solidarity with people trapped in conflict and poverty.”

What is Agenda 2030?

The U.N. Agenda 2030 is derived from the global body's previous Agenda 21, which introduced the idea of "sustainable development" in the context of environmental issues. It was adopted at the United Nation Conference on Environment and Development, known widely as the "Earth Summit," held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

The new [U.N. global framework, presented under the title "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,"](#) broadly expands Agenda 21 into 17 goals and 169 targets.

It's lofty aims, among others, are to wipe out poverty among and between nations, end hunger, fight global economic inequality, achieve gender equality and curb climate change.

A United Nations statement at the end of the Agenda 2030 plenary session on Sunday called it a "bold new global agenda to end poverty by 2030 and pursue a sustainable future."

The historic adoption of Agenda 2030 "was met with a thunderous standing ovation," U.N. statement noted.

"Ushering in a new era of national action and international cooperation, the new agenda commits every country to take an array of actions that would not only address the root causes of poverty, but would also increase economic growth and prosperity and meet people's health, education and social needs, while protecting the environment," the U.N. said.

See Obama's "Agenda 2030 speech to U.N. on Sunday, Sept 27:

Pope Francis echoes Agenda 2030

In the first words publicly spoken during his recent visit to the United States, at the White House, Pope Francis chose the topic of climate change.

"Mr. President, I find it encouraging that you are proposing an initiative for reducing air pollution," [the pope said](#). "Accepting the urgency, it seems clear to me also that climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to our future generation.

"When it comes to the care of our common home, we are living at a critical moment of history," the pope continued in his White House speech. "We still

have time to make the change needed to bring about a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.”

The pope’s remarks echo the language of Article 59 in the U.N. “Declaration” on Agenda 2030, which says, “We reaffirm that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that ‘Mother Earth’ is a common expression in a number of countries and regions.”

Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si” is subtitled “On Care for Our Common Home,” with the phrase “common home” appearing 13 times throughout the text. The U.N. theme “sustainable development” is echoed 18 times in the encyclical.

“The common home of all men and women must continue to rise on the foundations of a right understanding of universal fraternity and respect for the sacredness of every human life, of every man and every woman, the poor, the elderly, children, the infirm, the unborn, the unemployed, the abandoned, those considered disposable because they are only considered as part of a statistic,” Francis [told the U.N. General Assembly in his Sept. 25 address to the General Assembly](#).

Francis also evoked the theme of “sustainable development” three times in his U.N. speech.

“The dramatic reality this whole situation of exclusion and inequality, with its evident effects, has led me, in union with the entire Christian people and many others, to take stock of my grave responsibility in this regard and to speak out, together with all those who are seeking urgently-needed and effective solutions,” the pope told the General Assembly.

“The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the World Summit, which opens today, is an important sign of hope. I am similarly confident that the Paris Conference on Climatic Change will secure fundamental and effective agreements,” Francis said.



Historic New Sustainable Development Agenda Unanimously Adopted by 193 UN Members

http://www.veritasresearchconsulting.com/BioRegional/UN-Historic_New_Sustainable_Development_Agenda_Unanimously_Adopted_by_193_Members.pdf

Broad, universal agenda to end poverty, fight inequality and protect environment

A bold new global agenda to end poverty by 2030 and pursue a sustainable future was unanimously adopted today by the 193 Member States of the United Nations at the start of a three-day Summit on Sustainable Development.

The historic adoption of the new Sustainable Development Agenda, with 17 global goals at its core, was met with a thunderous standing ovation from delegations that included many of the more than 150 world leaders who will be addressing the Summit.

It was a scene that was, and will be, transmitted to millions of people around the world through television, social media, radio, cinema advertisements, and cell phone messages.

Ushering in a new era of national action and international cooperation, the new agenda commits every country to take an array of actions that would not only address the root causes of poverty, but would also increase economic growth and prosperity and meet people's health, education and social needs, while protecting the environment.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Summit, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said:

"The new agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere. It is a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world."

"It is an agenda for people, to end poverty in all its forms," he added. "It is an agenda for shared prosperity, peace and partnership (that) conveys the urgency of climate action (and) is rooted in gender equality and respect for the rights of all. Above all, it pledges to leave no one behind."

"The true test of commitment to Agenda 2030 will be implementation. We need action from everyone, everywhere. Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are our guide. They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success," ended the Secretary-General.

The new Sustainable Development Goals build on the goal-setting agendas of United Nations conferences and the widely successful Millennium Development Goals that have improved the lives of millions of people. The new agenda recognizes that the world is facing immense challenges, ranging from widespread poverty, rising inequalities and enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power to environmental degradation and the risks posed by climate change.

“Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavor across such a broad and universal policy agenda,” states the Declaration adopted by the leaders. “We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of ‘win-win’ cooperation which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world.”

The official adoption came shortly after Pope Francis addressed the General Assembly stating, “The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the World Summit, which opens today, is an important sign of hope. ”

General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft called the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development “ambitious” in confronting the injustices of poverty, marginalization and discrimination. “We recognize the need to reduce inequalities and to protect our common home by changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. And, we identify the overwhelming need to address the politics of division, corruption and irresponsibility that fuel conflict and hold back development.”

The adoption ceremony was presided over by Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen and Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who stressed the successes of the Millennium Development Goals and the need for the full implementation of the new Agenda.

A representative of civil society, Salil Shetty, Secretary-General of Amnesty International said the public could not be blamed for being skeptical, as there was a gap between the “world we live in and the world we want.” He added that the Sustainable Development Goals “represented people’s aspirations and can, and must, be reached.



The Green Behind California's Greens

A handful of superrich donors have created the illusion of a grassroots environmental movement.

Steven Malanga, City Journal, Spring 2015

http://www.city-journal.org/2015/25_2_california-environmentalism.html



California's draconian global-warming laws, mandating that the state get one-third of its power from renewable sources by 2020, are already driving energy costs sky-high.

In the fall of 2010, an army of California groups—including blue-collar unions, small businesses, manufacturers, and big energy companies—tried to persuade voters to suspend the state's rigorous anti-global-warming law, which mandates a rollback of greenhouse-gas emissions to 1990 levels. The advocates for delaying the law argued that, with an unemployment rate of 12.4 percent, California needed to focus on creating jobs and couldn't afford costly new measures to slash carbon emissions, such as requiring utilities to generate power from renewable sources. But what proponents of the jobs measure, known as Proposition 23, didn't count on was the financial might of California's environmentalists. In just months, greens raised three times as much money as the initiative's supporters. As the *Los Angeles Times* put it, the environmentalists then "steamrolled" their foes with a \$30 million campaign that deployed television ads featuring Hollywood celebrities, millions of mailings, and hundreds of thousands of robo-calls and text messages. One environmentalist described the coalition that crushed Prop. 23—comprising entertainers, hedge-fund honchos, technology billionaires, and the many organizations that they back—as "the new face of the environmental movement." It wasn't the face of the movement, though, but its pocketbook that won the battle.

Californians have long had a green reputation. But for many years, interest in the environment expressed itself in modest programs of nature conservation, or in efforts to mitigate pollution problems such as the smog that once choked the state's cities. Even as they gained political power over the last 15 years or so, however, California greens have moved steadily leftward—touting, for example, zero-growth initiatives that make it crazily expensive to create jobs, housing, and infrastructure. Credit, or blame, for this development should go to a small circle

of superrich Californians, who made their fortunes chiefly in so-called clean industries like technology and finance, and who have poured vast sums of money into the green cause. These wealthy individuals bankroll hundreds of environmental organizations and spend massively to pass green ballot initiatives and elect green-friendly pols. So influential are these West Coast players that a recent report from Columbia University's Journalism School—otherwise sympathetic to environmentalism—described the concentration of green power as “troubling.” Even more disconcerting, these true believers also seem intent on promoting their aggressive form of environmentalism around the country. Call it the Californication of the green movement.

California's concern for nature has moved far from its origins. Back in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the state's extraordinary beauty helped give rise to the antecedents of modern environmentalism. John Muir embodied the conservationist and preservationist spirit of the era. A Scottish immigrant with a deep love for the outdoors, Muir helped to get Congress in 1890 to establish Yosemite National Park in the central eastern part of the state and in 1892 cofounded the Sierra Club as a means for Californians to enjoy—and protect—the magnificent Sierra Nevada mountain range. Several decades later, a young San Francisco resident, Ansel Adams, discovered Yosemite, joined the Sierra Club, and, with a Brownie camera that his father had given him, began photographing the California landscape. Adams's romantic vistas captured mid-twentieth-century America's imagination, and he used his artistic influence to reinforce Muir's appeals to preserve Yosemite.



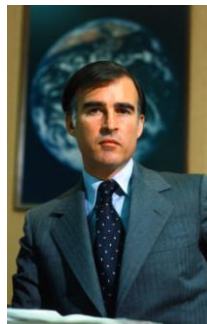
ANSEL ADAMS PUBLISHING RIGHTS TRUST/CORBIS

Early California environmentalism focused on conserving the state's natural beauty, as captured by this Ansel Adams photograph of Yosemite National Park

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Struggles over the protection of undeveloped parts of California characterized the green movement for decades, until a new type of environmentalism began to emerge in the 1960s, amid growing concerns about the impact of pollution on air, water, and soil. The recognition that the burning of leaded gasoline generated urban smog prompted Californians—living in a state with the nation's greatest number of automobiles—to lobby for better air quality. In 1967, Republican governor Ronald Reagan signed a law setting up an agency to pursue that end—the first such state environmental body in the country.

Drawing on new intellectual currents, Reagan's successor, Democrat Jerry Brown, took office in 1975 proselytizing for a more radical form of environmentalism. In 1973, the Norwegian philosopher Arne Næss had characterized conservation programs and efforts to limit the harmful effects of pollution as mere “shallow ecology.” Næss instead propounded a sweeping “deep ecology,” which argued that every living thing had a right to its existence and which sought sharply to constrain human activity. That same year, the economist E. F. Schumacher authored the bestseller *Small Is Beautiful*, a book promoting a “sustainable economics” based on limits to growth. Brown's governing agenda showed the influence of these ideas, including a reduced pace of government-sponsored infrastructure construction and other development. Some of the consequences of Brown's left-green enthusiasms proved too much for Californians to swallow, however. In 1980, a Mediterranean fruit-fly infestation threatened the state's crops, but the governor hesitated to attack the outbreak with pesticides. By the time Brown ordered spraying, the pest had spread so extensively that buyers were threatening to boycott the state's produce. Brown's popularity plummeted, short-circuiting his bid to win a U.S. Senate seat in 1982. For the next 16 years, his successors—Republicans George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson—often used their office to check the power of environmentalists, including those working for the government's environmental bureaucracies, which had proliferated during the 1970s.



. . . but by the 1970s, in his first tenure as governor, Jerry Brown was pushing a more radical brand of environmentalism.

Despite forcing this temporary pushback, California's greens would be emboldened by mutations in the state's economy. For decades, two largely blue-collar industries—manufacturing and agriculture—had driven the state's economic growth. But in the early 1960s, advances in semiconductors transformed the area around Stanford University and San Jose—once known as the Valley of the Heart's Delight because of its agricultural riches—into the center of American technological innovation: Silicon Valley. With this dramatic shift came staggering affluence, not only from the technology being invented but also from burgeoning financial services, which took off in the Valley and nearby San Francisco to help fund the tech boom. A 2013 census report found that the greater San Jose/Santa Clara area, the heart of Silicon Valley, had the nation's second-highest concentration of wealth, behind only Connecticut's suburban bedroom communities, filled with high-paid Wall Streeters. The San Francisco peninsula, home to many working in the Valley's tech industries, ranked as America's fourth-wealthiest metro area.

The riches of two Silicon Valley pioneers, David Packard and William Hewlett, have flowed heavily into California environmental causes—though not because the men themselves directed much money that way. The Stanford engineering students famously started Hewlett-Packard in 1939 out of a Palo Alto garage, with an initial investment of just \$538. By the time Packard resigned as chairman of the board in 1993, ending active management by either of the cofounders, their respective stock holdings were worth billions. The pair poured lots of that money into philanthropy. Packard, who served as Richard Nixon's deputy secretary of defense, spent philanthropic dollars on scientific fellowships, children's health care, and family and youth problems. His giving also supported conservative policy nonprofits, including the American Enterprise Institute. When he died in 1996, the Packard Foundation received some \$4 billion of his estate; it now has \$6 billion in assets. Hewlett's charitable dollars helped pay for scientific research, efforts to solve urban woes, and the arts. His modest contributions to the environmental cause focused mostly on the philanthropic work of his wife, Flora, who had spent some of her youth in the Sierra Nevada and wanted to protect the area's beauty. Hewlett died in 2001; today, his foundation's assets approach \$8 billion.

Since the deaths of HP's cofounders, their heirs have pushed the two foundations' philanthropy ever-leftward, and activist environmentalism is a prime beneficiary. Under the direction of Packard's three daughters, the conservative Republican's philanthropic wealth has gone to the National Abortion Rights Action League Foundation, the Feminist Majority Foundation, and the very green Earth Action Network. This liberal giving has prompted Packard's son, David, whose political views are closer to his father's, to withdraw

his money from the foundation and form his own nonprofit, which gives to more traditional and nonpolitical causes.

In a signature moment in green giving, the Packard and Hewlett Foundations decided in 2007 to boost their spending on climate-change issues, funneling the money into a new, San Francisco–based nonprofit, ClimateWorks, led initially by the former head of environmental programs at Hewlett. The Hewlett Foundation, according to the Columbia Journalism School report, agreed to put \$500 million into ClimateWorks, with the Packard Foundation adding approximately \$390 million since 2008. Two other major California funders have joined Packard and Hewlett in the climate-change cause: the Energy Foundation, a San Francisco nonprofit that bundles smaller contributions into large environmental grants; and the San Francisco–based Sea Change Foundation, created by Nathaniel Simons, son of the enormously successful New York hedge-fund manager Jim Simons of Renaissance Technologies. The younger Simons operates his own fund, Meritage, based in San Francisco, and has been described by *Inside Philanthropy* as the “quiet hedge fund manager engaged in massive climate giving.”

Generous funders of the California environmental movement include other wealthy Silicon Valley techno-environmentalists and San Francisco hedge-fund greens. Intel Corporation cofounder Gordon Moore and his wife set up the Palo Alto–based Moore Foundation in 2000, staking it with \$5 billion, largely accumulated through Intel stock. Moore initially targeted some of his green philanthropy at conservation, an interest he had developed as a recreational fisherman. But he, too, has veered toward antigrowth environmentalism, channeling huge amounts of money to nonprofits and trusts so that they can buy up land in Northern California and freeze future development. Moore has also spent money on green politics, including \$1 million on the 2010 campaign to thwart Prop. 23. Just minutes from Moore’s foundation in Palo Alto is the charity founded by Google executive Eric Schmidt and his wife, Wendy: the \$300 million Schmidt Foundation. The Schmidts have been large funders of major California environmentalist players like the Energy Foundation, but through their 11th Hour project, they also back smaller local environmental efforts, including anti-fracking research and campaigns to ban or restrict oil and gas exploration. The Schmidts gave half a million dollars to defeat Prop. 23.

The most visible of California’s rich environmentalists is Tom Steyer, who led the anti–Prop. 23 effort and seeded it with \$5 million of his own money. Steyer made headlines in 2014 by pledging to invest \$100 million in congressional campaigns in seven states, seeking to influence federal climate policy. Operating out of his 1,800-acre ranch in Pescadero, he and his wife have also pumped money into the TomKat Charitable Trust, based in San Francisco, which focuses on giving to

“organizations that envision a world with climate stability, a healthy and just food system, and broad prosperity.”

Getting a clear view on the giving by these nonprofits, and by the individuals behind them, isn't easy. For instance, Steyer made a good deal of his fortune as a hedge-fund chief investing in fossil fuels, the spread of which he now so opposes. Farallon Capital, where Steyer served as CEO and where he still has holdings, has invested heavily in a company that is building a competitor to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline—which Steyer is spending money to stop on environmental grounds. These investments, as the *New York Times* put it, “cloud” Steyer's environmentalist reputation. Meantime, the Simonses' Sea Change Foundation receives substantial sums from a Bermuda entity, Klein Ltd., with undisclosed sources of revenue. Indeed, there's little public information about Sea Change. The nonprofit's entire online presence, described by *Inside Philanthropy* as “quite possibly the least informative [charitable organization] website,” is a single page announcing that it does not accept unsolicited grant requests. One reason for the secrecy may be that Klein Ltd. shares an address with a Bermuda law firm that represents investors in Russian energy companies—prompting reports that some of the money that Sea Change showers on environmental groups in the U.S. may come from overseas oil interests, eager to kill fracking.

Whatever the source and purpose of the money, much of the giving in the California environmental movement ultimately seems to involve this handful of funders, contributing to the perception, even within environmentalist circles, that rich elites run the show. To combat the elitism label, the foundations devote a portion of their wealth to sustain hundreds of small, community-based organizations throughout the state. The Schmidt Foundation's 11th Hour project, for example, has made hundreds of smaller grants to local groups working to stir green passion among clergy, journalists, small farmers, college students, and other constituencies. One such nonprofit is the San Francisco-based, clergy-led Interfaith Power and Light, which sponsors “preach-ins” about climate change. The 14-acre Pie Ranch in Pescadero, which educates high school students in the Bay Area in the “economic, social, environmental and political implications” of food, is another recipient of Schmidt money. Others include Oakland's CoFED, which helps students create nonprofit college food cooperatives; and Physicians for Social Responsibility, who aim to “educate communities, the general public and policy makers on the importance of California's climate laws.”

Some of this local giving bolsters green organizations that claim to represent constituencies not typically associated with environmentalism, helping to counter the criticism that the movement is made up mainly of “aging, white

Americans," as the *Los Angeles Times* put it. Schmidt money backs Los Angeles's Communities for a Better Environment, which tries to mobilize "people of color—African-American, Latino, Filipino" to lobby for curbs on greenhouse gases. The Packard Foundation and Schmidt support Oakland's People's Grocery, which describes itself as "a leader in the evolving food justice movement"—that is, food produced in "sustainable" ways—in inner cities. Schmidt also funds Green for All, the Oakland-based nonprofit founded by former Obama environmental advisor Van Jones, "which works to make sure people of color have a place and a voice in the climate movement." The Hewlett Foundation has given nearly \$2 million to the BlueGreen Alliance, a nonprofit with offices in San Francisco and Minneapolis that tries to bring blue-collar private-worker unions into the green movement.

Generating enthusiasm from these constituencies for California's brand of environmentalism is a challenge. When the BlueGreen Alliance announced its opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline, the head of the Laborers' International Union of North America blasted it for trying to deep-six a project that promised to create thousands of jobs. (See "[State of Disunion](#)," Winter 2015.) The union bolted the alliance. Similarly, last summer, 16 California Democratic legislators from areas of the state with high unemployment tried but failed to persuade party leaders to suspend portions of the state's anti-global-warming law. Many of the legislators, two-thirds of whom were minorities, hailed from districts representing struggling inland communities like Fresno, San Bernardino, and Modesto, or from troubled minority neighborhoods in Los Angeles and other cities. Their letter to the Democratic leadership in the assembly warned that the cap-and-trade requirements of the anti-global-warming law are "weakening the economy just as California is recovering from the last recession, and hurting the most vulnerable members of our communities."

The California environmental movement's primary work isn't grassroots organizing and proselytizing, however: it's the lobbying, campaigning, and legal advocacy of behemoths like the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and Earthjustice—a \$40 million public-interest law firm that calls itself "the Earth's lawyer." These giants derive much of their considerable funding from superrich donors. Since 2010, the Sierra Club has pulled in at least \$5 million from the Sea Change Foundation, about \$4 million from the Energy Foundation, \$2.4 million from the Hewlett Foundation, and another \$500,000 from Schmidt. That kind of money attracts environmental advocates from elsewhere in the country, too. Over the last four years, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), headquartered in New York, received \$1.5 million from the Schmidt Foundation, \$2.42 million from the Hewlett Foundation, \$4 million from Sea Change, and more than \$10 million from the Energy Foundation. The EDF, also New York-based, got \$600,000 from Hewlett, \$1.1 million from Sea Change, and nearly \$2.5

million from the Energy Foundation over that same period. No surprise that both the NRDC and the EDF have major operations in California these days.

The green giants have increasingly sought to impose expansive environmental policies through the courts. In this respect, they've learned from liberal judicial activists, who, failing to win their goals legislatively, have sought redress through the courts for everything from more public school funding to greater public housing subsidies. (See "[Brennan's Revenge](#)," Winter 2014.) In fact, recent green policymaking in California often derives not from popular votes or legislative actions but from judicial rulings. Earthjustice has been a major promoter of this trend. The group serves as legal counsel to several well-funded California environmentalist organizations litigating to limit new development, halt the expansion of businesses, and force firms and individuals to spend additional millions on environmental permits and legal costs. Recent cases brought by Earthjustice include an attempt to force the Port of Long Beach to stop allowing coal exports from its facilities. California's environmental lawyers now also regularly challenge contracts made by the state's utilities for the purchase of fossil-fuel-generated electricity, contending that they should buy more energy from renewable resources. And green lawyers press California's utilities regulators to strong-arm energy firms to invest more in renewable-energy infrastructure.

Perhaps no environmentalist legal gambit has had more profound consequences on Californians than the nearly decade-long court battle waged by the NRDC and Earthjustice to protect the delta smelt, a three-inch baitfish, under the Endangered Species Act. (See "[California's Water Wars](#)," Summer 2011.) The greens have long sought to curtail water transfers from northern reservoirs to other parts of the state, including Central Valley farms; such transfers, they believe, violate California's natural order. Now the green lawyers charge that the water transfers have disrupted the smelt's habitat, endangering the species. The delta smelt's numbers have shrunk, but research published in 2010 by Patricia Gilbert of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science suggests that the fish's decline is attributable to wastewater flowing into the Sacramento–San Joaquin Bay Delta. Nevertheless, courts have ordered reduced water flows, one consequence of which has been dramatically to worsen the effects of California's three-year drought—forcing farmers to retire formerly productive and now-parched land, lay off workers, and spend heavily to pump water from deep in the ground. (See "[The Scorching of California](#)," Winter 2015.) Recently, the Ninth Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that the lowly smelt deserves "the highest of priorities . . . even if it means the sacrifice of . . . many millions of dollars in public funds." That ruling sums up the ethos of the environmentalists who've funded and fought this legal battle.

Green greenbacks are also remaking California's politics. While the fight over Prop. 23 in 2010 may have displayed the "new face" of the environmental movement in the state, the battles over a pair of 2006 California initiatives revealed the massive resources that green donors can now wield politically. One campaign (successful) sought to defeat Proposition 90, an initiative that would have curtailed eminent domain—the taking of private property by California governments for public purposes. Environmental backers lined up against it because it limited the power of state bureaucracies like the California Coastal Commission to make demands on private property owners and enabled owners to sue for compensation when government rulings battered the value of their properties. To stop the initiative, California greens formed the Conservationists for Taxpayer Protection, who raised some \$1.9 million, including donations from the California League of Conservation Voters, the NRDC, the Sierra Club, and the EDF.

That same election cycle, greens also tried (unsuccessfully) to win passage of Proposition 87, an initiative that would have slapped \$4 billion in new taxes on energy companies in California and then invested the revenue in renewable-power projects. The force behind it was real-estate heir Stephen Bing, who used a nearly \$600 million fortune to turn himself into a Hollywood film producer and a prominent giver to Democratic causes on the West Coast. For the Prop. 87 campaign, he spent nearly \$50 million of his own money, the largest personal expenditure ever made on a California ballot measure. Other green donors kicked in \$10 million, including Wendy Schmidt (\$1 million) and Nathaniel Simons (\$225,000). The oil industry countered with \$94 million of its own spending, making Prop. 87 the costliest California initiative in history.

Green causes increasingly dominate California's individual political races, too. Their takeover advanced decisively in 1996, when a green-activist group, Vote the Coast, targeted a handful of state assembly seats in wealthier coastal areas and helped get seven environmentally oriented Democratic candidates elected. That tipped the assembly to the Democrats and created an environmental caucus in the lower house.

The new assembly majority proceeded to fill the state's environmental bureaucracies with left-environmentalists, making those bodies much more likely to side with greens against businesses and landowners in any disputes. "There is a pitched competition between California agencies for which is the most nonsensical in its implementation of over-reaching regulations," public affairs consultant Laer Pearce observed last year. The California Air Resources Board, he noted, has "tried to ban black cars in the state in its fevered effort to save the world from global warming." The California Energy Commission has outlawed large high-performance plasma televisions because they burn up too

much energy. The Coastal Commission—originally created to oversee coastal development in California—has relentlessly extended its reach over the property of individuals and businesses, often refusing to let owners build or rebuild structures, and even objecting to the type of beach furniture that homeowners use. The commission's radical character was captured in the title of a 2014 speech by one of its retiring Democratic-appointed commissioners: "In Defense of Unreasonableness—Saving the California Coast."

"Unreasonable" is an apt description for how environmentalist groups approach California political races. *Ventura County Star* columnist Tim Herdt complained last year that greens were now "hugging a tree too hard" in choosing candidates to back. The League of Conservation Voters, Herdt pointed out, spent \$50,000 in a 2014 primary in an overwhelmingly Democratic district simply to try to elect the candidate with the greenest of green records. Local office seekers in some coastal areas must run a gauntlet of well-funded environmentalists if they want to win. For incumbents, proving nature-friendly credentials becomes an ongoing challenge. "Candidates who filled out the Sierra Club's and [California League of Conservation Voters'] questionnaires this spring faced a minefield of potential litmus tests. They were asked about fracking, climate change, clear-cutting, proposed tunnels to divert Sacramento River water, offshore oil drilling, CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] reform, renewable energy mandates, a ban on plastic bags and more," Herdt observed. Even Jerry Brown doesn't pass muster any more. The Sierra Club refused to endorse anyone in the 2014 governor's race, explaining that it had major differences on issues like fracking with Governor Brown, a onetime environmentalist darling.

California politics is likely to grow greener still. After spending millions across the country in the 2014 election cycle, Steyer plans to bring his environmentalist giving back to the Golden State. He also may be considering a run for office—probably the governorship—in 2018. If so, environmentalism will be the Number One theme of his self-funded campaign. "The fight for justice starts with climate," he recently observed.

If the past is any guide, a Steyer governorship would be exceedingly costly to California businesses. In 2012, he spent \$30 million of his own money on a successful initiative to hike taxes by \$1 billion on out-of-state firms operating in California, with half of the revenues from the tax going to projects that promote conservation and renewable energy. California, burdened by high taxes and labyrinthine regulations, consistently ranks dead last as a place to do business in *Chief Executive's* annual survey of company executives. Environmental policy plays a huge role in the difficulties of operating in the state, especially for blue-collar industries. A 2014 study by Pepperdine University's Michael Shires found

that, thanks in part to the costs of California's global-warming law and other regulations, manufacturers in the state must pay 40 percent above the national average for electricity.

Small wonder that the recent U.S. manufacturing revival has largely bypassed the Golden State. Though the country has added 660,000 industrial jobs over the last half-decade, California has managed to create a meager 8,000 such positions during that period—a 0.6 percent rate of growth. By contrast, Texas has generated 72,000 new industrial jobs. “High energy costs now make it too easy for out-of-state companies to undercut California manufacturers, take away their customers and hurt jobs,” says Dorothy Rothrock, president of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association.

Even green firms are looking elsewhere. Be Green Packaging, a Santa Barbara recycling company, recently built a manufacturing plant in South Carolina; Biocentric Energy Holdings, a Santa Ana energy company, moved to Salt Lake City in 2011; and Bing Energy, a fuel-cell maker, relocated to Florida in 2011. “I just can't imagine any corporation in their right mind would decide to set up in California today,” the company's CFO said. (See [“Cali to Business: Get Out!”](#), Autumn 2011.) And while the revival of tech firms in the last few years has produced lots of high-paid white-collar Silicon Valley jobs, tech companies are sending their industrial and customer-service work to less expensive locales. Intel, the Santa Clara business that Gordon Moore cofounded, built a \$3 billion production facility in Arizona in 2008. Google has built its massive, energy-gobbling server farms outside California, including in cheaper Oregon. San Jose's eBay has been adding work in Austin, Texas, since 2011, part of a plan to expand by 1,000 jobs there. In 2013, after years of manufacturing exclusively overseas, Cupertino-based Apple decided to build a new production facility—in Texas. Apple is also spending \$2 billion to outfit a new data center in Mesa, outside Phoenix.

Having reshaped the Golden State, California's greens are now financing the spread of the environmentalist gospel to other states and to Canada. In 2012, for instance, a group of green funders, powered by California money, helped push on to Michigan's ballot the Michigan Renewable Energy Amendment, known as Proposal 3, the aim of which was to require that at least 25 percent of the state's energy come from renewable sources by 2025. The face of Prop. 3 was a local group, Michigan Energy–Michigan Jobs, with a \$4 million campaign purse, according to state campaign records. But most of that money (\$3.3 million) came from a San Francisco entity, the Green Tech Action Fund, which, in turn, receives most of its funding from its Frisco neighbor, the giant Energy Foundation—which gets much of *its* money from Sea Change, the Hewlett and Packard Foundations, and ClimateWorks. Notwithstanding the huge influx of

outside money, Prop. 3 went down to defeat, earning just 38 percent of the Michigan vote.

Undeterred, California's environmentalist funders have also helped finance initiatives in Colorado to ban fracking and a failed Nebraska effort to stop the Keystone XL pipeline. The Hewlett Foundation, Sea Change, and another Bay Area group, the Tides Foundation, have been behind a decades-long effort to stymie the development of vast oil reserves in Alberta, Canada.

Americans in places like Michigan and Nebraska have yet to embrace the left-environmentalism preached by the green activists—the antigrowth, frequently antihuman notions of deep ecology. But California is different. It may be the first state on the way to embracing deep ecology as public policy—thanks to the power of its green movement, fueled by billions of dollars earned in America's pro-growth free markets.



FINANCE

The World's First Cashless Society Is Here - A Totalitarian's Dream Come True

Nick Giamb Bruno , International Man Communique, November 18, 2015
<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=10h4391lq24kc#64671392>



Central planners around the world are waging a War on Cash. In just the last few years:

- Italy made cash transactions over €1,000 illegal;

- Switzerland proposed banning cash payments in excess of 100,000 francs;
- Russia banned cash transactions over \$10,000;
- Spain banned cash transactions over €2,500;
- Mexico made cash payments of more than 200,000 pesos illegal;
- Uruguay banned cash transactions over \$5,000; and
- France made cash transactions over €1,000 illegal, down from the previous limit of €3,000.

-

The War on Cash is a favorite pet project of the economic central planners. They want to eliminate hand-to-hand currency so that governments can document, control, and tax everything.

This is why they're lowering the threshold for mandatory reporting of cash transactions and, in some instances, simply making it illegal to pay cash.

In the U.S., central planners ratchet up the War on Cash every time the government declares a made-up war on something else...a war on crime, a war on drugs, a war on poverty, a war on terror...

They all end with more government intrusion into your financial affairs.

Thanks to these made-up wars, the U.S. government is imposing an increasing number of regulations on cash transactions. Try withdrawing more than \$10,000 in cash from your bank. They'll treat you like a criminal or terrorist.

The Federal Reserve is at the center of the War on Cash. Its weapons are inflation and control over the currency denominations.

Take the \$100 note, for example. It's the largest bill in circulation today. This was not always the case. At one point, the U.S. had \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, and even \$10,000 notes. But the government eliminated these large notes in 1969 under the pretext of fighting the [War on Some Drugs](#).

Since then, the \$100 note has been the largest. But it has far less purchasing power than it did in 1969. Decades of rampant money printing have inflated the dollar. Today, a \$100 note buys less than a \$20 note did in 1969.

Even though the Federal Reserve has devalued the dollar over 80% since 1969, it still refuses to issue notes larger than \$100. This makes it inconvenient to use cash for large transactions, which forces people to use electronic payment methods.

This, of course, is what the U.S. government wants.

It's exactly like Ron Paul said: "The cashless society is the IRS's dream: total knowledge of, and control over, the finances of every single American."

Policymakers or Central Planners?

On stories related to the War on Cash, you may have noticed that the mainstream media often uses the word "policymakers," as in "policymakers have decided to keep interest rates at record low levels."

When the media uses "policymakers," they are often referring to central bank officials. It's a curious word choice. As far as I can tell, there is no difference between a policymaker and central planner.

Most people who want to live in a free society agree that central planning is not a good idea. So the media uses a different word to put a more neutral spin on things.

To help you think more clearly, I suggest substituting "central planners" every time you see "policymakers."

The World's First Cashless Society

In 1661, Sweden became the first country in Europe to issue paper money. Now it's probably going to be the first in the world to eliminate it.

Sweden has already phased out most cash transactions. According to Credit Suisse, 80% of all purchases in Sweden are electronic and don't involve cash. And that figure is rising.

If the trend continues - and there is nothing to suggest it won't - Sweden could soon be the world's first cashless society.

Sweden's supply of physical currency has dropped over 50% in the last six years. A couple of major Swedish banks no longer carry cash. Virtually all Swedes pay for candy bars and coffee electronically. Even homeless street vendors use mobile card readers.

Plus, an increasing number of government restrictions are encouraging Swedes to dump cash. The pretexts are familiar...fighting terrorism, money laundering, etc. In effect, these restrictions make it inconvenient to use cash, so people don't.

So far, Swedes have passively accepted the government and banks' drive to eliminate cash. The push to destroy their financial privacy doesn't seem to bother them. This is likely because the average Swede places an unreasonable amount of trust in government and financial institutions.

Their trust is certainly misplaced. On top of the obvious privacy concerns, eliminating cash enables the central planners' latest gimmick to goose the economy: Negative interest rates.

Making The Negative Interest Rate Scam Possible

Sweden, Denmark, and Switzerland all have negative interest rates.

Negative interest rates mean the lender literally pays the borrower for the privilege of lending him money. It's a bizarre, upside down concept.

But negative rates are not some European anomaly. The Federal Reserve discussed the possibility of using negative interest rates in the U.S. at its last meeting.

Negative rates could not exist in a free market. They destroy the impetus to save and build capital, which is the basis of prosperity.

When you deposit money in a bank, you are lending money to the bank. However, with negative rates you don't earn interest. Instead, you pay the bank.

If you don't like that plan, you can certainly stash your cash under the mattress. As a practical matter, this limits how far governments and central banks can go with negative interest rates. The more it costs to store money at the bank, the less inclined people are to do it.

Of course, central planners don't want you to withdraw money from the bank. This is a big reason why they want to eliminate cash...so you can't. As long as your money stays in the bank, it's vulnerable to the sting of negative interest rates and also helps to prop up the unsound fractional reserve banking system.

If you can't withdraw your money as cash, you have two choices: You can deal with negative interest rates...or you can spend your money. Ultimately, that's what our Keynesian central planners want. They are using negative interest rates and the War on Cash to force you to spend and "stimulate" the economy.

If you ask me, these radical and insane measures are a sign of desperation.

The War on Cash and negative interest rates are huge threats to your financial security. Central planners are playing with fire and inviting a currency catastrophe.

Most people have no idea what really happens when a currency collapses, let alone how to prepare...



GLOBAL WARMING? CLIMATE CHANGE?

Former President Of Greenpeace Scientifically Rips Climate Change To Shreds

Patrick Moore PhD, Global Warming Policy Foundation, October 15, 2015
<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=772rmoda9svf1>

TN Note: The following is a lecture delivered by Patrick Moore, formerly President of Greenpeace Int'l, to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in London. He is a vocal critic of faulty science that supports climate-change caused by humans. Since he was a legend in the eco-movement, his current assessment is credible and authoritative.

Should We Celebrate Carbon Dioxide?

My Lords and Ladies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for the opportunity to set out my views on climate change. As I have stated publicly on many occasions, there is no definitive scientific proof, through real-world observation, that carbon dioxide is responsible for any of the slight warming of the global climate that has occurred during the past 300 years, since the peak of the Little Ice Age. If there were such a proof through testing and replication it would have been written down for all to see.

The contention that human emissions are now the dominant influence on climate is simply a hypothesis, rather than a universally accepted scientific theory. It is therefore correct, indeed verging on compulsory in the scientific tradition, to be skeptical of those who express certainty that "the science is settled" and "the debate is over".

But there is certainty beyond any doubt that CO₂ is the building block for all life on Earth and that without its presence in the global atmosphere at a sufficient concentration this would be a dead planet. Yet today our children and our publics are taught that CO₂ is a toxic pollutant that will destroy life and bring civilization to its knees. Tonight I hope to turn this dangerous human-caused propaganda on its head. Tonight I will demonstrate that human emissions of CO₂ have already saved life on our planet from a very untimely end. That in the absence of our emitting some of the carbon back into the atmosphere from whence it came in the first place, most or perhaps all life on Earth would begin to die less than two million years from today.

But first a bit of background.

I was born and raised in the tiny floating village of Winter Harbour on the northwest tip of Vancouver Island, in the rainforest by the Pacific. There was no road to my village so for eight years myself and a few other children were taken by boat each day to a one-room schoolhouse in the nearby fishing village. I didn't realize how lucky I was playing on the tide flats by the salmon-spawning streams in the rainforest, until I was sent off to boarding school in Vancouver where I excelled in science. I did my undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia, gravitating to the life sciences – biology, biochemistry, genetics, and forestry – the environment and the industry my family has been in for more than 100 years. Then, before the word was known to the general public, I discovered the science of ecology, the science of how all living things are inter-related, and how we are related to them. At the height of the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the threat of all-out nuclear war and the newly emerging consciousness of the environment I was transformed into a radical environmental activist. While doing my PhD in ecology in 1971 I joined a group of activists who had begun to meet in the basement of the Unitarian Church, to plan a protest voyage against US hydrogen bomb testing in Alaska.

We proved that a somewhat rag-tag looking group of activists could sail an old fishing boat across the north Pacific ocean and help change the course of history. We created a focal point for the media to report on public opposition to the tests.

When that H-bomb exploded in November 1971, it was the last hydrogen bomb the United States ever detonated. Even though there were four more tests planned in the series, President Nixon canceled them due to the public opposition we had helped to create. That was the birth of Greenpeace.

Flushed with victory, on our way home from Alaska we were made brothers of the Namgis Nation in their Big House at Alert Bay near my northern Vancouver Island home. For Greenpeace this began the tradition of the Warriors of the Rainbow, after a Cree Indian legend that predicted the coming together of all races and creeds to save the Earth from destruction. We named our ship the Rainbow Warrior and I spent the next fifteen years in the top committee of Greenpeace, on the front lines of the environmental movement as we evolved from that church basement into the world's largest environmental activist organization.

Next we took on French atmospheric nuclear testing in the South Pacific. They proved a bit more difficult than the US nuclear tests. It took years to eventually drive these tests underground at Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia. In 1985, under direct orders from President Mitterrand, French commandos bombed and

sank the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland Harbour, killing our photographer. Those protests continued until long after I left Greenpeace. It wasn't until the mid-1990s that nuclear testing finally ended in the South Pacific, and in most other parts of the world as well.

Going back to 1975, Greenpeace set out to save the whales from extinction at the hands of huge factory whaling fleets. We confronted the Soviet factory whaling fleet in the North Pacific, putting ourselves in front of their harpoons in our little rubber boats to protect the fleeing whales. This was broadcast on television news around the world, bringing the Save the Whales movement into everyone's living rooms for the first time. After four years of voyages, in 1979 factory whaling was finally banned in the North Pacific, and by 1981 in all the world's oceans.

In 1978 I sat on a baby seal off the East Coast of Canada to protect it from the hunter's club. I was arrested and hauled off to jail, the seal was clubbed and skinned, but a photo of me being arrested while sitting on the baby seal appeared in more than 3000 newspapers around the world the next morning. We won the hearts and minds of millions of people who saw the baby seal slaughter as outdated, cruel, and unnecessary.

Why then did I leave Greenpeace after 15 years in the leadership? When Greenpeace began we had a strong humanitarian orientation, to save civilization from destruction by all-out nuclear war. Over the years the "peace" in Greenpeace was gradually lost and my organization, along with much of the environmental movement, drifted into a belief that humans are the enemies of the earth. I believe in a humanitarian environmentalism because we are part of nature, not separate from it. The first principle of ecology is that we are all part of the same ecosystem, as Barbara Ward put it, "One human family on spaceship Earth", and to preach otherwise teaches that the world would be better off without us. As we shall see later in the presentation there is very good reason to see humans as essential to the survival of life on this planet.

In the mid 1980s I found myself the only director of Greenpeace International with a formal education in science. My fellow directors proposed a campaign to "ban chlorine worldwide", naming it "The Devil's Element". I pointed out that chlorine is one of the elements in the Periodic Table, one of the building blocks of the Universe and the 11th most common element in the Earth's crust. I argued the fact that chlorine is the most important element for public health and medicine. Adding chlorine to drinking water was the biggest advance in the history of public health and the majority of our synthetic medicines are based on chlorine chemistry. This fell on deaf ears, and for me this was the final straw. I had to leave.

When I left Greenpeace I vowed to develop an environmental policy that was based on science and logic rather than sensationalism, misinformation, anti-humanism and fear. In a classic example, a recent protest led by Greenpeace in the Philippines used the skull and crossbones to associate Golden Rice with death, when in fact Golden Rice has the potential to help save 2 million children from death due to vitamin A deficiency every year.

The Keeling curve of CO₂ concentration in the Earth's atmosphere since 1959 is the supposed smoking gun of catastrophic climate change. We presume CO₂ was at 280 ppm at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, before human activity could have caused a significant impact. I accept that most of the rise from 280 to 400 ppm is caused by human CO₂ emissions with the possibility that some of it is due to outgassing from warming of the oceans.

NASA tells us that "Carbon Dioxide Controls Earth's Temperature" in child-like denial of the many other factors involved in climate change. This is reminiscent of NASA's contention that there might be life on Mars. Decades after it was demonstrated that there was no life on Mars, NASA continues to use it as a hook to raise public funding for more expeditions to the Red Planet. The promulgation of fear of Climate Change now serves the same purpose. As Bob Dylan prophetically pointed out, "Money doesn't talk, it swears", even in one of the most admired science organizations in the world.

On the political front the leaders of the G7 plan to "end extreme poverty and hunger" by phasing out 85% of the world's energy supply including 98% of the energy used to transport people and goods, including food. The Emperors of the world appear clothed in the photo taken at the close of the meeting but it was obviously Photo-shopped. They should be required to stand naked for making such a foolish statement.

The world's top climate body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change, is hopelessly conflicted by its makeup and its mandate. The Panel is composed solely of the World Meteorological Organization, weather forecasters, and the United Nations Environment Program, environmentalists. Both these organizations are focused primarily on short-term timescales, days to maybe a century or two. But the most significant conflict is with the Panel's mandate from the United Nations. They are required only to focus on "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability." So if the IPCC found that climate change was not being affected by human alteration

of the atmosphere or that it is not “dangerous” there would be no need for them to exist. They are virtually mandated to find on the side of apocalypse.

Scientific certainty, political pandering, a hopelessly conflicted IPCC, and now the Pope, spiritual leader of the Catholic Church, in a bold move to reinforce the concept of original sin, says the Earth looks like “an immense pile of filth” and we must go back to pre-industrial bliss, or is that squalor?

And then there is the actual immense pile of filth fed to us more than three times daily by the green-media nexus, a seething cauldron of imminent doom, like we are already condemned to Damnation in Hell and there is little chance of Redemption. I fear for the end of the Enlightenment. I fear an intellectual Gulag with Greenpeace as my prison guards.

Let's begin with our knowledge of the long-term history of the Earth's temperature and of CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere. Our best inference from various proxies back indicate that CO₂ was higher for the first 4 billion years of Earth's history than it has been since the Cambrian Period until today. I will focus on the past 540 million years since modern life forms evolved. It is glaringly obvious that temperature and CO₂ are in an inverse correlation at least as often as they are in any semblance of correlation. Two clear examples of reverse correlation occurred 150 million years and 50 million years ago. At the end of the Jurassic temperature fell dramatically while CO₂ spiked. During the Eocene Thermal Maximum, temperature was likely higher than any time in the past 550 million years while CO₂ had been on a downward track for 100 million years. This evidence alone sufficient to warrant deep speculation of any claimed lock-step causal relationship between CO₂ and temperature.

The Devonian Period beginning 400 million years ago marked the culmination of the invasion of life onto the land. Plants evolved to produce lignin, which in combination with cellulose, created wood which in turn for the first time allowed plants to grow tall, in competition with each other for sunlight. As vast forests spread across the land living biomass increased by orders of magnitude, pulling down carbon as CO₂ from the atmosphere to make wood. Lignin is very difficult to break down and no decomposer species possessed the enzymes to digest it. Trees died atop one another until they were 100 metres or more in depth. This was the making of the great coal beds around the world as this huge store of sequestered carbon continued to build for 90 million years. Then, fortunately for the future of life, white rot fungi evolved to produce the enzymes that can digest lignin and coincident with that the coal-making era came to an end.

There was no guarantee that fungi or any other decomposer species would develop the complex of enzymes required to digest lignin. If they had not, CO₂,

which had already been drawn down for the first time in Earth's history to levels similar to today's, would have continued to decline as trees continued to grow and die. That is until CO₂ approached the threshold of 150 ppm below which plants begin first to starve, then stop growing altogether, and then die. Not just woody plants but all plants. This would bring about the extinction of most, if not all, terrestrial species, as animals, insects, and other invertebrates starved for lack of food. And that would be that. The human species would never have existed. This was only the first time that there was a distinct possibility that life would come close to extinguishing itself, due to a shortage of CO₂, which is essential for life on Earth.

A well-documented record of global temperature over the past 65 million years shows that we have been in a major cooling period since the Eocene Thermal Maximum 50 million years ago. The Earth was an average 16°C warmer then, with most of the increased warmth at the higher latitudes. The entire planet, including the Arctic and Antarctica were ice-free and the land there was covered in forest. The ancestors of every species on Earth today survived through what may have been the warmest time in the history of life. It makes one wonder about dire predictions that even a 2°C rise in temperature from pre-industrial times would cause mass extinctions and the destruction of civilization. Glaciers began to form in Antarctica 30 million years ago and in the northern hemisphere 3 million years ago. Today, even in this interglacial period of the Pleistocene Ice Age, we are experiencing one of the coldest climates in the Earth's history.

Coming closer to the present we have learned from Antarctic ice cores that for the past 800,000 years there have been regular periods of major glaciation followed by interglacial periods in 100,000 year-cycles. These cycles coincide with the Milankovitch cycles that are tied to the eccentricity of the Earth's orbit and its axial tilt. It is highly plausible that these cycles are related to solar intensity and the seasonal distribution of solar heat on the Earth's surface. There is a strong correlation between temperature and the level of atmospheric CO₂ during these successive glaciations, indicating a possible cause-effect relationship between the two. CO₂ lags temperature by an average of 800 years during the most recent 400,000-year period, indicating that temperature is the cause, as the cause never comes after the effect.

Looking at the past 50,000 years of temperature and CO₂ we can see that changes in CO₂ follow changes in temperature. This is as one could expect, as the Milankovitch cycles are far more likely to cause a change in temperature than a change in CO₂. And a change in the temperature is far more likely to cause a change in CO₂ due to outgassing of CO₂ from the oceans during warmer times and an ingassing (absorption) of CO₂ during colder periods. Yet

climate alarmists persist in insisting that CO₂ is causing the change in temperature, despite the illogical nature of that assertion.

It is sobering to consider the magnitude of climate change during the past 20,000 years, since the peak of the last major glaciation. At that time there were 3.3 kilometres of ice on top of what is today the city of Montreal, a city of more than 3 million people. 95% of Canada was covered in a sheet of ice. Even as far south as Chicago there was nearly a kilometre of ice. If the Milankovitch cycle continues to prevail, and there is little reason aside from our CO₂ emissions to think otherwise, this will happen gradually again during the next 80,000 years. Will our CO₂ emissions stave off another glaciation as James Lovelock has suggested? There doesn't seem to be much hope of that so far, as despite 1/3 of all our CO₂ emissions being released during the past 18 years the UK Met Office contends there has been no statistically significant warming during this century.

At the height of the last glaciation the sea level was about 120 metres lower than it is today. By 7,000 years ago all the low-altitude, mid-latitude glaciers had melted. There is no consensus about the variation in sea level since then although many scientists have concluded that the sea level was higher than today during the Holocene Thermal optimum from 9,000 to 5,000 years ago when the Sahara was green. The sea level may also have been higher than today during the Medieval Warm Period.

Hundred of islands near the Equator in Papua, Indonesia, have been undercut by the sea in a manner that gives credence to the hypothesis that there has been little net change in sea level in the past thousands of years. It takes a long time for so much erosion to occur from gentle wave action in a tropical sea.

Coming back to the relationship between temperature and CO₂ in the modern era we can see that temperature has risen at a steady slow rate in Central England since 1700 while human CO₂ emissions were not relevant until 1850 and then began an exponential rise after 1950. This is not indicative of a direct causal relationship between the two. After freezing over regularly during the Little Ice Age the River Thames froze for the last time in 1814, as the Earth moved into what might be called the Modern Warm Period.

The IPCC states it is "extremely likely" that human emissions have been the dominant cause of global warming "since the mid-20th century", that is since 1950. They claim that "extremely" means 95% certain, even though the number 95 was simply plucked from the air like an act of magic. And "likely" is not a scientific word but rather indicative of a judgment, another word for an opinion.

There was a 30-year period of warming from 1910-1940, then a cooling from 1940 to 1970, just as CO₂ emissions began to rise exponentially, and then a 30-year warming from 1970-2000 that was very similar in duration and temperature rise to the rise from 1910-1940. One may then ask “what caused the increase in temperature from 1910-1940 if it was not human emissions? And if it was natural factors how do we know that the same natural factors were not responsible for the rise between 1970-2000.” You don’t need to go back millions of years to find the logical fallacy in the IPCC’s certainty that we are the villains in the piece.

Water is by far the most important greenhouse gas, and is the only molecule that is present in the atmosphere in all three states, gas, liquid, and solid. As a gas, water vapour is a greenhouse gas, but as a liquid and solid it is not. As a liquid water forms clouds, which send solar radiation back into space during the day and hold heat in at night. There is no possibility that computer models can predict the net effect of atmospheric water in a higher CO₂ atmosphere. Yet warmists postulate that higher CO₂ will result in positive feedback from water, thus magnifying the effect of CO₂ alone by 2-3 times. Other scientists believe that water may have a neutral or negative feedback on CO₂. The observational evidence from the early years of this century tends to reinforce the latter hypothesis.

How many politicians or members of the media or the public are aware of this statement about climate change from the IPCC in 2007?

“we should recognise that we are dealing with a coupled nonlinear chaotic system, and therefore that the long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible.”

There is a graph showing that the climate models have grossly exaggerated the rate of warming that confirms the IPCC statement. The only trends the computer models seem able to predict accurately are ones that have already occurred.

Coming to the core of my presentation, CO₂ is the currency of life and the most important building block for all life on Earth. All life is carbon-based, including our own. Surely the carbon cycle and its central role in the creation of life should be taught to our children rather than the demonization of CO₂, that “carbon” is a “pollutant” that threatens the continuation of life. We know for a fact that CO₂ is essential for life and that it must be at a certain level in the atmosphere for the survival of plants, which are the primary food for all the other species alive today. Should we not encourage our citizens, students, teachers, politicians, scientists, and other leaders to celebrate CO₂ as the giver of life that it is?

It is a proven fact that plants, including trees and all our food crops, are capable of growing much faster at higher levels of CO₂ than present in the atmosphere today. Even at the today's concentration of 400 ppm plants are relatively starved for nutrition. The optimum level of CO₂ for plant growth is about 5 times higher, 2000 ppm, yet the alarmists warn it is already too high. They must be challenged every day by every person who knows the truth in this matter. CO₂ is the giver of life and we should celebrate CO₂ rather than denigrate it as is the fashion today.

We are witnessing the "Greening of the Earth" as higher levels of CO₂, due to human emissions from the use of fossil fuels, promote increased growth of plants around the world. This has been confirmed by scientists with CSIRO in Australia, in Germany, and in North America. Only half of the CO₂ we are emitting from the use of fossil fuels is showing up in the atmosphere. The balance is going somewhere else and the best science says most of it is going into an increase in global plant biomass. And what could be wrong with that, as forests and agricultural crops become more productive?

All the CO₂ in the atmosphere has been created by outgassing from the Earth's core during massive volcanic eruptions. This was much more prevalent in the early history of the Earth when the core was hotter than it is today. During the past 150 million years there has not been enough addition of CO₂ to the atmosphere to offset the gradual losses due to burial in sediments.

Let's look at where all the carbon is in the world, and how it is moving around.

Today, at just over 400 ppm, there are 850 billion tons of carbon as CO₂ in the atmosphere. By comparison, when modern life-forms evolved over 500 million years ago there was nearly 15,000 billion tons of carbon in the atmosphere, 17 times today's level. Plants and soils combined contain more than 2,000 billion tons of carbon, more that twice as much as the entire global atmosphere. The oceans contain 38,000 billion tons of carbon, as dissolved CO₂, 45 times as much as in the atmosphere. Fossil fuels, which are made from plants that pulled CO₂ from the atmosphere account for 5,000 – 10,000 billion tons of carbon, 6 – 12 times as much carbon as is in the atmosphere.

But the truly stunning number is the amount of carbon that has been sequestered from the atmosphere and turned into carbonaceous rocks. 100,000,000 billion tons, that's one quadrillion tons of carbon, have been turned into stone by marine species that learned to make armour-plating for themselves by combining calcium and carbon into calcium carbonate. Limestone, chalk, and marble are all of life origin and amount to 99.9% of all the carbon ever present in the global atmosphere. The white cliffs of Dover are

made of the calcium carbonate skeletons of coccolithophores, tiny marine phytoplankton.

The vast majority of the carbon dioxide that originated in the atmosphere has been sequestered and stored quite permanently in carbonaceous rocks where it cannot be used as food by plants.

Beginning 540 million years ago at the beginning of the Cambrian Period many marine species of invertebrates evolved the ability to control calcification and to build armour plating to protect their soft bodies. Shellfish such as clams and snails, corals, coccolithofores (phytoplankton) and foraminifera (zooplankton) began to combine carbon dioxide with calcium and thus to remove carbon from the life cycle as the shells sank into sediments; 100,000,000 billion tons of carbonaceous sediment. It is ironic that life itself, by devising a protective suit of armour, determined its own eventual demise by continuously removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. This is carbon sequestration and storage writ large. These are the carbonaceous sediments that form the shale deposits from which we are fracking gas and oil today. And I add my support to those who say, "OK UK, get fracking".

The past 150 million years has seen a steady drawing down of CO₂ from the atmosphere. There are many components to this but what matters is the net effect, a removal on average of 37,000 tons of carbon from the atmosphere every year for 150 million years. The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere was reduced by about 90% during this period. This means that volcanic emissions of CO₂ have been outweighed by the loss of carbon to calcium carbonate sediments on a multi-million year basis.

If this trend continues CO₂ will inevitably fall to levels that threaten the survival of plants, which require a minimum of 150 ppm to survive. If plants die all the animals, insects, and other invertebrates that depend on plants for their survival will also die.

How long will it be at the present level of CO₂ depletion until most or all of life on Earth is threatened with extinction by lack of CO₂ in the atmosphere?

During this Pleistocene Ice Age, CO₂ tends to reach a minimum level when the successive glaciations reach their peak. During the last glaciation, which peaked 18,000 years ago, CO₂ bottomed out at 180 ppm, extremely likely the lowest level CO₂ has been in the history of the Earth. This is only 30 ppm above the level that plants begin to die. Paleontological research has demonstrated that even at 180 ppm there was a severe restriction of growth as plants began to starve. With the onset of the warmer interglacial period CO₂ rebounded to

280 ppm. But even today, with human emissions causing CO₂ to reach 400 ppm plants are still restricted in their growth rate, which would be much higher if CO₂ were at 1000-2000 ppm.

Here is the shocking news. If humans had not begun to unlock some of the carbon stored as fossil fuels, all of which had been in the atmosphere as CO₂ before sequestration by plants and animals, life on Earth would have soon been starved of this essential nutrient and would begin to die. Given the present trends of glaciations and interglacial periods this would likely have occurred less than 2 million years from today, a blink in nature's eye, 0.05% of the 3.5 billion-year history of life.

No other species could have accomplished the task of putting some of the carbon back into the atmosphere that was taken out and locked in the Earth's crust by plants and animals over the millennia. This is why I honour James Lovelock in my lecture this evening. Jim was for many years of the belief that humans are the one-and-only rogue species on Gaia, destined to cause catastrophic global warming. I enjoy the Gaia hypothesis but I am not religious about it and for me this was too much like original sin. It was as if humans were the only evil species on the Earth.

But James Lovelock has seen the light and realized that humans may be part of Gaia's plan, and he has good reason to do so. And I honour him because it takes courage to change your mind after investing so much of your reputation on the opposite opinion. Rather than seeing humans as the enemies of Gaia, Lovelock now sees that we may be working with Gaia to "stave off another ice age", or major glaciation. This is much more plausible than the climate doom-and-gloom scenario because our release of CO₂ back into the atmosphere has definitely reversed the steady downward slide of this essential food for life, and hopefully may reduce the chance that the climate will slide into another period of major glaciation. We can be certain that higher levels of CO₂ will result in increased plant growth and biomass. We really don't know whether or not higher levels of CO₂ will prevent or reduce the eventual slide into another major glaciation. Personally I am not hopeful for this because the long-term history just doesn't support a strong correlation between CO₂ and temperature.

It does boggle the mind in the face of our knowledge that the level of CO₂ has been steadily falling that human CO₂ emissions are not universally acclaimed as a miracle of salvation. From direct observation we already know that the extreme predictions of CO₂'s impact on global temperature are highly unlikely given that about one-third of all our CO₂ emissions have been discharged during the past 18 years and there has been no statistically significant warming.

And even if there were some additional warming that would surely be preferable to the extermination of all or most species on the planet.

You heard it here. "Human emissions of carbon dioxide have saved life on Earth from inevitable starvation and extinction due to lack of CO₂". To use the analogy of the Atomic Clock, if the Earth were 24 hours old we were at 38 seconds to midnight when we reversed the trend towards the End Times. If that isn't good news I don't know what is. You don't get to stave off Armageddon every day.

I issue a challenge to anyone to provide a compelling argument that counters my analysis of the historical record and the prediction of CO₂ starvation based on the 150 million year trend. Ad hominem arguments about "deniers" need not apply. I submit that much of society has been collectively misled into believing that global CO₂ and temperature are too high when the opposite is true for both. Does anyone deny that below 150 ppm CO₂ that plants will die? Does anyone deny that the Earth has been in a 50 million-year cooling period and that this Pleistocene Ice Age is one of the coldest periods in the history of the planet?

If we assume human emissions have to date added some 200 billion tons of CO₂ to the atmosphere, even if we ceased using fossil fuels today we have already bought another 5 million years for life on earth. But we will not stop using fossil fuels to power our civilization so it is likely that we can forestall plant starvation for lack of CO₂ by at least 65 million years. Even when the fossil fuels have become scarce we have the quadrillion tons of carbon in carbonaceous rocks, which we can transform into lime and CO₂ for the manufacture of cement. And we already know how to do that with solar energy or nuclear energy. This alone, regardless of fossil fuel consumption, will more than offset the loss of CO₂ due to calcium carbonate burial in marine sediments. Without a doubt the human species has made it possible to prolong the survival of life on Earth for more than 100 million years. We are not the enemy of nature but its salvation.

As a postscript I would like to make a few comments about the other side of the alleged dangerous climate change coin, our energy policy, in particular the much maligned fossil fuels; coal, oil, and natural gas.

Depending how it's tallied, fossil fuels account for between 85-88% of global energy consumption and more than 95% of energy for the transport of people and goods, including our food.

Earlier this year the leaders of the G7 countries agreed that fossil fuels should be phased out by 2100, a most bizarre development to say the least. Of course no

intelligent person really believes this will happen but it is a testament to the power of the elites that have converged around the catastrophic human-caused climate change that so many alleged world leaders must participate in the charade. How might we convince them to celebrate CO2 rather than to denigrate it?

A lot of nasty things are said about fossil fuels even though they are largely responsible for our longevity, our prosperity, and our comfortable lifestyles.

Hydrocarbons, the energy components of fossil fuels, are 100% organic, as in organic chemistry. They were produced by solar energy in ancient seas and forests. When they are burned for energy the main products are water and CO2, the two most essential foods for life. And fossil fuels are by far the largest storage battery of direct solar energy on Earth. Nothing else comes close except nuclear fuel, which is also solar in the sense that it was produced in dying stars.

Today, Greenpeace protests Russian and American oil rigs with 3000 HP diesel-powered ships and uses 200 HP outboard motors to board the rigs and hang anti-oil plastic banners made with fossil fuels. Then they issue a media release telling us we must "end our addiction to oil". I wouldn't mind so much if Greenpeace rode bicycles to their sailing ships and rowed their little boats into the rigs to hang organic cotton banners. We didn't have an H-bomb on board the boat that sailed on the first Greenpeace campaign against nuclear testing.

Some of the world's oil comes from my native country in the Canadian oil sands of northern Alberta. I had never worked with fossil fuel interests until I became incensed with the lies being spread about my country's oil production in the capitals of our allies around the world. I visited the oil sands operations to find out for myself what was happening there.

It is true it's not a pretty sight when the land is stripped bare to get at the sand so the oil can be removed from it. Canada is actually cleaning up the biggest natural oil spill in history, and making a profit from it. The oil was brought to the surface when the Rocky Mountains were thrust up by the colliding Pacific Plate. When the sand is returned back to the land 99% of the so-called "toxic oil" has been removed from it.

Anti-oil activists say the oil-sands operations are destroying the boreal forest of Canada. Canada's boreal forest accounts for 10% of all the world's forests and the oil-sands area is like a pimple on an elephant by comparison. By law, every square inch of land disturbed by oil-sands extraction must be returned to native boreal forest. When will cities like London, Brussels, and New York that have laid waste to the natural environment be returned to their native ecosystems?

The art and science of ecological restoration, or reclamation as it is called in the mining industry, is a well-established practice. The land is re-contoured, the original soil is put back, and native species of plants and trees are established. It is possible, by creating depressions where the land was flat, to increase biodiversity by making ponds and lakes where wetland plants, insects, and waterfowl can become established in the reclaimed landscape.

The tailings ponds where the cleaned sand is returned look ugly for a few years but are eventually reclaimed into grasslands. The Fort McKay First Nation is under contract to manage a herd of bison on a reclaimed tailings pond. Every tailings pond will be reclaimed in a similar manner when operations have been completed.

As an ecologist and environmentalist for more than 45 years this is good enough for me. The land is disturbed for a blink of an eye in geological time and is then returned to a sustainable boreal forest ecosystem with cleaner sand. And as a bonus we get the fuel to power our weed-eaters, scooters, motorcycles, cars, trucks, buses, trains, and aircraft.

To conclude, carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is the stuff of life, the staff of life, the currency of life, indeed the backbone of life on Earth.

I am honoured to have been chosen to deliver your annual lecture.

Thank you for listening to me this evening.

I hope you have seen CO2 from a new perspective and will join with me to Celebrate CO2!

[Read the full speech here...](#)

<http://www.thegwpf.org/patrick-moore-should-we-celebrate-carbon-dioxide/>



The Insiders: Inconvenient numbers for the global warming crowd

By [Ed Rogers](#), The Washington Post, November 4, 2015

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2015/11/04/the-insiders-inconvenient-numbers-for-the-global-warming-crowd/>

Some important numbers that will affect the global warming debate came out in the media this week and they are worth reviewing. First — and most incredibly — [the New York Times revealed](#) that the amount of coal China burns has been underreported by about 1 billion tons a year, and has been underreported for the last 15 years. The Times states, “Even for a country of China’s size, the scale of the correction is immense ... [and] the increase alone is greater than the whole German economy emits annually from fossil fuels.” Oops! This revelation obviously raises questions about the overall accuracy and dependability of the sea of numbers that drive the policy decisions advocated by President Obama, Hillary Clinton and the Democrats. If the climate change activists were off by 1 billion tons of emissions just from coal use from one country and that’s data they used to contrive the models that “prove” the “settled science” of man-made global warming, what else are they wrong about? And what makes us think these numbers are accurate now?

And oh, by the way, I find it curious how liberals always seem to do things in increments of 1 billion: a billion tons missed here and there, a billion dollars for this and that. It doesn’t inspire a lot of confidence that there is an actual equation supporting their numbers.

Anyway, a second piece this week, “[The Next Climate Scandal](#)” from Holman W. Jenkins Jr. in the Wall Street Journal, reminds us of how easy it is to manipulate the global temperature numbers. Jenkins writes, “By the count of researcher Marcia Wyatt in a widely circulated presentation, the U.S. government’s published temperature data for the years 1880-2010 has been tinkered with sixteen times in the past three years.” This is politics at its worst: With 16 recounts, you can rig any outcome. Jenkins also highlights Rep/ Lamar Smith’s (R-Tex.) quest to determine how and why U.S. government employees at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) took a second look at global warming data and subsequently determined there had been no cessation in global warming for the last 15 years, “eliminat[ing] the ‘pause’ in global warming seen in most temperature studies.” Remarkable. And even more remarkably — although I suppose not that surprising, since it fits nicely with the Democrats’ governing style these days — is how government agencies are hiding from congressional oversight. Specifically, they’re refusing to comply with lawfully issued subpoenas. NOAA spokeswoman Ciaran Clayton, a federal

government employee, actually [said](#) they did not need to comply because, “We have provided all of the information the Committee needs to understand this issue.” That sums up the Obama administration’s condescending view of legal compliance when it comes to its pet causes. Of course if you or I had that attitude about subpoenas, we would be in prison. Period.

And while we are at it and as the COP21 conference in Paris approaches, let’s keep in mind some other numbers. According to [NOAA data](#), the amount of total CO2 in Earth’s atmosphere is approximately three one-hundredths of 1 percent, or .0003 of the total atmosphere. And the man-made contribution to that total amount of CO2 is only .0004 of that number — bear with me; yes, they will be talking about only four one-hundredths of that three one-hundredths of a percent in Paris. Never has so much been spent on so little. And the Democrats are just getting started. What are we willing to sacrifice in terms of economy and the human quality of life to make a tiny fraction of a small number slightly smaller? Given what we know so far, it is fair to ask if it is possible to make an impact, or if it is even measurable.

The numbers associated with the global warming crusade aren’t settled, but the Democrats’ conclusions about global warming are settled. Bottom line: They want to dictate your lifestyle. They don’t really care what the numbers are or what inconvenient truths keep turning up.

This week’s news compels us to ask how, if the data is so suspect, the science can be so “settled.” The more we know, the more we realize how little we know. Republicans should not be shy about speaking up and keeping the liberals honest.

Ed Rogers is a contributor to the PostPartisan blog, a political consultant and a veteran of the White House and several national campaigns. He is the chairman of the lobbying and communications firm BGR Group, which he founded with former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour in 1991.



"The Real Agenda of the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference"

from "In Defense of Rural America"

By Ron Ewart, President

National Association of Rural Landowners (www.narlr.org)

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<http://www.newswithviews.com/Ewart/ron224.htm>*

Once again, world leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists and socialists will be gathering in Paris, France, between November 30 and December 11, 2015, to discuss obtaining a world agreement on the reduction of green house gases in what is called a "Conference of the Parties", or COP21. Their goal is to limit global temperature increases to less than 2 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels.

The basic premise is that the increase in carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere is causing global warming and man is emitting more CO₂ into the atmosphere than would be there naturally, therefore man is guilty and must be punished by severely limiting the very energy that has catapulted man out of the dark ages. This false premise is being acted upon in spite of the overwhelming evidence that CO₂ levels have risen over the last 17 years, but world temperatures have remained flat. So the nexus between rising CO₂ levels and a corresponding rise in world temperatures is a ghost that isn't there.

The cost for this conference has been budgeted at just under \$200,000,000, or around 170,000,000 Euros. The American taxpayer is going to pick up a bunch of this cost. But rest assured in this "Conference of the Parties", you aren't one of the privileged parties and you won't be represented there.

What the conference won't tell you is the **Trillions of Dollars** the CO₂ emission limits and the Cap and Trade Ponzi Scheme will cost the people of the planet, but more importantly the giant hit that Americans will feel in their wallets and their jobs for a mirage created out of thin air by radical environmentalists to subjugate the people's of the world.

Since the Kyoto Protocol 1997 (COP3), world governments have been trying desperately to convince the world populations that man-caused global warming is one of the greatest threats to mankind (*a bold faced lie*) and if world governments don't come to an agreement to address this threat and then act on the proposed solutions, we are all doomed to drowning, starvation and the deaths of large portions of the world population, mostly in poorer nations.

Even the current Pope has added his two cents worth of opinion to this global warming debate and warned world leaders that they must act now. What the Hell does the Pope know about the made-as-instructed pseudo science of man-caused global warming? Notice that we don't use "Climate Change." Those two words are a fraud and were ginned up to dupe the masses.

Let's forget for a moment that the science of global warming and CO2 forcing are totally unsettled and in fact recent studies have shown that CO2 is not the great global warming agent the IPCC and other climate scientists say it is. Instead, let's look at the real objectives (*agenda*) of world governments and environmentalists to force world populations (*mostly Americans*) to endure and suffer the real hardships that limits to CO2 emissions and Cap and Trade will bring.

To see a window into those objectives and the real agenda of the Paris Conference and the **FRAUD** that is "Climate Change", all we need do is read the public statements that noted environmentalists, socialists and politicians have made about bringing CO2 emission limits and Cap and Trade to all the world's peoples, but mostly to the citizens of the United States since America is truly the great Satan in the eyes of environmentalists and socialists. Iran does not hold the singular mindset on that score.

Here are some samples of those public statements that paint an entirely different picture that world governments are telling us through their propaganda and global-warming fear mongering:

"We need to get some broad based support, to capture the public's imagination... So we have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements and make little mention of any doubts... Each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective and being honest." - Stephen Schneider, Stanford Professor of Climatology, lead author of many IPCC reports

"Unless we announce disasters no one will listen." Sir John Houghton, first chairman of IPCC"

"It doesn't matter what is true; it only matters what people believe is true." - Paul Watson, co-founder of Greenpeace (**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Hitler strongly believed in this axiom and used it to great effect.)

"We've got to ride this global warming issue. Even if the theory of global warming is wrong, we will be doing the right thing in terms of economic and environmental policy."

- Timothy Wirth, President of the UN Foundation

"No matter if the science of global warming is all phony, climate change provides the greatest opportunity to bring about justice and equality in the world." -Christine Stewart, Former Canadian Minister of the Environment

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This IS the real mission of Climate Change and limiting CO2 emissions.)

"Isn't the only hope for the planet that the industrialized civilizations collapse? Isn't it our responsibility to bring that about?" Maurice Strong, founder of the UN Environment Programme

"A massive campaign must be launched to de-develop the United States. De-development means bringing our economic system into line with the realities of ecology and the world resource situation." Paul Ehrlich, Professor of Population Studies

"The only hope for the world is to make sure there is not another United States. We can't let other countries have the same number of cars, the amount of industrialization, we have in the US." - Michael Oppenheimer, Environmental Defense Fund

"Global Sustainability requires the deliberate quest of poverty, reduced resource consumption and set levels of mortality control." - Professor Maurice King

"We must make this an insecure and inhospitable place for capitalists and their projects. We must reclaim the roads and plowed land, halt dam construction, tear down existing dams, free shackled rivers and return to wilderness millions of acres of presently settled land." - David Foreman, co-founder of Earth First!

"My three main goals would be to reduce human population to about 100 million worldwide, destroy the industrial infrastructure and see wilderness, with it's full complement of species, returning throughout the world." -Dave Foreman, co-founder of Earth First!

"A reasonable estimate for an industrialized world society at the present North American material standard of living would be 1 billion. At the more

frugal European standard of living, 2 to 3 billion would be possible." -
United Nations, Global Biodiversity Assessment

"Current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, air-conditioning, and suburban housing – are not sustainable." - *Maurice Strong, Rio Earth Summit*

"Childbearing should be a punishable crime against society, unless the parents hold a government license. All potential parents should be required to use contraceptive chemicals, the government issuing antidotes to citizens chosen for childbearing." - *David Brower, first Executive Director of the Sierra Club*

"Individual rights will have to take a back seat to the collective." *Harvey Ruvlin, Vice Chairman, ICLEI,*

NOW DO YOU GET IT? What we have portrayed here in this collection of public statements by mostly environmentalists is the collective mindset of the environmental and socialist crowds and climate scientists, all across the planet. They have convinced world government's, including the U. S. and especially President Obama, that the threat is so real and so imminent that action must be taken now or irreversible consequences will envelope the globe, all the while discounting the fact that man-caused global warming is unsettled science and that back in the 1970's (40 years ago) these same scientists, environmentalists, socialists and world governments were warning us of the dire consequences of **"man-caused global cooling."** Why should we believe them now?

(see: <https://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/1970s-ice-age-scare/>)

But limiting CO2 emissions, get-rich Cap and Trade schemes and alternative energy sources are not about saving the planet from man-caused global warming. It is all about social and environmental justice, a United Nations and now an American government policy. These Climate Change initiatives are all about radically controlling the populations of planet earth under a world government, to save the planet from the scourge, nay the virus, of mankind and to bring America to the level of a third-world nation.

The real scam is that Americans will be required to bear the brunt of CO2 emission limits while China produces twice the amount of CO2 that America produces and gets off scot-free.

In just 22 years, China has increased its CO2 emissions by 4 times. In contrast, America has reduced its emissions in that same period of time, but Americans must suffer more, because we are so rich, decadent and glutinous.

(Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference)

China has no intentions of stopping the rapid rise in its economy that has led it to become the second largest economy in the world, mostly fueled by the energy of coal and oil and the American consumer.

It has been reported that China builds one new coal-fired power plant every week. America is sending its vast resources of coal to China to fuel those power plants. So America is aiding and abetting China's CO2 and pollutant emissions while shooting itself in the foot with CO2 emission limits.

What makes anyone think that China, the largest producer of CO2 and pollutants on the planet, will roll back what they have accomplished in a few decades and return their people to abject poverty?

But then who cares ladies and gentlemen? The die is cast and Americans will get CO2 emission limits and Cap and Trade whether they like it or not and that will make Al Gore and others in the Cap and Trade business, infinitely wealthy. We got Obama Care in spite of overwhelming objections and not a single Republican vote. The Globalists, moneychangers and the Democrats now control our air, water, land, money, energy, transportation, marriage, reproduction and health care. What's left for them to control? Nothing, except maybe a license to have children!

Many states, including Washington, Oregon and California, have already implemented strict CO2 emission limits. It doesn't make any difference that it is all a scam and a lie to implement global government. If Americans have to pay a little more or lose jobs, so what? After all, we are guilty, aren't we? Life is good in America. What's all the fuss anyway? We can afford it. We're rich.

What's all the fuss? We'll tell you what's all the fuss! The fraud of man-caused global warming is just another nail in the coffin of America's demise as a free and sovereign nation, along with the Trans-Pacific Partnership, NAFTA, CAFTA and all the other so-called free trade agreements that give American workers the shaft while exploiting cheap international labor on the path to one-world-order.

The U.S., the study explains, is "particularly vulnerable to effects that will spillover from other regions of the world" because it is the world's largest economy and a military superpower with widespread trade deals and investments across the globe.

Those gains were calculated by examining the "social cost of carbon," or SCC, which the study's authors say includes "lost agricultural and labor productivity, trade and energy supply disruptions, negative public health consequences, ocean acidification, extreme weather events, flooding, wildfires, increased pests and pathogens, water shortages, migration, regional conflicts, and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, among others."

Without significant action from other countries, the U.S. could suffer from disruption to global financial markets, such as higher prices on goods when nations we import from experience climate change-linked disasters, or lower demand for U.S. goods when climate-affected countries can no longer afford them.

Climate-related disaster in nearby countries could also trigger an expensive mass migration to the U.S., the researchers note. For example, a 10 percent decline in Mexico's crop yields could spark 2 percent of its entire population to emigrate to other regions, largely to the U.S. Such mass emigrations, the researchers warn, could also bring infectious disease.

Additionally, climate change will be costly to U.S. national security, the authors write. Military operations abroad are threatened by natural disaster and the U.S. will be expected to respond to climate-driven humanitarian crises.

"Should the United States fail to mitigate its emissions, it is our country that risks looking like a free-rider and undermining an international climate agreement," the researchers conclude. "With recent, ambitious pledges from China and India, trillions of dollars in direct benefits to the United States from foreign efforts are on the line at the U.N. meeting in December 2015. ... With our economy, public health, environment, and national security at stake, the United States simply cannot afford not to act."



Human Engineering and Climate Change

Forthcoming as a Target Article in Ethics, Policy and the Environment
© S. MATTHEW LIAO (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), ANDERS SANDBERG (OXFORD),
and REBECCA ROACHE (OXFORD)
February 2, 2012

Abstract

Anthropogenic climate change is arguably one of the biggest problems that confront us today. There is ample evidence that climate change is likely to affect adversely many aspects of life for all people around the world, and that existing solutions such as geoengineering might be too risky and ordinary behavioural and market solutions might not be sufficient to mitigate climate change. In this paper, we consider a new kind of solution to climate change, what we call human engineering, which involves biomedical modifications of humans so that they can mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. We argue that human engineering is potentially less risky than geoengineering and that it could help behavioural and market solutions succeed in mitigating climate change. We also consider some possible ethical concerns regarding human engineering such as its safety, the implications of human engineering for our children and for the society, and we argue that these concerns can be addressed. Our upshot is that human engineering deserves further consideration in the debate about climate change.

The entire 29-page article can be read at the following address:

http://www.veritasresearchconsulting.com/climate/Human_Engineering_and_Climate_Change.pdf



It's Official – Biggest Nino Ever – Killer La Nina to Follow

[Bruce Krasting](#), November 17, 2015

<http://brucekrasting.com/official-biggest-nino-ever-killer-la-nina-follow/>

This morning NOAA released its data for the Pacific Ocean temperatures for the week of November 9th. We hit a record – the current El Nino is the strongest in recorded history.

Before 2015 the largest recorded weekly reading of El Nino occurred during the week of November 26 in 1997. We passed that milestone last week. The data from 1997 – The El Nino index set a record of 2.8: [\(Link to data\)](#)

NOAA's El Niño Portal

Weekly SST data starts week centered on 3Jan1990

Week	Nino34 SSTA
19NOV1997	2.7
<u>26NOV1997</u>	<u>2.8</u>
03DEC1997	2.6

As of last week the Pacific Ocean in region 3.4 (where El Nino is measured) hit a new record of 3.0: [\(Link\)](#)

The latest weekly SST departures are:

Niño 4	1.7°C
Niño 3.4	3.0°C
Niño 3	3.0°C
Niño 1+2	2.0°C

Record is Broken!

So another weather record has been set. What does it mean? In the very short term it means that there will be some hellacious weather in the US Pacific West/Texas in the next 90 days. It also means there will be a drought in Australia and Indonesia. Other parts of the globe will feel the consequences of the mega Nino.

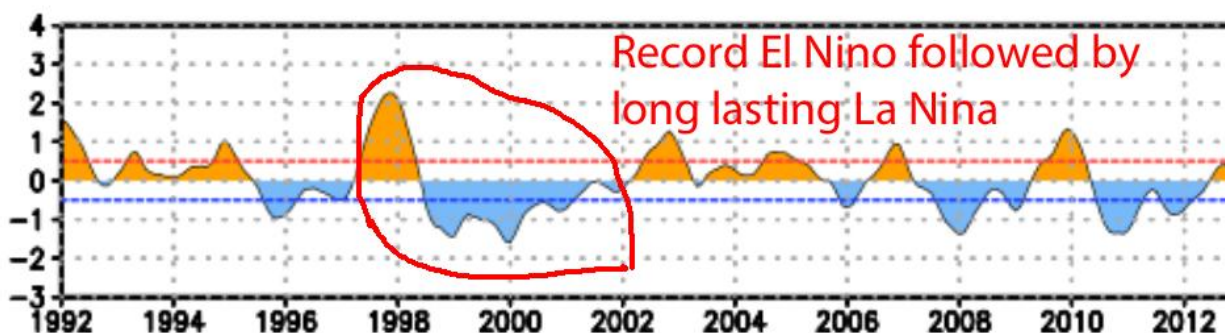
However, there is another consequence of this year's El Nino that is virtually a sure thing to happen within the next half year. A very rapid change in El Nino water temperatures will follow – in nine months we will have gone 180 degrees in the opposite direction and we will be dealing with a very strong La Nina.

The following plots the changes from El Nino (red) to La Nina (blue). Note the rapid change that occurred from November of 1997 to the fall of 1998. A very big La Nina followed the record El Nino:

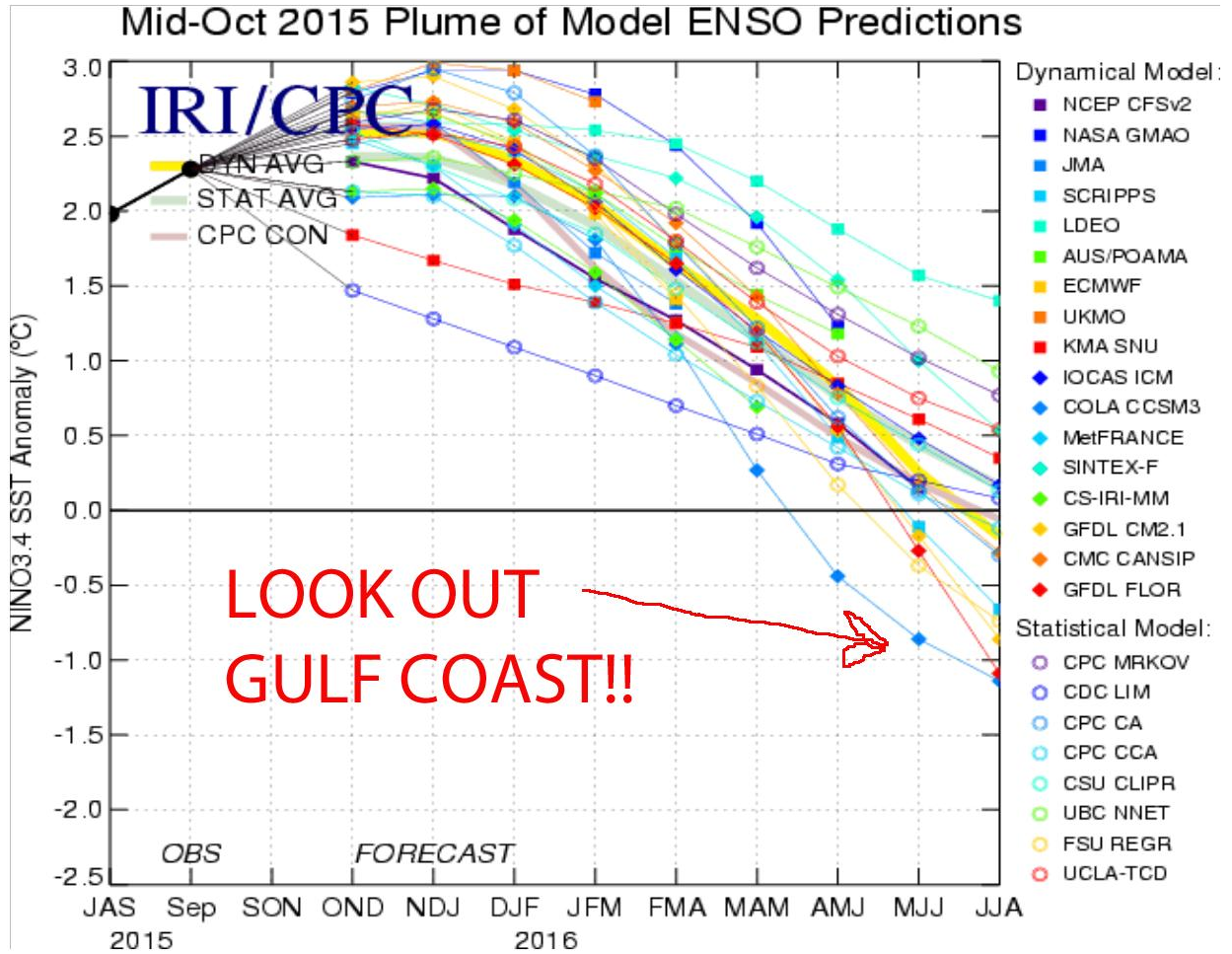
The numbers:

Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
1997	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.6	1.0	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3
1998	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.0	0.5	-0.1	-0.7	-1.0	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4
1999	-1.4	-1.2	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6
2000	-1.6	-1.4	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.8

A chart of the 1998 event:



This chart from today's NOAA report is a synopsis of the computer forecasts for the for the collapsing El Nino and soon-to-be La Nina.



What will the coming La Nina bring us? If history is the gauge, then we should be preparing for a record hurricane season in the summer/fall of 2016, and a return to the crushing droughts in the Pacific West. This is what NOAA reports for the hurricane season of 1998:

1998 Seasonal Highlights

- **It was the deadliest in over 200 years (11,000 deaths in Central America, Source: Wire Services)**
- **A total of 14 tropical systems (named storms) developed during the 1998 Atlantic Hurricane Season.**
- **Mitch was the fourth most intense hurricane ever observed in the Atlantic basin, and the strongest ever observed in the month of October.**
- **In a remarkable span of 35 days, starting on Aug. 19 and ending on Sept. 23, 10 named tropical cyclones formed. That's about a whole season's worth of activity crammed into a month. Four of them made landfall in the United States. In addition, Jeanne and Karl affected the Cape Verde Islands and Bermuda respectively, while three others passed near or over the Azores.**
- **On 25th of September there were four hurricanes -- Georges, Ivan, Jeanne and Karl -- in progress at the same time. This is the first time such an event occurred this century.**

In March of 2015 the Australian Meteorology department issued its first warning that a big El Nino was in our future. I wrote about it, and in the blog I made some predictions/recommendations of what it meant. Many of those things have now proven correct ([Link](#)). So I'll go out on a limb with some deep thoughts on the coming La Nina:

- If you live anywhere along the US coast from Virginia all the way to Texas (especially Florida) make some preparations.

-If you're thinking of putting your house up on stilts to avoid flood damage, do it now. By March of 2016 the "**Coming La Nina**" story will be in the media – too late to hire the construction crews to raise the house.

-To the extent possible increase flood and wind insurance protection.

-Short the stocks of those insurance companies that have large risk exposure to the US east coast.

-If you're thinking of buying that dream house on the ocean in the Sunbelt, wait a year – there will be some bargains. If you're a seller – call the broker soon....

The La Nina will result in a resumption of drought conditions in the West. So consider:

-Enjoy the West Coast skiing this year – the next two years will suck.

-Don't buy a vegetable farm (or heaven forbid a grape grower) in California just yet.

-Pot growers in Cali (huge biz) are going to get squeezed – these growers use a ton of water.

I wonder about Phoenix and Las Vegas (more than SF or LA). These cities are highly dependent on the Colorado River/Lake Mead. In a year the headline will be; **"Drought Returns – Lake Mead Level Resumes Drop"**. What might be the implications of that? I can't think of anything to be 'long' of in that scenario – including casinos.....

There is even a political side to this. Assume that we get the La Nina, and we have an over-sized hurricane season that brings with it significant damage. This would happen 30-60 days before the election. Would it make a difference at the ballot box?



Poor nations want U.S. to pay reparations for extreme weather

Thomas M. Kostigen, Special for USA TODAY 4:53 p.m. EDT September 12, 2015
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/09/12/kostigen-climate-change-reparations/72014440/>

Poorer nations suffering from extreme weather disasters, so much so that their citizens are seeking refuge in safer terrains outside their borders, want rich nations like the United States to pay for reparations and to relocate populations.

Preparatory talks ahead of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change to be held in Paris in December has representatives from developing nations asking for more than an already agreed upon [\\$100 billion per year for climate change mitigation measures](#). They want additional compensation for weather-related disasters as well as a "displacement coordination facility" for refugees.

And they want all this to be legally binding as part of the larger anticipated Paris accord.

The U.S. and wealthier nations in the European Union are balking.

The rationale for the additional funds and refugee facility is based on donor country failures to follow through cohesively on aid pledges following weather-related disasters. For example, last March, Cyclone Pam devastated islands in the South Pacific but attention quickly turned to the massive earthquake in Nepal soon thereafter. That left small nations such as Vanuatu, which was devastated, to manage its own cleanup without much in the way of international assistance.

Poorer nations blame extreme weather-related disasters on climate change stemming from emission-polluting countries that have more developed and wealthier economies.

The U.N. Paris conference aims to reach an international, legally binding agreement on climate change that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thwart global temperature rise. A separate agreement is being eyed to address losses and damages from extreme weather events, thought to be a result of climate change.

As it stands, the [Warsaw Mechanism](#), adopted in 2013 at the U.N. climate conference in Poland, established a structure to address losses and damages associated with climate change impacts. However that mechanism is due to expire this year when a new climate agreement is reached. Poorer nations who say they are on the front lines of climate change and suffer the worst of its extreme weather ramifications aren't pleased by the expiration. They want loss and damage provisions to be extended and expanded upon.

Reports indicate a compromise will be sought whereby the Warsaw Mechanism is extended, yet carved out from any legally binding agreement.

Meanwhile, environmental groups are lobbying to make reparations even more punitive and require polluting companies in the private sector to step up and also pay for extreme weather-related damages.

Property and casualty losses have been a point of contention for years in climate-change discussions. How to handle refugee claims is a relatively new issue that comes at a time when [Europe is facing a separate refugee crisis](#) of its own, with hordes of people seeking asylum from war-torn countries in the Middle

East and North Africa. Nine civil wars are raging in countries from Pakistan to Nigeria.

Adding climate refugees to those numbers may be too much for government representatives to take on at the moment. Without question, however, a refugee facility needs to be discussed if not negotiated, as do further compensation measures for poor countries.

The \$100 billion-a-year-commitment by 2020 seems like a lot of money, but increasingly it isn't looking like enough funding. With extreme weather events on the rise, so too will be the costs of cleanup and the tolls on people's lives.

Thomas M. Kostigen is the founder of TheClimateSurvivalist.com and a New York Times bestselling author and journalist. He is the National Geographic author of "[Extreme Weather Survival Guide: Understand, Prepare, Survive, Recover](#)" and the NG Kids book, "Extreme Weather: Surviving Tornadoes, Tsunamis, Hailstorms, Thundersnow, Hurricanes and More!" Follow him @[weathersurvival](https://twitter.com/weathersurvival), or email kostigen@theclimatesurvivalist.com.



Massive US Senate Document On National And Global Weather Modification

Dane Wigington, October 15, 2015, GeoEngineering Watch

<dane@geoengineeringwatch.org

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=5fg5g9nde3p4e#592563262>

How big does the climate engineering elephant in the room need to be before it can no longer be hidden in plain site? How much more historical proof do we need of the ongoing climate engineering/weather warfare before the denial of the masses crumbles? When will populations around the globe bring to justice all those responsible for the ongoing and rapidly worsening worldwide weather warfare assault? At the bottom of this post (linked below) is a PDF file containing the entire congressional report from 1978 that we have recently located. This report is just under 750 pages in length (20 key excerpts are posted at the link below to give a general overview). It is a mountain of information that further confirms the ongoing extensive involvement of our government in climate modification/weather warfare. This document also confirms the involvement of foreign governments around the globe, even governments that would otherwise have been considered "hostile to US interests". Within this text a great many aspects and consequences of the ongoing national and global weather modification programs are discussed. Legal implications (including the need for

total immunity from any form of prosecution), biological implications, societal implications, environmental implications, etc. Named in the document are federal agencies involved as well as major universities. Again, because the entire document is a long and arduous read, some excerpts are posted below to give insight into the documents contents. The mountain of data to confirm the ongoing climate engineering insanity continues to grow. One additional example of documents already located is an ICAS report to the executive office of the president on climate engineering from 1966, it [can be found HERE](#). The attached extensive congressional document is a revealing and detailed addition to the data that has already been compiled. My most sincere gratitude to Steve Grimwood for locating this very important document.

[Click address below for the full article, document scans & full PDF >>](#)

http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org/massive-us-senate-document-on-national-and-global-weather-modification/?inf_contact_key=40c98a856d4a14072afbd708e0c420e5fa03c1dc39ad54f5319181e0ddda6b71

[Dane Wigington](#) , [geoengineeringwatch.org](http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org)

<http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org/massive-us-senate-document-on-national-and-global-weather-modification/>



POLITICS

The War on America Turns 50

[Ann Coulter](http://humanevents.com/2015/09/30/the-war-on-america-turns-50/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl), HUMAN EVENTS, Wednesday Sep 30, 2015 7:15 PM
http://humanevents.com/2015/09/30/the-war-on-america-turns-50/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl



Half a century ago, Democrats looked at the country and realized they were never going to convince Americans to agree with them. But they noticed that people in most other countries of the world already agreed with them. The solution was obvious.

So in 1965 — 50 years ago this week — Sen. Ted Kennedy passed an immigration law that has brought 59 million foreigners to our shores, who happen to vote 8-2 for the Democrats.

Democrats haven't won any arguments; they changed the voters. If anything, the Democrats have stopped bothering to appeal to Americans. The new feminized Democratic Party says, *That's too bad about those steelworkers in Ohio losing their jobs, but THERE'S A WOMAN AT A LAW FIRM IN NEW YORK CITY WHO DESERVES TO MAKE PARTNER!*

Republicans should be sweeping the country, but they aren't, because of Kennedy's immigration law. Without post-1965 immigrants bloc-voting for the Democrats, Obama never would have been elected president, and Romney would have won a bigger landslide against him in 2012 than Reagan did against Carter in 1980.

This isn't a guess; it's a provable fact. Obama beat Romney by less than 5 million votes in a presidential election in which about 125 million votes were cast. More

than 30 million of Obama's votes came from people who arrived under Teddy Kennedy's immigration law; fewer than 10 million of Romney's did.

The 1965 act brought in the poorest of the poor from around the globe. Non-English-speaking peasants from wildly backward cultures could be counted on to be dependent on government assistance for generations to come.

Kennedy and other Democrats swore up and down that the new immigration law would not change the country's demographics, but post-1965-act immigrants are nothing like the people who already lived here.

As Pew Research cheerfully reports, previous immigrants were "almost entirely" European. But since Kennedy's immigration act, a majority of immigrants have been from Latin America. One-quarter are from Asia. Only 12 percent of post-1965-act immigrants have been from Europe — and they're probably Muslims.

Apparently, the "American experiment" is actually some kind of sociological trial in which we see if people who have no history of Western government can run a constitutional republic.

As of 1970, there were only 9 million Hispanics in the entire country, according to the Pew Research Center. Today, there are well more than 60 million.

We've already taken in one-quarter of the entire population of Mexico, most of whom seem to live in Los Angeles. For the last decade, nearly half of all felons sent to California's prisons have been Hispanic, according to the Department of Corrections.

In 1970, there were only a few thousand Haitians in America. Today, there are nearly a million. Miami beaches and New York parks are suddenly littered with goat heads from Haitian voodoo rituals.

In 1970, there were virtually no Somalis in the United States. In the past 25 years alone, we've brought in more than 80,000 Somali refugees — and more than half of those since 9/11. Recent headlines out of Minnesota: "Minnesota ISIS terror suspect pleads guilty to conspiracy," "February trial date set for Minnesota ISIS terror suspects," "The Twin Cities have an ISIS problem."

(Possible new GOP slogan: "We'll cut your taxes, as long as these voodoo priests and refugees approve it.")

In 1960, there were about 200,000 Muslims in the U.S., according to a study in the International Journal of Environmental Science and Development. Today, the

U.S. Census estimates that there are more than 6 million Muslims here. Muslims are expected to surpass Jews as the second-largest religion in America in about two decades.

No country has ever simply turned itself into another country like this.

With the media cheering the end of America and businessmen determined to keep importing cheap labor, Democrats don't even bother hiding what they're doing.

Democratic political strategists Ruy Teixeira and John Judis have been gloating for 20 years about how post-1965 immigration would soon produce a country where Republicans could not win an election, anywhere. Then Democrats could do whatever they want. They called the new emerging majority "George McGovern's Revenge."

In today's America, George McGovern would be a moderate Democrat; Jimmy Carter would be a two-term president; and we'd be holding primary debates at the Walter Mondale Presidential Museum and Library.

Any GOP candidate for president who wants to increase immigration — i.e., all of them except Trump — ought to be required to first pass this simple test: Be successfully elected governor of California on a platform of tax cuts and social conservatism.

The Democrats got the voters — and the country got 9/11, Fort Hood, the Boston Marathon bombing, clitorectomies, an explosion of gang rapes, child rapes, sex tourism, slavery, voodoo, Russell Brand, billions of taxpayer dollars stolen in Medicare and Medicaid scams, an epidemic of heroin deaths, soccer, bankrupt school districts and hospitals, overcrowded prisons, and endless tax hikes to pay for all the immigrant services, as small town after small town goes all-Mexican, or all-Somali or all-Hmong.

The people coming in aren't the ones exulting about "the browning of America." It's smug liberals who want America to be humbled and destroyed. The cultural left is overjoyed at the remaking of our society into one that is poorer, browner and less free.

These changes are entirely the result of government policies that were never debated, much less put to a vote. Americans have not been consulted on the question of whether to turn our country into some other country. Never mind what we're doing. You'll thank us later.

I know it's gauche to consider what Americans want, but how about the immigrants? Presumably some didn't come only for the welfare, crime and terrorism opportunities. They decided to move to the United States — not Mexico or Somalia or China — because they wanted to live in America. If our current immigration policies aren't stopped, they're going to wonder why they bothered.



Muslim History vs Western Fantasy: The 'Refugee Crisis' in Context

[Raymond Ibrahim](http://humanevents.com/2015/10/02/muslim-history-vs-western-fantasy-the-refugee-crisis-in-context/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl) , Human Events, Oct 2, 2015

http://humanevents.com/2015/10/02/muslim-history-vs-western-fantasy-the-refugee-crisis-in-context/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl



One of the primary reasons Islamic and Western nations are “worlds apart” is because the way they understand the world is worlds apart. Whereas Muslims see the world through the lens of history, the West has jettisoned or rewritten history to suit its ideologies.

This dichotomy of Muslim and Western thinking is evident everywhere. When the Islamic State declared that it will “conquer Rome” and “break its crosses,” few in the West realized that those are the verbatim words and goals of Islam’s founder and his companions as recorded in Muslim sources—words and goals that prompted over a thousand years of jihad on Europe.

Most recently, the Islamic State released a map of the areas it plans on expanding into over the next five years. The map includes European nations

such as Portugal, Spain, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, Armenia, Georgia, Crete, Cyprus, and parts of Russia.

The reason these European nations are included in the Islamic State's map is simple. According to Islamic law, once a country has been conquered (or "opened," as it's called in the euphemistic Arabic), it becomes Islamic in perpetuity.

This, incidentally, is the real reason Muslims despise Israel. It's not due to sympathy for the Palestinians—if so, neighboring Arab nations would've absorbed them long ago (just as they would be absorbing all of today's Muslim refugees).

No, Israel is hated because the descendants of "apes and pigs"—to use the Koran's terminology—dare to rule land that was once "opened" by jihad and therefore must be returned to Islam. (Read more about Islam's "[How Dare You?!](#)" phenomenon to understand the source of Islamic rage, especially toward Israel.)

All the aforementioned European nations are also seen as being currently "occupied" by Christian "infidels" and in need of "liberation." This is why jihadi organizations refer to terrorist attacks on such countries as "defensive jihads."

One rarely heard about Islamic designs on European nations because they are large and blocked together, altogether distant from the Muslim world. Conversely, tiny Israel is right in the heart of the Islamic world—hence why most jihadi aspirations were traditionally geared toward the Jewish state: it was more of a realistic conquest.

Now, however, that the "caliphate" has been reborn and is expanding before a paralytic West, **dreams of reconquering portions of Europe—if not through jihad, then through migration—are becoming more plausible, perhaps even more so than conquering Israel.**

Because of their historical experiences with Islam, some central and east European nations are aware of Muslim aspirations. Hungary's prime minister even [cited his nation's unpleasant past under Islamic rule](#) (in the guise of the Ottoman Empire) as reason to disallow Muslim refugees from entering.

But for more "enlightened" Western nations—that is, for idealistic nations that reject or rewrite history according to their subjective fantasies—Hungary's reasoning is unjust, unhumanitarian, and racist.

To be sure, most of Europe has experience with Islamic depredations. As late as the seventeenth century, even distant Iceland was being invaded by Muslim slave traders. **Roughly 800 years earlier, in 846, Rome was sacked and the Vatican defiled by Muslim raiders.**

Some of the Muslims migrating to Italy vow to do the same today, and Pope Francis acknowledges it. Yet, all the same, he suggests that “you can take precautions, and put these people to work.” (We’ve seen [this sort of thinking before](#): the U.S. State Department cites a lack of “[job opportunities](#)” as reason for the existence of the Islamic State).

Perhaps because the U.K., Scandinavia, and North America were never conquered and occupied by the sword of Islam—unlike those southeast European nations that are resisting Muslim refugees—they feel free to rewrite history according to their subjective ideals, specifically, that historic Christianity is bad and all other religions and people are good (the darker and/or more foreign the better).

Indeed, countless are the books and courses on the “sins” of Christian Europe, from the Crusades to colonialism. (Most recently, a [book](#) traces the rise of Islamic supremacism in Egypt to the disciplining of a rude Muslim girl by a European nun.)

This “new history”—particularly that [Muslims are the historic “victims” of “intolerant” Western Christians](#)—has metastasized everywhere, from high school to college and from Hollywood to the news media (which are becoming increasingly harder to distinguish from one another).

When U.S. President Barack Hussein Obama [condemned medieval Christians as a way to relativize Islamic State atrocities](#)—or at best to claim that religion, any religion, is [never the driving force of violence](#)—he was merely being representative of the mainstream way history is taught in the West.

Even otherwise sound books of history contribute to this distorted thinking. While such works may mention “Ottoman expansion” into Europe, the Islamic element is omitted. Thus Turks are portrayed as just another competitive people, out to carve a niche for themselves in Europe, no differently than rival Christian empires. That the “Ottomans” (or “Saracens,” or “Arabs,” or “Moors,” or “Tatars”) were operating under the distinctly Islamic banner of jihad—just like the Islamic State is today—that connection is never made.

Generations of pseudo history have led the West to think that, far from being suspicious or judgmental of them, Muslims must be accommodated—say, by allowing them to migrate into the West in mass. Perhaps then they'll “like us”?

Such is progressive wisdom.

Meanwhile, back in the school rooms of much of the Muslim world, children continue to be indoctrinated in glorifying and reminiscing over the jihadi conquests of yore—conquests by the sword and in the name of Allah. While the progressive West demonizes European/Christian history—when I was in elementary school, Christopher Columbus was a hero, when I got into college, he became a villain—Mehmet the Conqueror, whose atrocities against Christian Europeans make the Islamic State look like a bunch of boy scouts, is praised every year in “secular” Turkey on the [anniversary of the savage sack Constantinople](#).

The result of Western fantasies and Islamic history is that Muslims are now entering the West, unfettered, in the guise of refugees who refuse to assimilate with the “infidels” and who form enclaves, or in Islamic terminology, *ribats*—frontier posts where the jihad is waged on the infidel, one way or the other.

Nor is this mere conjecture. The Islamic State is intentionally driving the refugee phenomenon and has promised to send half a million people—mostly Muslim—into Europe. It claims that 4,000 of these refugees are its own operatives: “Just wait.... It's our dream that there should be a caliphate not only in Syria but in all the world, and we will have it soon, inshallah [Allah willing].”

It is often said that those who ignore history are destined to repeat it. What does one say of those who rewrite history in a way that demonizes their ancestors while whitewashing the crimes of their forebears' enemies?

The result is before us. History is not repeating itself; sword waving Muslims are not militarily conquering Europe. Rather, they are being allowed to walk right in.

Perhaps a new aphorism needs to be coined for our times: **Those who forget or ignore history are destined to be conquered by those who remember and praise it.**



From the closing of the American mind to ...
Exclusive: Joseph Farah examines 'madness' spreading through U.S. cultural institutions

[Joseph Farah](http://www.wnd.com/2015/10/from-the-closing-of-the-american-mind-to/), World News Daily, 10/09/2015
<http://www.wnd.com/2015/10/from-the-closing-of-the-american-mind-to/>

It was 1987 that a book came out that opened my eyes to the truth.

Just seven years earlier, I had voted for Jimmy Carter in his bid for re-election against Ronald Reagan.

I regretted it almost immediately – certainly on Inauguration day Jan. 20, 1981, when I saw Iran release hundreds of American hostages from the U.S. Embassy seized by radicals supported by the revolutionary Islamic government who feared what might befall them with the California cowboy in charge.

The book was called ["The Closing of the American Mind,"](#) by professor Allan Bloom. It was a bestseller, and the very first paragraph of the introduction told the story.

"There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative. If this belief is put to the test, one can count on the students' reaction: they will be uncomprehending. That anyone should regard the proposition as not self-evident astonishes them, as though he were calling into question $2+2=4$."

Bloom goes on to show how, regardless of the students' background – rich or poor, future scientist or future businessman, whatever – "they are unified only in their relativism and in their allegiance to equality."

Fast-forward almost three decades. Last month, there was an amazingly enlightening article in Atlantic Monthly ["The Coddling of the American Mind,"](#) which dramatically shows how the poison of relativism – in reality, godlessness – and its fruit (as Bloom noted) of radical equality – has bloomed into a terrifying pathology on today's campuses.

This month, a new book is released by David Kupelian, WND's managing editor for the last 16 years and the bestselling author of ["The Marketing of Evil"](#) and ["How Evil Works."](#) It's called ["The Snapping of the American Mind: Healing a Nation Broken by a Lawless Government and Godless Culture,"](#) which reveals the predictable result of radical relativism one generation later: Truth is relative,

morality is relative, good and evil are relative, sanity is relative – and evil ends up ascendant, because that's what always happens when man rejects God.

Twenty-eight years separate Bloom's "The Closing of the American Mind" and Kupelian's ["The Snapping of the American Mind,"](#) but it might as well have been an eternity in the changing moral, spiritual and intellectual worldview of America.

Bloom told us about what post-modernism had wrought.

It shocked a generation, which had lost track of how their world was changing thanks to deconstructionist brainwashing in universities.

Likewise, Kupelian chronicles, in vivid detail and with acute sobriety and discernment, the effects of decades of deconstructionism that rejects even the notion that history can be explained through a record of objective facts. Even language, the code we use to communicate with, is torn asunder to make it nearly impossible for meaningful communication to take place between those who still believe in objective truth and those who deny there are any absolutes.

The American mind is no longer just closed, explains Kupelian. Increasingly, it has *snapped*.

Today, a kind of madness rules the academy. And its effects spread pervasively through every other cultural institution like a viral mental illness.

The deconstructionist insanity embraces moral and intellectual chaos that denies even the commonalities in the standard language we use for the most basic form of communication.

Truth? There is no truth. Absolutes? There are no absolutes. Language? It's just a cultural creation, a social construct that limits our ability to reason.

The result? The elimination of the use of perfectly good and important words.

Does all of this bring about a new openness and freeness in society?

Hardly. What it spawns is a new tyrannical, quasi-religious neo-puritanism and a Stalinist-style, Orwellian authoritarianism. In the name of "diversity" and "tolerance," it shuts down debate and meaningful dialogue – intentionally and purposely.

It's evil. And it's driving America mad.

If you want to understand what's really going on in our world as its foundations crumble, read David Kupelian's ["The Snapping of the American Mind."](#)



Left promoting mass delusion, says journalist

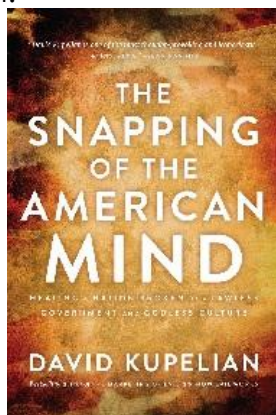
WND Exclusive, 11/11/2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/11/left-promoting-mass-delusion-says-journalist/>



From alleged widespread racism to "Islamophobia" to "gender reassignment," the way the American left currently portrays many of today's top issues is not only wrong, says bestselling author David Kupelian, it is an attempt to forcibly replace reality with a series of coveted delusions – commonly called "narratives."

Kupelian, whose latest book is ["The Snapping of the American Mind,"](#) made his comments during a fast-paced drive-time interview with popular San Francisco KSFO radio talker Brian Sussman.



"The statistics are simply mind-melting," said Kupelian, referring to the astronomical levels of addiction, depression and family breakdown in today's America, which he ties in his book to the left's ongoing "fundamental transformation of America." "One hundred and thirty *million* people are dependent on legal or illegal mind-altering substances. We're not talking

130,000. This sounds like all the adults, almost – it's like [we're] a nation of addicts!"

As part of the progressive-left influence that Kupelian says is so adversely affecting the nation, Americans are being intimidated, bullied and seduced into accepting a whole slew of false "narratives" as though they represented reality, said Kupelian.

A "narrative," he said, is just "a nice name for a ... mass delusion."
Kupelian rattled off a few examples of present-day false media narratives:

["Faisal Mohammad wasn't motivated by jihad."](#)

["Bruce Jenner is a woman."](#)

["Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was a victim of racist police"](#) – even though it's proven that he was a predator," Kupelian added. "He was a punk on drugs who had just knocked off a convenience store and he tried to kill a cop, to grab his gun!" But "it doesn't matter" to the left, said Kupelian. "You still hear about Ferguson and Michael Brown" as though the mythical "gentle giant" was a victim of trigger-happy, racist cops.

Another delusion-based narrative, said Kupelian, is that "Islam is a religion of peace. I have to tell you, [I have about 100 family members who were killed by jihadists during the Armenian Genocide,](#)" said Kupelian. "Islam has not been a religion of peace for the last 14 centuries. And it doesn't show any signs of beginning now."

"Where is this all coming from?" Kupelian asked rhetorically.

"We don't live in a vacuum. ... I'm saying we have a culture and a presidency in which basically we're taught there is no God, there is no right and wrong and the biblical morals that this country did pretty well with for several centuries are oppressive and racist and we need to get rid of them!" He added, "There's a side of us that feels like this is liberation, but there's a price to pay. We're paying the price now."

Indeed, American politics has become so unhinged, he said, it is hard for normal Americans to even process what is happening.

"Hillary Clinton should be in prison, he noted, adding, "We have this socialist who, God bless Donald Trump, he referred to Bernie Sanders as a 'communist maniac.'"

He then told Sussman: "I defy your listeners to go to the CPUSA website, Communist Party USA [cpusa.org] ... Tell me the difference between the communist – forget socialism, the *Communist Party USA* – and the Democrat Party. Everything [on the CPUSA site] is 'war on women,' 'racism,' all the same stuff" over which today's Democrat Party obsesses, he said.

The result of this political and moral insanity, Kupelian believes, is a kind of massive psychological strain imposed on Americans who find it difficult to live on a diet of lies.

In "[The Snapping of the American Mind](#)," said Kupelian, "I'm connecting the dots between that big picture" of the Obama-left's "fundamental transformation" of America "and the individual picture of the wretchedness and brokenness and pathology of the 130 million Americans that are dependent on [toxic] substances," said Kupelian, who contends that leftist deception and intimidation "is actually driving good, unsuspecting Americans over the edge to depression, anger, mental illness, addiction, family breakdown – all the pathology and the wretchedness we see on the individual level which we don't really attach to politics so much."

Sussman, who frequently guest-hosts for Michael Savage on "The Savage Nation" and is the author of "[Eco-Tyranny: How the Left's Green Agenda Will Dismantle America](#)," agreed with Kupelian.

"I hear that all the time!" he exclaimed.

As a talk show host, Sussman said he must often guard his listeners from everything that's happening.

"If I just gave them the news of the day, people would be crashing their cars," he joked. "Their minds are about to snap. 'I can't take this anymore.' And I think you're nailing it with [this book](#)."

But it can be hard to break away from an all-encompassing media culture. Misspeaking for a moment, Kupelian said, "Bruce Jenner is still a woman," when he meant to say Jenner is still a man.

Realizing his mistake, he laughed, "Oh no, they've gotten to me!"

Sussman chortled, "It's gotten to you as well, your mind has snapped, David!"

Jokes aside, Kupelian's message is deadly serious. And for those who actually want to help troubled people, he has simple advice – stick to reality. He affirmed the biological impossibility of "sex change" – or to use today's euphemism, "gender reassignment" – citing [the finding](#) of the former psychiatrist-in-chief at Johns Hopkins Hospital that changing genders is "biologically impossible."

"This is a controversial thing to say, especially in San Francisco," Kupelian advised. "You cannot transition from one sex to the other. An adult male has about 37 trillion cells. Every one of them is permanently branded with Y [male] chromosomes."

Kupelian said going along with transgenderism and other absurdities amounts to encouraging mental illness. As he put it, if a pathologically skinny anorexic woman thinks she is fat – a common syndrome among anorexics – "we don't need to pretend she is fat."

How can a person cope with living in a world of false narratives and dreamlike illusions? Kupelian argues the solution is simple:

"We need to wake up. We just need to wake up."

He continued: "People tell me, 'You know, this is a nightmare we're living in under Obama.' ... It's true, but there's only one step away from a nightmare to being awake again. You just have to wake up. You have to put aside these sleepy delusions" that make us feel so comfortable in our dream world, he said. In the end, Sussman told his listeners, "I want to promote this book heavily. David, great book, and it's flying off the shelves as I would expect."



The Dogs That Aren't Barking in the 2016 Campaign

[Michael Barone](http://humanevents.com/2015/10/02/the-dogs-that-arent-barking-in-the-2016-campaign/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl), Human Events, Oct 2, 2015

http://humanevents.com/2015/10/02/the-dogs-that-arent-barking-in-the-2016-campaign/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl



Sherlock Holmes famously solved the mystery of the Silver Blaze by noting the dog that didn't bark in the night. It strikes me that in this wild and woolly campaign cycle there have been numerous dogs not barking in the night, or in the daytime either.

Start with the race for the Democratic nomination, which has not unrolled as predicted. Every observer knows Hillary Clinton's numbers have been falling and Bernie Sanders' numbers have been rising, leading her in Iowa and New Hampshire. Every observer is waiting to see if Joe Biden will run, perhaps in time for the Democrats' first debate two weeks from now.

But the other declared candidates have gone nowhere. It's perhaps not surprising in the cases of the maverick Jim Webb and the former Republican Lincoln Chafee. But Martin O'Malley, former Baltimore mayor and Maryland governor, with a pleasant demeanor and a solid liberal record, is the sort of candidate who would have a serious Democratic contender in cycles past.

He's been out on the trail, but the latest NBC/Wall Street Journal, Quinnipiac and CBS/New York Times polls put him at 0 percent. The pollsters are having a hard time finding anyone who backs him.

Cynical conclusion: in a party consumed with identity politics, there are constituencies for a woman and a self-proclaimed socialist, but not for a cisgender white male, even one who increased spending and effectively supported same-sex marriage. Sympathetic explanation: Democratic voters are

attracted to longtime champions of identity politics and uninterested in new faces.

In contrast, on the Republican side, even in a field of 15 candidates, almost all have some perceptible support. But past performance is not proving a guide to current results.

Rand Paul, for example, was expected to at least match the showing of his father Ron Paul, who got at least 10 percent (rounded off) in 29 primaries in 2012. But the younger Paul's domesticated libertarianism and non-interventionist foreign policy is attracting only 2 percent nationally and 4 percent in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Cynical conclusion: Ron Paul's tattooed and dope-smoking fans aren't interested in a domesticated version. Sympathetic explanation: Paul's anti-interventionism lost its appeal when ISIS started beheading Americans.

Iowa Republicans are also showing little enthusiasm for the candidates who finished first in their 2008 and 2012 caucuses. Mike Huckabee is polling at 4 percent there, Rick Santorum at 2 percent. They aren't duplicating their previous appeal to evangelical Protestants, who have been a bigger proportion of turnout in Iowa than any other non-Southern Republican contest.

Cynical conclusion: Religious conservatives don't stay bought. Sympathetic explanation: Religious conservatives look for candidates who share their values, but don't stick with those who proved incapable of winning nominations.

Of course, one might also say that these Republicans are just being overshadowed, maybe temporarily, by outsiders who haven't held political office — Donald Trump especially, and also Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina. The race is far from over; maybe they'll do better later on. And maybe Martin O'Malley will catch on, too — although when pollsters take Joe Biden off their list of candidates, he currently rises from 0 to 1 percent.

The dogs that aren't barking tell two different stories about the parties. Democrats, who like to think of themselves as open to new ideas, are sticking with old ideas and causes. Republicans, who used to fall predictably in line, are off on a wild fling.

There's another dog that isn't barking as well, on the issues front. House Republican rebels may have pushed Speaker John Boehner out, but, as the Wall Street Journal editorial page notes, federal spending during — and because of — Boehner's leadership has been essentially flat for four years, the only time

that's happened since World War II. It fell from 24 percent of gross domestic product in 2009 to 20 percent in 2014.

What's interesting here is that no one seems to care. Republican rebels don't, and Democrats who push for more spending behind the scenes aren't making a public fuss about it. It's reminiscent of Britain, where the Conservative-led government cut nearly 1 million public sector jobs in five years. But Labour never raised the issue in this year's campaign and Conservatives gained seats.

Cynical conclusion: No one really misses anything when government spending is cut. Sympathetic explanation: In any large organization there is always room for squeezing out unneeded blubber. That non-barking dog may be something to keep in mind as our campaign continues.



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