



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary: Marlea Sheridan

Editor: Penny Esplin

September 26th, 2013

2012-2013 Officers:

-President: CLAUDIA WISE

-Vice-President: DELMON RAY

-Treasurer: JOE GREENE

Prez Sez.....

Time has come again for each one of us to think hard about what we want small scale mining to look like in Oregon's future. Do you want to sit by while our legislators enact a never-ending moratorium on our small scale family mining businesses? A moratorium similar to the 3-year, on-going, temporary moratorium California legislators enacted that is no closer to ending than when the ban was implemented almost 5-years ago or do we stand up and be counted?

Oregon miners are being cornered, not given any importance by our own (primarily Democratic) elected representatives. They want to throw us aside as pawns and hostages for their pet projects. Those that have pledged to create more jobs in our state, those that have taken an oath to protect the intent of Oregon's and our Nations constitution are, by conscious choice, failing us. I don't see anywhere for us to go but to either step aside...laying our dredges down to rust or to fight.

There are those legislators that want to ignore our benefits to the ecosystem, ignore the researched and published scientific facts, ignore our contributions to our families, communities, and industry partners and to our rights to mine natural resources from legally owned Federal mining claims. They chose to move us aside to make more room for others such as the plethora of environmental groups needing to create issues to bring in more donations and grant money, the growing numbers of rafters, as well as fisherman wanting to elbow us out of their favorite fishing hole so they can kill the fish that swim buy.

SB 838 is a bad law with only 850 miners slated to get a permit next year. This permit limit will leave many of us without a means to supplement our incomes or work our claims as the Federal mining law requires of us.

In Attendance: There were 16 members present. We have a new member, Karen Darnell. She has done some dredging, and is looking forward to doing more. She also has attended many legislative meetings, so she is well informed. She will be a real asset to our club. Vince Kelly and Sam Seth (of WVM) arrived later.

Meeting Minutes: Penny read the minutes from last month's meeting and was approved and accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Joe gave us a full report regarding our bank account. This was accepted and approved.

Claims Report: Tim and Vince Kelly checked out two claims at the Presidents request. Sam Seth, our newest member, gave us the heads up on these locations. Both are located on the Little North Fork of the Santiam River. **DIGGERS LNF JEETER Creek** is up the Little North Fork Rd approx. 3.7 miles from Hwy 22, and **DIGGERS LNF BIG CREEK** is approx. 7.9 miles beyond Hwy 22). We need more information regarding the actual location of these claims; they need to coincide with what the map shows and what is actually there. Both claims are on the river, and Tim said he found color in each of the 10 samples panned. Tim, Vince and Sam explored these claims, and also found some beautifully colored jasper. Sam brought in some of the huge pieces to show us.

Sam Seth is responsible for finding these two claims for the club. A motion was made that he will be given a one year membership to the club for his efforts. We all agreed and the motion was approved unanimously.

Millennium Diggers Raffle: Delmon encouraged members to buy tickets for the 50/50 Raffle, the drawing will be held during our Christmas Party. The winner of the drawing gets half of the cash from this year's 50/50 raffle ticket purchases. The other half goes into the club bank account. If we all buy more tickets before the Christmas Party, the cash prize just gets bigger!

Armadillo Mining Shop donated an eight inch tall Miner sculpture for our association to raffle. It was decided that we would raffle it at our Christmas party if a minimum of \$100 is reached by then. 50% of the proceeds will be put into a fund to use towards a court case to stop SB 838 legislation and 50% into Millennium Digger Association's general fund. Tickets will be sold to members and non-members to get as much income to support any legal fight that may occur to protect small-scale gold suction dredge miners and stop SB838.

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

Old Business: The paperwork regarding our claims on Briggs Creek, **Fossil Flats and DT #1**, has been sent and officially recorded with BLM and has been returned. We still owe \$10.00 Claudia has sent in the additional funds required.

ENTER TO WIN

ENTRIES: \$5.00 EA. **SIX FOR \$25.00**

THIS 1/2 POUND OF GOLD
* 6 TROY OUNCES
... and many other great prizes!

FINAL DRAWING
THE EASTERN OREGON MINING ASSOC. & THE WALDO MINING DISTRICT HAVE HELD A SERIES OF DRAWINGS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR ONGOING LITIGATION (SINCE 2005) OVER THE ILLEGAL OREGON DEQ "INSTREAM MINING PERMIT" (700PM).

THE BIG FINAL DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE:
SPRING, 2014 GPAA GOLD SHOW,
SALEM, OR. (DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED)

GRAND PRIZE: 1/2 LB. OF GOLD!

TO ENTER: PLEASE SEND A CHECK / M.O. (PAYABLE TO "EOMA")
FOR YOUR NUMBER OF ENTRIES; ALONG WITH
NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE / EMAIL TO:

EOMA DRAWING
P.O. BOX 932
BAKER CITY, OR. 97814

FOR NOW, ALL ENTRIES FOR THE FINAL DRAWING
MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 20, 2014.
PLEASE INCLUDE SALES IF YOU DESIRE A RECEIPT.

MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE.
More information, Official Rules, Prize & Winners List, & Printable Entry Coupons can be found at:
www.h2oaccess.com or www.waldominingdistrict.org

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

ALL ENTRIES IN OUR 1ST & 2ND PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN IN THIS FINAL DRAWING FOR THE 1/2 POUND OF GOLD.

FINAL DRAWING PRIZE LIST:
GRAND PRIZE: ONE-HALF POUND OF GOLD!
1ST PLACE: TWO SHARES TO "EMILY CAMP"
2ND PLACE: 1 OZ SILVER EOMA MEDALLION
3RD PLACE: BOOK - "The Gold Prospector's Guide to Researching & Locating Mining Claims"
4TH PLACE: LES SCHWAB EMERGENCY ROAD KIT

PLEASE FIND TICKETS IN ATTACHED E-MAIL



PLG's 1/2 lb Gold Raffle!!



If you want to enter for a chance to win this Grand Prize, tickets are attached can be found at:

<http://www.waldominingdistrict.com>

The drawing will be held at the Salem GPAA Gold Show, 2014

The money spent on tickets is to help pay the attorney and court fees in the ongoing Eastern Oregon Mining Association Led battle over miner's rights. The cost is astronomical.

Please consider signing a pledge of \$100 (form attached), these funds will be directed at stopping the full implementation of SB 838 anti-mining legislation. Step up and be part of the solution or step out of mining in Oregon permanently!!!!!!

New Business: **SB 838** is being implemented into law by DSL. Don Esch and Karen Darnell attended the last meeting Don gave us a run-down on what DSL is attempting to do. It is still being discussed, but these are a few of the big ideas they want to include in the permit:

- Operating hours 9:00am to 5:00pm
- No unattended equipment can be left in the water
- 500ft between each dredge
- No dredging on any tributaries of watersheds feeding into ESH once moratorium in place.

Along with those nifty new regulations, they are also trying to decide how to issue 850 permits to 850 or more miners. They have not come to a definitive answer to this mess, so more meetings are scheduled. We have until October 31st to send in our comments. We should flood them with emails expressing our solutions to how permits should be distributed.

Contact Anita Huffman for more information at: anita.huffman@state.or.us

The next DSL meeting is in Salem on October 21st.

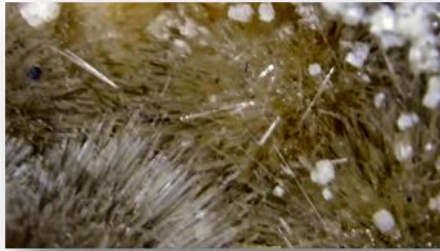
-The new 2014 DEQ permit committee is being put together. Representation from each association is asked to represent their members.

-Notice to members: The Trommel is now being stored at Walt and Penny's place in Salem.

Rocks/Treasures Shared for September: The letter was "N", but some were confused and thought it was "O", that's okay! We did "N and O", either, and/or! Penny had some examples of Natrolite: 2 tumbled pieces and 1 specimen with criss-crossing needle hairs lining a cavity in traprock. Ken brought some opal and several varieties of obsidian. Karen shared an obilisk. Thank you to all who brought something to share.



NATROLITE needle crystals
Hydrous sodium aluminum silicate



Next Month's letter is "O and P": Which could include Obsidian, Opal, Orthoclase, Olivine, Onyx, Oolites and Oxides...an Orb, Ornament, an Original! Something Odd, or Old, something Obscure or Objective! Or, or....Pyrite, Plutonium, Platinum, Palladium, Pennants....and Petrified dinosaur poop.

Tonight's Program: **Joe Greene, US EPA Research Biologist retired**, gave us an in depth power point presentation on the **"KLAMATH RIVER FISH KILL 2002: THE UNTOLD TRUE STORY"**. He thoroughly researched all the data in his report, and compiled a vast amount of factual documentation, with references for all points made. In his conclusion of all this data, it was found the salmon run had been triggered from a false "freshet" of river water released from the upstream dam after the water to temporarily raise the height of the Trinity River. The Hoopa Indians needed more water for a tribal celebration. More water than normal was released into the river from the reservoir allowing waiting Salmonids to think

it was time to begin the migration back up the waterway to spawn. Once the celebration was over the river was returned to normal summer levels leaving thousands of fish stuck in the warm water without flow or volume large enough for them to complete their run.

What Joe also came to find out, after really digging through the many scientific reports, was that 20-miles from the river's mouth, someone had dumped toxic chemicals from a methamphetamine operation into a creek flowing into the Klamath River. Thousands of salmon, in their stressed condition died in a massive fish kill. The science and the studies done by all the trained, authorized personnel failed to test for any pollutants that might be found in a meth lab dump. They only tested for contaminants from farm runoff and cattle ranch pollutant or forestry.

Many thanks to Joe for his presentation. It was an eye-opener to many of us "civilians". The responsible "officials" would prefer that we be kept in the dark!

At Our Next Meeting in October: We voted to have Joe give us another revealing presentation on The Effect of Ocean Conditions on Salmon Survival and Return.

→ **Our Next Club Meeting: Thursday October 24th, 2013** ←



Checking out the Diggers LNF Big Creek Claim

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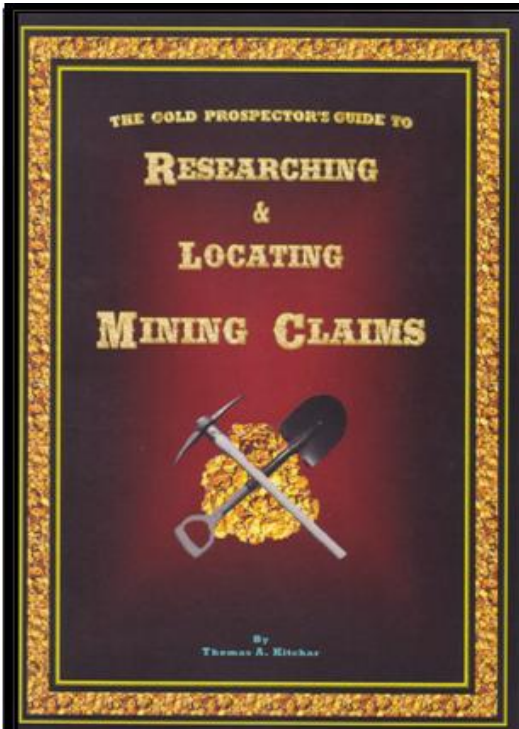
Visit our website at <http://www.millenniumdiggers.com/>

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

We meet the 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.

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	<p><u>AVAILABLE FROM AUTHOR</u></p> <p><i>Written by a miner for miners, this book covers all aspects of researching mining claim records, how to locate your own claim, and keep it... plus a whole lot more. 132 8½ X 11 pages.</i></p> <p>\$32.00 (\$29.95 + \$2.05 S&H)</p> <p>Get it in time for Christmas!</p> <p>Send check or money order to:</p> <p>Tom Kitchar P.O. Box 1371 Cave Junction, OR 97523</p>
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FROM THE WESTERN MINING ALLIANCE PRESIDENT

It's time to step up, or out

The long painful road to a conclusion of the court cases is underway. Through the next months we can expect an endless flurry of petitions and counter-petitions. We've passed the first two hurdles and survived the government's first two challenges. We won our fight to move the case out of Alameda County; we won our struggle to obtain an impartial judge and we survived the State's challenge to dismiss our cases.

Our position is solid and it's because of you. For everyone who has been financially supporting the case we've made it to here. Now we must finish what we started. We have one lawyer, the environmentalists have eight and the State has three. If you like a good underdog story you're in it.

We collectively pay the lawyer bills. Find us a lawyer who will work for free and we'll be glad to hire him at that price but the reality is they're not out there, and if they were they may not be worth the price. So we must pay a lawyer to prosecute our case. No money for the lawyer and we have no case. Once again we ask you to step up and make a monthly donation from now until the end of the case. Every month we're asking you to donate \$20.00 to the cause. Is that worth it to get back in the water next summer? What's our alternative – quit? If we quit, they win, they just took something from us we can never get back. When they take the next thing will you decide it's time to fight?

Here's the reality. This newsletter goes out to thousands, if everyone just sent \$5.00 per month we could cover our bills, but we're asking for \$20.00 per month because the vast majority donate nothing and we need those who will donate to cover the lack of donations of the majority. That's life, we're not complaining about it. We can't, and wouldn't try to force people to donate. If we did we'd be no different than those we oppose. This is a free country, you are blessed with liberty. Let's keep it that way.

WWW.WESTERNMININGALLIANCE.ORG

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Public Lands for the People

October 16, 2013

On August 28, 2013, Judge Gilbert G. Ochoa, of the San Bernardino County Superior Court, denied PLP's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction on the grounds there was no proof of irreparable harm caused to miners by California's ban on suction dredge mining. Judge Ochoa appeared to take the position that whatever harm occurred to the miners could eventually be made good by the payment of money damages. Among numerous matters, PLP, in its Motion papers, and at oral argument, vigorously asserted that the fact that the miners face criminal prosecution if they violate an unconstitutional statute was in and of itself irreparable harm. A criminal record attaching to a miner's good name is not something that can be made whole by the payment of money damages.

One of the cases that PLP brought to Judge Ochoa's attention was the criminal conviction of Brandon Rhinehart for suction dredge mining in violation of California's prohibition on such mining. PLP help retain an attorney for Mr. Rhinehart in defense of his prosecution for violating the ban on suction dredge mining. The conviction of Mr. Rhinehart has been appealed, and PLP has been informed that the California Court of Appeal has accepted Mr. Rhinehart's case for review.

In addition, PLP's attorney is appealing to the Court of Appeal Judge Ochoa's denial of a Preliminary Injunction staying the ban on suction dredge mining. The Rhinehart case will figure as an example of irreparable harm caused to miners should they violate California's unconstitutional prohibition on suction dredge mining. Both appeals will raise issues not only of irreparable harm, but also of Federal preemption allowing suction dredge mining, making the California prohibition on suction dredge mining unconstitutional.

PLP has previously been successful in the Court of Appeal in having that Court overturn the decision of a Superior Court Judge who prohibited issuing of permits for suction dredge mining, prior to the California statute banning such mining that is now in intensive litigation.

PLP's appeal, as well as the Rhinehart appeal, does give miners hope for light at the end of the tunnel, and could well bring suction dredge mining back to California before the next dredging season. PLP would like to thank all of the folks who have supported us in the past, and thank those who will continue their support in the future. PLP is fighting for you!

Sincerely,

Jerry Hobbs
President, Public Lands for the People, Inc.

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Here is what gives the Western States and the Counties authority to work the lands

Community Wildfire Protection Plan CWPP
Wildlife Urban Interface Plan WUI
North West Forest Plan NWFP
Federal Land Management Plan FLMP

O&C act... just to name a few of the more well known. With the recent fires there is so much more but it is very time sensitive, there is only 90 days (it may be less, I'd have to look it up again) to negotiate with BAER team for funds among other monies that may be available. However, keep in mind that the forest service has ALREADY spent THIS year's budget on LAST year's fires!!!

The Counties are an extension of the state with all authority and jurisdiction thereof. Passing the ordinance/resolution, under Health, Safety and Welfare, allows the county to take back management of the lands within their borders, there by taking their proper role at the negotiations table with the USFS, following all laws already in place, without interference from the "enviro's". The eco-terrorists (Green Nazi's) won't sue because there is no money in it and no case has been won against Health Safety and Welfare. Every one of the above Acts allows, and in some cases requires, certain work to be performed.

The Liberators have placed this issue in front of numerous attorneys; County and private, and not one has come up with a LEGAL reason that it can't/shouldn't be done, every reason is political. If the Feds cut off the welfare (which they already have!) because of the counties action, then they are in breach of contract.

You can get all the info and legal opinions/case law you require on www.theLiberators2004.org, American Lands Counsel and Defend Rural America websites. If anyone doesn't want to take the time to do the research Rae and Loma, of the Liberators, will come and do a presentation, and answer ALL your Questions.

Loma Wharton, Co-Chair
www.theliberators2004.org

V.A.C.A.T.E. - Valiantly Affirming Constitutional Authority Through Education

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Secession brews in the 'State of Jefferson'

By [Peter Hecht](mailto:phecht@sacbee.com) phecht@sacbee.com The Sacramento Bee Oct. 10, 2013
<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/10/10/5809191/secession-brews-in-the-state-of.html>

ALTURAS -- At the 1908 Niles Hotel, newly restored in this Modoc County outpost of 2,700 residents, cattlemen in spurred boots and leather chaps are back at the saloon.

New local owners resurrected the long-shuttered hotel, remodeling rooms with ornate furnishings and reopening its tavern. They placed an American flag on a giant mounted elk in the saloon, where they serve up beer and hard liquor at a polished bar adorned with a sign: "If you're drinking to forget, please pay in advance."

These days, people in Modoc County and its neighbor county to the west, Siskiyou, are aiming to pull off a decidedly more stunning do-over. Last month, supervisors in the remote counties passed formal declarations affirming their desire to "start over" by withdrawing from California.

This improbable political rebellion, which seeks to recruit other counties to form a new State of Jefferson, is stoked with regional folklore.

It recalls the time, in 1941, when ornery residents in several counties in far Northern California and Southern Oregon staged a "secession." They named a retired judge from [Crescent City](#) as governor. Men with hunting rifles were stationed at mythical state borders. They raised the flag of Jefferson – marked with two Xs to protest the double-crossing politicians in Sacramento and Salem who failed to build roads for copper mining.

This year, on Sept. 3 and Sept. 23, respectively, county supervisors in Siskiyou and Modoc passed declarations supporting withdrawal from California as a first step toward forming the State of Jefferson. Enacted before packed galleries, the declarations asserted that state lawmakers neglected to represent the interests of "rural and frontier counties" by failing to protect property and water rights, passing gun restrictions and approving an "illegal fire tax."

The declarations also decried proposals endorsed by the U.S. Interior Department to remove four hydroelectric dams on the [Klamath River](#) in southwestern Oregon to restore historic spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead, a plan some ranchers view as a theft of water from local agriculture.

"We had a standing-room-only crowd and all but two people were in favor of it," said Modoc board chairwoman Geri Byrne, who endorsed the declaration

that called for “protecting the rights, liberty, public health and safety of the people of a new State of Jefferson.”

“The board members, whether they think it will happen or not, all voted for it because that’s what the citizens want,” Byrne said.

In Alturas, cattlemen stopping at the Niles Hotel offered another motive for the upstart revolt: anger over lost traditions.

For 11 years, the Niles, the grand palace in this timber and ranching town near the Oregon border, lay abandoned. Its boarded-up windows fairly wept over the generational loss of logging mills that had sent tired and thirsty workers into Alturas and once supported three local [car dealerships](#) – compared to the current single sales lot with its two lonely pickups.

In Modoc County, earnings from timber harvests plummeted from \$35.4 million in 1994 to \$4.5 million in 2011, with production a fraction of logging heydays in the 1970s and 1980s. These days, more than 18 percent of residents live in poverty. In Siskiyou, timber revenues dropped from \$62.6 million in 1994 to \$39.2 million in 2011. Seventeen percent of residents live in poverty.

Mike LaGrande, a Colusa County rancher with a wide-brimmed hat and weathered features who had just finished driving a herd of cattle to grazing lands near Alturas, looked over the town’s restored hotel with his emotions torn.

“When I was a little boy, this was the place, the Niles Hotel,” he said. “Everyone stayed here. There were poker games upstairs. This was the dream. People came to town more. They looked for things to rally around.”

The old cowboy finished on a downer.

“It was all before timber was run out of this county,” LaGrande said. “We ranchers and farmers have seen what the environmentalists have done. We feel we are next. They want us off the public lands. They want our water.”

A breakaway spirit

Nearby, at the sprawling Modoc Cattle Auction, the notion of the State of Jefferson stirred a young cowboy. “If only it were true,” he shouted as he brought his horse to a gallop, herding straggling cows into livestock pens.

With 9,300 residents, Modoc County has the third smallest population among California's 58 counties. Siskiyou is not much bigger: the 14th smallest with 44,000 residents. But some diehard believers think they can pull off statehood.

Such a feat would require approval of the [California Legislature](#), as well as lawmakers in Oregon if counties there join the Jefferson movement, and ultimately passage by Congress. The last time that happened was in 1863, when [West Virginia](#) broke from Virginia during the [Civil War](#). So far, no Oregon counties have officially signed on to the new effort.

Peter Laufer, author of a recent book on the region, "The Elusive State of Jefferson," said its breakaway spirit reflects the bitter political climate and an enduring myth that the 1941 Jefferson statehood drive would have succeeded if it weren't abruptly dropped after the Japanese attacked [Pearl Harbor](#) and America entered [World War II](#).

"The Jefferson region is a metaphor for the divisiveness around the country," said Laufer, a journalism professor at the University of Oregon. "And there are conflicts between the loggers, the fishermen, the environmentalists, the equity flight re-settlers from urban California and the descendants of the Oregon Trail. All these people have conflicting interests and they act as if they are unresolvable."

In Mount Shasta city, Kathleen Hitt, conservation director for the Siskiyou Land Trust, worries that "frustration and emotion" fanned by the State of Jefferson movement could upset the organization's efforts to work cooperatively with property owners to purchase and preserve forest lands and wildlife habitat. "I think the State of Jefferson is very fear-driven and it shuts the door on conversation," she said.

In the Modoc town of Lookout, State of Jefferson supporter Gary Monchamp, whose family for generations ran the former Lookout Logging Co., blames the government for the region's decline. He brings together his thumb and middle finger, cut in half in a logging accident long ago, to describe the inch-thick stack of paperwork he says California requires for even small logging jobs on private property.

"Their utopian philosophy in Sacramento just doesn't apply here," Monchamp said. "California doesn't want our timber, yet they want redwood decks. They don't want cattle grazing. Yet they want leather belts and beef and Jell-O."

'The greater good'

The same economic challenges that drive this secessionist movement raise questions about whether the region could support itself as a new state. Both Modoc and Siskiyou counties get far more money from California in state social services than residents pay in state income and sales taxes. And while farming in the area generates more than \$85 million in annual earnings, government is the largest employer. County, state and federal jobs account for more than one-third of the labor force.

Yet in the Siskiyou County seat of Yreka, a new banner in a shop on downtown Miner Street welcomes visitors to “the Capital of the State of Jefferson.” An accompanying sign announces a petition drive to prepare a “territorial government” for the coming state.

Blocks away, Mark Baird, owner of Yreka’s FM country and classic rock Buffalo Radio, raises the classic 1941 Jefferson flag outside the station.

Baird, 61, is a 747 cargo pilot and a cattle and buffalo rancher. He helped draft the declarations passed in Siskiyou and Modoc and is trying to rally other northern counties to join, often enumerating rural residents’ exasperation over legislative actions in Sacramento.

He blasts firearms legislation that treats “my ground squirrel gun” as if it were “a military weapon” and expresses incredulity over a new law protecting bathroom choices for transgender children. “We look at things like that and are horrified,” he said.

He insists the State of Jefferson is the answer to revive logging, protect ranching and lure new businesses. He bristles at suggestions that these counties need to subsist on social services.

“It’s absolutely infuriating to people up here, this idea that we’re little children and we must have our hands held out,” Baird said. “Well, we would make our own way. We are intelligent, creative, hardworking people, and without the morass of failed social engineering experiments here, we would do fine.”

For now, the reopened Niles Hotel is the newest experiment in this region of Jefferson. Jim Cavasso, owner of Modoc Steel & Supply, and his wife, Elizabeth, a 37-year employee with the U.S. Forest Service, brought the hotel back to life with 500 gallons of paint and 800 pounds of grout. They collected antiques to furnish it. Local residents donated heirlooms, including a baby grand piano rumored to have been danced upon by Gene Kelly.

The couple is unsure about the State of Jefferson. Jim Cavasso wonders if the plan can clear “the bureaucratic bull.” His wife said, “It has to be for the greater good, not just anger.” But they agree the region needs a comeback story.

“People like Jim and I are rallying,” Elizabeth said. “People say just seeing this hotel come back gives them faith.”

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<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>

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EPA essentially nonessential, drain on taxpayers

Laura Meyers , The Collegian, October 16, 2013



I grew up 30 minutes from Lawrence, Kan., so I can handle the tree huggers, coexist-ers, PETA disciples, intolerant tolerance-preaching atheists and dirty, dreaded hippies. But, not matter how hard I try I cannot stand the fact that we, the taxpayers, single-handedly fund the “Environmental Protection” Agency that was deemed 94 percent unessential.

Recently, the federal government has been shutdown due to Congress’ inability to create a new budget. Have you heard?

During this shutdown, any “non-essential” program is temporarily closed until a new budget has been set. Does anyone know why we have non-essential programs in the first place? Yeah, me either.

According to a Sept. 30 article in The Huffington Post by Kate Sheppard, 94 percent of the EPA’s employees were considered nonessential and were

furloughed until further notice. That means that the taxpayer helps fund roughly 15,286 non-essential salaries a year.

Do you know how many trees we could plant with that amount of money? Or “medical” marijuana plants? Where you at, Colorado?

Furthermore, let’s not pretend that the EPA isn’t a key component of the left. The EPA has been a team player in both of Barack Obama’s presidential campaigns.

Although, sometimes I think the EPA and Obama administration aren’t focusing on hope and change, but are secretly hoping for change – climate change, that is.

Have you noticed that the language on the left during the past decade has changed from “global warming” to “climate change?” That’s because the world is not getting warmer. The polar ice caps increased in size by 60 percent just this summer. The only heat we need to be concerned with right now is coming from the Middle East.

So what I’m proposing is that we get rid of the unnecessary 94 percent within the EPA and keep the remaining 6 percent that manages potential chemical spills, rail derailments and water/plant testing.

Then, have President Obama give the Keystone Pipeline a green light, and boom: those 15,286 workers are transferred to the Pipeline project and aren’t left jobless. Meanwhile, our country won’t be forced to rely on foreign nations nearly as much. But, I’m just a kid; what do I know, right?

Again, I may not be a scientist, but I like to pretend I’m doing all right in the common sense department, and my common sense tells me that the amounts and types of regulations the EPA has passed recently are almost as irrational as the new Miley Cyrus.

The forgotten worker, the farmer, is the American that arguably gets hit the hardest by such regulations.

Not only do farm families have to play nice with the Food and Drug Administration, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and U.S. Department of Agriculture, but they are also bullied by the EPA.

For example, under Section 404 and Swampbuster, if it rains on any type of farmland, and rainwater gathers on the property, the landowner has to first

obtain a permit before he can drain the water, because it is deemed a "wetland of the United States." Doesn't that seem a bit "nonessential?" Those pesky, little puddles.

Also, after 2011, the EPA has passed several new standards that affect non-road diesel engines. These new standards are requiring a decrease in horsepower and, in turn, fuel efficiency among farming machinery. This costs the farmer time, fuel and machine proficiency. But hey, at least Al Gore is happy.

If the farmer should choose to not follow these regulations, or violate any water run-off standard, we can just fire up one of the EPA's taxpayer funded drones to take photos of their land, in order to force compliance.

I'm farming and I grow it? More like you're farming, and the government knows everything about it.

The core of my argument is: why? Why are we funding billions of citizen's dollars to a department that is almost "nonessential" in its entirety? The EPA was responsible, in a large part, for the 93 new federal regulations passed within the first three days of President Obama's second term.

93 regulations in three days. Think about it.

If President Obama thinks I only need to make a certain amount of money in my lifetime, then the EPA only needs to pass so many regulations. It's only fair.

Laura Meyers is a freshman in journalism and political science. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

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EPA Led Investigation Oversteps in Alaska



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Emily Hytha, September 5, 2013,
202.225.2365

Washington, D.C. (September 5, 2013) - Earlier this week, the Alaska Governor and Congressional Delegation were made aware of reports of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Environmental Crimes Unit

and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Criminal Investigations Division using intimidation tactics while raiding gold mines in the Fortymile River area near Chicken, AK. The EPA and DEC showed up armed and in full body armor, claiming to look for violations of the Clean Water Act. No arrests were made and no citations were issued.

Alaskan Congressman and Western Caucus Member Don Young released the following statement today in response to the raids:

"I am deeply troubled by the aggressive show of force and tactics employed by the EPA and other agencies, whose agents descended on the Fortymile Mining District late last month to enforce provisions of the Clean Water Act.

"Rather than focusing on compliance with common practices and assisting in education, this sweeping operation was heavy handed, cast a wide net, and brought intimidation to unsuspecting and many undeserving miners. Particularly concerning is the level of misinformation and lack of coordination with State law enforcement agencies, a detail that was illuminated earlier by Governor Parnell. As a result, I stand with him in support of his call for an investigation and I too demand that Administrator McCarthy review her agency's actions.

"Despite the creation of meddlesome federal agencies like the EPA, safe and responsible mining in this area of Alaska has occurred for well over 120 years, and it is my intention to see that activity continues as the time honored Alaskan tradition that it is. However, I'm afraid this latest incident is simply another example of a coordinated harassment strategy from federal agencies who don't view placer activity as compatible in and around an area designated as a Wild and Scenic River.

"Finally, I join the request of the Fortymile miners, and call on the EPA and other agencies involved in these recent actions to meet in Chicken, Alaska next week to discuss the operation."

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Both state, feds probe August EPA task force raids near Chicken

[Sean Doogan](#), October 10, 2013

AlaskaDispatch
News and voices from the Last Frontier

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/20131010/both-state-feds-probe-august-epa-task-force-raids-near-chicken>

In the halls of Washington, D.C. and back in Alaska, politicians are looking into the actions of what they say is a heavy-handed Environmental Protection Agency. Gov. Sean Parnell announced Thursday he has selected Anchorage attorney Brent Cole to serve as a Special Counsel to investigate the August raids

of the Alaska Environmental Crimes Task Force -- an EPA-led group of armed and armored officers that descended on the area to look for violations of the Clean Water Act.

Cole has 90 days to submit his report on the Task Force's compliance checks in the Fortymile mining district, a 6.5-million-acre mineral claims area that partly sits inside the Fortymile National Wild and Scenic River. The area is controlled by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the state Department of Environmental Conservation oversees mining water quality permits there, under the authority and oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Miners said that during the week of Aug. 22, seven armed agents descended on area mines, sped past miners on all-terrain vehicles or on foot without identifying themselves, and began checking equipment.

The agents were all wearing body armor and jackets with the word "POLICE" emblazoned on them. Miners, used to water-quality compliance checks that usually entail an officer showing up with a clipboard and a smile, claimed the EPA was heavy-handed in its August foray into the Fortymile area. A state DEC officer was part of the task force, something did not please Parnell.

"Alaskans deserve to know all the facts in this case," Parnell said in a Thursday press release. "While these facts are being gathered, I will continue to be vigilant in defense of Alaskans' liberty and personal property," Parnell said.

A September meeting in Chicken between the miners, the EPA, BLM and representatives from Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Don Young's offices was attended by Parnell, but offered the miners few answers to their questions about the Task Force's actions. Parnell vowed to begin an investigation into the matter and called the EPA Task Force's actions "over-targeted and done with excessive force." So far, no citations or charges have been filed against any of the 30 or so miners contacted by the EPA Task Force. The EPA has said it had evidence of "potential egregious felony violations of the Clean Water Act in the Fortymile District."

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill

Also on Thursday, in Washington, D.C., the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources began two hours of testimony about what some on the committee say is evidence of EPA overreach in enforcing environmental regulations. Young, Alaska's lone representative in the House, is a member of the committee and asked one of the Fortymile miners to attend.

“We feel it was very intimidating to have regulators come in like they did with full body armor, automatic weapons, and shotguns, and not introduce themselves. It was very disconcerting,” said Sheldon Maier, president of the Fortymile Mining District, who testified before the House subcommittee Thursday.

Representatives of the EPA itself were not present at the Capitol Hill hearing because of the ongoing government shutdown, but the agency has told the Alaska Dispatch that it would not be answering any more press inquiries about the actions of its task force.

The EPA refuses to explain why it chose to use its Enforcement Task Force to do what were basically compliance checks of Chicken-area mines. Murkowski said she believes the EPA’s reasoning is, “wholly concocted” and said her staffers were told by the agency that one reason for the use of armed officers was a tip from the Alaska State Troopers that there was, “ongoing and rampant drug and human trafficking in the area.”

The Troopers have since denied ever telling the EPA that and said they have no evidence the Chicken area is dangerous.

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Alaska gold miners give EPA agent taste of the 'gang treatment'

AlaskaDispatch
News and voices from the Last Frontier



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In the Chicken community hall on Sept 14, 2013, approximately 40 miners, congressional aides and governor Sean Parnell question Ken Fisher, EPA deputy director for Alaska, and BLM officials about August raids where teams of 4-7 EPA agents, armed and wearing body armor, descended unannounced on mining claims under the pretense of checking for violations of the clean water act.

Loren Holmes photo

EPA faces gold miners over Alaska dirty water raids

Yet when an EPA agent returned about one month later to answer questions about the raids, few new details were revealed. Neither the EPA nor the task force, which included regulators from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, made any arrests or closed down any mines that were allegedly polluting local waterways in violation of the Clean Water Act. No citations were issued. Nothing appears to have come of it, at all, except for another backlash from over federal overreach in Alaska, and a likely further deterioration among locals of trust in Uncle Sam.



Show thumbnails

Chicken area miners David Likins, left, and Sheldon Maier, president of the Fortymile mining district, question EPA deputy director for Alaska, Ken Fisher, during a meeting on Sept 14, 2013 at the Chicken community hall. Fisher and officials from the BLM were in the small eastern Alaska community to answer questions about August raids where teams of 4-7 EPA agents, armed and wearing body armor, descended unannounced on mining claims under the pretense of checking for violations of the clean water act.

Loren Holmes photo



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EPA deputy director for Alaska, Ken Fisher, responds to angry questions from Chicken gold miners, congressional aides, and the Alaska governor, Sean Parnell, during a meeting at the Chicken community hall on Sept 14, 2013. The governor flew into the small northeastern Alaska community to participate in a meeting where the federal agency was questioned about August raids where teams of 4-7 EPA agents, armed and wearing body armor, descended unannounced on mining claims under the pretense of checking for violations of the clean water act.

Loren Holmes photo



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Alaska governor Sean Parnell questions Ken Fisher, EPA deputy director for Alaska, at a meeting in the Chicken community hall on Sept 14, 2013. Approximately 40 miners, congressional aides and the governor were questioning Fisher and BLM officials about August raids where teams of 4-7 EPA agents, armed and wearing body armor, descended unannounced on mining claims under the pretense of checking for violations of the clean water act.

Loren Holmes photo



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EPA deputy director for Alaska, Ken Fisher, expresses his frustration during angry questioning from Chicken gold miners, congressional aides, and Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell, during a meeting at the Chicken community hall on Sept 14, 2013. Fisher and representatives from the BLM were in the small eastern Alaska community to participate in a meeting where the federal agencies were questioned about August raids where teams of 4-7 EPA agents, armed and wearing body armor, descended unannounced on mining claims to check for violations of the Clean Water Act.

Loren Holmes photo

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Special counsel to investigate armed EPA mining raid in Alaska

EPA Abuse.com, October 15, 2013

Alaska's governor, Sean Parnell, announced Thursday that a special counsel has been named to investigate raids by conducted by federal and state authorities near the town of Chicken.

"Alaskans deserve to know all the facts in this case," Parnell said in a Thursday press release. "While these facts are being gathered, I will continue to be vigilant in defense of Alaskans' liberty and personal property.

Anchorage attorney Brent Cole will be asked to determine, among other things, whether any laws were violated and if different actions could have been taken. The report is due within 90 days.

A spokesman for the federal Environmental Protection Agency, [at the time](#), did not deny that agents wore body armor and carried guns, but said it was not a “raid.” The task force included members from 10 state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Some miners, however, saw it differently.

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ENVIRONMENTALISM IS NOT A HARMLESS SPORT

MELMAN MINUTE

Leonard Melman, September 18th, 2013

<http://www.themelmanreport.com/minutes/minute984.html>

Anyone who believes that environmentalists are really nice people who raise a little Cain now and then but don't do any real harm should reconsider after learning the facts about the “Pebble” project in Alaska.

Mining giant Anglo American PLC has been working to develop the enormous Pebble copper-gold venture and has already spent some \$540 on the project it owns jointly with Northern Dynasty Minerals, but it has now decided to pull the plug on Pebble. While falling metals prices were indeed a factor in that decision, there is little doubt that costs soared out of hand due to the rabid opposition of the determined environmental community.

Environmentalists have been passionately critical of the project because they fear it would harm an important spawning area for salmon and damage fishing for nearby communities. They have successfully demanded that the companies involved conduct expensive and complex studies to answer endless questions, only to demand new additional studies in an ongoing sequence. Anglo has countered with arguments pointing to the tremendous economic benefits which would accrue to nearby communities upon the onset of production construction and continuing operations and they have also pledged to support fishing in the vicinity – but it has all fallen on deaf ears.

The project now reverts to the ownership of Northern Dynasty, but that company does not at present appear to have the financial power to continue developing Pebble on its own.

Environmental problems continue to fester as one of the most galling of all impediments to mining development.

In a related story, shareholders at Barrick Gold continue to voice displeasure with Barrick's handling of their various projects with particular criticism attached to their giant Chilean copper-gold project which was suspended earlier this year due to environmental issues with the Chilean government.

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The Sierra Club Exposed

by [Marita Noon](#), June 11, 2013

http://epaabuse.com/12848/editorials/the-sierra-club-exposed/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=the-sierra-club-exposed&utm_source=EPA+Abuse&utm_campaign=c1c266cac7-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bdf7c53c9e-c1c266cac7-305309409



In a news cycle where the lack of transparency is revealed daily, it is refreshing when something previously opaque exposes its true motives. Such is the case for the Sierra Club and its desire to block oil and gas drilling.

I've written many times on environmental groups' influence over use of public lands and how they often use claims of some endangered flora or fauna as cover for their efforts to block any beneficial economic development, such as mineral extraction or agricultural activity. They cry about some critter when in fact it is really about control—control of public lands. It is this very tactic that was the impetus for my "Smash the Watermelons" initiative. Everywhere I speak, I give out bumper stickers with the slogan and pens with a green barrel, but that write with red ink. Imprinted on the pen is: "Green on the outside, red on the inside. SmashTheWatermelons.org." When people ask about the bumper sticker's meaning, I explain: "When you spend every day, as I do, on energy issues, you quickly realize that the environmental zealots are really about blocking development in America. While they appear green on the outside, they are red on the inside."

But now, in a season of cover-ups, the Sierra Club has come clean.

This month, they've launched a new campaign: Our Wild America—which will call for new national monument designations.

The Hill's [E2 Wire](#) heralds the news: "Green groups to Obama: Designate public lands to stop oil and gas drilling." **No longer hiding behind the protection of a critter, the environmental groups have come out of the shadows and boldly proclaimed their intentions.** The article starts with: "**Environmental lobbyists are pressing President Obama to turn more western lands into national monuments to prevent oil-and-gas companies from drilling there.**" The Sierra Club is leading the charge..."

Apparently, the gang green is frustrated with the lack of Congressional action in locking up lands and is now resorting to pressuring the president to take executive action. Bentley Johnson, legislative representative for the National Wildlife Federation's public lands campaign, [said](#) that his group prefers to work at the local level to build momentum with congressional delegations. But that has proven relatively fruitless in recent years. "The standstill on getting lands protected through the legislative route might have pushed the White House to go it alone in recent months."

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is mandated to manage the public lands for "[multiple use.](#)" The BLM [Terminology & Actions document](#) defines it this way: "'multiple uses' include recreation, range/grazing, timber, minerals/oil & gas, watershed, fish & wildlife, wilderness, and natural, scenic, scientific and historical values." But, the "century-old" Antiquities Act gives President Obama the authority to designate national monument status even if there's no actual monument erected. A national monument designation makes the locale off limits to development. President Obama has used this "[emergency](#)" designation nine times—[six times](#) in the past year.

The Sierra Club wants it used more.

Dan Chu, the director of the Sierra Club's Wild America campaign, [explained](#): "Recreation, wildlife and scenic values would have much more priority in management planning if it was designated as a national monument."

As a part of the Wild America campaign, Michael Brune, executive director for the Sierra Club, is currently on a "road trip" to "educate the public and excite Sierra Club members about getting some of these proposed areas as national monuments."

One of Brune's stops is Moab, Utah. Marc Thomas, a member of the executive committee of the Sierra Club's Utah Chapter's Glen Canyon Group, is in support

of the proposed Greater Canyonlands National Monument—1.4 million acres near Moab—that he [describes](#) as “a whole swath of land that is not protected from impacts like mineral extraction or privatization.” Thomas exclaims: “That’s what I’m concerned about.”

Chu agrees. Addressing the campaign, he says: “We, along with our partners, are concerned about imminent threats from tar sand development, oil and gas leasing and the increase in illegal trails from off-road vehicle use.”

The Wild America campaign is described as “a *grassroots* movement to secure permanent protection for significant landscapes and advocating for responsible wildlife and lands management”—which is spearheaded by “the largest and most influential *grassroots* environmental organization in the country.” But how grassroots is the Sierra Club really? It is not the hiking and nature club that it used to be—or that the leadership wants you to think it is. The Sierra Club is now a true political organization flexing its muscle to move its agenda with nearly a hundred million dollars in [annual revenues](#).

In its announcement about the Wild America campaign, the United Press International said the following: “The Sierra Club, a leading environmental lobbying group in Washington...” The Sierra Club [endorses candidates](#) and policies—recently voting to support comprehensive immigration reform. In an interesting post on the website [Progressives for Immigration Reform](#), life-long Sierra Club member and environmental activist [Philip Carfaro](#) bemoans the club’s reversal in its position on immigration that had been held for four decades, saying the shift “looks to have been driven by short-term politics.” Carfaro posits that Brune ignored “both the grave environmental costs of immigration-driven US population growth and the organization’s own organizational history” in exchange for La Raza’s support at the big DC rally against the Keystone pipeline and calls the leadership “short-sighted, politically correct pygmies.”

Carfaro’s point rings true. Immigration reform, specifically amnesty, is a Democratic dream come true and a presidential promise. I suspect that backroom deals were made for the Sierra Club’s support in exchange for executive-order national monument status to prevent oil and gas drilling. In the call for Obama to “designate public lands to stop oil and gas drilling,” Chu adds a political sweetener, suggesting that Obama could help Democrats win House and Senate seats in the midterm election year: “We think there’s real opportunities for them to do additional monument designations by the midterm elections and that it’s a positive political thing for the administration and for senators and congressmen.”

There's a La Raza connection. E² Wire [reports](#): "Chu argues the West is becoming 'less purple and more blue' because of an influx of Latino and younger voters. The Sierra Club aims to marshal those voting blocs to get new national monuments in New Mexico and Colorado. Chu said Latino and young voters care more about conservation than about energy drilling, citing a poll for the Sierra Club and National Council of La Raza that said 69 percent of Latino voters support increasing the number of national monuments."

Yet, [polling](#) done by the Western Energy Alliance (WEA) shows otherwise. Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government affairs reports: "Our polling (conducted by the Tarrance group) shows that Latinos favor increased oil and natural gas in the US by 74%. I think they, along with a majority of Americans, realize that development creates jobs and economic opportunity throughout the US."

Jessica Kershaw, a spokeswoman for the Department of Interior (DOI), said the administration wants to see grassroots support for monument designations before acting: "DOI, as part of the Obama administration, is certainly committed to the conservation of these designations. But it's rooted in the partnership of these local communities," she said. So, Brune is out trying to get Sierra Club members excited about the proposed national monuments. I believe, as the WEA poll confirms, that the average American understands that more drilling means more jobs, lower-priced fuels, energy security, and a balancing of the trade deficit—which is why, as Johnson said, working "with congressional delegations" to lock up lands has been "fruitless."

Why has the Sierra Club—a 501(c)4 public charity with the same designation as the beleaguered Tea Party groups that were "blamed" for the excessive scrutiny due to political activities—suddenly gotten transparent about their politically aggressive actions? Perhaps now that Sally Jewell, former Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) CEO, is [Secretary of the Interior](#), the Sierra Club feels emboldened. It has a friend in the Administration. REI is a Sierra Club "[benefactor](#)."

Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA), the chairman of the [House Natural Resources Committee](#), doesn't want decisions on monuments imposed by Obama. In an email, Mallory Micetich, a committee spokeswoman, told me: "Chairman Hastings firmly believes that additions to the National Park System and major land-use decisions that impact local communities and economies should be the result of careful public review and a vote by Congress. It should not be a unilateral decision imposed by the President under a century-old, outdated law."

Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM), Chairman of the [Western Caucus](#), agrees. "Monument designations, like any other laws, should come up from the people, not down by executive decree. Conservation is at its best when it is carried out by the people: through elected representatives in a transparent, public process. When designations are instead handed down through executive order, valid concerns are silenced, the minority cannot express its concerns, and both conservation and democracy suffer."

Remember "the administration wants to see grassroots support for monument designations before acting"—which implies that grassroots opposition could prevent the designations. Call the DOI ([202-208-6416](tel:202-208-6416)) and ask Jessica Kershaw to tell Secretary Jewell that you are "grassroots" and that you oppose the designation of national monuments by executive order. Public land-use decisions that block public access to recreation and other job-creating economic activities should not be made unilaterally, behind closed-doors, and without local input.

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

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Rare golden treasure found in Jerusalem

Two bundles containing 36 gold coins from Byzantine era, gold and silver jewelry, gold medallion with menorah uncovered during Hebrew University excavations at foot of Temple Mount

During excavations at the foot of the [Temple Mount](#), which were conducted this summer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar discovered two bundles of treasure containing 36 gold coins, gold and silver jewelry, and a gold medallion with the menorah (Temple candelabrum) symbol etched into it.

Also etched into the 10-centimeter (4-inch) medallion are a shofar (ram's horn) and a Torah scroll.

Calling the find "a breathtaking, once-in-a-lifetime discovery," Dr. Mazar said: "We have been making significant finds from the First Temple Period in this area, a much earlier time in Jerusalem's history, so discovering a golden seven-branched Menorah from the seventh century CE at the foot of the Temple Mount was a complete surprise."



Gold medallion with menorah symbol (Photo: Ouria Tadmor)



Coin collection (Photo: Ouria Tadmor)

The discovery was unearthed just five days into Mazar's latest phase of the Ophel excavations, and can be dated to the late Byzantine period (early seventh century CE). The gold treasure was discovered in a ruined Byzantine public structure, a mere 50 meters (164 feet) from the Temple Mount's southern wall.

The menorah, a candelabrum with seven branches that was used in the Temple, the national symbol of the State of Israel, reflects the historical presence of Jews in the area. The position of the items as they were discovered indicates that one bundle was carefully hidden underground while the second bundle was apparently abandoned in haste and scattered across the floor.

Given the date of the items and the manner in which they were found, Mazar estimates they were abandoned in the context of the Persian conquest of Jerusalem in 614 CE.



Dr. Mazar holding medallion. 'Breathtaking discovery' (Photo: Ouria Tadmor)

After the Persians conquered Jerusalem, many Jews returned to the city and formed the majority of its population, hoping for political and religious freedom. But as Persian power waned, instead of forming an alliance with the Jews, the Persians sought the support of Christians and ultimately allowed them to expel the Jews from Jerusalem.

'Treasure was abandoned'

Hanging from a gold chain, the menorah medallion is most likely an ornament for a Torah scroll. If this is the case, it is the earliest Torah scroll ornament found in archaeological excavations to date. It was buried in a small depression in the floor, along with a smaller gold medallion, two pendants, a gold coil and a silver clasp, all of which are believed to be Torah scroll ornamentations.

"It would appear that the most likely explanation is that the Ophel cache was earmarked as a contribution toward the building of a new synagogue, at a location that is near the Temple Mount," said Dr. Mazar. "What is certain is that their mission, whatever it was, was unsuccessful. The treasure was abandoned, and its owners could never return to collect it."



Discovery site at the Temple Mount's southern wall (Photo: Ouria Tadmor)

The Ophel cache is the third collection of gold coins to be found in archaeological excavations in Jerusalem, said Lior Sandberg, numismatics specialist at the Institute of Archaeology. "The 36 gold coins can be dated to the reigns of different Byzantine emperors, ranging from the middle of the fourth century CE to the early seventh century CE," said Sandberg.

Found with the coins were a pair of large gold earrings, a gold-plated silver hexagonal prism and a silver ingot. Remnants of fabric indicated that these items were once packaged in a cloth purse similar to the bundle that contained the menorah medallion.

Mazar's Ophel excavation made headlines earlier this year when she announced the 2012 discovery of an ancient Canaanite inscription (recently identified as Hebrew), the earliest alphabetical written text ever uncovered in Jerusalem.

The 2013 excavation season at the Ophel ran from the middle of April to the end of July, on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University. The Israel Antiquities Authority is carrying out the preservation works, and is preparing the site for the public.

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Why Miners Walked Away From the Planet's Richest Undeveloped Gold Deposit

**Bloomberg
Businessweek** By Brad Wieners | *BusinessWeek*, 09 Sep. 2013

Before pulling out of the Pebble Mine project last week, Anglo American ([AAUKY](#)), one of the world's biggest mining companies, had invested six years and at least \$541 million—in a partnership with Vancouver-based Northern Dynasty Minerals ([NAK](#))—to develop the site in southwestern Alaska. Wait, pause on that number for a sec: \$541 million. That's right, the London-based multinational and its U.S. subsidiary (AA Pebble) just forfeited a return on more than half a billion dollars of its shareholders' money. By the end of its 60-day withdrawal from the project (mid-November), that figure will probably end up closer to \$580 million. Anglo American has also indicated it will write down a \$300 million loss (misreported as a "penalty" elsewhere) to remove the proposed mine as an asset from its books.

Although a far smaller player, Northern Dynasty will soon own 100 percent of the

project, thought to be worth \$300 billion or more, and vows to carry on. Having completed more than a million feet of exploratory, diamond-core drilling in 1,200 holes, the former partners also amassed a 27,000-page study of the terrain, but had not begun the formal permitting process. In fact, Northern Dynasty has plowed \$180 million into Pebble since it first secured the rights to the region in 2001. Huge mining consortiums frequently seed nine-figure projects, but \$760 million-plus is still a large sum, so why did Anglo American bail now? In the statement that accompanied the Sept. 16 decision, its chief executive officer, Mark Cutifani, explained that the move was not driven by a reassessment of the site's potential, but an effort to "prioritize capital to projects with the highest value and lowest risks."

To the energetic opponents of the mine, and they are not scarce, the greatest risk remains the one posed by the Pebble Mine to the salmon fisheries in Alaska's Bristol Bay, as well as to the overwhelmingly Native American communities that harvest the fish. Close to one-half of the world's sockeye salmon spawn in the watersheds downstream from the mine site. Could it be that Anglo American believes the Environmental Protection Agency will block the mine? (Under the Clean Water Act, the agency has the authority to veto the mine on environmental grounds.) Certainly the agency's most recent [watershed assessment \(PDF\)](#) suggests it might. And what of the No Dirty Gold campaign, in which more than 50 gold buyers and retailers, including Zale ([ZLC](#)), Wal-Mart ([WMT](#)), QVC ([LINTA](#)), and Balfour (the graduation ring company), signed a pledge not to buy gold from the Pebble Mine? Is "dirty gold" becoming the new conflict diamond?

"I do not know whether the No Dirty Gold campaign contributed to Anglo American's decision. I do believe that the campaign was a meaningful part of very broad-based opposition," says Michael Kowalski, the CEO of Tiffany ([TIF](#)), one of the most prominent signatories of the preemptive boycott. Opposition to the mine, he notes, includes a majority of Bristol Bay residents, sport and commercial fisherfolk, jewelers, and "all those concerned with protecting the Bristol Bay ecosystem. ... I assume that this diverse, robust opposition was reflected in a risk/return assessment of this project."

For its part, Anglo American is sticking to its story that there's no more to its withdrawal than an internal review of works-in-progress. Cutifani was traveling and couldn't be reached for this article, but the company's top spokesman, James Wyatt-Tilby, replied via e-mail. Did the price of gold, well below its 2011 highs, factor in? No, Wyatt-Tilby said. Had its outlook on regulators and securing permits changed? No again. "Our views on Pebble as a mining project are unchanged. ... We wish the project well, and express our thanks to those who have supported Pebble." Asked directly about the No Dirty Gold campaign, he

declined to bite, reiterating that “our decision to withdraw from the project is the result of an internal prioritisation of the many projects that we have in our portfolio.”

Anglo's departure did not have a favorable effect on Northern Dynasty's share price (down more than 50 percent to \$1.50 as of Friday). Northern Dynasty's vice president for communications, Doug Allen, did his best not to sound defensive. “We don't have a gun to our head,” says Allen. “We have no debt, \$22 million in cash, a modest burn rate, and we feel we can permit the project on our own.” Allen notes that mining giant Rio Tinto ([RIO](#)) holds an 18 percent stake in his company, and says he's aware of another mine in Alaska that was able to complete the permitting process for roughly \$15 million. Northern Dynasty, he implied, could manage that.

Given the scale and high capital requirements (the Pebble site spans 600 square miles), Northern Dynasty CEO Ron Thiessen says he's open to finding a new partner. Anglo American's millions have not gone to waste, he notes. In addition to gold and copper, they've found molybdenum and palladium.

“We've used specialized rigs that could be helicoptered in,” Thiessen says. “There are no roads in this part of western Alaska, and we haven't built any. And we have as many as 100, even 160 people working on the site. They all have to be heli'd in. That gets expensive fast.” He says it was worth it, though, to demonstrate the company's commitment to low-impact mining. Its voluminous environmental baseline study, Thiessen went on to say, is the most comprehensive ever completed in Alaska, “and likely the world.”

Thiessen says that Alaskans need not choose between the mine and the fisheries: “They can safely have both.” On its own, he adds, Pebble would add several thousand jobs and 3 percent to Alaska's GDP. He characterized most of the environmental opposition to the mine as “a sham.” He allows that commercial fishers' angst is “completely understandable,” but their fears have been inflamed by “untruthful” propaganda. He has little patience for the No Dirty Gold crusade.

“[The campaign] is weak, hollow, and entirely insincere,” Thiessen says. “What I want to know is, where do they get their gold now?” The nature of the refining process makes it difficult to trace the origin of every ounce of gold, Thiessen says. “Some of these companies are actively working to avoid the requirements of Dodd-Frank to disclose where they get their gold.” (When I relayed these remarks to Tiffany's Kowalski, he replied promptly. “It is unfortunate that many of the proponents of the Pebble Mine prefer to attack mine opponents rather than engage in an objective dialogue about the enormous risks of mine development,” he wrote in an e-mail. “In any case, Tiffany will comply with the

relevant provisions of the [Dodd-Frank] Act. Regarding our sourcing practices, 98 percent of the precious metals used in our U.S. facilities (which manufacture 60 percent of the jewelry we sell) comes from clearly identified [sources.](#)")

Allen and Thiessen are naturally concerned about what the EPA, and its new administrator, Gina McCarthy, will decide. McCarthy visited the site earlier this month and is currently wading into the 600,000 public comments the agency has received about the project, according to EPA spokesman Dave Bloomgren. He says the EPA expects to release a final scientific assessment by the end of the year.

As one of the main architects of the No Dirty Gold campaign, Jennifer Krill used the occasion of Anglo American's backing out to call on the EPA to put the venture out of its misery. Krill is the executive director of nonprofit Earthworks. "The project isn't dead; Anglo American backing out does not end it," Krill says. "We don't think that Northern Dynasty could pull it off with what they have today. It would require another investor to come in and rescue it." Miners, she notes, are fond of saying you have to mine where the minerals are. "Unless and until EPA prohibits it, you can bank on someone else eventually having a go."

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JUNIOR MINING FUNDAMENTALS

Leonard Melman, MELMAN MINUTE – September 13th, 2013

<http://www.themelmanreport.com/minutes/minute983.html>

During my travels by train across the northern states en route to Toronto I had the opportunity to peruse several lengthy articles relating to mining. The great question being posed in several is the future of many junior miners in terms of their very survival.

The number of casualties is beginning to mount and now includes one of South Africa's better known small mines, Blyvoors; 31 miners have been suspended from the Australian Stock Exchange and 26 have been suspended from the Toronto NEX exchange. Among the reasons offered for many of these suspensions is the failure to file required financial statements.

Many juniors are being forced to take drastic action just to keep the doors open. Some of these measures include late payments (or no payments) of salaries to key employees, giving up their options on non-essential properties to save yearly filing fees and even stopping work on projects by putting them on "care and maintenance". I have also learned of some companies giving up

their expensive offices and moving their computer operations to a principal's recreation room.

The problems which are afflicting these juniors stem from at least three basic situations and it is worth looking at each separately.

LOW METALS PRICES – The facts are simply these: gold is down from a peak of above \$1,900 to the upper \$1,300 range. Silver is down from near \$50.00 to the mid-20s and copper is down from just under \$5.00 per pound to near \$3.25 – and these quotes include the latest fairly substantial recovery rallies.

These declines have affected juniors in two particular ways. In the first case, those who were about to enter production or who were basing their future on at least medium-term production have now seen those plans nullified by these metals price declines. A gold mine which might have incurred basic cash operating costs of, say, \$1,100 per ounce and 'all-in' costs of \$1,400 per ounce would simply no longer be profitable, making it virtually impossible to raise production financing.

In addition, juniors are frequently valued according to their "in-the-ground" wealth, but many are attempting to develop relatively low-grade ore bodies and with the price declines of the past two years, there are simply no profitable prospects at the moment..

CONTINUING HIGH COSTS

Ironically, despite lower activity within the industry, costs have not declined in any meaningful manner. As an example, due to lack of work many mining professionals such as geologists of all stripes have found new careers within the world of petroleum exploration and production, leaving fewer mining geologists on hand to service near-term demands,

In addition, with crude oil and other transportation fuels now trading at relative high, those costs have not fallen and that presents serious difficulties for those companies with projects located in remote areas.

In addition, for projects located where extreme cold can be a factor and where quality power grids are not available, both heating and power generation must be provided by diesel fuel which remains quite expensive.

BOTH INVESTORS AND SOURCES OF FINANCING BECOMING LEERY

By the nature of investing, many providers of capital turn away from high-risk ventures in times of some difficulty and turn toward what are perceived as ultra-safe investments. For this reason, sources such as banks have shown little interest in junior mining ventures of late.

At the same time, with the world moving toward the view that a major economic recovery may be in the offing – or already underway – many investors have apparently come to the conclusion that there are simply much better opportunities for capital gains in other directions than from junior mining ventures. Therefore, they have been unloading junior shares, frequently into illiquid markets, in substantial numbers.

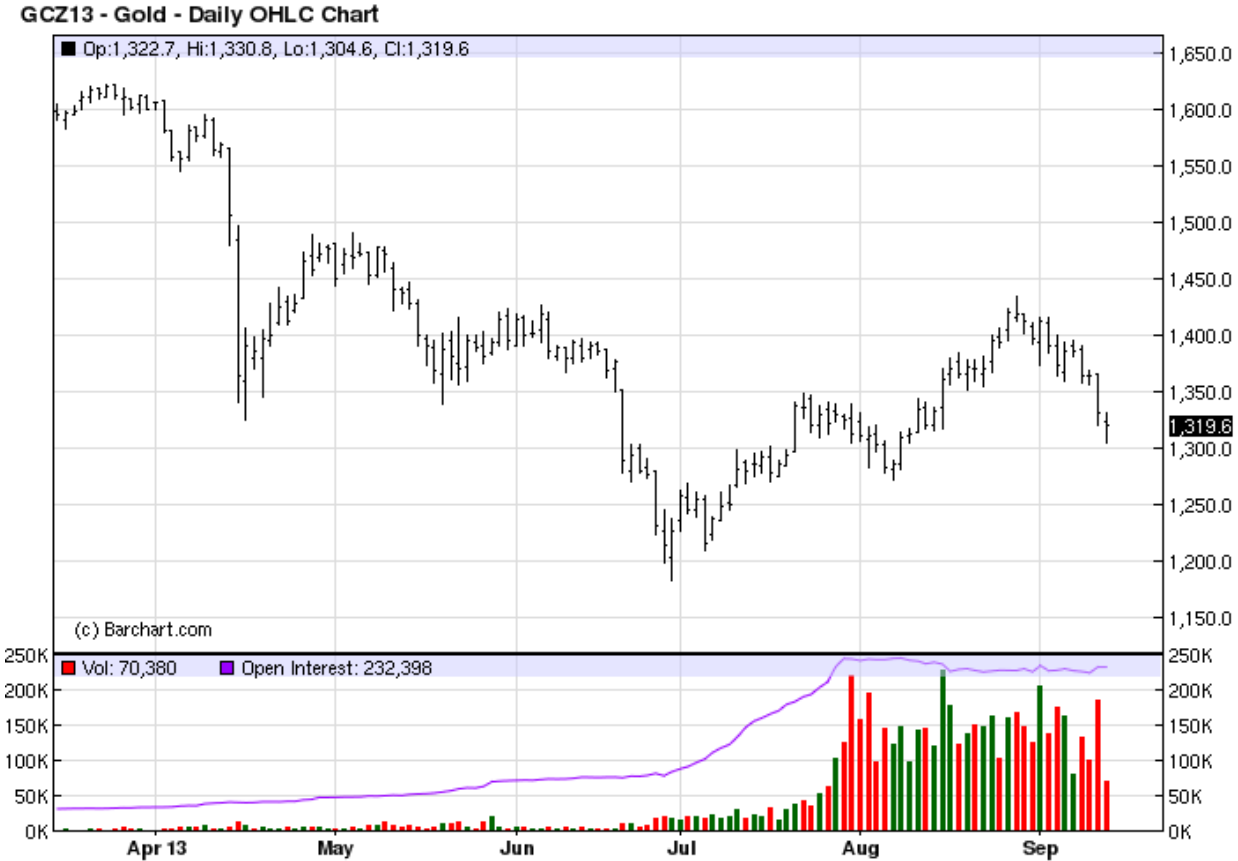
According to a Wall Street Journal study, one company which has embodied this array of difficulties is Nevada-based Gryphon Gold Corp. which has recently filed for bankruptcy.

Gryphon's heap leach mine incurred average operating costs of about \$1,200 per ounce and when the cost of servicing debt was added, they needed gold to sell for at least \$1,600 to be profitable. The resultant lack of profit made it almost impossible to acquire equipment and supplies needed to continue operating the mine – and the BK filing was the end result.

From our point of view, it will require either the fact of a major metals rally or at least the solid anticipation of a coming major rally to bring about the needed flow of investments to 'rescue' many of these juniors before their time runs out.

That is what we will attempt to forecast..

GOLD TO TEST BOTTOM?



As can be seen from this morning's chart, gold is once again headed lower, off by more than \$20 in early trading to the low \$1,340 area. What is also clear is that the price of gold has broken below short-term support near \$1,340 and that could imply a test of the two-year bottom of \$1,175.

In the meantime, this latest selling is a negative for the markets, particularly for the junior miners to handle, for the reasons indicated above.

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Mining Industry's Fate to be Determined by Anti-Mining EPA

[Christopher Prandoni](http://townhall.com/columnists/christopherprandoni/2013/06/14/mining-industrys-fate-to-be-determined-by-antimining-epa-n1619430) | Jun 14, 2013

<http://townhall.com/columnists/christopherprandoni/2013/06/14/mining-industrys-fate-to-be-determined-by-antimining-epa-n1619430>



Empowered by a recent court ruling, the Environmental Protection Agency is coopting arcane laws to inhibit economic development and kill thousands of jobs. In order for a mining operation to begin production, developers must apply for and receive a handful of permits. One such mandatory permit is the Section 404 permit required under the Clean Water Act. Production cannot begin without the Section 404 permit, effectively giving the EPA veto authority over any proposed mining project.

A few weeks ago, a federal appeals court upheld the EPA's decision to retroactively revoke a 2007 Section 404 mining permit issued for the Spruce Mine in West Virginia.

Granting the EPA sweeping authority, Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson wrote that the Clean Water Act "empowers him [EPA Administrator] to prohibit, restrict or withdraw the specification 'whenever' he makes a determination that the statutory 'unacceptable adverse effect' will result."

Judge Henderson's ruling may have granted the now blatantly partisan EPA the ability to kill any mining project "whenever" it sees fit. Given the EPA's job killing regulations and attempts to scuttle the Keystone XL pipeline, it is easy to predict how the EPA will use its newly codified authority.

It is not surprising that President Obama's EPA is pushing legal barriers to shut down a coal mine in West Virginia. What is surprising is that a federal judge endorsed such a move, especially after a district court argued that the EPA "exceeded its authority under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act when it attempted to invalidate an existing permit by withdrawing the specification of certain areas as disposal sites."

Most mining projects require years of preparation. Before developers can even begin mining, they first must identify economically viable resources, either buy or lease land from the government or private individuals, and then apply for drilling permits from a handful of different agencies. Arch Coal received its first Spruce Mine permit in 1998 and received its Clean Water Act permit in 2007. All in all, this process requires millions of dollars, lawyers, and years of paperwork.

After the Spruce Mine ruling, job creators will have to go through this expensive, time-consuming process knowing that the EPA can pull the rug out from under them at any point during production.

Every mining investment just got a whole lot riskier.

But this is nothing new. With Congressional Republicans blocking Democrats' anti-growth legislation, environmentalists have enlisted the EPA to inhibit domestic energy and mineral production.

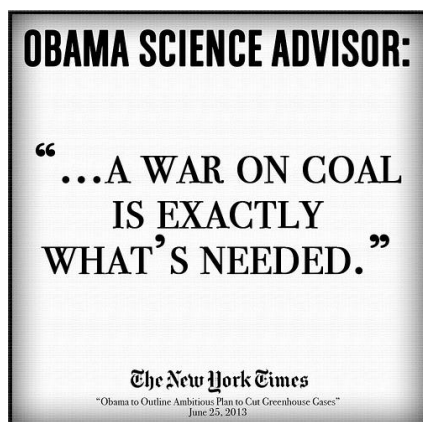
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I have added the following article to this newsletter because of the similarities in the environmentalists attack on the small-scale gold suction dredging industry. We saw all of the following in Salem when the legislature was in session this year.

- 1. Government is overreaching;**
- 2. Making a major policy change based on questionable assumptions (e.g., ignoring millions of dollars of published science and many published environmental impact statements.);**
- 3. Openly destroying an industry for no other reason than some people do not like it;**
- 4. More concerned about the demands of his environmentalist supporters;**
- 5. It is nothing more than the use of power to force individuals and businesses to change behaviors that some in government find offensive. JCG**

A Final Blow in the War on Coal?

EPA Abuse.com, October 7, 2013



A funny thing happened on the way to the coal plant the other day. But it wasn't ha-ha funny. In fact, it was tragic – and on multiple levels. Tragic in that the federal **government is overreaching** yet again. Tragic in that it is **making a major policy change based on questionable assumptions** – again. And most tragic of all in that it is **openly destroying an industry for no other reason than some people** in Washington **do not like it**.

On Sept. 20, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a new carbon dioxide emission standard that analysts say will preclude the construction of new coal-fired power plants. This is a bold move, even from the administration that brought us Obamacare and Dodd-Frank. Coal power has long been Americans' most affordable source of electricity, mainly because we have so much of it here at home.

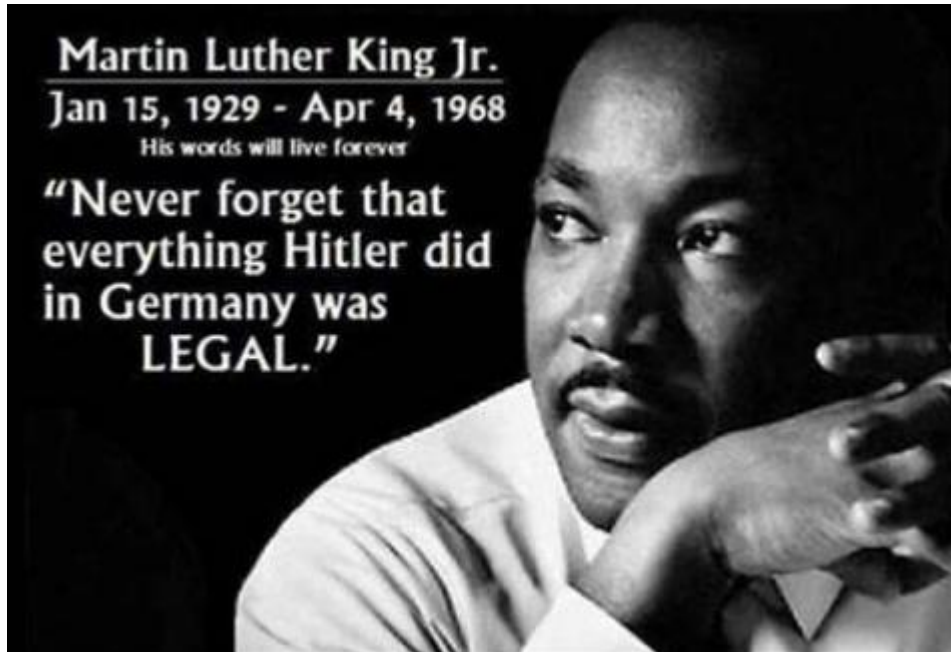
As much of the nation continues to struggle with significant unemployment, higher electricity bills are the last Christmas present anyone needs. Yet, President Obama seems **more concerned about the demands of his environmentalist supporters**, who will implement their anti-carbon agenda at any cost.

I have to give the man credit for finally acknowledging something that my organization, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, has been saying for years: Yes, Virginia, there is a war on coal. And just like other governmental regulatory wars – on tobacco, genetically modified crops, even lawn darts – **it is nothing more than the use of power to force individuals and businesses to change behaviors that some in government find offensive**.

The EPA's proposed emissions standard would, for the first time, place uniform national limits on the amount of carbon dioxide coal and natural gas power

plants will be allowed to emit in the future. It would mandate use of carbon capture and sequestration technology that is not even commercially available – and no doubt will be extremely expensive even if it does become available in future decades. Think about that for a second. The federal government has told an industry that to continue operating it must start using technology *that essentially does not exist*.

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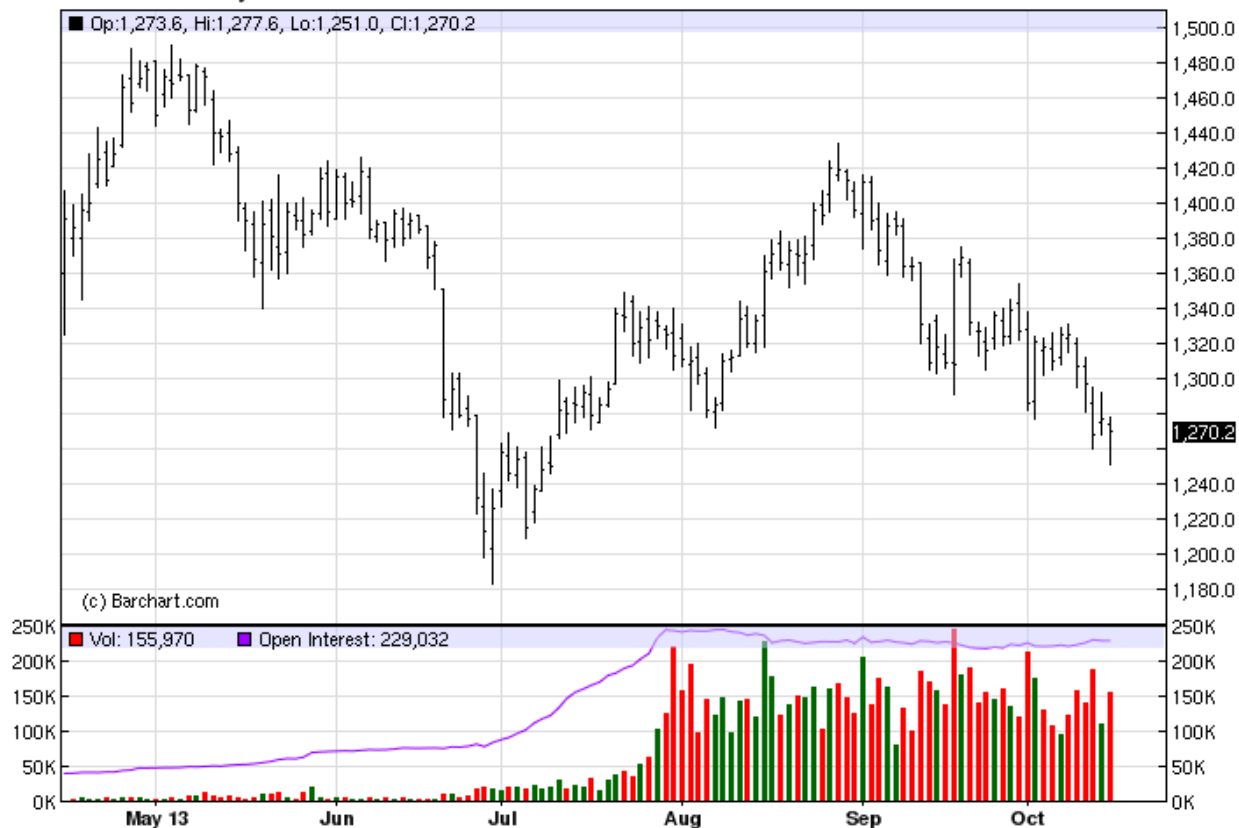
TECHNICALLY CRITICAL POINTS

MELMAN MINUTE – October 15th, 2013

By Leonard Melman

While all of this political ballyhoo is going on, the precious metals and their associated shares have reached critical points on their charts. We examine three; gold, silver and the GDX mining share Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). Of the three, gold and silver have now reached very similar and, in my opinion, very important support levels which are both located perilously close to serious chart breakdowns for each metal. In other words, if we don't hold fast near present levels and then begin to steadily improve, much greater troubles could be forthcoming down the road.

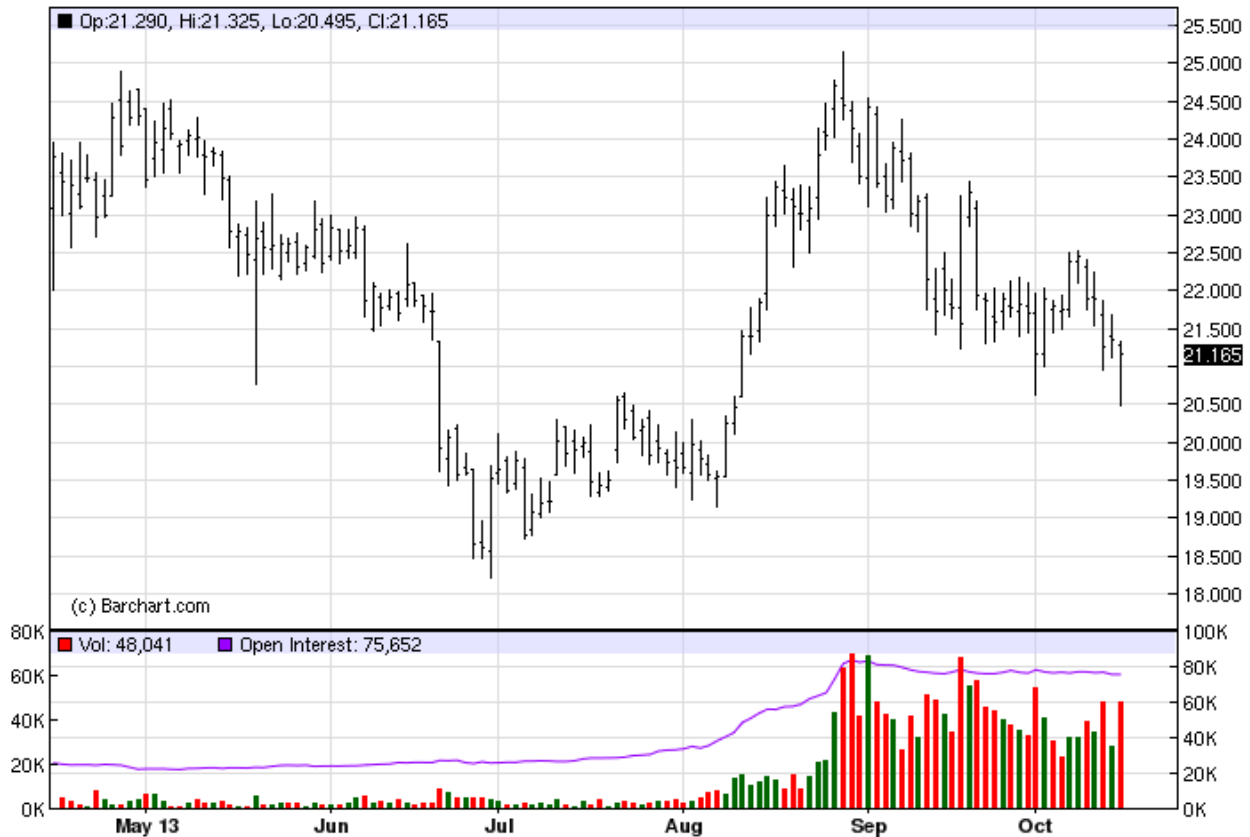
GCZ13 - Gold - Daily OHLC Chart



Please note that the price of gold reached its multi-year low in very late June and then proceeded to form a tight 'up slanting right angle triangle' pattern in the early part of July with resistance in the low to mid \$1,260s. When gold broke above that level, the July-August rally took hold. That rally ended and gold has once again resumed a short-term declining pattern which has now fallen to the same zone as the preceding early July breakout, an area which now serves as chart support and we would estimate this support zone to be the \$1,250-70 area.

Gold entered that area this morning, found support (perhaps aided by the new crises settlement announcements) and has returned to the \$1,270 area. In our interpretation of this chart, that zone has become very important. If gold fails to hold that level, this would imply a test of the major support near \$1,175-1,200.

SIZ13 - Silver - Daily OHLC Chart



As can be seen, silver has traced out a very similar pattern with the early July breakout taking place with a surge above resistance near \$20.50; followed by a strong move to the \$25 area and a renewed decline which has just now returned to that breakout point. Like gold, silver has managed a strong bounce off that support - which is the very concept of support levels - and we now have a technical situation virtually identical to gold's with silver's important support level coming in the \$18.50 to \$19.00 zone.

DISCLAIMER

The information presented on companies herein is based on data and information which we believe to be true and supported from reliable sources. However, the accuracy of this information is not implied nor can it be guaranteed. All objective reports contained herein are those of the editor and are offered for a fee and are to be used for information purposes only.

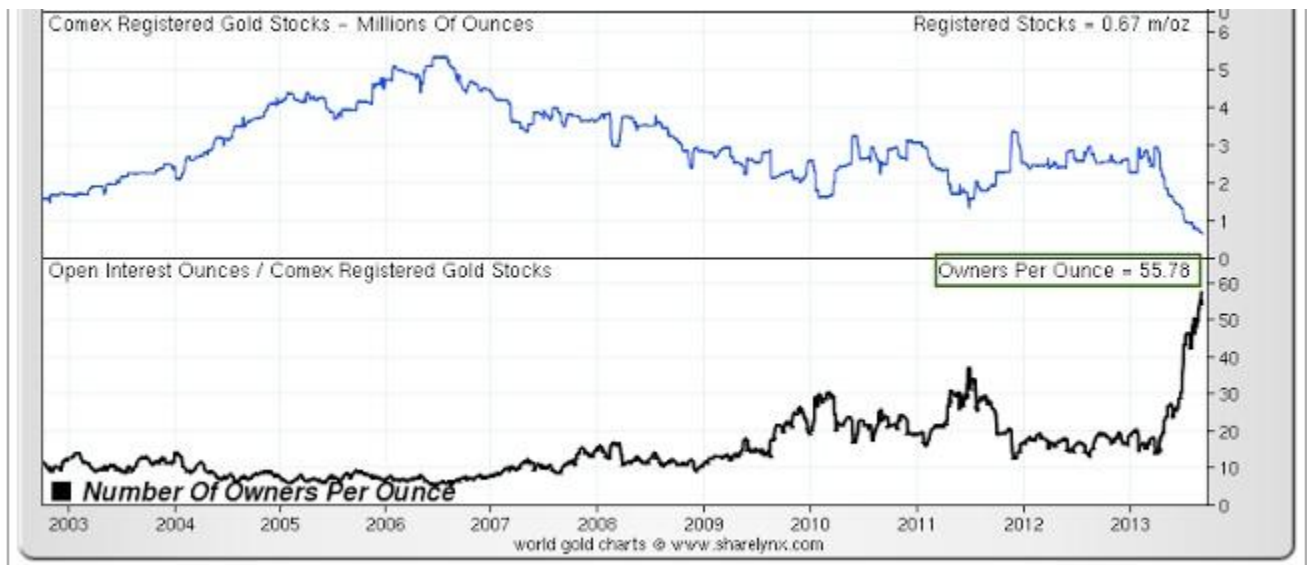
Any investment decisions should be made only following consultation with registered investment professionals.

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GLD ETF Tells Customers You Can't Have the Gold

Today one of the most highly respected fund managers in Singapore shocked King World News when he said that custodians of the ETF GLD **have refused to give people physical gold in exchange for the shares**. Grant Williams, who is portfolio manager of the Vulpes Precious Metals Fund, also warned that the massive and escalating paper claims on physical gold at the COMEX warehouse are going to create an explosion in the price of gold. Below is what Williams had to say as KWN readers around the world take another trip down the rabbit hole.

King World News note: Take a closer look at the portion of the Sharelynx chart below which illustrates the COMEX 'Registered Gold Stocks' and the 'Open Interest' or paper claims on the COMEX gold:

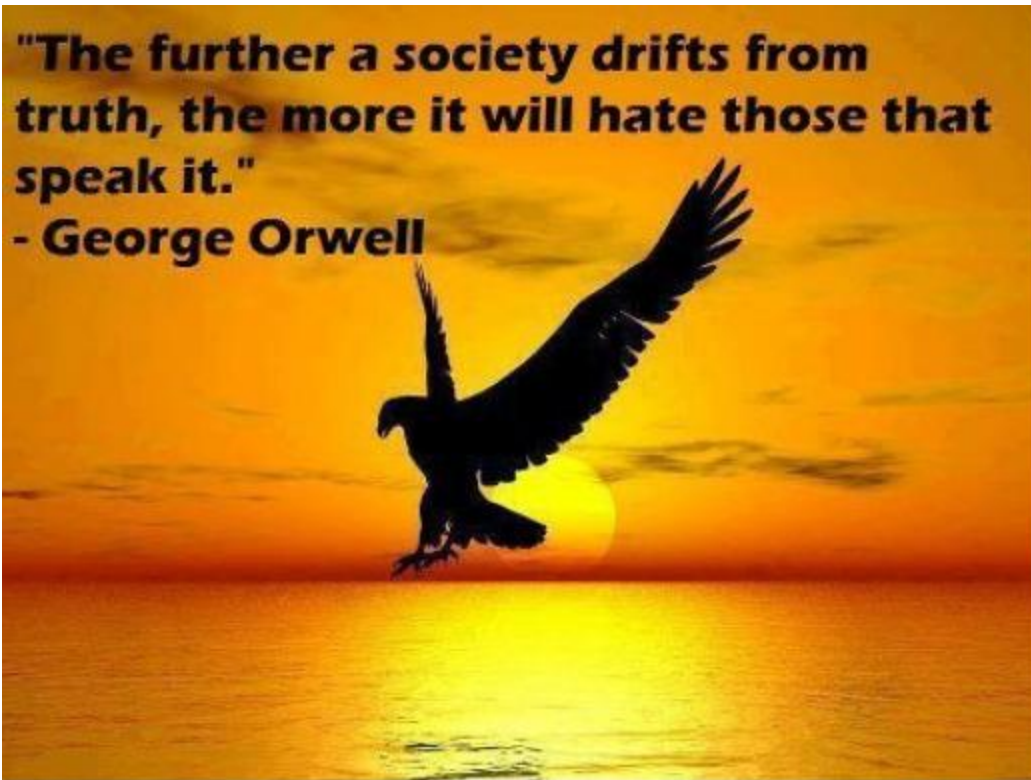


Read the entire article at:

[http://kingworldnews.com/kingworldnews/KWN_DailyWeb/Entries/2013/9/11_A_mazing - GLD ETF Tells Customers You Cant Have The Gold.html](http://kingworldnews.com/kingworldnews/KWN_DailyWeb/Entries/2013/9/11_A_mazing_-_GLD_ETF_Tells_Customers_You_Cant_Have_The_Gold.html)

Reading the article above will make it clear to all that if you are interested in precious metals ownership you should buy and hold the real thing. Do not believe in, or trust, paper promises. Only the clueless would make such an investment. JCG

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Obama secretly signing away U.S. sovereignty Shock plan regulates food, medicine, financial markers, Internet freedom

Despite the government shutdown, the Obama administration has continued secret negotiations to complete what is known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP.

The expansive plan is a proposed free-trade agreement between the U.S., Australia, Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

The agreement would create new guidelines for everything from food safety to fracking, financial markets, medical prices, copyright rules and Internet freedom.

The TPP negotiations have been criticized by politicians and advocacy groups alike for their secrecy. The few aspects of the partnership leaked to the public indicate an expansive agenda with highly limited congressional oversight.

A New York Times opinion piece previously called the deal the “most significant international commercial agreement since the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995.”

Last week, [the White House website released a joint statement](#) with the other proposed TPP signatories affirming “our countries are on track to complete the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations.”

“Ministers and negotiators have made significant progress in recent months on all the legal texts and annexes on access to our respective goods, services, investment, financial services, government procurement, and temporary entry markets,” the White House said.

The statement did not divulge details of the partnership other than to suggest a final TPP agreement “must reflect our common vision to establish a comprehensive, next-generation model for addressing both new and traditional trade and investment issues, supporting the creation and retention of jobs and promoting economic development in our countries.”

Secrecy

In February, the Open the Government organization sent a letter to Obama blasting the lack of transparency surrounding the TPP talks, stating the negotiations have been “conducted in unprecedented secrecy.”

“Despite the fact the deal may significantly affect the way we live our lives by limiting our public protections, there has been no public access to even the most fundamental draft agreement texts and other documents,” read the letter.

The missive was signed by advocacy groups such as OpenTheGovernment.org, Project on Government Oversight, ARTICLE 19 and the Global Campaign for Freedom of Expression and Information.

The groups warned issues being secretly negotiated include “patent and copyright, **land use**, food and product standards, **natural resources**, professional licensing, government procurement, financial practices, healthcare, **energy**, telecommunications, and other service sector regulations.”

Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2013/10/obama-secretly-signing-away-u-s-sovereignty/#gJBXhv8go9CTfvYb.99>

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Rare bird takes wing, only to be pureed by windmill

UK [Daily Mail](#), June 29, 2013



Another great moment in the history of “green energy.”

There had been only eight recorded sightings of the white-throated needletail in the UK since 1846. So when one popped up again on British shores this week, twitchers were understandably excited.

A group of 40 enthusiasts dashed to the Hebrides to catch a glimpse of the brown, black and blue bird, which breeds in Asia and winters in Australasia.

But instead of being treated to a wildlife spectacle they were left with a horror show when it flew into a wind turbine and was killed.

#####

After sudden plunge, gold traders cry conspiracy

Gold dropped \$25 in two minutes Friday morning following what appeared to be a single massive sell order, and professional traders are now pronouncing the sale a deliberate attempt to manipulate the market.

At 8:42 a.m. ET Friday morning, a firm appeared to sell 5,000 gold futures contracts "at the market," meaning at whatever price was available. The massive order was more than the market could take at once and led the CME to automatically halt trading for 10 seconds.

Eric Hunsader of Nanex told CNBC.com on Friday that 2,700 contracts were sold, which triggered the halt, and that the remaining 2,300 were sold once the market resumed trading.

Anyone with knowledge of the size and volume in the market would absolutely **never, ever** place a 5,000 [contract] sell [order] at market, because you could not estimate the offset price," said iiTrader CEO Rich Ilczyszyn.

As Ted Butler and I keep pounding away about, it's these not-for-profit sellers that control the precious metal markets.

Read more at: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/101110403>

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Despite Correction, Silver Is Set Up to Super-Surge to \$110

With continued volatility in the gold and silver markets, today acclaimed money manager Stephen Leeb told King World News that despite weakness, silver is now set up to “super-surge” to \$110. Leeb discussed the surprising reason for the coming surge, as well as how the mainstream media will be used to explain it.

Leeb: “Everyone is focused on the US government, and whether the delinquents can really get their act together. It would seem, at first glance, that gold should be going through the roof. The mightiest country in the world is clashing in a way that’s taking us to the precipice of what could be an absolutely calamitous economic event....

Continue reading the Stephen Leeb interview at
http://kingworldnews.com/kingworldnews/KWN_DailyWeb/Entries/2013/10/9_De_spite_Correction%2C_Silver_Is_Set_Up_To_Super-Surge_To_%24110.html

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Direct economic impact of gold mining \$210 billion plus globally

Lawrence Williams, 08 Oct 2013, LONDON (MINEWEB)

A Price Waterhouse Coopers study, commissioned by the World Gold Council (WGC), puts the direct global financial impact of gold mining at some \$210 billion – more than the GDP of most countries – yet this could well understate the true impact on the global economy due to restrictions in the terms of reference of the report and if indirect impact is taken into account.

Speaking at the global launch of the report this morning in London, Terry Heymann, Director of Gold for Development at the WGC, noted that a significant gold mining industry has the potential to transform the economies of emerging nations in particular. While its impact on the economies of some major countries like China and the U.S.A, the world’s top and No. 3 producers is important, the overall economic impact is less

significant because of those countries' mega economies, but on gold producers with much smaller GDPs, like Papua New Guinea, Ghana and Tanzania the direct contribution of gold mining to the national GDP is very significant indeed at 15%, 8% and 6% respectively. For some of other important gold producers that were analyzed in detail but that fall outside the top 15 producing nations (which produce over three quarters of the world's gold) like Mali, Burkina Faso, Surinam etc. the impact on their economies could be even greater.

One can only fantasize about the true economic impact of both gold and silver mining on the world's economy if these metals were allowed to trade at their free-market prices, instead of their current "**Made in the U.S.A. by JPMorgan Chase et al**" prices they're selling for right now. Gold would be priced out of reach of all but the super rich...and silver would be the new gold.

Read more at: <http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/content/en/mineweb-gold-analysis?oid=207855&sn=Detail>

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Mass Shootings in America

<http://www.thedailycrux.com/Post/43461/doc-eifrig-this-simple-technique-can-save-your-life-in-a-mass-shooting>

High-profile shootings like the tragedy at the Washington Navy Yard and the recent shopping mall shooting in Kenya dominate the headlines... but FBI statistics show that violent crime has been in a steady decline in America over the last two decades. In fact, the Justice Department reports 2012 saw the lowest total number of violent crimes in the U.S. since 1979.

It's important to recognize that perceptions can be different than reality. The U.S. is one of the safest, best places on earth. We cannot give in to the hype and fear bantered about by the mainstream media.

Same for small-scale gold suction dredging ...perception can be different than reality!!! JCG

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More Americans than Ever – Sixty Percent (60%) – Believe Government Has Too Much Power

September 24, 2013 by [WashingtonsBlog](http://www.washingtonsblog.com), September 24, 2013
<http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2013/09/more-americans-than-ever-60-believe-government-has-too-much-power.html>

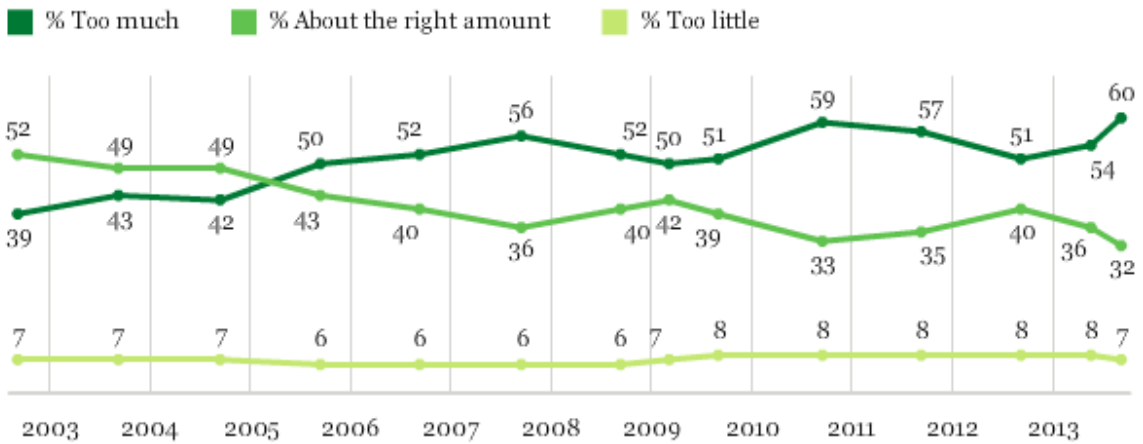
Americans Becoming Increasingly Wary of Government Power

Gallup published a new poll yesterday showing that the highest number ever measured – **60% of all Americans** – believe that the government has too much power.

Six in 10 Americans (60%) believe the federal government has too much power, one percentage point above the previous high recorded in September 2010. At least half of Americans since 2005 have said the government has too much power. Thirty-two percent now say the government has the right amount of power. Few say it has too little power.

Americans' Perceptions of Governmental Power

Do you think the federal government today -- [ROTATED: has too much power, has about the right amount of power, or has too little power]?

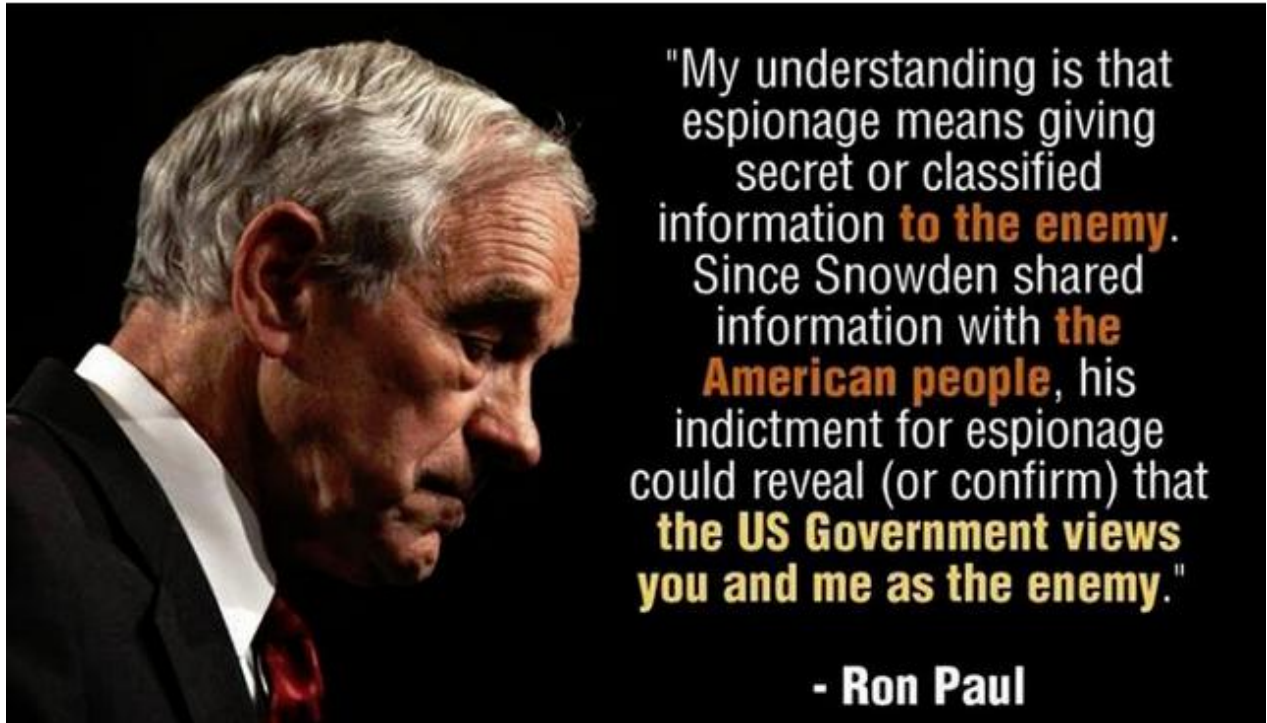


GALLUP®

None of this is surprising. Multiple recent polls have showed that:

- Americans believe the federal government [threatens – rather than protects – our freedom](#)
- Americans are [more afraid of the government than terrorists](#)

- Americans oppose the core government policies – such as spying on Americans, coddling the big banks, and threatening war against still more Middle Eastern countries – which have prevailed over the last 10 years
 - Both mainstream parties – Democrat and Republican – are deeply unpopular with the American people, because they are both so obviously in bed with the fatcats and power-players, while ignoring the little guy.
- #####



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Why Uncle Sam is hoarding gold

Brett Arends's ROI, Oct. 7, 2013,

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-uncle-sam-is-hoarding-gold-2013-10-04>

I am talking about the people running the United States Treasury, as they remain firm believers in gold. Big-time.

This week I asked them if they would consider selling some of the country's gold reserves to pay the bills if the budget crisis escalates later this month. Their response? Not a chance.

The Treasury has considered that option, among the many others, and rejected it. "Selling gold would undercut confidence in the U.S. both here and abroad," a spokeswoman said, "and would be destabilizing to the world financial system." She was quoting an official position laid out last year in a letter to Senator Orrin Hatch, but so far apparently little noticed on Wall Street.

The Treasury's position is, in a word, extraordinary. We hear all this skepticism these days about gold. Yet the Treasury itself considers U.S. gold holdings to be a key element in maintaining confidence in the country's soundness—and the stability of the international financial system.

#####

China Gold Association leader notes Fed's manipulation of the gold market

In a review of the gold market in China for The Real Asset Co. in London, Jan Skoyles and Koos Jansen quote a leader of the China Gold Association, Zhang Jie, about the U.S. Federal Reserve's manipulation of the gold market:

"For the Fed, it is crucial that the dollar dominates the world and so the Fed will store gold reserves from countries all over the world to control the gold settlement system."

Read more at: <http://therealasset.co.uk/china-rush-gold/>

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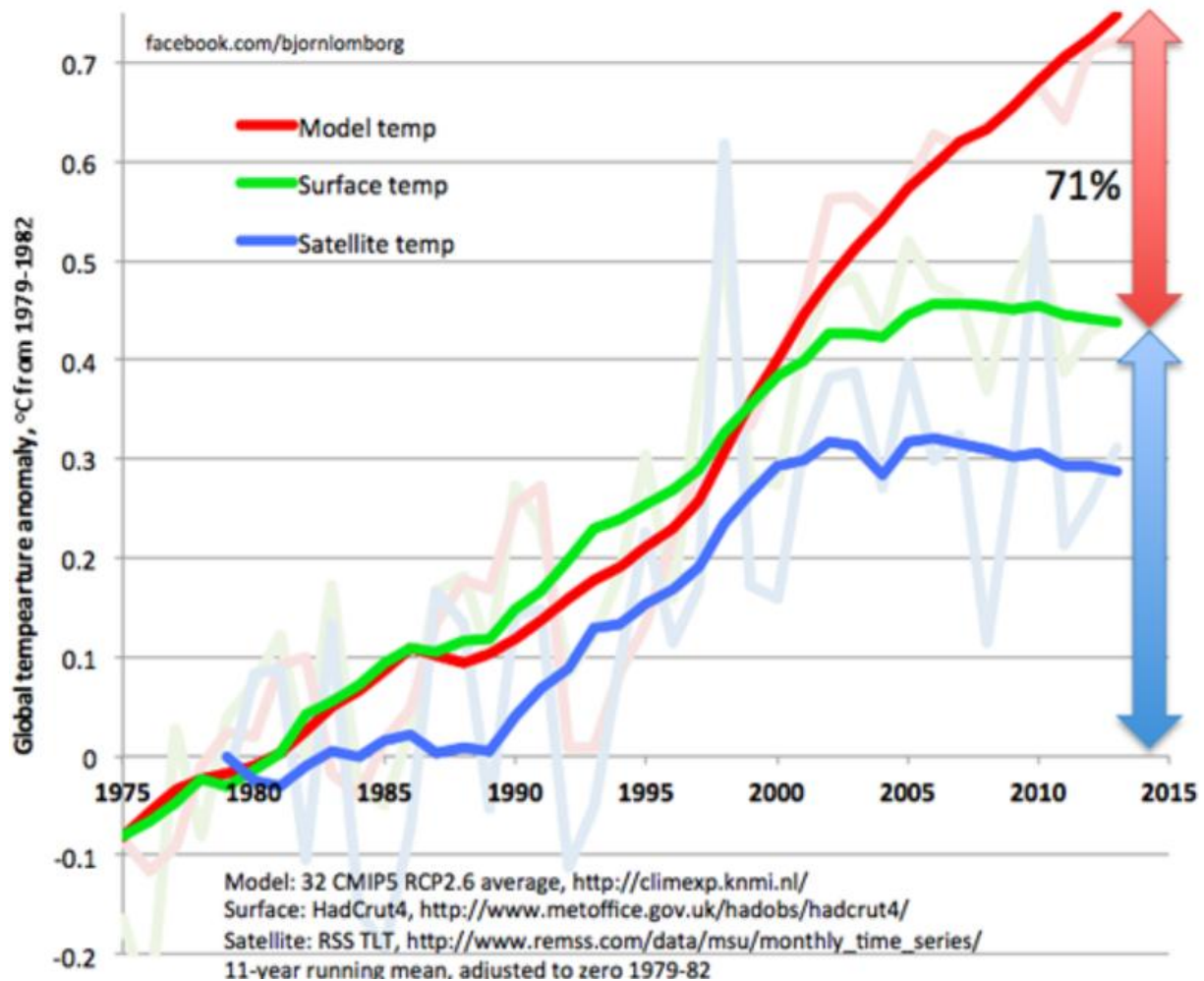
Picture Worth a Thousand Words, Climate Models vs. Observations

by [Marlo Lewis](#) on September 26, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/09/26/climate-models-vs-observations-picture-worth-a-thousand-words-thank-you-bjorn-lomborg/>

Bjorn Lomborg has an excellent column today on the forthcoming (extensively leaked) IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on climate science.

Especially valuable is Lomborg's chart based on a commentary ("Overestimated global warming over the past 20 years") published in the monthly journal *Nature Climate Change*.



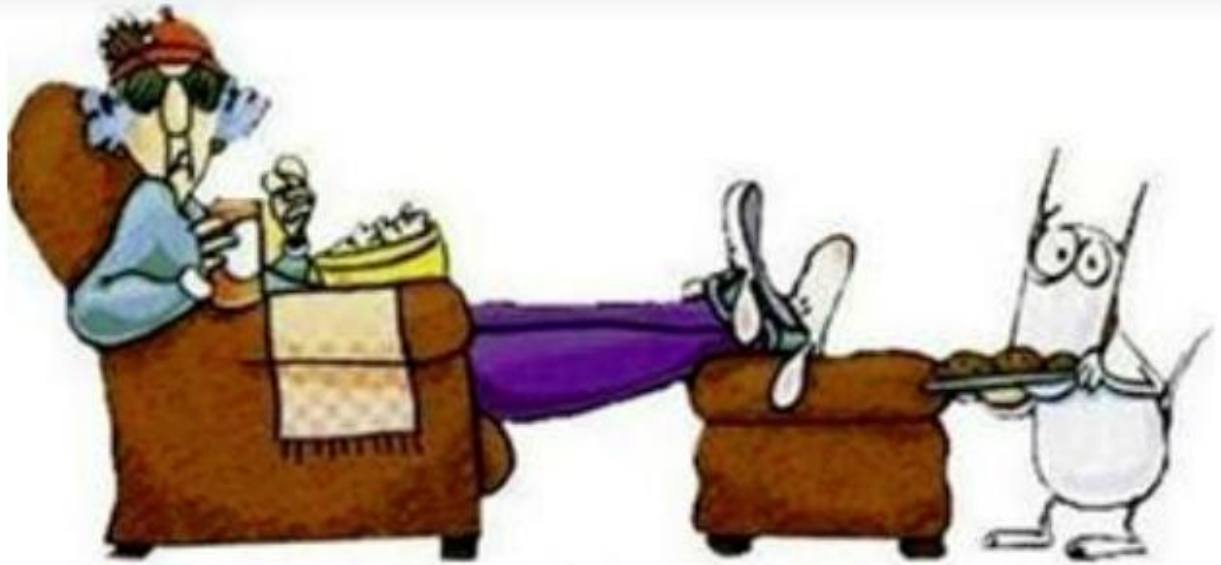
Lomborg comments:

Compared to the actual temperature rise since 1980, the average of 32 top climate models (the so-called CIMP5) overestimates it by 71-159%. A new *Nature Climate Change* study shows that the prevailing climate models produced estimates that overshoot the temperature rise of the last 15 years by more than 300%.

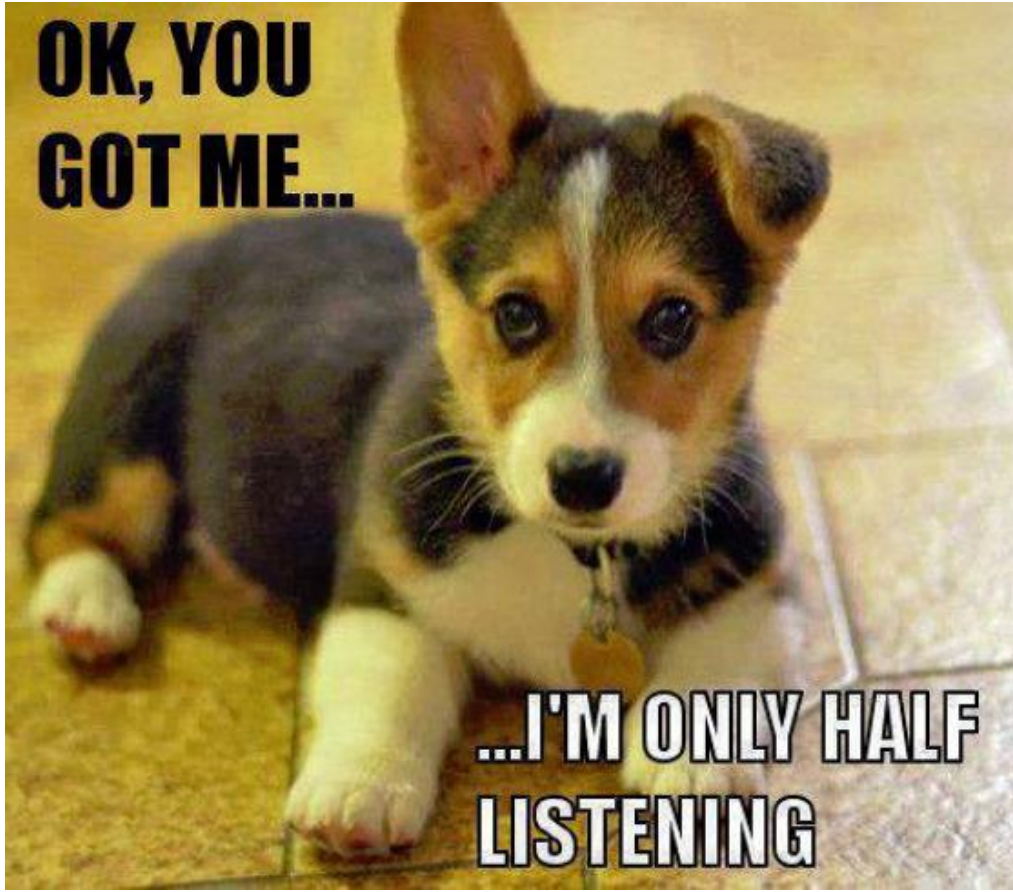
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BAIL'EM OUT!!! ???? Hell, back in 1990, the Government seized the Mustang Ranch brothel in Nevada for tax evasion and, as required by law, tried to run it. They failed and it closed. Now, we are trusting the economy of our country, our banking system, our auto industry and possibly our health plans to the same nit-wits who couldn't make money running a whore house and selling whiskey?
What the Hell are we thinking?



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