



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS  
ASSOCIATION  
Keizer, Oregon**



**Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin**

**PRESIDENT: Karen Darnell\***

**\*VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Moore\***

**\*TREASURER: Alice Phillips**

**Prez Sez:**

Did you do the things on your to-do list over the summer? Share some stories with us at our next meeting because we would love to hear them! With the valley's autumn rains right around the corner, I thought it might be nice to take a look at what the drier central part of our state has to offer the Millennium Digger. The Bend Visitors Center has rockhounding maps available for purchase. The maps include GPS coordinates and geological histories of rock hounding areas. I haven't seen these maps before, so if you have one, bring it to a meeting sometime so we can give it a look.

Bend Visitor Center  
750 NW Lava Road, Suite 160 (corner of Oregon Avenue and Lava Road)  
Bend, OR 97701  
(877) 245-8484 toll-free  
(541) 382-8048 local

If you haven't heard yet, there are areas in southern Oregon's gold country that are slated for federal Withdrawal from Mineral Entry. With an increasing interest in mining, placer and lode, we should be doing everything we can reasonably can to keep the opportunity available for those developing an occupation in prospecting and mining.

Public input is still being sought regarding a mineral withdrawal in aid of legislation on public lands in southwest Oregon.

The mineral withdrawal concerns nearly 96,000 acres of National Forest Systems lands on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and just over 5,200

acres of Bureau of Land Management lands on the Medford and Coos Bay districts.

The withdrawals are located in the Rough & Ready/Baldface Creek and Hunter Creek/Pistol River areas.

A five-year mineral withdrawal, if approved by the US Department of Interior, would potentially begin before the end of a two-year segregation period which started with the publication of a Federal Register Notice on June 29th.

The publication of the federal notice started a 90-day public comment period that extends through September 28th. Written comments should be addressed to the BLM office in Portland.

The public will also have the opportunity to verbally comment or provide written comments at two public meetings scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. this Wednesday in Gold Beach and this Thursday in Grants Pass. The Grants Pass meeting will be held in the Anne G. Basker Auditorium on NW 6th Street."

Our September outing is coming right up on Sept 19. We're going to our Jeeter Creek claim on the Little North Fork Santiam. Have you been there yet? It isn't awfully hard to access and plenty of room for everyone on the streamside. Read more about it in the August meeting minutes included.

See you soon,  
Karen

**Call to Order:** Karen called the meeting to order @ 7:00 pm.

**Attendance:** 10

**Minutes from July:** Members have read the minutes and all approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- ✓ Our website fee of \$141.00 was approved by members.
- ✓ -Reimbursement was made to Karen/StreamSavers for June and July
- ✓ -Reimbursement was made to Joe for BLM data

Joe made the motion for approval of Treasure's Report, Delmon seconded and all were in favor.

**Claims:** Joe mailed our necessary claims documents; Penny is taking care of others due by Dec. 31.

**Old Business:** Joe e-mailed members claims packets (maps and directions) for DT1, Fossil Flats and Jeeter Creek.

Karen reported: -StreamSavers paperwork is now in front of the legislative council

- ✓ StreamSavers bid on a job in Eugene
- ✓ Joe and Claudia visited Armadillo Mining in Grants Pass, and they said that, "there are people asking about work being done like StreamSavers offers".

**Outings/Events:**

**LAST:** Our metal detecting on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> outing in Hubbard had a nice turnout. We found a lot of rail road spikes and hardware. Not sure just what everyone found, but no treasures, this time.

**NEWEST UPCOMING OUTING!** Saturday Sept 19<sup>th</sup> Jeeter Creek. We will meet in Stayton at the Park and Ride just off Hwy 22 @ 9:30am. Then we will drive up the Little North Fork Rd to our claim. You can bring a sluicibox or just a pan (or whatever you want to use). A small shovel and classifier and large gallon or 2 gallon bags (for transporting fines back home, if you want). If the first trail is too steep for you, the second trail will work; it's just a bit longer. Bring water, something for lunch and dress accordingly!

**OCTOBER: Central Oregon Petrified Wood-** Courtesy of Ken. He says its 70 miles out of Bend. We agreed to save this for an October outing; the weather is cooler; the insects should be "at bay". It is just a nice season all around. We will set the actual date during our September meeting.

-Karen is also going to check into a metal detecting outing by Hubbard/Butteville; there is a lot of history there. (Tentative, no set date)

**New Business:** All miners should be advised to not stir up any court cases; to do so now would put us in State Court, and that would be detrimental to our cause, because it's the State that wants us shut down.

“In order to support a federal injunction to stop SB838 moratorium it will require individual miners and mining associations to contribute additional funds. Once the federal injunction is filed it should put more pressure on the Oregon legislative 2016 short session in Feb. or March to stop the moratorium.” (As per email, Tom Quintal WVM)

During the Miner's Rally at the state capitol, pledge forms were available to anyone willing to pledge money to be used in future mining court cases. Well, the time has come to fulfill those pledges. Willamette Valley Miners contributed a total of \$2,700 during their last meeting.

Plaintiffs are needed for the new Federal case. Joe made a motion for the Millennium Diggers Association to be plaintiffs for the case. Penny seconded. All present members were in favor. -Karen will fill out the application and act as the contact person for the Millennium Diggers. More plaintiffs lend credibility for the miners. -Karen read off the plaintiff application details. This action does not bring any financial obligations to the Association.

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Joe made a motion for us to give \$150 to Clear Lake Methodist Church as a thank you for letting us use their Fellowship Hall for our meetings. Terrie seconded, so did Delmon, and all were in favor. Penny agreed to send the check and thank you card to the church on behalf of the Millennium Diggers Association.

Joe passed around a vial of gold from his new claim down in southern Oregon. The gold was found by a “claim jumper” who had mistakenly filed a claim on top of Joe's. When he found out he had been in the wrong, he gave Joe the vial of gold he had mined (at least part of the gold anyway).

**Break and Raffle ticket sales:** Delmon brought in 4 metal detectors and donated them for our table raffle!

**Snacks for next meeting:** Karen will bring.

**Rocks/Treasures Shared Letter “I”:** Penny brought some jewelry made with “Iolite”, a variety of Cordierite (also called Water Sapphire), chemical composition: *magnesium aluminum silicate*. It has strong “pleochroism” (multi-directional color change). It shows a strong transformation of hue in different crystal directions; changing from yellow-gray, to dark blue-violet, to light blue as it is turned. It is valued as a geological thermometer and used as a guide to the grade of metamorphism. It is also called “Viking's Stone”, because it has been

suggested that this mineral was used in the Norseman's Atlantic navigation to locate the sun's position in cloudy weather (the strongest polarization of sky light, and the bluest hue in the iolite, is at 90° from the sun). "Rocks and Minerals" pg 294, Fredrick H. Pough and "Gemstones of the World" pg 180, Walter Schumann



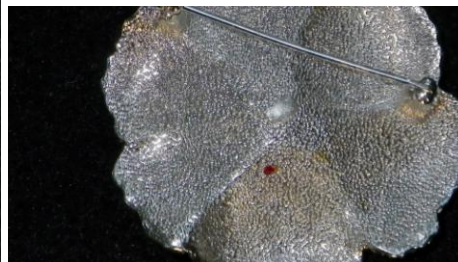
**Iolite**

Penny also brought two "*I don't know's*":

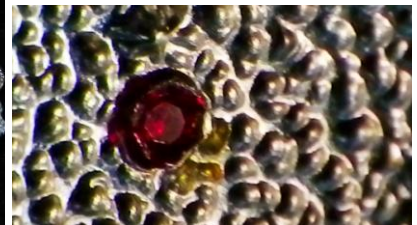
- ✓ The first one is a sparkling rose brooch, encrusted with cubic zirconium (?). Implanted in the back is a tiny, faceted genuine ruby. The question remains: Is this is some sort of designer's trademark or signature? And how to identify it? (Penny thought maybe it was some cubic zirconium jewelry created at Wah Chang?)
- ✓ -The second "*I don't know*" is a rod of real heavy metal of some sort that has a crystalized surface. It is not magnetic, very heavy, very bright. Still don't know!



**Rose Brooch**



**Ruby on back**



**Close-up of**

**ruby**



Unidentified heavy metal rod, crystalized metal.

**Letter for September is “J”:**

**T-Shirts:** Delmon was wearing a T-shirt with the Millennium Diggers logo on it. He said he had it done back in 2001, at Clackamas Town Center for about \$7.00. He said he just presented them with his Millennium Diggers membership card, and they used that for the print on the shirt. –Karen said she will check with her friend in Beaverton to see if her shop can print our logo on some T-shirts for us, and get an estimate of the cost. We agreed it would be a great way to show off our membership! More information regarding this is pending. Will know more next meeting.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 @ 7:00pm Be There!**

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

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

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

**Clear Lake United Methodist Church**  
**920 Marks Drive**  
**Keizer, OR 97303**

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



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# MINING



## 2015 PLP/MMAC Oktoberfest Fundraiser

PLP, MMAC (Minerals & Mining Advisory Council), Sleepy Bear Mining and American Prospector Treasure Seeker ask you to save these dates for this event:

**Friday, October 9th thru Monday, October 12th, 2015**  
**Where: Sleepy Bear Mine, Randsburg CA**

This is a friendly reminder for those who are planning on attending this great event to please RSVP online before Sunday, September 13th. This is in order to properly prepare for the amount of food required for the Saturday night BBQ. If your RSVP event entry donation is paid after September 13th, you are still very welcome to attend the event, although attending the BBQ will require an RSVP by this date.

Please be aware, due to BLM requirements, all signups **must be done ONLINE in advance**. **Detailed information and the link to sign up for this year's [Oktoberfest Outing can be found here](#).**

We are NOT able to take registrations at the gate. In addition, we need to get our numbers together for planning purposes. The entry donation can either be paid online with any major credit card or PayPal account or in person at the American Prospector Treasure Seeker Store. If you have ANY problems with signing up online, please contact American Prospector Treasure Seeker at **951-676-2555**.

This event will take place in honor of mining rights legend Jerry Hobbs, the founder of Public Lands for the People. Jerry dedicated many years of his life to fighting for our rights to access public lands. The 2015 PLP/MMAC Oktoberfest event marks the 25 year anniversary for PLP.

This event offers gold prospectors a rare opportunity to search for gold on 400 acres of gold-bearing ground that has been off limits to the public. Gold nuggets have been recovered by detectorists at every fund raiser held on this claim, and dry washing is excellent as well. There is ample room on this property for folks to move around and find places that yield good gold. PLP Board Members will be working nonstop at this event to ensure its success, so feel free to stop by their booth and show them how you've done in the field.

We have a lot of great things planned for this family friendly event. We're super excited and can't wait to see you out there! Please move this up your priority list and RSVP today. If you were at last year's event, you know it was a great success. If you weren't able to make it last year, you surely won't want to miss it this year! Please feel free forward this email and information onto your friends, family, club members etc. Any and all help promoting the event would be greatly appreciated.

**There will be some great prize giveaways as well. Here is the list to date:**

- ❖ 151S Dry Washer from **Keene Engineering**
- ❖ Whites Sierra SST Super Trac Detector from **PLP**
- ❖ Gold Cube from **Mike Pung & Red Wilcox**
- ❖ Dry Concentrator from **Mad Mining**
- ❖ 6.4 gram Gold Nugget from **Miners Keepers**
- ❖ Pottery Pieces **Teri Hudson Pottery**
- ❖ Gold detector (model TBD) from **Whites Electronics**
- ❖ Gold Bug Pro detector from **Fisher Electronics**
- ❖ Gold'N Sand Hand Dredge from **Red Wilcox**
- ❖ Crystalline Gold Nugget from **Mountain Man Mining**
- ❖ Gold and Quartz Specimens from **John Howell**
- ❖ 122 Gram Campo del Cielo polished slab Meteorite from **George Haymans**
- ❖ Several fantastic prizes (they won't tell us!) from **Minelab USA**

***In addition, Fisher, Whites, and Minelab USA are scheduled to attend the Oktoberfest and set up booths to answer any product questions you may have.***

We will be in need of volunteers for a variety of functions, including directing participants to camping areas, helping setup food for Saturday night's BBQ and Sunday morning breakfast, cooking, serving, and other event needs. We know some of you have already stepped up to help; thank you very much. Additionally, if anyone has access to **bulk supplies** of paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, paper cups etc. please let American Prospector Treasure Seeker know as soon as possible. This would be a tremendous help to the event.

**We Hope to see you there, PLP Board of Directors**



# How the Senate Energy Reform Package Affects Minerals Mining

Hal Quinn, National Mining Association

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=d45t18oju0c0b#8200209331>

September is around the corner and soon Congress will be back in session. One pressing item on their agenda is a legislative package, introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) that focuses on reforming our national energy policies.

A critical component of this energy package is a bill aimed at addressing the federal permitting process for U.S. minerals mines. As I noted in an op-ed published by [Morning Consult](#), mine permitting reform is essential to the energy industry, which relies heavily on minerals and metals found right here in the U.S.

Minerals like copper, silver and nickel are essential components of conventional and emerging [energy technologies](#). Unfortunately, the U.S. fails to capitalize on its enviable reserves of these minerals to more fully supply our domestic manufacturing and energy industries. This is due to a duplicative permitting process that can take up to 10 years to grant permits for mining projects. Demand for energy technologies is climbing, which makes permitting reform all the more important. For instance, global [sales of hybrid cars](#) are expected to increase from 2.2 percent of sales in 2010 to 7.7 percent by 2020.

From the copper mines in Arizona to the silver mines in Nevada to the platinum mines in Montana, the resources required to make the U.S. [a global leader in the energy industry](#) can be found within our own borders. In fact, recent estimates indicate that the U.S. has **\$6.2 trillion** worth of minerals and metals in reserves.

Also promising, as highlighted in my recent op-ed in the [Reno Gazette-Journal](#), is that similar legislation is under consideration in the House.

Before they leave your district, [ask your legislators](#) to support reforms that will allow the U.S. to harness its own resources to the benefit of its industries, workforce and economy.



# WE'RE CHARGING GOVERNORS WITH VIOLATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

By Ron Ewart, NewsWithViews.com, August 5, 2015  
<http://www.newswithviews.com/Ewart/ron213.htm>



The Framers of the American Republic and the U. S. Constitution knew how governments, left un- attended by the people, would eventually morph into kingdoms, dictatorships, or a pseudo Democracy run by the mob, in what Alexis de Tocqueville, 210 years ago, predicted would be the "**Tyranny of the Majority**". The Framers set up two (2) major impediments to this evolution through 1) the Separation of Powers Doctrine in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, but 2) also granted to the states in the 9th and 10th Amendments to the U. S. Constitution, the following extraordinary rights:

9th Amendment: "***The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.***"

10th Amendment: "***The powers not delegated to the United States by this Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.***"

The basic idea of all these protections was to inhibit the federal government from becoming so powerful that it would overwhelm the rights of the states and the people. Welcome to today's America.

Since we have been essentially unsuccessful in getting others to join us in this fight against an ever more powerful central government and since it is the responsibility of the governors of the individual states to stop the federal government from exerting more power, we, unilaterally, are **proceeding with charging the governors of several states with violation of their oath of office and criminal negligence in discharging their duties as governor, for failure to enforce the provisions of the 9th and 10th Amendments, along with other serious charges.**

The President of the National Association of Rural Landowners ([NARLO](#)), being a staunch advocate for the American rural landowner, is making these charges against the governors for and on behalf of all rural landowners who find themselves virtually disenfranchised and unrepresented in the legislative and administrative law-making process. In fact, **rural landowners find themselves having to bear almost the entire burden of environmental protection while their urban brothers and sisters remain unaffected.**

The governor has a duty to serve all the citizens of his or her state, not just urban dwellers who have become the "**Tyranny of the Majority**" supporting sanctuary cities, social justice, radical environmentalism, multi-culturalism, collectivism, political correctness, Progressivism and the one-world-order. What do city folks care about the rural landowner being savaged by radical international environmental law that deprives them of their fundamental right of use, due process and 5th Amendment protections and reduces their property values?

**So, on behalf of the American rural landowner that produces our food, our wood products and are oil and minerals,** we are making the following charges against the governors of certain states, starting with Jay Inslee, the Democrat Governor of Washington State, with a Certified - Return Receipt Requested letter and an accompanying Affidavit of Truth. In that letter and Affidavit we charge the governor with, TO-WIT:

- 1. The governor of said state, as its chief executive, has allowed the federal government to tax the citizens of his state and then allowed the federal government to blackmail those very same citizens by forcing those state citizens to accept federal law or policy, on the threat of withholding federal funds to that state if the state doesn't comply, **funds that belonged to the state citizens in the first place.** By so doing the governor has failed to uphold the provisions of the 9th and 10th Amendments of the U. S. Constitution and has by his or her actions given greater power to the federal government, thereby reducing the constitutional power of said state.*

**2.** The governor of said state has allowed the invasion of international law to supersede and override federal and state constitutional law by not stopping the implementation of the International Maintenance Code, or other international codes or policies, in state, county and city regulations. In addition, the governor has allowed the United Nations affiliate agency called, the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), to invade said state and contract with county and cities to further the implementation of international environmental policies that are in direct conflict with constitutional law, state and federal.

**3.** The governor of said state has instituted law to limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the board for the international con game of man-caused global warming, when the science of man-caused global warming is a theory at best and anything but settled science. By instituting those laws the governor has burdened the citizens of said state with millions of dollars in taxes and fees for an alleged future danger that in all probability is nothing more than the natural cooling and heating cycles of the earth over time. In fact, there is equal science supporting such a claim that directly contradicts the man-caused global warming theory, but it is ignored for political reasons. By purposely rejecting one of two scientific theories on alleged global warming in the governor's decisions, the governor has either knowingly, or unwittingly, become an unregistered international foreign agent, acting for and on behalf of foreign interests.

**4.** The governor of said state has allowed state agencies to violate the constitutional property rights of rural landowners by not prohibiting those agencies from promulgating draconian environmental regulations, driven largely by international radical environmental policies, such as UN's Agenda 21. These regulations fall disproportionately on rural landowners, in violation of their 5th Amendment and due process protections, as well as violating their equal protection rights under the U. S. Constitution. Rural landowners own most of the private land in said state, but find themselves totally disenfranchised from and virtually unrepresented in the legislative and administrative law-making process.

**5.** The governor of said state has allowed federal agencies, like the EPA, the DOE and the DoED, and others, to run amok in said state without invoking states' rights under the 9th and 10th Amendments. The federal government owns said state and the governor let it happen.

**6.** The governor of said state has allowed past and current run-away legislatures to buy votes with public monies to fund welfare and public assistance to able-bodied citizens and illegal aliens and has done nothing to stop it. The governor has made promises to state employees for pension plans that are criminally under funded. By such actions the governor has violated his or her fiduciary and financial responsibility to state citizens, thereby sending state finances towards



*insolvency and further burdening state citizens with exploding taxes to pay for government's gross negligence.*

Our first governor letter and Affidavit of Truth was sent to Governor Inslee of Washington State on August 3, 2015. We have given the Governor 30 calendar days to respond to these allegations. Copies of the letter and the Affidavit were also sent to the leaders of the State's House and Senate.

Because the issues we raise are so serious and systemic in all state governments and are the reasons why the federal government has become so powerful, thereby superseding states' rights in violation of the 9th and 10th Amendments, we will be contacting other state governors over the next few months and charging them equally, as we have done here, on behalf of the rural landowner that has been disenfranchised from the political process.

## **Washington State**

### **Fish Not Gold? I'd Rather Have Gold, Not Fish or Felons!**

**KS Wild Truth - Exposing EnvironMENTALism**

September 5, 2015

<http://kswildtruth.blogspot.com/>

Washington State Rep. Gael Tarleton must have an incredibly firmly entrenched radical environmental agenda. So much so, she doesn't even care that the inspiration behind her anti-mining bill is a convicted felon, a thief, and a fraudster.

**Former Attorney Kim McDonald Arrested – 7 Counts of Bank Fraud, 4 Counts Mail Fraud**

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=19930901&slug=1718827>

[HB 2579](#), the **Give Fish a Chance Act** (no, really,) is an anti-mining bill that would restrict a federally-protected and congressionally-granted right, supposedly in order to protect endangered species of fish.

Tarleton pimped out Dr. Fraudster's blog post about her scary encounter with – GASP! - a miner! Eeeekkk! You can read the excruciating blog post if you despise your eyes enough –

<http://wildsteelheadcoalition.org/2014/02/fish-not-gold/>

And see Tarleton drooling over it, if you need to purge –

<http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/ememos/dream-act-early-learning-and-suction-dredging/>

Kim McDonald is a disbarred attorney, convicted felon (mail fraud / bank fraud) and is the founder of **Fish, Not Gold** (She is NOT to be confused with Washington attorney Kimberly A McDonald.) McDonald raided the accounts of clients whose Trust Funds she administrated. Her client list included basketball legend [Chuck Randall](#).

As a hate-monger toward miners, McDonald regurgitates the same tired old manipulated study that falsely shows digging a hole in the stream bed kills fish, when in actual fact, dredging removes tons of fishing weights made from lead, naturally-occurring mercury, and other junk and pollutants harmful to the fish. And Enviros suck up millions of dollars each year in order to 'restore' salmon habitat – by digging a hole in the stream bed. Same thing miners do – for free! They're pretty smart those soy-eating, sandal-wearing, yogurt knitters, aren't they?

Is this how far down our politicians need to sink to find justification for their ideologies and policies – using a dirty lawyer who stole her clients money, then copped a psyche to try and get out of it, *Girl, Interrupted* style? Really? What an absolute disgrace to her office and her party Gael Tarleton is. For shame, Mrs. Tarleton. For shame.

**Unfortunately, the powers that be are fully on board with the Phony Green Agenda, and are taking our rights, our property and our freedom from all of us, one Endangered Species scam at a time.**

Oh, and Kimmy – I know you're notorious for threatening people who try to expose you, with law suits and all sorts of legal shenanigans, but, sweetie, you can't sue somebody for libel or defamation WHEN THEY'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU! But go ahead, and make a bigger disgrace of yourself than you already are. Go ahead and discredit yourself even further. If you live in a glass house, you should stay away from stones. We have no problem repeating all this in court.

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**SOURCES – (Some interesting reading on the criminal - well worth a look to learn about the case and the extent of what she did, and other related links for your perusal.)**

### **Ex-Attorney Sentenced for Thefts**

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=19980314&slug=2739564>

### **Shelterwood Consulting – Dr. Fraud's 'Consulting' Business**

In case you're in the market for a convicted felon, thief, and disbarred attorney to do some Eco-Pirate advocacy for you, here's the jail-bird's 'consulting' website. <http://www.shelterwoodconsulting.com/Home.html>

### **Former Attorney Kimberlee Ann McDonald Arrested (September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1993)**

<http://community.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/archive/?date=19930901&slug=1718827> "She was charged with defrauding Rainier National Bank, Security Pacific Bank, Seafirst Bank, Washington Mutual Savings Bank and Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan."

"McDonald, 38, is accused of manipulating accounts at the banks by writing worthless checks totaling \$170,000, drawn against various trust accounts she maintained. She would then deposit the checks to other accounts or use the money for partial payment of a loan, according to prosecutors. She also is accused of inappropriately using \$220,000 entrusted to her by her clients."

## **California**

### **United States Files Amicus Brief in People v. Rinehart**

31 Aug 2015

Very bad news.

The Obama Administration thinks it's just fine for California to outlaw suction dredging.

This further demonstrates the degree to which the Department of Justice has become a lawless tool for the Left, and how this Administration continues to nullify every law passed by Congress that is offensive to the Left.

James L. Buchal  
Murphy & Buchal LLP  
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Portland, OR 97214



## THE NEW 49'ers Newsletter

THIRD QUARTER, SEPTEMBER 2015

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 9

Newsletter By [Dave McCracken](#) General Manager

### Legal Updates

The Rinehart case is [waiting for a Decision](#) by the California Supreme Court. You may recall that the [California Third Appellate Court found unanimously](#) for suction dredgers in Rinehart. Several large-scale conservative natural resource advocate associations have supported our arguments to the California Supreme Court. At the same time, several prominent anti-resource development organizations and individuals have weighed in against small-scale mining. ***Just to give you an idea how important this case is, even the [Obama Administration just filed a brief opposing the rights of small-scale gold miners on the public lands!](#)*** Our attorneys are busy rebutting those briefings. We will just have to wait until the California Supreme Court weighs in. My sources tell me that the California Supreme Court bases its rulings mostly upon U.S. Supreme Court controlling Decisions. If this is true, we are likely to win. From that, we should be able to roll back the State's determination to impose unreasonable overregulation upon suction gold dredgers. Stay tuned!

In a separate set of cases, we have switched gears into appealing San Bernardino Superior Court's recent Ruling to deny any meaningful relief to [suction dredgers](#) even after the court has [Ruled and Ordered](#) that California's suction dredge moratorium is unconstitutional — which State authorities continue to enforce by seizing dredging equipment they find on the river.

As you may recall, our initial [Motion for a Statewide Injunction](#) to prohibit California from enforcing the unconstitutional moratorium and return us to the earlier set of regulations that were legal was recently denied by the Superior Court of San Bernardino. We believe that Ruling was flawed, and have now [appealed to California's Forth Appellate Court](#) to get our motion approved. As you will see from the link just above, our appeal is being bitterly contested by anti-mining activists.

There is a legal provision in California which requires appeals of denied injunctions to be expedited when ongoing circumstances are causing irreparable harm to people who are 70 years or older. A bunch of our 70+ year old members have come forward with Declarations in support of this appeal.

The previous set of legal suction dredge regulations (2009) allowed year-round suction dredging on the Klamath and multiple other rivers in California. So there

is still reason for hope. In my own experience, the best time to dredge the Klamath River is during the fall when the water is most clear and low...

In another case in front of the San Bernardino Court, the mining community has just filed an [opening salvo](#) in challenging the process California used to adopt the 2012 suction dredge regulations. Stay tuned for more activity on this as our adversaries start to argue that the process did not go far enough to put an end to suction dredging:

And in a more recent, surprising development, New 49'er members, Derek Eimer and Dyton Gilliland were both notified last week that the State will attempt to criminally prosecute them in Siskiyou Superior Court (suction dredging in California without a permit). The first hearing date is set for 22 September, but it will just be a formality. Both members are being defended by our attorney, James Buchal. I believe he will file a motion to dismiss the charges, since the [Decision](#) has already been established in the California Courts that California's "scheme" of first requiring suction dredgers to acquire a permit, and then refusing to issue them, is preempted by federal law, is illegal and unenforceable.

We were hoping for this criminal contest in Siskiyou County during the spring; but we will take what we can get. In view of recent California Decisions on these matters, I predict the possibility of a conviction (guilty beyond a reasonable doubt) is about zero. With just a little luck on our side, the judge will dismiss the charges and tell the State to not bring any more. Notwithstanding the other ongoing cases, this might open the door to hassle-free suction dredging in California.

Meanwhile, just in case you do not know, this ongoing conflict with California only affects motorized suction mining within 100 yards of California's active waterways. **It does not have anything to do with the other types of prospecting or mining that we do in California.** Unaffected prospecting activities include [panning, sniping & vack-mining, sluicing & high-banking, electronic prospecting](#) and other types of [prospecting](#) that do not use a suction nozzle within 100 yards of an active stream, river or creek. It also does not affect our [Group Weekend Projects](#).

To continue prospecting the bottom of active waterways, some members have converted to [underwater crevicing](#), using the hookah and pump from their 5 and 6 HP motors on floating platforms to provide air for breathing and a jet of water to help move material out of the way, thus coining the new method as "[underwater blow mining](#)."

There are no seasons imposed upon these other types of mining activity. In other words, you can do them at any time of the year.

### **New Legal Fund-Raiser!**



The [new drawing](#) will be for two ounces of beautiful gold nuggets. Those will be split into a 1-ounce grand prize and four quarter-ounce prizes. There will also be 10 tenth-ounce American Gold Eagles and 10 American Silver Eagles. ***That's 25 prizes worth winning!***

The drawing will take place at the close of business at our headquarters in Happy Camp on Friday, 30 October. You do not need to be a [member](#) of our organization to participate. You are welcome to be at the drawing, but you do not need to be present to win.

Our office will automatically generate a ticket in your name for every \$10 legal contribution we receive (\$100 will generate 10 tickets). There is no limit to the size or frequency of your contributions, or to the number of prizes you can win. Look for our new [Paypal contribution](#) link here.

Remember, all contributions to [The New 49'ers Legal Fund](#) are tax deductible.

***Once again; thank you guys very much for standing behind us!***

## **Colorado**

### **EGREGIOUS GOVERNMENT OVER-REACH...AGAIN**

SCOTT WHEELER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GOP TRUST, August 15, 2015

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=ds8mfr8ufnep5#9670843145>

Once again the **EPA disregards the limits of their authority** -- as well common sense -- this time bringing disaster and destruction to three states! The EPA took it upon themselves to treat water near the Gold King Mine in southern Colorado. The problem? Instead of treating the water, they allowed a massive leak which completely contaminated the water affecting many communities that depend

on the water for drinking and recreation IN THREE STATES! Not only that, but the EPA has done virtually nothing to help the communities affected know the risk involved and Obama's EPA director Gina McCarthy insists: "The very good news is that we see that this river is restoring itself."

WHAT MOST OF THE MEDIA WON'T TELL YOU (other than Fox News) is that if a private company had done this there would be armed federal agents invading the business and people would be sent to jail! What repercussions have the EPA received? NONE!

New Mexico's (one of the states that was directly affected by the toxic EPA spill) isn't buying McCarthy's irresponsible response to the disaster. According to the *Washington Times*:

"New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez blasted the EPA for accidentally flooding the Animas River with toxic orange wastewater, calling on the agency to hold itself to the same standard for the disaster as it would a private entity... 'Imagine what would happen if a private company caused this waste spill,' the Republican governor said in a Friday statement... 'This was caused by the EPA and the EPA should demand the same of itself as it would of a private business responsible for such a spill, particularly when it comes to making information available to the public and state and local officials,' she said."

Not only has Obama not even fired anybody, it will be US, the taxpayers, who are going to pay the bill for the clean-up...while Obama's EPA is allowed to continue its destruction with NO CONSEQUENCES!

But this isn't the first time that the federal government's EPA has harmed American citizens. It is time we stand up to out-of-control government agencies and we now have the opportunity to ELECT A CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE to abolish agencies like the EPA!!



## **EPA knew of 'blowout' risk for tainted water at gold mine**

By *MICHAEL BIESECKER* and *MATTHEW BROWN*, **AP**, August 21, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/epa-knew-blow-risk-tainted-water-gold-mine-044309124--politics.html#>



WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials knew of the potential for a catastrophic "blowout" of poisonous wastewater from an inactive gold mine, yet appeared to have only a cursory plan to deal with such an event when a government cleanup team triggered a 3-million-gallon spill, according to internal documents released by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA released the documents late Friday following weeks of prodding from The Associated Press and other media organizations. While shedding some light on the circumstances surrounding the accident, the newly disclosed information also raises more questions about whether enough was done to prevent it.

The Aug. 5 spill came as workers excavated the entrance to the idled Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, unleashing a torrent of toxic water that fouled rivers in three states.

A June 2014 work order for a planned cleanup noted the mine had not been accessible since 1995, when the entrance partially collapsed.

"This condition has likely caused impounding of water behind the collapse," the report said. "Conditions may exist that could result in a blowout of the blockages and cause a release of large volumes of contaminated mine waters and sediment from inside the mine."



A May 2015 action plan produced by an EPA contractor, Environmental Restoration LLC, also noted the potential for a blowout. It was not clear what additional precautions were taken to prepare for such a release.

Much of the documents were redacted. Among the items blacked out was a line specifying whether workers were required to have phones that could work at the remote site, at an elevation of 11,000 feet.

A 71-page safety plan for the site included only a few lines describing what to do if there was a spill: Locate the source and stop the flow, begin containment and recovery of the spilled materials, and alert downstream drinking water systems as needed.

EPA spokesman David Gray said Saturday that the work order outlined steps that should have been followed, but he did not directly address whether those steps were followed, citing ongoing investigations into the accident.

Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman said after reviewing the documents that she remained frustrated with the EPA's lack of answers.

"The plan indicates there was an understanding of what might happen and what the potential consequences were. We don't know whether they followed the plan," Coffman told The Associated Press. "I want to give the EPA the benefit of the doubt here. I really want to do that. It's getting harder."



Water flows down Cement Creek just below the site of the blowout at the Gold King mine which trigger ...

The wastewater flowed into a tributary of the Animas and San Juan rivers, turning them a sickly yellow-orange color and tainting them with lead, arsenic, thallium and other heavy metals that can cause health problems and harm aquatic life. The toxic plume traveled roughly 300 miles through Colorado, New Mexico and Utah, to Lake Powell on the Arizona-Utah border.

EPA water testing has shown contamination levels returning to pre-spill levels, though experts warn some of the contaminants likely sunk and mixed with bottom sediments and could someday be stirred back up.

The documents released at about 10:30 p.m. EDT Friday did not account for what happened immediately before or after the spill.

Elected officials have been critical of the EPA's response. Among the unanswered questions is why it took the agency nearly a day to inform downstream communities that rely on the rivers for drinking water.

Coffman criticized the "late Friday night document dump" and said the redaction of key facts would heighten public suspicions. She also indicated that it undercut EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's statements accepting responsibility.

EPA spokeswoman Melissa Harrison said the agency has been inundated with media inquiries and worked diligently to respond to them. All information must go through a legal review, she added.

"I do not want people to think we put something out late at night to hide something," she said.

U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican who chairs the House Science Committee, said the EPA "has an obligation to be more forthcoming." He called for McCarthy to appear before his committee next month.

U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., said it was unacceptable that the EPA did not prevent the accident when it knew of the massive quantities of contaminated water inside the mine.

Environmental Restoration has confirmed its employees were present at the mine when the spill occurred but declined to provide more detail, saying that would violate "confidentiality obligations."

The St. Louis, Missouri, company bills itself as the EPA's prime contractor for emergency services across most of the U.S.

The EPA has not yet provided a copy of its contract with the company. On a March 2015 cost estimate for Gold King, the agency blacked out all the dollar figures.

The emergency response to the spill has cost the EPA at least \$3.7 million so far, according to the agency.

Toxic water continues to flow out of the mine. Since the accident, the EPA has built a series of ponds so contaminated sediments can settle out before the water enters a nearby creek.

The agency said more needs to be done and the potential remains for another blowout.

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## **Months Ago, Colorado Town Resisted Allowing EPA Tests that Caused Toxic Disaster**

[Tori Richards](#) | Friday Aug 14, 2015 12:01 AM

[http://humanevents.com/2015/08/14/months-ago-colorado-town-resisted-allowing-epa-tests-that-caused-toxic-disaster/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/08/14/months-ago-colorado-town-resisted-allowing-epa-tests-that-caused-toxic-disaster/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



Five months before the Animas River toxic spill disaster, leaders from the tiny Colorado mining town of Silverton pleaded with EPA officials to not perform tests that would declare the area a Superfund site.

Yet the Environmental Protection Agency was intent on ferreting out "widespread soil contamination" from historic mines, even though the town was tested five years ago and no problems were found.

“The fact is that our mission is to protect human health and the environment and not to stick our heads in the sand and not look,” declared Steve Wharton, head of a Superfund response team. His comments were contained in a [March 27 article that appeared in the local Silverton Standard](#) newspaper.

On Aug. 5, an EPA crew breached a debris dam at the old Gold King Mine, and 3 million gallons of water containing lead and arsenic flowed into the Animas River. The poisons turned the water bright orange and have since flowed into Utah and New Mexico, creating an epic disaster affecting farmers, towns and the Navajo Nation, which rely on the water.

The crews had started to collect soil samples [sometime after June 23](#).

One geologist thinks the EPA created the mess to give itself another Superfund site to work on.

Five days before the breach, the Silverton Standard ran [a letter to the editor](#) from a person identified as Dave Taylor, who said he had 47 years' experience as a professional geologist.

The technical letter describes how the EPA will create a scenario where “the water will find a way out and exfiltrate uncontrollably through connected abandoned shafts, drifts, raises, fractures...contamination may actually increase due to the disturbance and flushing action within the workings.”

Taylor accused the EPA of creating the mess to get “a foot in the door to justify its hidden agenda for construction of a treatment plant.”

Taylor wasn't too far off. When asked in the town meeting whether the EPA wanted to declare the area a Superfund site, EPA project manager Paula Schmittziel said, “That's still a point of discussion.”

With mining now a bygone industry, Silverton relies on tourism for its livelihood, and town leaders said making the area a Superfund site would be “a knife in the economy.”

EPA administrator Gina McCarthy toured a riverbank in Durango, Colorado on Wednesday – one week after the spill and after media reports started becoming extremely hostile toward the Obama administration. She said the river seemed to be [“restoring itself.”](#)

Thursday, McCarthy tweeted a smiling photo of herself with two leaders from the Navajo Nation who clearly looked distressed.

The EPA has now gone on full-fledged [public relations damage control](#), deploying dozens of workers in three states to assess the damage and deal with the public. [The latest news](#) is that Silverton area water levels have been returned to pre-disaster levels, the EPA says. That's because the [water is fast-moving](#) and feeds into the Colorado River, which in turn leads to the ocean.

## **EPA-created Toxic Disasters Date Back to 2005 for Gold King Mine Owner**

[Tori Richards](#), Human Events, Aug 18, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/08/18/epa-created-toxic-disasters-date-back-to-2005-for-gold-king-mine-owner/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/08/18/epa-created-toxic-disasters-date-back-to-2005-for-gold-king-mine-owner/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



The EPA has a record of releasing toxic runoff from mines in two tiny Colorado towns that dates to 2005, a local mine owner claims.

The 3-million-gallon heavy-metal spill two weeks ago in Silverton polluted three states and touched off national outrage. But the EPA escaped public wrath in 2005 when it secretly dumped up to 15,000 tons of poisonous waste into another mine 124 miles away. That dump – containing arsenic, lead and other materials – materialized in runoff in the town of Leadville, said Todd Hennis, who owns both mines along with numerous others.

“If a private company had done this, they would've been fined out of existence,” Hennis said. “I have been battling the EPA for 10 years and they have done nothing but create pollution. About 20 percent (of Silverton residents) think it's on purpose so they can declare the whole area a Superfund site.”

Like Silverton to the south, Leadville was founded in the late 1800s as a mining town and is the only municipality in its county. Today, tourism is its livelihood.

It's against this backdrop that the Environmental Protection Agency began lobbying to declare part of Leadville a Superfund site in order to develop a recreational area called the [Mineral Belt Trail](#). The project was officially completed in 2000, but apparently the agency stayed on and continued to work in town.

In late 2005, the EPA collected tons of sludge from two Leadville mines and secretly dumped it down the shaft of the New Mikado mine without notifying Hennis, its owner, according to documents reviewed by Watchdog.

A drainage tunnel had been installed at the bottom of the mine shaft by the U.S. government in 1942, meaning that any snow or rain would leach toxins into the surrounding land.

Hennis said the EPA claims it has installed a treatment pond near the tunnel to clean runoff. The EPA rebuffed his demands to clean up the mess it created in his mine, he said. In frustration, Hennis sent the county sheriff a certified notice that any EPA officials found near his property were trespassing and should be arrested.

Despite that history of bitterness, in 2010, the EPA asked Hennis to grant its agents access to Gold King Mine in Silverton because the agency was investigating hazardous runoff from other mines in the region.

“I said, ‘No, I don't want you on my land out of fear that you will create additional pollution like you did in Leadville,’” Hennis said. The official request turned into a threat, Hennis said: “They said, ‘If you don't give us access within four days, we will fine you \$35,000 a day.’”

An EPA administrative order dated May 12, 2011 said its inspectors wanted to conduct “drilling of holes and installing monitoring wells, sampling and monitoring water, soil, and mine waste material from mine water rock dumps...as necessary to evaluate releases of hazardous substances...”

When the EPA hit Hennis with \$300,000 in fines, he said, he “waved the white flag” and allowed the agency on his property.

So for the past four years, the EPA has been working at the mine and two others nearby – all which border a creek that funnels into the Animas River. One mine to the north had been walled off with cement by its owner but it continued to leak water into Gold King. The EPA installed a drainage ditch on the Gold King side of the mine to alleviate the problem, but then accidentally filled the ditch with dirt and rocks last summer while building a water-retention wall.

That was the wall that burst when a contractor punched a hole in the top on Aug. 5, sending a bright orange stream cascading down. The EPA looked like the Keystone Kops as anger intensified in the media and general public: 24 hours passed with no notification to the lower states or Navajo Nation; the White House ignored mentioning the incident; and it took a week for the EPA administrator to tour Durango downstream, while refusing to visit Silverton itself.

The EPA says cleaning ponds have been installed to leach toxins from the water, and claims that anything released now is actually cleaner than before the spill occurred. The fallout from this disaster in the lower states is still unknown.

Also unknown is the fate of Silverton itself. For months, the EPA has been pushing town leaders into allowing designation as a Superfund site out of belief that the whole town is contaminated. This is something the town has resisted, as its reputation is at stake and no current tests have shown any evidence of toxic soil levels.

“Whenever we hear the word ‘EPA,’ we think of Superfund,” said Silverton Town Board Trustee David Zanoni. “They say, ‘We want to work together.’ That’s B.S. They want to come in and take over. The water up here is naturally filled with minerals. They don’t need to be here cleaning up.”

If the EPA’s litany of mistakes at Gold King mine is a barometer, Zanoni said, handing over the reins of Silverton would be a disaster.

“They had no contingency plan in case all of this went to hell,” he said.

The EPA could not be reached for comment.



## **EPA in Conflict with ‘Waters of the U.S.’ Rule After Toxic Wastewater Breach**

By [Marjorie Haun](#), Watchdog Arena, August 11, 2015

<http://watchdog.org/233458/epa-waters-of-the-u-s-wastewater/?33>



**Photo by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

AGENCY UNDER WATER: The EPA's spill of toxic mine water into Colorado's Animus River should expose the agency to its own rules on water violations.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's own rules, the environmental disaster set off by a crew working for agency, which breached a containment dam in the abandoned gold mine in southwestern Colorado, warrants severe consequences.

The Animas River, a pristine tributary that runs southward from the San Juan Mountains into New Mexico, was turned neon orange when an EPA mine safety crew, working on removing acidic wastewater from the historic Gold King Mine, accidentally blew out a structural plug, causing a massive dump of [3 million gallons](#) of toxic water into the Animas.

Following the accident, EPA officials readily [accepted blame](#) for the pollution spill, but have remained tight-lipped about plans for disaster mitigation and/or predictions about what short and long-term effects the contaminated water may have on affected regions.



Water sampled from the Animas contain high concentrations of toxins including arsenic, cadmium, lead, copper, and aluminum. According to a [CNN report](#), contaminant levels in the water remain far above what the EPA deems safe. Testing has revealed levels of mercury at 10 times higher, beryllium and cadmium 33 times higher, and arsenic at an astonishing 800 times higher than levels considered acceptable by federal standards.

The fallout from this environmental catastrophe presents a test case for the EPA, which, according to its own regulations, could face millions of dollars in fines if held to the standards of its own “Waters of the United States” rule.

The new Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule expands existing [Clean Water rules](#), and according to the EPA website, “protects streams and wetlands that we depend on for our health, communities, and economy.” Considered a federal government overreach by many in Congress, as well as various states, WOTUS puts everything from ditches to standing rainwater under its jurisdiction. Last June, in response to the new rule, sixteen states joined [forces to sue the EPA](#) to stop its expansion.

Although WOTUS does not define specific dollar amounts for violations, recent case studies in which private interests have violated EPA clean water rules may be insightful.

On August 6, 2015, one day following the Animas River discharge, the [EPA settled with Arch Coal](#), Inc. for mine water discharge violations. Arch Coal will be forced to upgrade operations related to “illegal discharges” in several states, as well as having to pay a civil penalty of \$2 million to the federal government.

In April of 2015, the EPA settled a [case with ExxonMobile](#) in which 3,190 barrels of crude oil leaked from the Pegasus pipeline in Arkansas. ExxonMobile will pay \$3,190,000 in civil penalties, in addition to costs incurred for mitigation and repairs to private and public property.

In December of 2014, [XTO Energy](#) was forced to pay a civil penalty of \$2.3 million to the United States and the State of West Virginia for “unauthorized discharges of dredged and/or fill material under the Clean Water Act.”

Numerous [clean water violations](#) by private companies as well as municipal organizations have been settled by the EPA with costly civil penalties in addition to costs related to the implementation of new safeguards and mitigation efforts.

A “Damage, Injury or Death” [claim form](#) now available on the EPA website specifically addressing damage done by the Gold King Mine spill, may indicate

the EPA's is willingness to address harm to persons and property. Although, in the Animas River case, EPA violations of its own clean water rules far outweigh other similar violations to date, whether or not the agency will level civil penalties against itself is unknown.

## **CALIFORNIA WATER ISSUE**

### **California Dumps a Trillion Gallon of Fresh Water in Ocean – Declares Water Shortage**

[Scott Osborn](#), Joe for America, April 14, 2015

<http://joeforamerica.com/2015/04/california-dumps-trillion-gallons-fresh-water-ocean-declares-water-shortage/>

California is dumping a trillion gallons of fresh Water in the ocean. Only liberals would declare a water shortage disaster after spending years dumping good, fresh water into the ocean to protect a non-endangered bait fish.



**California is dumping trillions of gallons of fresh water into the ocean, creating a man-made disaster, to protect a non-endangered bait fish.**

For years now, the southern 1/3 of the beautiful San Joaquin Valley's farmland has been turned into a "man-made" dust bowl.

The water is being allowed to just run off the mountains, through the river system, through the delta, and out into the ocean. The water is being reserved for the little Delta Smelt, a three inch bait fish, that is not endangered species list.

Now, California is in the midst of a drought. As the Governor institutes water emergency rules, they just let all that water just keep pouring into the ocean. Unbelievable!

The I-5 San Joaquin Valley corridor is marked with signs begging Nancy Pelosi to turn the water on. Sean Hannity hosted a full show from Hanford, CA to highlight the problem. Phone calls and letters from all over the country have been sent to try to fix this situation.

Comedian Paul Rodriguez, co-chair of Latino Water Coalition, crosses the state working to remove the environmental protection on the Delta smelt.

Representative Devin Nunes, (CA) [describes the situation in the WSJ back in 2009](#).



**Signs begging Sacramento and DC to turn the water back on are scattered all over the lower San Joaquin Valley.**

*Today the San Joaquin Valley is being transformed into a dust bowl. Hundreds of thousands of acres are fallow, while almond and plum trees are being left to die in the scorching sun.*

*Tens of thousands of people have been tossed out of work—the town of Mendota alone has an unemployment rate of about 40%—and the lines for food donations stretch down streets. The reason? There isn't enough water to go around this year, and the Obama administration is drawing up new reasons to divert more of it from farms and people and into the San Francisco Bay.*

Devon Nunes also stated [in an interview along side Paul Rodriguez](#), “There’s a half a million acres of farmland, it’s bigger than the size of Rhode Island, that’s now dry because of these fools!”

David Spady [reports that](#), “California’s man-made water crisis led to \$2.2 billion in losses, water rationing, rising food costs, and the destruction of small family businesses.”



**70 percent of California's rainfall "washes out to sea" every year..for a minnow.**

The destruction is horrific. Businesses lost, property values lost, jobs lost, crop production lost, food cost increases, just to begin.

Presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina recently weighed in on the subject. She said that as a result, 70 percent of California's rainfall "washes out to sea" every year...**California is a classic case of liberals being willing to sacrifice other people's lives and livelihoods at the altar of their ideology.** It is a tragedy,"

The Climate Change, Save the Whale, Hug the Tree, Save the Baitfish crowd consistently uses a **false narrative** to accomplish their political agenda. Now scientists are predicting a [35 year mega-drought in the West](#). When does the madness stop?

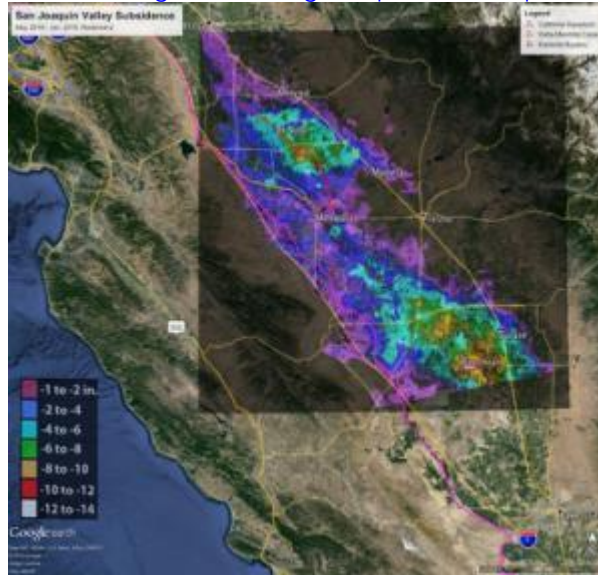
Environmental and endangered species laws are being used to force a political agenda, and in the process, doing severe damage to our country.



# California Sinking Faster Than Thought, Aquifers Could Permanently Shrink

By Tia Ghose, , August 22, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/california-sinking-faster-thought-aquifers-could-permanently-shrink-140333912.html>



**New NASA imagery reveals that parts of California are sinking at an astonishing rate, with some parts of the San Joaquin Valley sinking as much as 2 inches per month.**

California is sinking even faster than scientists had thought, new NASA satellite imagery shows.

Some areas of the Golden State are sinking more than 2 inches (5.1 centimeters) per month, the imagery reveals. Though the sinking, called subsidence, has long been a problem in California, the rate is accelerating because the state's extreme drought is fueling voracious groundwater pumping.

"Because of increased pumping, groundwater levels are reaching record lows — up to 100 feet (30 meters) lower than previous records," Mark Cowin, director of California's Department of Water Resources, [said in a statement](#). "As extensive groundwater pumping continues, the land is sinking more rapidly, and this puts nearby infrastructure at greater risk of costly damage." [[It's Raining Spiders! The Weirdest Effects of California's Drought](#)]

What's more, this furious groundwater pumping could have long-term consequences. If the land shrinks too much, and for too long, it can [permanently lose its ability to store groundwater](#), the researchers said.

The state's sinking isn't new: California has long suffered from subsidence, and some parts are now a few dozen feet lower than they were in 1925, [according to the U.S. Geological Survey](#).

But the state's worst drought on record — 97 percent of the [state is facing moderate to exceptional drought](#) — has only accelerated the trend. To quantify this accelerated sinking, researchers at the Department of Water Resources and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, compared satellite imagery of California over time. Thanks to images taken from both satellites and airplanes using a remote-sensing technique called interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR), which uses radar to measure elevation differences, researchers can now map changes in the surface height of the ground with incredible precision. For the current study, the team stitched together imagery from Japan's satellite-based Phased Array type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar and Canada's Earth Observation satellite Radarsat-2, as well as NASA's airplane-based Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar.

Certain hotspots are shrinking at an astonishing rate — regions of the Tulare Basin, which includes Fresno, sank 13 inches (33 cm) in just eight months, they found. The Sacramento Valley is sinking about 0.5 inches (1.3 cm) per month. And the California Aqueduct — an intricate network of pipes, canals and tunnels that funnels water from high in the Sierra Nevada mountains in northern and central California to Southern California — has sunk 12.5 inches (32 cm), and most of that was just in the past four months, according to the [new study](#).

The unquenchable thirst for groundwater in certain regions is largely a result of agriculture: Most of the state's agricultural production resides in the fast-sinking regions around some of the state's most endangered river systems — [the San Joaquin](#) and Sacramento rivers. As the heat and lack of rainfall have depleted surface-water supplies, farmers have turned to groundwater to keep their crops afloat.

Subsidence isn't just an aesthetic problem; bridges and highways can sink and crack in dangerous ways, and flood-control structures can be compromised. In the San Joaquin Valley, the sinking Earth has destroyed the outer shell around thousands of privately drilled wells.

"Groundwater acts as a savings account to provide supplies during drought, but the NASA report shows the consequences of excessive withdrawals as we head into the fifth year of historic drought," Corwin said. "We will work together with counties, local water districts, and affected communities to identify ways to slow the rate of subsidence and protect vital infrastructure such as canals, pumping stations, bridges and wells."

**There is plenty of water in CA, and the "drought" is a man-made issue created for purely political purposes.**

Marc, Citizen on line, Sep 1

The problem is not Nestle, or any other for-profit businesses that are using CA water. **It is the politicians secretly increasing the pass-through mandates for surface water; now requiring that up to 90% pass directly through to the ocean, without being used for human purposes.** That is why Lake Shasta and others APPEAR to be so depleted. It is not the lack of inflows, but the mandate to open the dam floodgates during low-rain periods and let that surface water pass through to the ocean. In other words, eliminating the entire purpose and function of dams and reservoirs (that our tax dollars PAID FOR, for the intelligent purpose of avoiding problems associated with a low rain years!).



The two pictures that tell the story is the attached photos of Lake Shasta, which is under the state-mandated pass-through, whereas the photo of Whiskeytown Lake, 6 miles to the west is at maximum capacity. Why? Because the private water co-op that owns the lake and operates the dam is refusing a state order to open its floodgates. Whiskeytown is following the same summer-season, low-rain protocols it has utilized for 30 years, with plenty of water for the Cache

Creek wildlife below the dam, as well as for human consumption and agriculture.



Besides putting a strain on the remaining 10% of surface flows, the higher pass-through mandates also put a strain upon ground water, including wells and springs, in the sense that less surface flow use drives demand to other available sources of water.

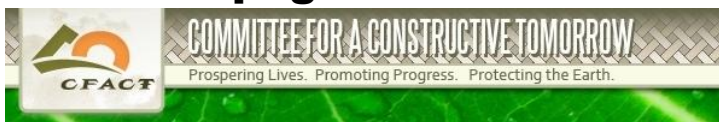
The treachery of the left is revealed in their iron-fisted-control objective: you can meter, tax--and withhold--ground water, but you can't meter, tax, or withhold rain, snow melt, rivers, lakes, or streams. So by increasing the un-taxable pass-through water flows, you propel the "drought" crisis, justify seizing control of taxable flows, as well as simultaneously increasing demand for the taxable flows. This is why Nestle--and all private bottle water companies--are now the villains, and should be "made to pay".

Bear in mind that the earth's 1,800 mile-deep mantle holds **3 TIMES MORE FRESH, CLEAN WATER than all of the earth's oceans.** Although in vapor form, when it converts to liquid, that water is the PRIMARY source of underground and spring water, NOT surface water, snow melt, or rain. That mantle-based, sub-surface water is water that has never been on the earth's surface, and therefore has never been a part of the surface/air water cycle, and thus NEVER a part of the "environment".





## Propaganda Wildfire



Craig Rucker, Executive Director, August 8, 2015



Did you hear what Governor Jerry Brown said about California's drought and wildfires?

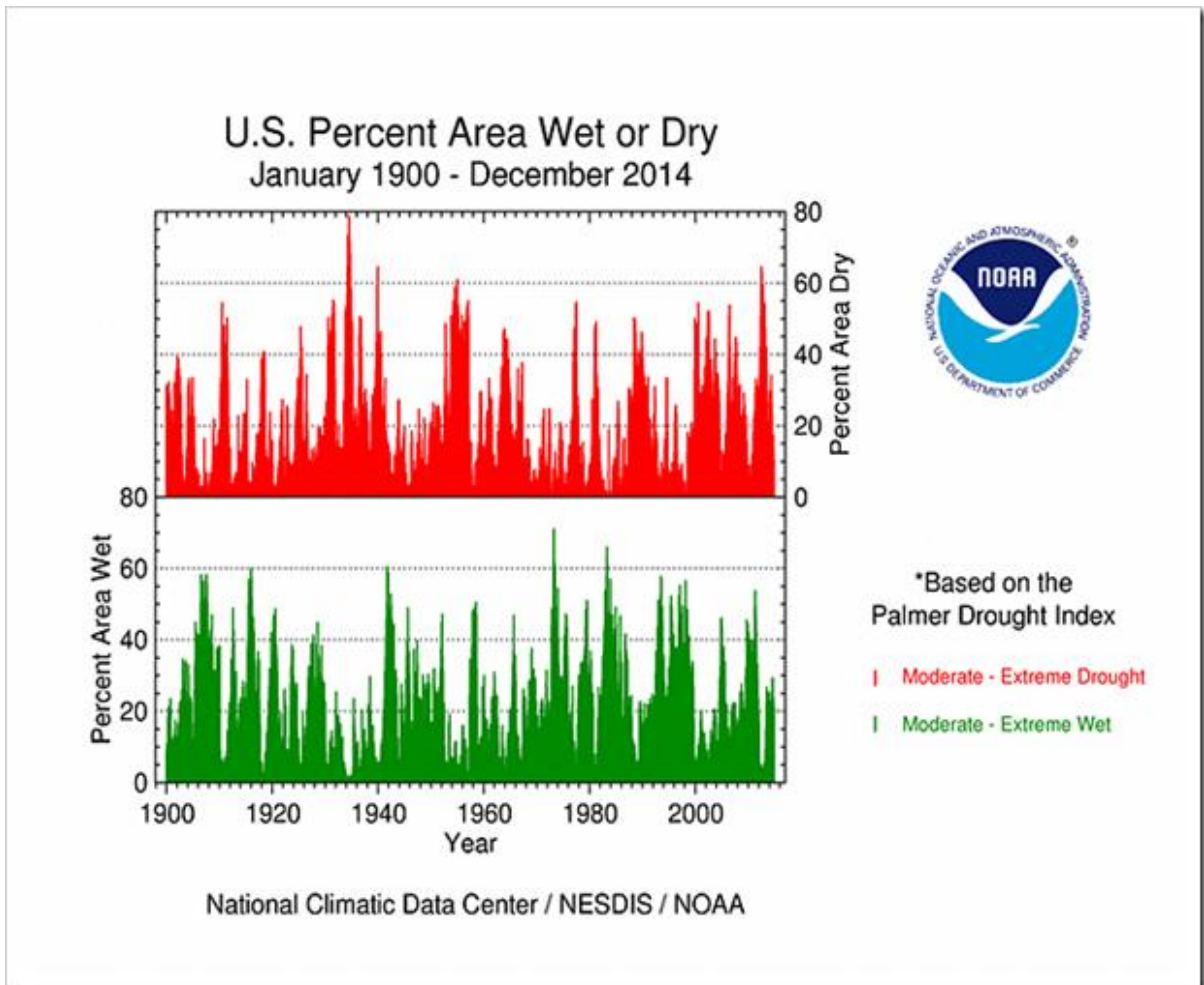
He's blaming the dry weather on "climate change."

"California is burning," Brown said, "What the hell are you going to do about it?"

He wants to combat California's very real and dangerous drought by going after CO<sub>2</sub>.

"This is not a game of politics," Brown said, "we need to limit our carbon pollution. These are real lives and real people... We need to make major changes in the way we operate."

Brown is either unaware, or ignoring the fact that historical records show that [extreme weather is running from normal to low](#), including drought and fire.



Should California deal with its very real drought by ramping up emergency response and securing new sources of fresh water for its citizens, or by demonizing American industry and CO<sub>2</sub>?

Exploiting genuine hardship and suffering to advance the global warming narrative is shameful and should stop.

Question for Governor Brown: Had Henry Ford never mass-produced the automobile or Edison invented the light bulb, had we never had the Industrial Revolution, would California have had one more of drop of rain?

*Again, the arrogant, immoral character of the left is in their obsession with seizing, controlling, and using naturally-occurring, God-given water for the*

*purposes of political power and self-enrichment; water that they did not pay for, don't own, and intrinsically have NO MORE RIGHT TO THAN YOU OR I.*

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Climate Change Hysteria Used to Advance Political Goals**



**OREGON STATE SENATOR**  
NEWS FROM DOUG WHITSETT

The stated goal of President Obama's "Clean Power Plan" is to cut carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. power plants to 32 percent below 2005 emission levels by 2030. His alleged purpose for the Plan is to save the environment by reducing climate change.

His administration is employing climate change hysteria to advance his political goals of gaining more control over the public and the free market economy. The Plan represents his administration's latest policy created to benefit well-connected entities in the government-dependent renewable energy industry, at the expense of society's most vulnerable citizens.

The 1560-page "plan" is the product of administrative rules developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through executive fiat, to advance his personal anti-fossil fuels agenda. He has selected the illegal expansion of EPA administrative authority as his tool of choice to ignore both the rule of law and the orders of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Other choices for achieving similar carbon reduction goals are available without relying on the heavy, coercive hand of government. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) can and are being accomplished through free market principles based on voluntary actions.

Two days after Obama announced his "Plan," the U.S. Energy Information Administration released a report stating that monthly power sector carbon dioxide emissions in America reached a 27-year low in April. The report concluded that the U.S. leads the world in natural gas production, and that increased use of natural gas was responsible for over 62 percent of electric power sector CO2 savings in the years between 2005 and 2013.

The Bend-LaPine School district offers another example of emission reduction through voluntary, market-driven means. This case study explains how Oregon's seventh-largest school District officials converted 40 percent of the district's bus fleet to propane autogas, creating significant fuel cost savings. Propane actually outperforms diesel in mileage, as well as engine performance and maintenance, while costing 57 percent less than diesel, at \$1.31 per gallon compared to \$3.11 per gallon for diesel.

The District's cost savings were accompanied by an 80 percent reduction in total hydrocarbon emissions and the virtual elimination of particulate pollution. During its useful life, each converted bus will eliminate 169,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from the District's carbon footprint.

The combination of emission reduction and the cost savings to the District make this a practical, realistic, market-driven approach to solving excessive diesel emissions.

The inescapable fact is that wind and solar renewable energy simply do not pencil out for consumers. They are entirely dependent upon big government subsidies that divert taxpayer and utility ratepayer funds from other, more beneficial purposes.

Several states, including Oregon, have been adopting the European Union's renewable energy strategies. Those policies have caused average European residential electricity rates to be more than double the rates in the United States in 2013.

The economic realities of those policies have prompted some of Europe's political leaders to reconsider their green energy mandates. They have recognized their ill-advised green energy programs have caused disastrous economic outcomes, including sharp downturns in their business economies and rapidly escalating job losses.

Implementation of Obama's Clean Power Plan will nearly guarantee rolling blackouts caused by even more of our electricity being produced from unreliable and inefficient renewable sources. Moreover, the sharply increased cost of energy is already challenging the budgets for minority families and people living in poverty.

The environmental movement is often predicated and defended upon the basis of "social justice" for the poor. Obama's Clean Energy Plan will certainly cause higher priced food and energy, which will disproportionately harm the poor,

because they spend a significantly higher percentage of their household incomes on energy and food.

All of the money derived from increased spending by people in poverty is shuttled-off to enhance the profits of the purveyors of green energy.

Please remember--If we do not stand up for rural Oregon, no one will.

Best Regards,

Doug, Senate District 28

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## **Climate Crisis, Inc. has become a \$1.5 trillion industry**

[Paul Driessen](#), CFact, August 22, 2015

[http://www.cfact.org/2015/08/22/climate-crisis-inc-has-become-a-1-5-trillion-industry/?utm\\_source=CFACT+Updates&utm\\_campaign=3075e1c216-\\_1\\_5\\_trillion\\_follow\\_the\\_money8\\_24\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a28eaedb56-3075e1c216-270344661](http://www.cfact.org/2015/08/22/climate-crisis-inc-has-become-a-1-5-trillion-industry/?utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=3075e1c216-_1_5_trillion_follow_the_money8_24_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-3075e1c216-270344661)



No warming in 18 years, no category 3-5 hurricane hitting the USA in ten years, seas rising at barely six inches a century: computer models and hysteria are consistently contradicted by Real World experiences.

So how do White House, EPA, UN, EU, Big Green, Big Wind, liberal media, and even Google, GE and Defense Department officials justify their fixation on climate change as the greatest crisis facing humanity? How do they excuse saying government must control our energy system, our economy and nearly every aspect of our lives – deciding which jobs will be protected and which ones destroyed, even who will live and who will die – in the name of saving the planet? What drives their intense ideology?

The answer is simple. The annual revenue of the Climate Crisis & Renewable Energy Industry has become [a \\$1.5-trillion-a-year business!](#) That's equal to the annual economic activity generated by the entire US nonprofit sector, or all savings over the past ten years from consumers switching to generic drugs. By comparison, revenue for the much-vilified Koch Industries are about \$115 billion, for ExxonMobil around \$365 billion.

According to a 200-page analysis by the *Climate Change Business Journal*, this Climate Industrial Complex can be divided into [nine segments](#): low carbon and renewable power; carbon capture and storage; energy storage, such as batteries; energy efficiency; green buildings; transportation; carbon trading; climate change adaptation; and consulting and research. Consulting alone is a \$27-billion-per-year industry that handles "reputation management" for companies and tries to link weather events, food shortages and other problems to climate change. Research includes engineering R&D and climate studies.

The \$1.5-trillion price tag appears to exclude most of the Big Green environmentalism industry, a [\\$13.4-billion-per-year business](#) in the USA alone. The MacArthur Foundation just gave another \$50 million to global warming alarmist groups. Ex-NY Mayor [Michael Bloomberg](#) and Chesapeake Energy gave the Sierra Club \$105 million to wage war on coal (shortly before the Club began waging war on natural gas and Chesapeake Energy, in what some see as poetic justice). Warren Buffett, numerous "progressive" foundations, [Vladimir Putin cronies](#) and countless companies also give endless millions to Big Green.

Our hard-earned tax dollars are likewise only partially included in the CCBJ tally. As professor, author and columnist Larry Bell notes in his new book, [Scared Witless: Prophets and profits of climate doom](#), the U.S. government spent over **\$185 billion** between 2003 and 2010 on climate change items – and this wild spending spree has gotten even worse in the ensuing Obama years. We are paying for questionable to fraudulent global warming studies, climate-related technology research, loans and tax breaks for Solyndra and other companies that go bankrupt, and "climate adaptation" foreign aid to poor countries.

Also not included: the salaries and pensions of thousands of EPA, NOAA, Interior, Energy and other federal bureaucrats who devote endless hours to devising and imposing regulations for [Clean Power Plans](#), drilling and mining bans, renewable energy installations, and countless Climate Crisis, Inc. handouts. A significant part of the [\\$1.9 trillion per year](#) that American businesses and families pay to comply with mountains of federal regulations is also based on climate chaos claims.

Add in the state and local equivalents of these federal programs, bureaucrats, regulations and restrictions, and we're talking serious money. There are also consumer costs, including the far higher electricity prices families and businesses must pay, especially in states that want to prove their climate credentials.

The impacts on companies and jobs outside the Climate Crisis Industry are enormous, and growing. For every job created in the climate and renewable sectors, two to four jobs are eliminated in other parts of the economy, studies in Spain, Scotland and other countries have found. The effects on people's health and welfare, and on overall environmental quality, are likewise huge and widespread.

But all these adverse effects are studiously ignored by Climate Crisis profiteers – and by the false prophets of planetary doom who manipulate data, exaggerate and fabricate looming catastrophes, and create the pseudo-scientific basis for regulating carbon-based energy and industries into oblivion. Meanwhile, the regulators blatantly ignore laws that might penalize their favored constituencies.

In one glaring example, a person who merely possesses a single bald eagle feather can be fined up to \$100,000 and jailed for a year. But operators of the wind turbine that killed the eagle get off scot-free. Even worse, the US Fish & Wildlife Service actively helps Big Wind hide and minimize its slaughter of millions of raptors, other birds and bats every year. It has given industrial wind operators a five-year blanket exemption from the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Birds Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act. The FWS even proposed giving Big Wind a 30-year exemption.

Thankfully, the US District Court in San Jose, CA [recently ruled](#) that the FWS and Interior Department violated the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws, when they issued regulations granting these companies a 30-year *license* to kill bald and golden eagles. But the death tolls continue to climb.

Professor Bell's perceptive, provocative, extensively researched book reviews the attempted power grab by Big Green, Big Government and Climate Crisis, Inc. In 19 short chapters, he examines the phony scientific consensus on global warming, the secretive and speculative science and computer models used to "prove" we face a cataclysm, ongoing collusion and deceit by regulators and activists, carbon tax mania, and many of the most prominent but phony climate crises: melting glaciers, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, disappearing species and declining biodiversity. His [articles](#) and [essays](#) do likewise.

*Scared Witless* also lays bare the real reasons for climate fanaticism, aside from lining pockets. As one prominent politician and UN or EPA bureaucrat after another has proudly and openly said, their “true ambition” is to institute “a new global order” ... “ global governance” ... “redistribution of the world’s resources” ... an end to “hegemonic” capitalism ... and “a profound transformation” of “attitudes and lifestyles,” energy systems and “the global economic development model.”

In other words, these unelected, unaccountable US, EU and UN bureaucrats want complete control over our industries; over everything we make, grow, ship, eat and do; and over every aspect of our lives, livelihoods, living standards and liberties. And they intend to “ride the global warming issue” all the way to this complete control, “even if the theory of global warming is wrong” ... “even if there is no scientific evidence to back the greenhouse effect” ... “even if the science of global warming is all phony.”

If millions of people lose their jobs in the process, if millions of retirees die from hypothermia because they cannot afford to heat their homes properly, if millions of Africans and Asians die because they are denied access to reliable, affordable carbon-based electricity – so be it. Climate Crisis, Inc. doesn’t care.

This global warming industry survives and thrives only because of secretive, fraudulent climate science; constant collusion between regulators and pressure groups; and a steady stream of government policies, regulations, preferences, subsidies and mandates – and taxes and penalties on its competitors. CCI gives lavishly to politicians who keep the gravy train on track, while its well-funded attack dogs respond quickly, aggressively and viciously to anyone who dares to challenge its orthodoxies or funding.

Climate change has been “real” throughout Earth and human history – periodically significant, sometimes sudden, sometimes destructive, driven by the sun and other powerful, complex, interacting natural forces that we still do not fully understand ... and certainly cannot control. It has little or nothing to do with the carbon dioxide that makes plants grow faster and better, and is emitted as a result of using fossil fuels that have brought countless wondrous improvements to our environment and human condition.

Climate Crisis, Inc. is a wealthy, nasty behemoth. But it is a house of cards. Become informed. Get involved. Fight back.





# 'Pay Up'

## **Climate change nonsense is all about redistribution of wealth!**

Sikeli Qounadovu, The Fiji Times Online, September 04, 2015

[http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=320367&utm\\_source=CFACT+Updates&utm\\_campaign=029195b712-Pay\\_up\\_9\\_4\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a28eaedb56-029195b712-270344661](http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=320367&utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=029195b712-Pay_up_9_4_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-029195b712-270344661)

THE Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) will call on the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases to compensate all Pacific Islands that are affected by climate change.

At the PIDF meeting yesterday, the forum agreed that compensation will be a key component in the Suva Declaration which will be adopted today at the conclusion of the meeting.

PIDF Interim Secretary-General Amena Yauvoli said "those who are responsible for emitting the most greenhouse gases should pay" as their actions contradicted what they had agreed upon in the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"Our contribution of greenhouse gases emissions is less than one per cent and while we are contributing less, we are facing the full brunt of climate change. So we agreed to compensation in terms of migration and compensation in terms of loss and damage as a result of climate change."

When asked how compensation will be paid out Mr Yauvoli said, "we need to define the methodology and the criteria that need to be followed."

Given the need to address the seriousness of climate change, the UNFCCC has set up a Green Climate Fund worth \$US100billion (\$F217b).

"Its purpose is to fund those nations affected by climate change, the question now is how we can access those funds," said Mr Yauvoli.

Meanwhile, in opening yesterday's meeting Mary Robinson, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change, said there had been discussion with relation to compensation

"The French Government is stewarding an informal process where ministers from across the world seek to find ways to resolve key issues that are emerging from the negotiations. As part of this process, there is an informal ministerial meeting next Sunday and Monday in Paris to look specifically at climate finance, means

of implementation, adaptation and loss-and-damage which are all of vital importance to people in the Pacific and other SIDS."

## **UN Climate Talks: Hints of Compromise on Key Issue**

Matt McGrath Environment correspondent, BBC News, Bonn, 4 September 2015

[http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34147192?utm\\_source=CFACT+Updates&utm\\_campaign=029195b712-Pay\\_up\\_9\\_4\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a28eaedb56-029195b712-270344661](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-34147192?utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=029195b712-Pay_up_9_4_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-029195b712-270344661)



**Developing nations point to Typhoon Haiyan as an example of the damage wrought by extreme weather events**

Rich nations at UN climate talks are said to be edging towards a compromise on the thorny issue of loss and damage.

**Poorer countries want compensation for extreme weather events that they link to large scale carbon emissions.**

But the US and EU have long resisted this idea, fearing an endless liability running into billions of dollars.

However a clarified proposal from the US, to be made on Friday, is being seen as a "step forward" by some delegates.

Loss and damage has increasingly become a totemic issue for developing nations, who point to events like Typhoon Haiyan as an example of the tremendous damage that extreme weather events can wreak on the most vulnerable.

They argue that the world is seeing a greater frequency of these events and they are caused, in the main, by emissions of carbon dioxide that are mainly the responsibility of the rich.

At least people are feeling and recognising the elephant in the room, they're not hiding it under the carpet anymore Harjeet Singh, Action Aid

The issue has gained considerable traction at these talks in recent years.

The [question almost derailed the UN process in Poland](#) in 2013. The parties eventually agreed to set up the so-called Warsaw Mechanism, which was given two years to develop a plan of how the issue should be tackled.

Many poorer nations felt they had been fobbed off on something they regard as critical to their very survival.

They point to [reports from insurers which say that losses linked to weather events](#) have risen from around \$50bn a year in the 1980s to around \$200bn now.

In Bonn, the developing countries have proposed that loss and damage should be at the heart of a new global deal. They also want a facility to deal with the displacement of people by extreme weather.

According to observers, in contrast to their previous hard line attitude, the US has engaged in discussion on these ideas in a constructive and positive spirit.

"At this meeting we've seen positive moves that I think give us hope that loss and damage can be successfully concluded and we can agree a successful climate agreement in Paris," said Julie-Anne Richards from the campaign group, Climate Justice.

### **Welcome response**

A proposal from the US was said to concede that the Warsaw Mechanism should be extended and made permanent. They would also "respond to the concerns of developing countries".

There was likely to be support for other approaches on loss and damage including early warning systems. But an official with knowledge of the proposal stressed that the Warsaw Mechanism was definitely not about liability or compensation.

Despite this, the clarified proposal was welcomed by many observers.

"It is a big step forward," said Harjeet Singh from Action Aid. He said that developing countries had been told that loss and damage would now feature in the outcomes that will be agreed in Paris, something he regarded as progress.

"At least people are feeling and recognising the elephant in the room, they're not hiding it under the carpet anymore," Mr Singh explained.

Some negotiators acknowledged the shift but were reluctant to go on the record. Others suggested that the issue was being broached here in Bonn in order to try and make progress on the issue before Paris, where many believe it has the potential to become a huge roadblock.

The developing nations want to see more than money thrown at the problem. They are arguing for the setting up of a "a climate change displacement coordination facility", to deal with those who lose their homes as a result of extreme weather.

According to Julie-Anne Richards, the current situation being experienced with migrants in the Mediterranean was stiffening the resolve of poorer countries to make sure that an agreement on people displaced by climate change was part of any new deal.

"Right now if you are a low lying country you'd be looking at the Mediterranean and not having a lot of confidence that your future was guaranteed unless you could get something locked into the Paris agreement that acknowledged that vulnerable countries are going to face the worst impacts," she told BBC News.

"We need to plan in a well organised manner for that - that's what the climate displacement facility would do."



## **Feds bigger threat than global warming**

*So are education obstacles, web of dependencies*

[Bob Unruh](#), WND, 08/14/2015



**Carly Fiorina**

GOP presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina, formerly the chief of Hewlett-Packard, says the federal government itself is a bigger threat to America than so-called global warming.

In a recent interview with Katie Couric, Fiorina was responding to Couric's question about whether she thinks climate change is a "serious issue."

"I think it's an issue," she said. "I think we ought to be focusing our time, energy and resources on innovations. We need to keep it in perspective."

Couric interrupted her to repeat the question, asking specifically about how serious Fiorina believes the issue to be.

She said far more dangerous to America is the "web of dependencies" into which people fall, the issue of whether "people are getting a good education" and the "dangers we face around the world."

Even, she said, "The fact our government is a vast, bloated, unaccountable, corrupt bureaucracy."

[The Political Insider](#) commented: "Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina is Hillary Clinton's worst nightmare. She is tough and articulate. And after her extraordinary performance during the 'earlier' Fox News debate last week, she showed she's ready for battle. Her polling numbers are skyrocketing."

Fiorina said about global warming that the U.S. alone, no matter what it does, will not impact any global issue like that.

“So when I see a state like California destroy lives and livelihoods with environmental regulations that will make no difference at all, when I see the Obama administration take that same regulation and apply it nationally – it will make no differ at all, and yet we’re destroying peoples’ lives and livelihoods. I wonder why are we doing this. Why are we doing this when it won’t have any impact” ***[Ed. Note: She could have been speaking to the issue of small-scale gold suction dredging].***


She said innovation needs to be the focal point of any work on the issue. Half of America’s energy comes from coal, she pointed out, yet Obama wants, essentially, to ban it.

“To say we’re basically going to outlaw coal, which is what this administration is doing, is so self-defeating. It destroys jobs, communities.”

Wind tech?

Wonderful idea, she said, but do the experts tell Americans that “wind tech slaughters millions of birds?”

“I think it is frankly ridiculous for the Obama administration to call ISIS a strategic distraction, and then go on to say that climate change is the single most pressing national security issue of our time.”



## Climate statism: Science, poverty, free speech at Issue

[Paul Driessen](http://www.cfact.org), CFact, August 19, 2015

[http://www.cfact.org/2015/08/19/climate-statism-science-poverty-free-speech-at-issue/?utm\\_source=CFACT+Updates&utm\\_campaign=3075e1c216-\\_1\\_5\\_trillion\\_follow\\_the\\_money8\\_24\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a28eadeb56-3075e1c216-270344661](http://www.cfact.org/2015/08/19/climate-statism-science-poverty-free-speech-at-issue/?utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=3075e1c216-_1_5_trillion_follow_the_money8_24_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eadeb56-3075e1c216-270344661)



*“Over the past three decades, fossil fuels helped 1.3 billion people get electricity and escape debilitating energy poverty – over 830 million because of coal. However, 1.3 billion people (the population of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe combined) still do not have electricity.... That is why climate change is a “critical moral issue.”*

Scientists who question the supposed “consensus” on climate change are routinely labeled “skeptics” or even “deniers,” in a not-so-subtle reference to Holocaust denial. It is an absurd charge.

All of us agree that climate change has been “real” since Earth and human history began. It is ongoing, periodically significant, sometimes sudden, sometimes destructive – and thus far always unpredictable.

## **Real issues**



What we do *not* accept is the notion of “*dangerous manmade* climate change,” driven solely or primarily by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases ... emitted as a result of using fossil fuels that have brought countless wondrous improvements to our human condition. We believe geology, history, and current evidence clearly show that climate and weather fluctuations are driven by the sun and other powerful, complex, interacting natural forces that we still do not fully understand – and certainly cannot control.

Indeed, the central issue in this ongoing policy battle is **not** whether Planet Earth has warmed recently, or whether the climate continues to change. There is little doubt of that. The central issues are —

*How much* is it warming? *How much* (if any) of the recent warming and other climate changes are due to mankind's use of fossil fuels and emission of greenhouse gases? *How much* is due to the same powerful natural forces that have driven climate and weather fluctuations throughout history? And will any changes be short-term or long-term ... good, bad, neutral ... or catastrophic (as mile-thick Ice Age glaciers were for much of the planet, and the Little Ice Age was for Europe and Asia)?

In reality, the danger is *not* climate change, which will always be with us. **The clear and present danger is energy and economic restrictions imposed in the name of controlling Earth's perpetually fickle climate – for those restrictions will perpetuate poverty, disease and death** ... and make it difficult to respond and adapt to future changes.

## **Evidence for good, not bad, news**

Numerous resources address climate and energy realities, and the human rights and health implications of restrictive energy policies, including: many of





[my articles](#), my [Climate Hype Exposed](#) and [Miracle Molecule](#) books, extensive reports by the [NIPCC](#) (Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change) and [CO2 Science](#), the [WattsUpWithThat](#) and [SEPP](#) climate science websites, and Heartland Institute's [climate conferences](#) and [Vatican papers](#).

We climate realists have repeatedly called on alarmist climate scientists to look at *The Real World outside their windows* ... and compare that world with the scary scenarios that they create with their computer models and present in their press releases. We have also repeatedly challenged them to discuss and debate these important climate, energy, health and economic issues with us. They have refused to do so.

It appears **the Climate Crisis Industry has too much invested in climate catastrophes**: prestige, political power, billions of dollars in research and renewable energy grants, and the desire to control energy use, livelihoods, living standards and entire economies.

Instead of reasoned debate, they continue to predict manmade climate chaos, and engage in increasingly vicious and vitriolic attacks on replicable evidence-based science; on the scientific method that brought centuries of profound planetary and human progress; and on any scientists, scholars or ethicists who raise inconvenient questions or threaten alarmist views, policies and funding.

### **Warring against science, freedom, humanity**



They are also waging war on capitalism ... on hydrocarbon energy ... on poor, minority, blue-collar, and working class families – and on the most powerless, destitute, deprived, diseased families on Earth.

Equally unsettling, in league with Liberal-Progressive-Leftist politicians, activists and media, climate alarmists are also attacking the very idea of free speech and open, robust debate.

Tactics used to advance the Climate Crisis agenda are too numerous to recount here, but many are shameful, intolerable, dishonest and even lethal.

One involves the “[social cost of carbon](#)” analysis devised by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal government agencies. It supposedly monetizes damages associated with alleged climate risks due to using carbon-based fuels. Originally, pegged at an arbitrary \$22 per ton, the price was later arbitrarily raised to \$36 a ton, and environmentalist pressure may send it higher still.

The EPA factors in every conceivable cost, including imagined negative impacts of more fossil fuels and planetary warming on forests, water resources, coastal cities, wildlife, and human health. But it completely *ignores* even the most obvious and enormous *benefits* of *using* fossil fuels: powering our economy, creating millions of jobs, improving people’s health and living standards, fertilizing crops and forests.

It also ignores the enormous human and environmental costs imposed by *anti-carbon policies*: blanketing habitats with wind turbines and solar panels, butchering birds and bats, destroying jobs, and reducing people’s living standards and life spans. To the regulators, these are not topics for discussion.

In fact, even if the United States *eliminated* fossil fuels, destroyed its economy, killed millions of jobs and let numerous people die – atmospheric carbon dioxide levels would continue to climb, because other nations will continue using hydrocarbon energy. And even if carbon dioxide were the *only* factor in global warming, the predicted planetary temperature a century from now would be only [0.02° Celsius](#) lower than if America continued doing business as usual.

### **False alarms, desperate diversions**

Further examples of fraudulent alarmist pseudo-science can be found in this [article](#), this [commentary](#), this [ongoing analysis](#) and the [legal brief](#) that the

Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States in the dispute over the EPA's carbon dioxide regulations.

Attempts to terminate "skeptical" funding and silence "realist" researchers have been concerted and coordinated. In [one example](#), Congressman **Raul Grijalva**



and Senators **Ed Markey**, **Barbara Boxer**, and **Sheldon Whitehouse** sent letters to universities, think tanks, and companies, demanding details on skeptic scientists' funding and activities. They asked for nothing from alarmist researchers.

Additional examples are addressed in [this article](#) and on this [extensive website](#). The horrid impacts of climate change, energy and other environmental policies on poor families are addressed in detail in my [Eco-Imperialism](#) and [Cracking Big Green](#) books, and in numerous articles like [this one](#).

Over the past three decades, fossil fuels helped 1.3 billion people get electricity and escape debilitating energy poverty – over 830 million because of coal. However, 1.3 billion people (the population of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe combined) still do not have electricity. In India alone, more people than live in the U.S. still lack electricity. **In Sub-Saharan Africa, 730 million (the population of Europe) still cook and heat with wood, charcoal, and animal dung.**

Hundreds of millions get horribly sick and 4 to 6 million die every year from lung and intestinal diseases, due to breathing smoke from open fires and not having clean water, refrigeration and safe food.

*That is why climate change is a critical moral issue. Denying people access to abundant, reliable, affordable hydrocarbon energy is not just wrong. It is immoral – and lethal.* It is an unconscionable crime against humanity to implement policies that pretend to protect the world's energy-deprived masses from hypothetical manmade climate dangers decades from now – by

perpetuating poverty, malnutrition, and disease that *kill millions of them tomorrow*.

### **They said it**

But that is what Big Green elites seem to want. Here's what a few of them have said, in their own words.



*The Population Bomb* author **Paul Ehrlich**: “Giving society cheap energy is like giving an idiot child a machine gun.” The “instant death control” provided by DDT was “responsible for the drastic lowering of death rates” in underdeveloped countries – and those countries are not practicing a “birth rate solution.” So they must have a “death rate solution” imposed on them.

Ehrlich and Obama science advisor **John Holdren**: “We need to *de-develop* the United States – bring our economic system (especially patterns of consumption) into line with the realities of ecology and the global resource situation.... Once the United States has clearly started on the path of cleaning up its own mess, it can then turn its attention to the problems of de-developing the other developed countries, population control, and *ecologically feasible* development of the underdeveloped countries.” [emphasis added]

**Christiana Figueres**, the UN’s top climate official, says United Nations officials are undertaking “probably the most difficult task we have ever *given ourselves*, which is to *intentionally transform* the global economic development model.” [emphasis added] And replace it with what, exactly?

Another IPCC director had this to say: “Climate policy has almost nothing to do anymore with environmental protection. The next world climate summit is actually an economy summit, during which the distribution of the world’s resources will be negotiated.”

What this really means, of course, is a more “sustainable” and “equitable” distribution of less energy, fewer jobs, and greater deprivation, poverty, disease, malnutrition and early death – in the name of fairness, compassion, population control and climate change prevention.

### **The Left vs. free speech**

These would-be global green dictators do not want to discuss any of this, least of all in robust, open, public debate. In fact, they are determined not to let *anyone* talk about it.

As liberal commentator **Kirsten Powers** puts it in her book, [\*The Silencing: How the Left is killing free speech\*](#), the Illiberal Left is committed to tolerance, pluralism, and reasoned debate only for themselves, and only to advance their intolerant agenda. Otherwise, they apply “authoritarian demands for intellectual conformity” and relentlessly demonize and try to silence anyone who speaks up or asks inconvenient questions.

Conservative political analyst [\*\*George Will\*\*](#) is equally blunt.

Free speech has never been ... more comprehensively, aggressively and dangerously threatened than it is now. Today they are attacking the **theory** of free speech ... the *desirability* of free speech ... and indeed the very *possibility* of free speech....”

**Hillary Clinton** and other prominent Democrats, Will notes, have gone so far as to say they want to “change the First Amendment, in order to further empower



the political class to regulate the quantity, content, and timing of political speech *about* the political class.”

Boston University professor emeritus [\*\*Angelo Codevilla\*\*](#) also hits the nail squarely on the head: “The ruling class demonizes any questioning of its demands by

imposing modern equivalents of the slave-era 'gag rule.' They wage identity politics as war. Power over what we praise and blame, how we think and speak, is what they and theirs are all about.

"The pretexts differ" from issue to issue, he notes. "But the reality is the same: Bow or be persecuted. ... Nor will reason protect you. No discussion of merits is tolerated. This is how conquerors treat defeated enemies. Yours is the burden of proving you're on the correct side."

"Consequently," Codevilla says, "if we wish to remain who we are in the face of threats and declamations meant to force us to honor intellectual and moral falsehoods, we have no alternative but clearly and loudly to distinguish between true and false, and fully make the case for what we believe to be right."

Anyone who wonders how far the Left is willing to go should consider how many conservative groups the IRS targeted – and how the Milwaukee prosecutor and police monitored emails, invaded homes, seized computers and records, and threatened jail for anyone who disclosed these abuses ... so as to intimidate and silence Governor **Scott Walker**'s supporters and other conservative groups in Wisconsin.

Their actions do not merely affect and destroy our fundamental First Amendment rights of free speech, assembly, association, and debate. They severely impact the *unalienable rights* of people everywhere to partake of the good jobs, health, welfare, living standards and *true* environmental justice that affordable, reliable energy and other modern technologies have blessed us with.

Denying people these basic human rights is immoral, and intolerable. We have no choice but to fight back with every fiber of our being.

### **We have had enough!**



As Professor Codevilla points out, President Lincoln “pressed slavery’s hard, ugly realities upon audiences that preferred to evade them. Lincoln brushed away the euphemisms and legal constructs in describing the slave trade’s merchandising of human beings.” We must do likewise on these issues.

We must not mince words regarding the evils that climate totalitarianism and eco-imperialism are inflicting on families, industries, communities and entire nations. We must confront the lies, abuses and abusers – and confront the world with the hard, ugly realities of what life would be under conditions imposed by the UN, EU, IPCC, EPA, White House, and other environmental extremists.

We must demand that governors, state and federal legislators, attorneys general, and citizen, industry, and scientific groups take a stand against these evils; take action to gain access to now-secret EPA, NOAA, IPCC, and other data, computer codes, models, and studies; and determine which policies and regulations are based on deception or fraud.

We must curb the excessive power and representation of environmentalists and bureaucrats in our government; restore federalism, the separation of powers, and the rightful authority of Congress and state governments; and end the too-typical practice of judicial rubberstamping even the most outrageous actions and power grabs by federal agencies.

We must demand that legislatures and courts terminate or suspend implementation of costly, fraudulent, destructive regulations, until genuine evidence-based science is restored to the regulatory process – and employed to evaluate the integrity, quality, validity and true costs of those regulations.

We must demand that elected officials end the practice of sue-and-settle lawsuits between government agencies and radical left-wing pressure groups. We must demand that they slash agency budgets, especially the billions of dollars that EPA and other agencies give every year to anti-people pressure groups.

We must demand passage of the Secret Science Reform Act. This legislation requires that the EPA and other federal agencies develop regulations and the science behind them *in the open*, and allow outside experts, and other affected and interested parties to examine data, evidence and studies that supposedly support government standards and mandates that could cost billions of dollars and millions of jobs.

If we can restore the essential foundations of progress – science, innovation, affordable energy, free market capitalism, free speech, and robust debate – our nation and world will have a rebirth of freedom, progress, opportunity, health and prosperity.

If we do not succeed, the steady economic, technological, health and [human progress](#) of the past 200 years will come to a painful, grinding halt.

**NOTE:** *This post, first published by Master Resource, is taken from Driessen's lecture to the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness annual meeting in Los Angeles in late July.*



Craig Rucker, Executive Director

Radical Green ideologues live in a world divorced from reality.

California Greens from Governor Brown on down have been [blaming California's drought on global warming](#), oblivious to the fact that rain and drought in the U.S. are [historically normal](#).

They never miss an opportunity to try and use natural weather events as an excuse to attack free market Capitalism. They particularly love to attack oil.

How ironic that when the time comes to try and mitigate the problem, it's the prosperity and ingenuity that flows from freedom to which they turn -- and to oil.



**Irony** is when Californians  
blame a **natural drought** on oil...



then protect their reservoir with  
**96 million balls made from petroleum**

Californians just rolled 96 million plastic balls (at 36 cents apiece) into a reservoir that serves Los Angeles in an attempt to shade the water and curb evaporation.

What are the plastic balls made from? Oil.

This reminded us of the Seattle enviros who paddled kayaks to protest an oil platform oblivious to the fact that their own kayaks in effect came out of oil wells.

The Greens may not get the irony, but CFACT's readers do. This week over 10,000 of our friends [shared our "meme"](#) about California's plastic balls with over a million and a half of their friends on Facebook. [The kayak meme](#) (below) blew away all records. Over **300,000 shared that one with over 31 million of their friends!**

**IRONY** is watching  
Seattle enviros protest oil...



**in kayaks made from petroleum**

The EPA certainly provided a fine example of Green irony this week when they released polluted water from a Colorado mine and turned the Animas River yellow.



Imagine how the Greens would be howling for blood had the polluted water gotten away from a productive business rather than feckless bureaucrats.

The Green-Left despises the freedom that nurtures them. They have little notion of the hardships in store for them and for the environment if they succeed in strangling it.

Let's hope they never find out.



Craig Rucker, Executive Director <https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=ds8mfr8ufnep5#6854768922>

Regulation without representation is tyranny.

**The ideologues over at EPA are working outside the law and using regulation to push America into radical Green policies that far exceed anything Congress ever intended. [ED. Note: Any of this sound familiar to small-scale gold suction dredgers? An NPDES permit is not required because dredging operations do not add anything into the rivers or streams in which they are operating.]**

EPA's Orwellian named "Clean" Power Plan is a tragic example.

EPA bureaucrats are dictating energy policy to the states. They are forcing power plants to close while imposing massive inefficiencies and costs. All this will have no meaningful impact on global temperature.

As CFACT senior policy advisor [Paul Driessen explains at CFACT.org](http://CFACT.org):

"Electricity rates will rise not merely to the 15-17 cents/kWh in 'green energy' states like California, from the 8-9 cents per kilowatt-hour currently paid in coal-reliant states. They could skyrocket to the 36-40 cents/kWh now paid in Denmark and Germany (70-80 cents when taxpayer subsidies are included)."

"Some 30 states will have to slash their power plant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 32% and at least 12 will have to implement 40-48% reductions. That is a tall order, since all those states now get 50-96% of their electricity from coal, and all of them depend on coal plus natural gas for nearly all their electric power. Imposing that transition and a conversion to 20% or more expensive and unreliable wind and solar energy by 2030 will be disastrous. It will bankrupt families, businesses, industries, communities and even states."

All this without a vote in Congress?

This goes far beyond the wording and intent of the Clean Air Act. A change this drastic requires new law. President Obama knows that this policy runs counter to the will of Congress. That's why he's going it alone.

We must fight to reassert what the Founding Fathers of our country fought for: A limited government, protected by a system of checks and balances.

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## **What those climate geniuses aren't telling you**

**They 'don't need no stinkin' science,' says expert who identifies real goal**

[Bob Unruh](#), WND, 07/14/2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/07/ice-age-heat-wave-doesnt-matter-to-global-warming-activists/>



As the average global temperature has remained steady for more than 15 years, climate-change alarmists have been found exchanging emails questioning where the warming has gone and strategizing how to shape their message in light of the facts.

Now another obstacle has surfaced with a report that European scientists have unveiled a new scientific model based on solar cycles that shows a "mini ice age" is on the way, due to decreased solar activity.

So, finally, can the dire predictions of life-destroying “climate change” and “global warming” be put to rest?

No, said Marc Morano of [Climate Depot](#), a leading expert on the topic. Morano contends **the “global warming” movement was never about the science behind the issue; it was always about creating a global system of controlling energy production and consumption.**

[A London Daily Mail report on the prediction](#) said the model suggests solar activity will fall by 60 percent during the 2030s to conditions last seen during the mini “ice age” from 1645 to about 1715. During that period, known as the “Maunder Minimum,” London’s River Thames froze over and snow fields remained year-round even at lower elevations.

The results of the study were presented by Prof. Valentina Zharkova at the National Astronomy meeting in Llandudno, Wales.

Zharkova noted in the report that in the nearly two centuries since a scientist first spotted changes in the sun’s activity, there have been cycles of 10 to 12 years.

[WND reported](#) Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., has pointed out that for more than 100 years, “journalists have quoted scientists predicting the destruction of civilization by, in alternation, either runaway heat or a new Ice Age.”

The Daily Mail report noted that over the last century, America’s major media have predicted an impending global climate crisis four different times. Each prediction warned entire countries would be wiped out or that lower crop yields would mean “billions” would die.

In 1895, the panic was over an imminent ice age. In the late 1920s, when the earth’s surface warmed less than half a degree, the media jumped on a new threat – global warming, which continued into the late 1950s. Then in 1975, a New York Times headline blared “A Major Cooling Widely Considered to Be Inevitable.” In 1981, it was back to global warming, with the Times quoting seven government atmospheric scientists who predicted global warming of an “almost unprecedented magnitude.”

The term of choice later evolved to “climate change” to cover the changing circumstances.

Morano told WND on Monday that the facts don’t seem to matter to the activists.

"They don't need no stinkin' science," he said. "They have an agenda."

["Climategate" exposes the global warming scam. Get it now at the WND Superstore.](#)

He pointed to a number of comments from the global warming community that appeared to support that belief.

For example, he noted, EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard once said, "Let's say that science, some decades from now, said 'we were wrong, it was not about climate,' would it not in any case have been good to do many of the things you have to do in order to combat climate change?"

Then there was ex-Sen. Tim Wirth of Colorado: "We've got to ride the global warming issue. Even if the theory of global warming is wrong, we will be doing the right thing, in terms of economic policy and environmental policy."

Morano, whose coming movie, ["Climate Hustle,"](#) will address the issue, said the global warming agenda isn't about the science.

He said that's why, despite the facts, America is on the verge of cap and trade, carbon taxes, renewable energy mandates and more.

President Obama's agenda on renewable energy has been aggressive, often times at the expense of the U.S. taxpayers.

"We're being imposed the same regulations [as global warming legislation would] through the EPA. These regulations will be codified and solidified into law," he said.

He said even now, the agenda essentially is in place and, like other government programs, nearly impossible to remove.

The ultimate goal is centralized planning, he said.

And it's under the banner of global warming, even though a number of experts have predicted just the opposite.

For example, Judith Curry of the Georgia Institute of Technology said just two years ago, referencing a well-documented "pause" in global warming over the last decade or so: "This shift and the subsequent slight cooling trend provides a rationale for inferring a slight cooling trend over the next decade or so, rather than a flat trend from the 15 yr 'pause.'"

Prof. Anastasios Tsonis, distinguished professor of math at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, said in a research paper that the world could be in a cooling spell that could last up to 50 years – and he was targeted with hate mail for it.

The Daily Mail reported noted the “ice age” forecast is based on the study of a dynamo caused by convecting fluid deep within the sun in combination with a second dynamo, close to the surface.

Zharkova said the predictions have been accurate 97 percent of the time.

[Climate Depot reported](#) Ivar Giaever, a Nobel Prize-winner for physics in 1973 who supported Obama, said “basically global warming is a non-problem.”

Giaever now mocks Obama for warning that “no challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change.”

The scientist called it a “ridiculous statement.”

[WND columnist Christophe Monckton of Brenchley](#) has noted that for “222 months, since December 1996, there has been no global warming at all.”

“This month’s RSS temperature – still unaffected by a slowly strengthening el Niño, which will eventually cause temporary warming – passes another six-month milestone, and establishes a new record length for the Pause: 18 years 6 months.”

The rhetoric and predictions of global warming acolytes reached a pinnacle with former vice president and carbon-credit entrepreneur Al Gore telling an audience in a 2009 speech that “the entire north polar ice cap during some of the summer months could be completely ice-free within the next five to seven years.”

And his 2006 documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” famously predicted increasing temperatures would cause oceans to rise by 20 feet, a claim many scientists say is utterly without rational basis.

Scientist Art Robinson has spearheaded [The Petition Project](#), which has gathered the signatures of **31,487 scientists who agree that there is "no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the earth's atmosphere and disruption of the earth's climate."**

The scientists agree: "Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth."

Robinson has a Ph.D. in chemistry from University of California-San Diego, where he served on the faculty. He co-founded the Linus Pauling Institute with Nobel-winner Linus Pauling, where he was president and research professor. He later founded the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine.

He told WND that weather does change over time and that the global system goes through cycles, some slightly warmer and some slightly cooler than others.

## **Lawmakers take aim at EPA 'sue-and-settle' collusion**

[George Russell](#), Fox News.com, August 05, 2015

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/05/lawmakers-take-aim-at-epa-sue-and-settle-collusion/>

Faced with President Obama's vastly expensive Clean Power Plan to remake the U.S. electrical system and other looming regulatory decisions that dramatically affect energy supplies, Republican lawmakers have renewed their offensive against alleged under-the-table legal collusion between the administration and environmental lobbyists in the cascading anti-carbon agenda.

A Senate subcommittee on Tuesday heard witnesses argue that "sue-and-settle" legal arrangements involving the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and hyper-aggressive environmental organizations have cut energy suppliers and state regulators out of the discussion, speeded up the agenda to force unrealistic environmentalist priorities on the energy market, and are likely to cost consumers and producers billions of dollars in the years ahead.

Such charges have been heard before, especially as the Obama Administration faced increased Congressional opposition in its second term. But they are reaching a new crescendo with the arrival of the Clean Power Plan and impending costly new rules governing ozone and methane, to name just two substances, as the Administration heads toward its lame duck year after an unprecedented blizzard of rule-making.

The charges are just as vigorously disputed by the federal agencies and environmental groups.



“The sue-and-settle model takes policy making away from the public and puts it into the hands of one special interest driving an agenda to ultimately prevent the use of fossil fuels,” declared Katherine Sgamma, vice-president of the Western Energy Alliance, a Colorado-based lobbying organization for small oil and gas producers.

Sgamma noted that as of October 2014, there have been 88 sue-and-settle cases since the Obama Administration took power, and that 79 of them had been launched by environmental groups.

Moreover, the success of some efforts have led to more. In lawsuits involving the Endangered Species Act (which can affect not only energy production but land use across millions of acres) Sgamma noted that after the Fish and Wildlife Service made a deal with one environmental organization that involved 404 threatened or endangered species, the same organization came back the next year with demands involving 53 more.

In the case of the Clean Power Plan, the “artificial urgency” of the legal effort has been “key to push the regulations out the door, rush an incredibly complex and expensive rule through standard regulatory review processes, steamroll any potential political opposition, and put pressure on the states to begin compliance activities immediately,” argued Andrew Grossman, an adjunct scholar at the libertarian Cato Institute.

Calling the Clean Power Plan announced Monday by Obama and EPA chief Gina McCarthy a “naked power grab” that imposes national standards on state regulators, among others, Grossman charged that “at every step of the way, EPA has relied on sue-and-settle tactics to facilitate its outrageous conduct.”

“This is not how the regulatory process is supposed to work in a country founded on the principles of the rule of law and federalism.”

Sue-and-settle is shorthand for a legal agreement after plaintiffs sue a federal agency for failing to meet a deadline for undertaking a review or filing a regulation, then work with the agency privately to create a plan and new deadlines. The deals often have the effect of imposing a higher priority on the action than the cumbersome regulatory bureaucracy might otherwise give it. How they were arrived at is often sealed by the courts.

Proponents argue the tactic does no more than make bureaucracies confirm to existing law.

But according to critics, the supposedly adversarial process becomes something different when both sides quietly have the same objective: it becomes a means of short-circuiting oversight, opposition, and delay that in democracies can lead to broader consensus and accommodation, especially when large and expensive undertakings are involved.

Sue-and-settle “overwhelms regulatory agencies, resulting in settlement agreements and consent decrees requiring agencies to promulgate major regulations within an arbitrarily imposed timeline,” said Senator Mike Rounds, R-S.D., who chaired the subcommittee hearing.

“These agreements are often negotiated behind closed doors, with little to no transparency or public input. Public comments from the states and industries regarding the feasibility or impact of these regulations are routinely ignored.”

Rounds’ argument was backed by testimony from Dallas Baker, a senior official in Mississippi’s Department of Environmental Quality, who said that sue-and-settle “does not afford my state any input into the agreement, yet subjects us to the burden of satisfying the requirements of the agreement.”

Baker cited the case of a letter he received last March as the result of a deal between EPA, the Sierra Club and the National Resources Defense Council, both aggressive litigators, on power-plant sulphur-dioxide emissions.

The letter suddenly put Baker’s state organization on hurry-up notice to certify the acceptable status of a major power plant by upcoming September 18—a lengthy and expensive exercise—or have the power plant declared a violator, even though that status had not been previously in question.

Mississippi is complying, but “the end result of EPA’s sue-and-settle in this case will be the expenditure of already stretched and valuable resources for both the state and [the power plant] with no environmental benefit,” Baker declared.

“Even beyond the sue-and-settle,” Baker added, “we see EPA, where given the discretion to establish timing, chooses to be more and more stringent and less flexible.”

For its part, the federal environmental agency responded to Fox News queries about the hearing testimony by referring to a February, 2014 blog post by its General Counsel, Avi Garbow, which an EPA spokesman said “still stands.”

In the blog post, Garbow declared that “the ‘sue-and-settle’ rhetoric, strategically mislabeled by its proponents, is an often-repeated but a wholly invented accusation that gets no more true with frequent retelling.”

EPA, he said, had no control over who decided to sue the agency, and “is not complicit in such lawsuits.” The Department of Justice is involved in all settlement decisions and when that course is agreed on, “both agencies do so solely with the interest of the United States in hand.”

In the same vein, a Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman responded to Fox News questions by referring to agency testimony from September 2014 that said settlement agreements “are often in the public’s best interest because we have no effective legal defense to most deadline cases, and because settlement agreements facilitate issue resolution as a more expeditious and less costly alternative to litigation”—meaning the cost to the agency.

EPA’s spokesman also pointed to a December 2014 study by the U.S. Government Accountability Office that examined seven agency settlement agreements over a five-year period and said that none of them “required EPA to take an otherwise discretionary action or prescribed a specific substantive outcome of a final rule.”

In other words, whatever else the lawsuit settlements accomplish, they did not dictate the terms of whatever the agency ultimately decided to do.

That analysis, however, begs the critical question of whether the agency and its impatient suitors may already be of like mind and want to put the pedal to the metal on achieving the outcome.

The same study noted that in cases involving the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to give 30 days’ notice of a settlement and invite public comment. Whether that is sufficient time, given the intimidating complexity of EPA’s often-sweeping rules—the Clean Power Plan involves thousands of pages of often-interlocking aspects—is not discussed.

Moreover, the study notes, “EPA generally does not ask for public comments on defensive settlements if the agency is not required to do so by statute.”

Six other “key” environmental laws examined by GAO, the document says, “do not have a notice and comment requirement for proposed settlements.”



## **Fair or exploitative?**

### **Environmental groups using kids as plaintiffs**

By Rob Nikolewski, Fox News Politics, August 19, 2015

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/19/fair-or-exploitative-environmental-groups-using-kids-as-plaintiffs/>

In their battle against fossil fuels, environmental organizations have long used the courts to achieve what they can't win in the marketplace.

But in an increasing number of recent lawsuits, those organizations are employing a new twist: Using kids as plaintiffs.

Eugene, Ore.-based Our Children's Trust has been one of the driving forces behind a series of lawsuits in various states with children acting as plaintiffs, some as young as 8 years old.

"We wanted to support young people in engaging in democracy because many of them can't vote," said [Julia Olson, the organization's executive director, an attorney and mother of two](#). "One principal way for them to take action with their government is to bring cases in court and to petition rule-making bodies like agencies at the state level to enact rules to limit carbon emissions."

But while the strategy has been greeted with cheers in the green movement, the use of what Olson calls "youth plaintiffs" has generated criticism in other quarters.

"This step towards having kids (file lawsuits) is just a way to make it more emotional and more political and less challenging to where the science is," said Jim Steele, an ecologist and self-described climate skeptic who spent 25 years as the director of the San Francisco State University Sierra Nevada Field Campus, considered one of California's leading environmental education centers.

"To me, you're not trying to prove the science one way or the other," Steele said. "You're trying to push a political agenda and get people to be liable to what I think is fear-mongering."

And the instances of children as lead plaintiffs is growing.

Just last week, a group of 21 kids -- 11 from Oregon and 10 from other states -- [filed a lawsuit against President Obama and the federal government](#), saying the nation's political leaders "have violated and are violating Plaintiffs' fundamental constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property by causing dangerous CO2

concentrations in the atmosphere and dangerous government interference with a stable climate system."

## **WILDLANDS PROJECT**

### **Assault on the West**

#### **Opinion**

Pete Crow, Publisher, Western Livestock Journal, Sep 4, 2015

<https://wlj.net/article-11960-assault-on-the-west.html>

Things are pretty rough in the Far West, where the federal government controls much of the land mass and has far too much say in how our western renewable resources are managed.

This is also restricting folks' ability to use and manage their private lands. Following a series of federal environmental laws made in the 1970s, the federal government hamstrung itself with these laws and now finds it much harder to manage these western federal lands. They are overwhelmed with the task of land management and interpreting a host of environmental laws along the way. The agencies that influence land management—the Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Parks Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service—have indeed created a tangled web of regulation that has become completely unproductive, holding the West and the nation in economic limbo.

**We are ever closer to an outright standoff between western natural renewable resource users and environmental litigation groups, with the feds caught in the middle of this battle.**

We have forest management plans that are unworkable and unresponsive to local needs. The current wildfire situation is a symptom of forest negligence, which to a large degree is part of the 1970s environmental law boon. **Congress creates laws with good intentions but attorneys constantly want to test and stretch those once simple laws into something they were never intended to be.**

Forests have become overgrown, infested with pine beetles, which have destroyed millions of trees and created massive burn zones. Sound forestry is not in play here. Cattle and sheep need to return to forests and rangelands to keep the biomass in check. Currently, 63 fires are burning in the West that have already claimed 8.2 million acres this season alone. That's a lot of renewable natural resource going to waste, and it's a crying shame in the name of environmentalism.

But the enviro-litigators continue their quest to lock it all up and call it pristine wilderness under the auspices of conservation. Timber harvests need to occur and grazing needs to happen to keep these areas maintained. It seems everyone knows these things need to happen—but not the enviro-litigators, and there are more and more of them each day. The Equal Access to Justice Act was well-intended, but I don't think Congress intended it to work to support environmental attorneys' paychecks.

Then we have the water issues in the West. The Far West has been bone dry and we argue about water resources constantly. The environmental crowd wants to remove dams and go back to free flowing rivers for fish habitat. Their tool of choice is the Endangered Species Act or ESA.

Meanwhile western society is begging for more water while water infrastructure has ground to a halt through enviro-litigators' efforts to stretch and bend the ESA, the Clean Water Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. **California just recently flushed 55,000 acre-feet of water down the Klamath River to keep stream flows cold enough for spawning salmon.** And they are still arguing about taking a few dams out on that river. If anything, we need more river and water control; not less.

The federal government—or perhaps I should say **this administration**—has created management policy based on absolute climate change. They **blame current fire and water issues in the West on climate change. But they will never take responsibility for not managing our natural resources effectively.**

There is a lot at stake for our nation in the management of water, wildlife, forests and mineral production. Grazing lands need to be supervised by **competent managers who are not bound by political agendas.** We've learned a lot about conservation over the last 30 years and it doesn't mean locking up resources, but rather utilizing them in a sustainable way. All commerce starts with utilizing some type of natural resource.

**I know that I'm preaching to the choir here but there is an all-out assault on the West through the public lands and a bevy of environmental laws, which has created an environmental litigation industry.** There has got to be some balance here or more folks are going to fade off the western landscape. This is what some of these environmental groups want. Meanwhile the states and counties struggle to keep infrastructure safe so we can access and produce from this western landscape.



## **The Vanishing West**

Jason Campbell, Correspondent, Western Livestock Journal, Aug 23, 2015

*“I knew the wild riders and the vacant land were about to vanish forever...and the longer I considered the subject, the bigger the forever loomed.” — Frederick Remington*

When artist Frederick Remington uttered those words in the early 20th century, he was attempting to explain his driving desire to capture, through his illustrations, the last remnants of western culture as it existed in the late 1800s. More than a century later, however, his words strike a much different chord within the livestock community, as ranchers in the western states find themselves faced with a steadily diminishing land base to support their operations.

Across much of the country, the long anticipated expansion of the nation's cow herd is well underway. In the West, however, the pace of expansion has lagged. While an ongoing drought plays a strong role in keeping herd numbers down, expansion is also constricted by an increasing limitation in the ranching industry's most important resource: land.

Simply put, each year, there are fewer and fewer acres available for grazing. Whether the result of ranch land sales, urban encroachment, or the loss of another federal grazing permit, the trend is unmistakable. Let us examine some of the causes behind this decline in available acreage.

### **A dwindling resource: rangeland conversion in California**

For farmers and ranchers in California's Central Valley, the specter of development has been an ongoing concern for decades. Home to perhaps the most diverse array of agricultural commodities in the nation, the region is also home to some of the nation's fastest growing cities. With the state's population expected to reach 50 million people by the year 2040, farm and ranch land is being converted to suburban homes and commercial areas at an alarming rate.

The rangelands and irrigated pastures utilized by central California's beef producers are some of the hardest hit by this wave of development, with an estimated 20,000 acres annually converted to some type of development. In recent years, however, another type of conversion has increasingly been taking its own bite out of California's rangelands, further reducing the acres available for grazing livestock.

Known as “agricultural intensification,” this new wave of development comes in the form of conversion of former grazing acres to more profitable crops, primarily vineyards and almond orchards. The numbers are striking. According to a study released last year by researchers at The Nature Conservancy, between 1984 and 2008, 483,000 acres of former pasture land was lost to other uses. While nearly half of these acres were lost to urban development, losses to other forms of agriculture accounted for an additional 40 percent. According to Livermore rancher Darrel Sweet, in the years since, the pace of this conversion has continued to escalate. “It’s accelerated greatly since then,” he says. “I’ve seen figures that indicate we’ve now lost more acres of rangeland to intensification than we have to development.”

According to Sweet, the changes are equally apparent from the ground. “To anybody who hasn’t been here in five or 10 years, the changes are so obvious it’s stunning,” he says. In regions surrounding towns once noted for livestock production, trees and vines now extend to the horizon. “It’s astounding,” he says. “If you look at an area like Oakdale, which some of us kind of jokingly still call the cowboy capital of the world, it’s all almond trees. On the I-5 corridor around Red Bluff, which used to be made up of pretty goodsized irrigated pasture ranches, everything is ripped up and either in trees or going into trees.”

In addition to this conversion, California is now in the fourth year of record-setting drought, factors that have combined to make pasture in the Central Valley a scarce commodity, something that has wider implications to the industry throughout the state. Historically, ranchers running their cattle in the Sierra Mountains and Great Basin deserts as far away as southern Oregon have depended on the Central Valley as a source of winter feed. The combined effects of drought and development, however, have left these producers with fewer and fewer acres to come back to each year. “The real pressure is on our winter grass country,” indicates Sweet. “Not only has the drought been an obvious factor but, if you look back, so many more cows used to come out of the mountain areas to avoid wintering on hay. It has certainly changed the face of ranching in California.”

In the face of the immense profit potential offered by almonds and grapes, Sweet indicates that it is not difficult to understand why the conversion is occurring. “It’s just a matter of economics,” he says. “Some people have been made offers and converted land. Others have done it on their own. Others have sold because the prices are more than anybody could ever have imagined a ranch could be worth.”

In rough figures, he says, an acre of almonds typically nets a profit of \$5,000 per year, a level of profit that has investors of all types jumping to get into the



business, and with which beef production has little hope of competing. "It's hard to imagine that 100 acres of almonds can bring in \$500,000," says Sweet. "In places like Oakdale, that 100 acres might only be replacing 10 cows."

Predictably, increasing scarcity has increased the price of pasture leases in the region. "It's a little bit difficult to quantify between the drought and development," says Sweet. "I know the price per cow has gone up. Most of us think that, if it rains, that could make grass open up just because numbers have been cut back so much. That would change the outlook somewhat, but the trend is still for less pasture and increasing costs."

Despite these added pressures, Sweet feels there will continue to be a place for the beef industry in California. "There's still lots of cattle country, and there is a nucleus of people in the business who have figured out how to survive," he says. "It's amazing, the resourcefulness of people and their determination to stay in this business. I think that, over time, we're just going to have to continue to become more and more efficient," he adds. "There's going to be less and less room to not pay attention to productivity."

For at least the last decade, the price of most rangeland available on the market in much of the West has exceeded its value in terms of livestock use. Simply put, a producer couldn't run enough animals on a typical piece of property to cover the costs of purchasing it. When a ranch is offered for sale, this inflated value limits the pool of buyers to those for whom profit is not a necessity. While some are purchased by wealthy individuals, others languish in the real estate listings, often for years. In the ordinary course of things, market pressure would eventually drive these values down to a price that could be supported by a ranching operation. In recent years, however, a trend has emerged in which conservation groups with money to burn are purchasing these properties in the name of habitat protection, removing entire ranches from production with the stroke of a pen.

With fewer than 2,000 residents, Oregon's Gilliam County is part of the least populated region in the state. Only two counties, Wheeler and Sherman, boast fewer residents, both of which border Gilliam County. As in many sparsely populated areas, agriculture—primarily wheat and cattle—has long been the primary economic engine for the region. The three-county area is also bisected by the lower portion of the John Day River, as it makes its way to the Columbia.

At 284 miles long, the John Day River is the second longest undammed river system in the contiguous U.S. In recent years, this status has drawn increasing attention from environmental groups seeking to preserve the river corridor. For many groups, this means lobbying the state to create new wilderness areas, or

suing federal agencies in attempts to remove grazing from the area. Others, however, go a step farther by purchasing property along the river specifically to remove it from agricultural use.

In 2008, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC), a Portland-based conservation group, purchased the Murtha ranch, an 8,000-acre ranch straddling the John Day between Gilliam and Sherman Counties. Their stated goal was the preservation of habitat for steelhead, bighorn sheep, and other threatened species, as well as public access to the river.

**While few landowners expressed enthusiasm at having an environmental group as a neighbor, no one contested their right to purchase the property. The following year, however, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) announced their plan to purchase the ranch from WRC for the creation of an 8,000-acre state park, which ultimately opened in 2013. While no one disputed WRC's right to own or sell the property, area landowners immediately questioned the state's need to increase its land holdings. "This state is basically broke," says Gilliam County rancher, Karen Wilde. "It's not maintaining the parks and lands that it owns currently, so why are they gaining more?" In 2014, WRC purchased another 14,000-acre ranch farther upriver, and announced their intent to convey the bulk of this property to the BLM. In both cases, WRC has also retained sufficient acreage to maintain control of roughly 18,000 acres of BLM grazing permits associated with the properties. While the BLM has not yet announced a plan to acquire the second property, the finalization of such a transaction would remove a total of 40,000 acres from agricultural production, and take 22,000 acres off of the county tax rolls.**

The potential loss of tax revenue has raised serious concerns among county landowners, who point out that those funds, already stretched thin, support numerous public services, including schools. The loss of this income, they point out, damages not just the ranching industry, but the local community as well. This is particularly onerous in the case of the state park, according to Wilde, who points out that **the purchase was made using lottery dollars originally earmarked for education.**

"I remember when the lottery was on the ballot," she says. "It was voted in based on the fact that 100 percent of the proceeds were supposed to fund education. Now they come in here and use that money to pay an inflated price for a property. Then they make it a park, which takes it off of the tax rolls. **This is a huge deficit for our schools, our police, and our fire department.**"

Public acquisition of private land in most western states is not a new idea. Nor is the use of nonprofit groups as intermediaries in such transactions. Both federal

and state agencies have long used the tactic as a way to get around the bureaucratic tangle involved with directly purchasing a parcel from the original owner. However, according to Natural Resources Consultant Shaun Robertson, what has changed is the scope and purpose of the acquisitions. A former fisheries biologist, Robertson has conducted such acquisitions on behalf of nonprofit groups in the past.

“When I was doing them, we were focused on things that had a tremendous benefit for the fishery resource,” he says. “Either they were threatened by immediate development, or there was some other compelling reason to pick them up with public resource dollars.” Additionally, indicates Robertson, the land acquired was seldom removed from production. “Every acquisition I did still has cows on it, it’s still producing hay, and it’s still on the tax rolls,” he says.

In contrast, says Robertson, recent acquisitions like OPRD’s purchase of the former Murtha ranch tend to reflect the goals of the conservation group, rather than a specific goal of the agency. “These recent acquisitions, their design is specifically to eliminate agriculture,” he says. “It’s the business of conservation. WRC’s interest is in buying land to make a name for themselves to get more money to go out and buy more land. It’s a massive business model that’s built on exploiting rural communities for their own benefit.”

Landowners also worry that adding public access to the area will do more harm than good in terms of the fish habitat that OPRD claims to want to protect. “They’re going to have all these visitors tramping around, all these trails and campsites, public access by fishermen, and they say they are preserving it?” asks Wilde. “They’re talking out of both sides of their mouth.”

Robertson agrees, pointing out that the river, which has a reputation as superior fish habitat, gained that reputation while largely under private control. “We can do things to keep land in production and still have fish and wildlife,” he says. “We’ve demonstrated that on the John Day. We have the most productive runs of wild anadromous fish in the Columbia River basin, and we did that on the backs of private landowners. The government had very little to do with it.” “Now we’re going to put all that at risk by turning it into parks,” he adds. “We’ll drive the very people off the land that know how to steward it.”

On the nearby Deschutes River, a similar acquisition is underway, with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) seeking to purchase 10,000 acres of former ranchland for a new wildlife area along the lower portion of the river later this year. According to wildlife biologist Jeremy Thompson, however, ODFW is making a concerted effort not to be a burden on the surrounding community. “There is a state statute that dictates ODFW pay taxes on every

piece of property that it owns," says Thompson. Nor, he indicates, does ODFW intend to remove the land entirely from agricultural production. "Every one of our eastern Oregon wildlife areas has some form of grazing on it as a management tool, and we plan to continue that here," he says.

While Thompson first approached neighboring landowners about the project several years ago, he says he has only recently encountered resistance, a fact he attributes partially to acquisitions by other agencies in recent years. "I think that one driver of the negative push here has been the influx [of acquisitions] elsewhere," he says. "I can understand that. I do believe that there is some value to conservation acquisitions, but they have to be done in the proper manner."

"We as an agency have always strived to maintain positive relationships with neighboring landowners," continues Thompson. "We pay our taxes, we try to use grazing as a tool, and we recognize that half of Oregon is privately owned, and that half is some of the best wildlife habitat we have. It's good habitat for a reason. We don't intend to recreate the wheel."

Despite Thompson's assertion that grazing will remain as a management tool on the property, Oregon Farm Bureau Attorney Mary Anne Nash remains concerned about the future use of the former ranch. "Even if they use grazing as a management tool, it's lower on their priority list; it's no longer the primary use of the property," says Nash. "If it conflicts with any other uses, we don't feel they would hesitate to shut it down. ... The Farm Bureau's position is that we think the government owns enough land," she adds. "We don't think that any of these agencies have the time, the money, or the experience to properly manage the land."

### **Legislated out of business: The loss of public land grazing in Idaho**

For producers who rely on public lands, it often seems that a constant barrage of issues continually threatens the future of their allotments. From fires to endangered species concerns to lawsuits from antigrazing groups, many ranchers lack the assurance that the grazing land they depend on will remain available from one year to the next.

No one disputes the fact that there are fewer livestock on public lands than in years past. However, according to Forest Service Region 4 Range Coordinator Terry Padilla, actual cuts to available acres, at least in his region, have been comparatively few. "There is a huge misperception, at least in our region, that there has been a reduction in grazing suitability," says Padilla. "That's just not true. We've really enacted very few actions that have resulted in a reduction of

suitable acres in region 4 as a result of any permit actions or termination of permits. ...There have been a few," he admits. "Most notably in southwest Idaho, where we've had a reduction on the Payette [National Forest] associated with bighorn sheep and domestic sheep contact issues."

While Padilla asserts that the cuts so far have been minimal, that does not mean, he says, that challenges are not present, or that further cuts could not happen in the near future. "Species conservation issues, like sage-grouse and bighorn sheep, are our biggest challenge," he says. "Those face all of us, and they are definite threats to public land grazing." In order to keep grazing viable, he stresses the need for collaboration between agencies and stakeholders. "Neither the Forest Service or BLM is going to have enough resources to manage these permits going forward," he says. "That's not realistic. The only way we're going to be successful at meeting the public aim is for permittees, the agencies, and other stakeholders to get to the same table and work together to maintain that."

In spite of these concerns, Padilla maintains that few allotments will actually be closed as a result of endangered species issues. "With sagegrouse, I think you're going to see few issues with termination of permits and reductions of suitable grazing use," he says. "With bighorn sheep, what we've got to do is deploy some better management practices so that we can mitigate risk of contact, but I don't see a lot of allotments being closed due to bighorn sheep contact threats."

Despite these assurances, according to Idaho Woolgrowers Executive Vice President Stan Boyd, significant reductions in the number of acres available for sheep grazing have already taken place. Additionally, he indicates, while the cuts on the Payette National Forest may be regarded as of little consequence by the Forest Service, they have left much of the state's sheep industry in shambles.

Beginning in 2010, in response to concerns over disease transmission between bighorn sheep and their domestic counterparts, officials at the Payette National Forest closed 70 percent of the sheep grazing allotments on the forest. Since that time, Boyd indicates that the effect on the former users of the forest has been devastating. "Several producers are totally out of business," he says. "Put out of business by the Forest Service. Never offered alternative allotments, never offered compensation, just flat shut down, period." Others, says Boyd, lost substantial portions of their former range, necessitating herd reductions of 60 percent or more. The loss of producers, says Boyd, has also damaged the infrastructure that used to support the industry as a whole. "Our infrastructure has really shrunk," he says. "Even trying to hire a truck and trailer has become

very difficult. With less numbers, there's less need for truckers, feedlots, or packers, and that hurts those producers that are left."

Nor is that the end of the story.

Following the decision on the Payette National Forest, a memo was sent out instructing other forests to follow the so-called "Payette principles" with regard to managing domestic sheep. "We're going through the latest round of that now," says Boyd. "The Forest Service just closed several allotments in Wyoming, and more announcements in Idaho are scheduled for this fall." Even the BLM has fallen into lockstep. "We have a producer in Homedale. The BLM has given him three years to convert to cattle or go out of business," says Boyd. "That was two years ago. Either way, next year will be his last as a sheep producer."

Despite Padilla's stated desire to collaborate, Boyd says that the Forest Service has done little to aid beleaguered sheep ranchers. "We've got 24 million Forest Service acres in the state of Idaho, and only 10 percent of the sheep that were here 100 years ago, yet the Forest Service can't find room for them," he says. "You just can't get them to move." "Our industry is in a fight for its life," he adds, "and it's with our own government."

## Setting Aside Half the Earth for 'Rewilding': the ethical dimension

William Lynn, Research Scientist in Ethics and Public Policy at Clark University, August 26, 2015



## **Wildlife corridors: four proposals to ‘rewild’ portions of North America.**

A much-anticipated book in conservation and natural science circles is EO Wilson’s [Half-Earth: Our Planet’s Fight for Life](#), which is due early next year. It builds on his [proposal](#) to set aside half the Earth for the preservation of biodiversity.

The famous biologist and naturalist would do this by establishing huge biodiversity parks to protect, restore and connect habitats at a continental scale. Local people would be integrated into these parks as environmental educators, managers and rangers – a model drawn from existing large-scale conservation projects such as Area de Conservación Guanacaste ([ACG](#)) in northwestern Costa Rica.

The backdrop for this discussion is that we are in the sixth great extinction event in earth’s history. More species are being [lost today than at any time](#) since the end of the dinosaurs. There is no mystery as to why this is happening: it is a direct result of human depredations, habitat destruction, overpopulation, resource depletion, urban sprawl and climate change.

[Wilson](#) is one of the world’s premier natural scientists – an expert on ants, the father of island biogeography, apostle of the notion that humans share a bond with other species ([biophilia](#)) and a herald about the danger posed by extinction. On these and other matters he is also an eloquent writer, having written numerous books on biodiversity, science, and society. So when Wilson started to talk about half-Earth several years ago, people started to listen.

As a scholar of ethics and public policy with an interest in animals and the environment, I have been following the discussion of half-Earth for some time. I like the idea and think it is feasible. Yet it suffers from a major blind spot: a human-centric view on the value of life. Wilson’s entry into this debate, and his seeming evolution on matters of ethics, is an invitation to explore how people ought to live with each other, other animals and the natural world, particularly if vast tracts are set aside for wildlife.

### **The ethics of Wilson’s volte-face**

I heard Wilson speak for the first time in Washington, DC in the early 2000s. At that talk, Wilson was resigned to the inevitable loss of much of the world’s biodiversity. So he advocated a global biodiversity survey that would sample and store the world’s biotic heritage. In this way, we might still benefit from biodiversity’s genetic information in terms of biomedical research, and perhaps, someday, revive an extinct species or two.

Not a bad idea in and of itself. Still, it was a drearily fatalistic speech, and one entirely devoid of any sense of moral responsibility to the world of nonhuman animals and nature.

What is striking about Wilson's argument for half-Earth is not the apparent about-face from cataloging biodiversity to restoring it. It is the moral dimension he attaches to it. In several [interviews](#), he references the need for humanity to develop an ethic that cares about planetary life, and does not place the wants and needs of a single species (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) above the well-being of all other species.



**The half-Earth proposal prompts people to consider the role of humans in nature.**

To my ear, this sounds great, but I am not exactly sure how far it goes. In the past, Wilson's discussions of conservation ethics appear to me clearly anthropocentric. They espouse the notion that we are exceptional creatures at the apex of evolution, the sole species that has intrinsic value in and of ourselves, and thus we are to be privileged above all other species.

In this view, we care about nature and biodiversity only because we care about ourselves. Nature is useful for us in the sense of resources and ecological services, but it has no value in and of itself. In ethics talk, people have intrinsic value while nature's only value is what it can do for people – extrinsic value.



For example, in his 1993 book [The Biophilia Hypothesis](#), Wilson argues for “the necessity of a robust and richly textured anthropocentric ethics apart from the issues of rights [for other animals or ecosystems] – one based on the hereditary needs of our own species. In addition to the well-documented utilitarian potential of wild species, the diversity of life has immense aesthetic and spiritual value.”

The passage indicates Wilson's long-held view that biodiversity is important because of what it does for humanity, including the resources, beauty and spirituality people find in nature. It sidesteps questions of whether animals and the rest of nature have intrinsic value apart from human use.

His evolving position, as reflected in the half-Earth proposal, seems much more in tune with what ethicists call non-anthropocentrism – that humanity is simply one marvelous but no more special outcome of evolution; that other beings, species and/or ecosystems also have intrinsic value; and that there is no reason to automatically privilege us over the rest of life.

Consider this recent [statement](#) by Wilson:

What kind of a species are we that we treat the rest of life so cheaply? There are those who think that's the destiny of Earth: we arrived, we're humanizing the Earth, and it will be the destiny of Earth for us to wipe humans out and most of the rest of biodiversity. But I think the great majority of thoughtful people consider that a morally wrong position to take, and a very dangerous one.

The non-anthropocentric view does not deny that biodiversity and nature provide material, aesthetic and spiritual “resources.” Rather, it holds there is something more – that the community of life has value independent of the resources it provides humanity. Non-anthropocentric ethics requires, therefore, a more caring approach to people's impact on the planet. Whether Wilson is really leaving anthropocentrism behind, time will tell. But for my part, I at least welcome his opening up possibilities to discuss less prejudicial views of animals and the rest of nature.

### **The 50% solution**

It is interesting to note that half-Earth is not a new idea. In North America, the half-Earth concept first arose in the 1990s as a discussion about wilderness in the [deep ecology movement](#). Various nonprofits that arose out of that movement continued to develop the idea, in particular the [Wildlands Network](#), the [Rewilding Institute](#) and the [Wild Foundation](#).

These organizations use a mix of conservation science, education and public policy initiatives to promote protecting and restoring continental-scale habitats and corridors, all with an eye to preserving the native flora and fauna of North America. One example is ongoing work to connect the [Yellowstone to Yukon ecosystems](#) along the spine of the Rocky Mountains.



**Take it up a notch? The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation recently started to add signs warning motorists when they are likely to encounter wildlife.**

When I was a graduate student, the term half-Earth had not yet been used, but the idea was in the air. My classmates and I referred to it as the “50% solution.” We chose this term because of the work of Reed Noss and Allen Cooperrider’s 1994 book, [Savings Nature’s Legacy](#). Amongst other things, the book documents that, depending on the species and ecosystems in question, approximately 30% to 70% of the original habitats of the Earth would be necessary to sustain our planet’s biodiversity. So splitting the difference, we discussed the 50% solution to describe this need.

This leads directly into my third point. The engagement of Wilson and others with the idea of half-Earth and rewilding presupposes but does not fully articulate the need for an urban vision, one where cities are ecological, sustainable and resilient. Indeed, Wilson has yet to spell out what we do with the people and infrastructure that are not devoted to maintaining and teaching about his proposed biodiversity parks. This is not a criticism, but an urgent question for ongoing and creative thinking.

Humans are urbanizing like never before. Today, the majority of people live in cities, and by the end of the 21st century, over 90% of people will live in a metropolitan area. If we are to meet the compelling needs of human beings,

we have to remake cities into sustainable and resilient “humanitats” that produce a good life.

Such a good life is not to be measured in simple gross domestic product or consumption, but rather in well-being – freedom, true equality, housing, health, education, recreation, meaningful work, community, sustainable energy, urban farming, green infrastructure, open space in the form of parks and refuges, contact with companion and wild animals, and a culture that values and respects the natural world.

To do all this in the context of saving half the Earth for its own sake is a tall order. Yet it is a challenge that we are up to if we have the will and ethical vision to value and coexist in a more-than-human world.



**The following first page of a memo of understanding is evidence of the interactions between the governments of the United States, Mexico and Canada to remove individuals from the public domain and establish wildlands. It is not just the radical enviromentalists that we must be concerned about. Our elected officials and government Departments and Agencies are fully engaged in supporting this concept at the expense of citizens.**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
On  
Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation**

**between the  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE and  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT of the U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR and the U.S. FOREST SERVICE and  
OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND MARKETS  
of the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
of the  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**and the  
SECRETARIAT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
through the  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS  
of the UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

**and the  
PARKS CANADA AGENCY  
of the  
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

The National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior of the United States of America, the U.S. Forest Service and the Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets of the U.S. Department of Agriculture of the United States of America, the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources through the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas of the United Mexican States, and the Parks Canada Agency of the Government of Canada; hereinafter referred to as the Participants:

RECOGNIZING the advanced cooperation that exists between the Participants in the management, planning, preservation and research for the conservation of wilderness areas of the United States, Mexico and Canada;

WHEREAS conservation is generally defined by the Participants as the formulation and implementation of strategies and practices related to the research, monitoring, protection, and restoration of natural resources, ecosystems and their components, while facilitating

## **“Owyhee 68” – Home on the Range**

Owyhee Cattlemen's Association, January 7, 2015

<http://www.owyheecattlemen.com/>

MELBA KUNA NEWS (Nov. 12, 2014) – Encompassing 7,665 square miles, Owyhee County is Idaho's second-largest county. Its landscape of desert, rolling hills, mountains and farmland is used for farming, recreation and, the majority of the area, as grassland.

The primary occupation in the small communities is ranching, and the economy is based in agriculture. Neighbors are miles apart and willing to lend a hand when times get tough.

The Wild West and “Cowboys” are glorified in thousands of novels and hundreds of motion pictures — True Grit, Bonanza, Tombstone, John Wayne, Sam Elliott. So what does this have to do with Owyhee County?

With such a vast area of rangeland, the reality is the cowboy still exists. He still rides a horse followed closely by his dogs. Though he may tow the horse in a trailer behind his pickup, but at the point where the road gives out, his horse becomes indispensable. He understands the land, cattle and horses just as his predecessors did, and his work is essential to the Idaho cattle industry.

The life in Owyhee County is ranching, and for decades cattlemen have purchased land permits to graze the animals on public lands. The cattle is grazed on nature's grass, growing on intermingled federal and private lands based at the bottom of the Owyhee Resource Area. Historical ranches along with cowboys have managed this tradition. The cows are turned out in the spring and work upwards with the active growing season. While the cows graze at higher elevations, the hay crops grow on the ranch to feed the animals during the winter.

Since the mid-1990s the Bureau of Land Management has reduced the number of cows that Owyhee County ranchers can put out to graze.

As extremist groups have followed a strategy to file lawsuits with claims of impacts on endangered species, the BLM has restricted grazing use to protect the unjust species claims.

Across the West there are cut backs to fishing, timber, water, grazing, public access, hunting and natural resources. Cattlemen have been willing to look at better ways to manage grazing, but it is never enough for the extremist groups.

The ranches have been formed to utilize the growing seasons of public and private lands. Through the latest BLM decisions, the Owyhee 68 permittees, who graze their livestock on more than 100,000 acres of land, are being forced to take reductions of 50 percent or more in their AUMs (Animal Unit Monthly), reducing the number of cattle they can graze.

Ranchers associated with the Owyhee 68 have hit back, arguing their interests lie in managing and protecting the land and wildlife as well.

The agency's choice to follow the political pressures of anti-grazing claims and frivolous lawsuits hinders the land management system. As the anti-grazing group Western Watersheds Project files lawsuits to try to run ranchers out of business, they can recoup the legal fees through the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), which uses tax dollars to reimburse WWP's legal fees. The ranchers have not been able to use EAJA to recoup their legal fees.

To study the sage-grouse, which could lead to possible Endangered Species listing, the BLM requests ranchers notify the agency when sage grouse are spotted. The area in which the bird is spotted is further restricted from grazing yet Fish and Game still offers a hunting season for these birds.

"We (the Owyhee 68) have had anywhere from 30 percent to 50 percent reductions proposed," Owyhee County rancher Brenda Richards said. "You cannot sustain 50 percent reductions in your business."

For decades, cowboys ride their horses across the range, moving the livestock that graze the area. They are proud of their heritage and culture and do not want be pushed out of business like the forest industry.

"A sustainable resource is our livelihood," Richards said, "so we have to take care of the land and assure it's there for generations."

Ranchers are concerned that reducing grazing AUMs will increase the fuel load, leading to costly wildfires that will harm the wildlife. Fire is the No.1 threat to sage-grouse numbers.

"The easiest alternative for the government agency is to reduce the grazing," Idaho Cattle Association vice president Wyatt Prescott said. "We believe the proper way to do this is through the parameters of existing law and to allow for due process."

Idaho cattlemen take pride in the healthy beef product. Consumers across the nation are asking for food products that are natural or organic. The livestock

that are grazed here in Owyhee County are eating the natural grasses. No chemicals. No preservatives. Cage-free. It is growing food the most natural way.

Because of the unreasonable reduction of these grazing AUMs, the Owyhee 68 have taken the agency to court, claiming the reasons behind the restrictions are not backed by solid evidence. The environmental assessment failed to consider a reasonable alternative that included the utilization of the ranchers' range improvement projects.

Bull suppliers fear the economic impacts this decision will have on their business along with the consequences to many surrounding small towns. Grocery stores, gas stations, repair shops and equipment dealerships in these western towns depend on Owyhee County ranchers.

Owyhee County communities are rooted in or reside around the Owyhee Resource Area. Oreana, Murphy, Reynolds Creek, Marsing, Homedale, Jordan Valley and communities stretching southwest to the Nevada border are associated with a cultural identity, and ranching follows this tradition as it has in the past.

All of these ranches are important to the viability of their surrounding communities. In books about Idaho and the West — many available through the Owyhee County Historical Society at its museum in Murphy — there is a pattern of use with continued value — ranching.

A traditional culture consists of the beliefs and practices held or observed by specific human groups that have been passed down from their ancestors through their grandparents, parents and the society around them that has been regularly done in the past. The American Cowboy, buckaroos, vaqueros all celebrate a western tradition with ranch hand rodeos and brandings. This is Owyhee County.

Our biggest threat will be the economic loss to surrounding towns and communities, Owyhee County Commissioner Jerry Hoagland says. A University of Idaho study shows that severe grazing reductions would result in a revenue loss of millions of dollars for the Owyhee County economy.

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association was formed in 1878.

"We're all in this together," OCA president Kenny Kershner said. "We need to protect our historic way of life along with the interests of livestock producers in and around Owyhee County.

“This will set precedence as to how the anti-grazing groups continue, and similar government agency action could spread to neighboring counties and states. Jurisdiction of the state of Idaho and surrounding western states should be managed by the people who live in and know the seasonal issues of the land.”

The Idaho Cattle Association, the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association, Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Idaho Farm Bureau have teamed together to litigate against these outrageous decisions. We need to protect those who are passionate for Owyhee County and our ranching history.

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## **Wyden, Merkley introduce new Oregon wilderness bill**

[Zach Urness](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2015/06/25/wyden-merkley-introduce-new-oregon-wilderness-bill/29294641/), Statesman Journal, June 25, 2015

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2015/06/25/wyden-merkley-introduce-new-oregon-wilderness-bill/29294641/>



**Wassen Creek flows through dense old-growth forest in a remote canyon in Oregon's Central Coast Range east of Reedsport.**

Oregon senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced a bill today that would provide new environmental protections for 200,000 acres of land and 250 miles of river in the Beaver State.

The Oregon Wildlands Act would create one new wilderness area in the Coast Range, expand another wilderness area in Southern Oregon and create two new national recreation areas.



The bill would create the 30,500-acre [Devil's Staircase Wilderness](#) from a remote canyon of old-growth forest east of Reedsport in the Central Coast Range. It would also designate 14.6 miles of Franklin and Wasson creeks — which runs through the Devil's Staircase area — as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The bill expands the [Wild Rogue Wilderness](#) by 56,000 acres and creates the 95,000-acre Rogue Canyon National Recreation Area in southwest Oregon.

Both the Devil's Staircase Wilderness and Wild Rogue Wilderness addition have been targets for conservation for the past decade, and introduced in bills in the U.S. Senate and House multiple times.

"These world-class landscapes in western Oregon are long overdue for permanent protection," said Josh Laughlin with Eugene-based Cascadia Wildlands, which has been working for nearly a decade to safeguard the areas. "They are what make Oregon such a desirable place to live, provide anchor habitat for imperiled salmon and wildlife and give us some of the cleanest water around."

Closer to the Willamette Valley, the bill would also create the 24,000-acre Molalla National Recreation Area.

"Protecting some of Oregon's most breathtaking and unspoiled lands ensures healthy habitats for countless species of plants and animals, benefits local economies that depend on these areas and creates new recreation opportunities for Oregonians and visitors from across the country," Wyden said in a press release. "Preserving these lands is a top priority, and Senator Merkley and I are going to be working to do all that we can to protect them."

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## **DESERT MONUMENTS: Feinstein pushes Obama to protect 3 sites**

**Senator pushes president to bypass Congress -- using Antiquities Act of 1906 -- to establish Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains national monuments.**

BY JANET ZIMMERMAN, The Press Enterprise, Aug. 24, 2015  
<http://www.pe.com/articles/national-777933-feinstein-monuments.html>

Sen. Dianne Feinstein is pushing to bypass Congress and have President Barack Obama designate three national monuments in the desert of Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Supporters of the effort to establish the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains national monuments say **having the president use his power under the Antiquities Act is the only hope of getting land protections because of a Republican-controlled Senate and House.**

National monuments founded under the Antiquities Act of 1906 do not require public comment, environmental review or congressional approval.

“The only way the monuments are going to happen is through the Antiquities Act,” said David Myers, executive director of The Wildlands Conservancy, an Oak Glen-based nonprofit group that purchases land and opens it to the public. “I don’t know if there’s ever been an effort that had more outreach or consensus building, and still nothing’s moving in Congress.”

Myers’ group and eight others, including the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity, petitioned Feinstein in June to approach Obama.

Feinstein sent a letter to the president this month saying she planned to keep working to advance the bill but asked that he consider making the designation of more than 1 million acres.

Her effort is a far-reaching campaign to establish the monuments and wilderness areas, create permanent off-road recreation areas and limit renewable energy development.

“In order to preserve the California desert, my strong preference has always been and remains to pass the full California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act. This bill not only includes two new national monuments but also national park additions, off-road recreation areas and other provisions,” Feinstein said in a statement Monday.

“But the bill has been introduced three times since 2009, and despite strong support from the many stakeholders in the desert – from conservation groups, off-road recreation supporters, counties, energy companies, water districts, business groups and tribes – we have not been able to move it in the Senate and the House has yet to introduce the version I’m told they have been working on for months,” she said.

Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act in October when he designated the 541-square-mile San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Myers said Sand to Snow would be the most diverse of all monuments because it includes two distinct deserts as well as pinyon pine forests, oak woodlands and coastal chaparral.

The larger proposed monument, Mojave Trails, would encompass 942,000 acres between the Mojave National Preserve and Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base. It would include about 200,000 acres that once belonged to the Catellus Development Corp., a former arm of the Santa Fe railway.

The Wildlands Conservancy paid \$45 million in private funds to buy more than half a million acres of the unspoiled Catellus lands in 2004.

It involved 160-acre parcels laid out like a checkerboard along either side of the railroad tracks from Barstow to the Colorado River, the result of a grant from the government in the 1800s to spur development.

The conservancy donated the land to the government for protection and public use. Included in Mojave Trails would be “phenomenal land forms,” Myers said, including the Amboy Crater, Pisgah lava flows, Cady Mountains and Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness. Feinstein also asked the president to include Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa in Sand to Snow, and the Cadiz Valley and Sacramento Mountains in Mojave Trails.

San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood has been critical of Feinstein’s bill. An Antiquities Act designation would not protect existing off-road areas and would harm local jobs, he said.

Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and Mojave National Preserve already have \$351 million in deferred maintenance, so it doesn’t make sense to add more to the system, Lovingood said.

Feinstein, however, said national monuments provide significant economic benefits. Citing a National Park Service report, she said visitors to the three parks last year spent \$191 million in communities near the parks, which supported 2,751 jobs and had a cumulative effect to the local economy of \$214 million.

Jim Conkle of Pinon Hills, who has fought for more than a decade to have the area around Route 66 protected, said the designation will help divert people from the interstate onto the old “Mother Road.”

“It’s a photographer’s dream,” he said. “Coming around some of those curves and seeing those vistas, those are ‘ah’ moments.”

# First wolf pack in decades spotted in Northern California

Published August 21, 2015

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2015/08/21/first-wolf-pack-in-decades-spotted-in-northern-california/>



**Aug. 9, 2015: image from video released by the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife shows evidence of five gray wolf pups and two adults in Northern California. (AP)**

California has its first wolf pack since the state's gray wolf population went extinct in 1924.

State and federal authorities announced Thursday that a remote camera captured photos earlier this month of two adults and five pups in southeastern Siskiyou County.

They were named the Shasta pack for nearby Mount Shasta.

The pack was discovered four years after the famous Oregon wandering wolf OR-7 first reached Northern California.

Karen Kovacs of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said it was an amazing accomplishment for gray wolves to establish themselves in Northern California just 21 years after wolves were reintroduced in the Northern Rockies.

Those wolves eventually migrated into Oregon and Washington before reaching California, where they are protected by federal and state endangered species acts.

Just where these wolves, all black in color, came from will have to wait for DNA testing on scat at an Idaho lab, but it is likely they are a continuation of the increasing numbers of wolves migrating from Oregon's northeastern corner to the southern Cascade Range, Kovacs said.

Though the wolves have been spotted by local ranchers tending their herds, there have been no reports of wolf attacks on livestock, Kovacs said.

Kirk Wilbur, government affairs director for the California Stockmen's Association, said ranchers remain worried about the potential for losing animals to wolves as their numbers increase.

Amaroq Weiss, of the conservation group with Center for Biological Diversity, said she was more worried the wolves could fall victim to hunters as hunting season gets underway.

Anticipating that wolves would migrate into the state, California declared them an endangered species last year, but the state Fish and Wildlife Department does not expect to have a management plan in force until the end of this year, Kovacs said.

The department has no goals for how many wolves might eventually live in California and no idea how many once lived in the state, she added. California's last known native wolf was killed in 1924 in neighboring Lassen County.

There are at least 5,500 gray wolves in the contiguous 48 states, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



# More than 10,000 Acres in Sierra Nevada Protected in Deal that Aims to Boost Water Supply, Reduce Fires

By Paul Rogers, San Jose Mercury News, 08/16/2015

[http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci\\_28650412/more-than-10-000-acres-sierra-nevada-protected?source=rss](http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_28650412/more-than-10-000-acres-sierra-nevada-protected?source=rss)



**An equestrian rides near Lyons Ridge on the property purchased in the Sierra Nevada by the Northern Sierra Partnership, Nature Conservancy and American River Conservancy.**

More than 10,000 acres of scenic meadows, forests and trout streams in the Sierra Nevada 10 miles west of Lake Tahoe have been preserved in a deal in which environmentalists hope to prove that thinning out overgrown forests can increase California's water supply.

The Northern Sierra Partnership, an environmental group based in Palo Alto and founded by longtime Silicon Valley leaders Jim and Becky Morgan, joined with the Nature Conservancy and the American River Conservancy to buy the land for \$10.1 million from Simorg West Forests, a timber company based in Atlanta.

The deal, which closed Aug. 5, preserves a landscape south of Interstate 80 in Placer County adjacent to Granite Chief Wilderness in the Tahoe National Forest. The land contains more than 20 miles of blue ribbon trout streams.

### Sierra land deal

Three environmental groups spent \$10 million to buy more than 10,000 acres west of Lake Tahoe. Much of the land is in a checkerboard pattern left over from 1860s railroad development.



Source: Trust for Public Land and Truckee Donner Land Trust  
BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Home to black bears, mountain lions, deer, songbirds and other wildlife, the remote property also includes the headwaters of two of California's popular whitewater rafting rivers, the North and Middle forks of the American River.

"There are forests and meadows, and granite outcroppings," said David Edelson, Sierra Nevada director for the Nature Conservancy. "There are terrific views looking down the American River watershed and toward the Granite Chief Wilderness."

For years, loggers turned the property's evergreen forests into wooden crates for Central Valley fruits and vegetables. Now the environmental groups plan to remove old logging roads and restore the landscape.

But more significant, the purchase could change how California, now suffering through the fourth year of a historic drought, manages its Sierra Nevada forests in ways that might provide more water to cities, farms and the environment.

Many Sierra Nevada forests, including the ponderosa pine, white fir and Jeffrey pine forests on this property, burned roughly every 10 years in lightning-sparked fires before California became a state in 1850. Those natural fires thinned out dead trees and brush.

But starting roughly 100 years ago, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies began putting out the fires, often to protect communities that had sprung up through the mountains. As a result, the forests grew thicker. Now, across millions of acres of the Sierra, around Lake Tahoe and in other parts of the West, some evergreen forests have five times or more trees per acre as they would naturally.

The trees are small, spindly and often prone to disease and beetles.

UC Merced and UC Berkeley scientists have done research indicating that if these forests are thinned it could increase the amount of water flowing from the Sierra Nevada into streams, rivers, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and San Francisco Bay.



**Talbot Creek is seen on the property purchased in the Sierra Nevada by the Northern Sierra Partnership, Nature Conservancy and American River Conservancy.**

"We're trying to keep the trees in check so the forest is in a more sustainable condition," said Roger Bales, a UC Merced engineering professor who directs the university's Sierra Nevada Research Institute. "One of the benefits is that you get more water."

The Sierra Nevada provides 40 percent or more of California's water supply through snow and rain.

The trees in unnaturally dense forests drink up precipitation that falls in the mountains, allowing less to run off. And often snow stays on top of their tight forest canopy and evaporates, rather than naturally flowing into the soil and streams, researchers say.

Worse, dense forests increase the intensity of fires when they burn. The huge fires create erosion, which damages streams and lakes.

By thinning about 25 to 50 percent of the trees in many of these areas, Bales said, the amount of water flowing into streams could increase from 9 to 16 percent. Sierra-wide, that could increase the water running off by 500,000 to 1



million acre feet a year, enough for up to 5 million people for a year. Much of that would flow into rivers, where it could be stored behind existing dams.

But thinning forests isn't cheap. It can cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 per acre. And spindly trees and brush have limited value as timber to offset costs.

The environmental groups who purchased the Sierra property, known as the American River Headwaters, have raised \$3 million to work with scientists to measure the impact of thinning and controlled burns on water runoff.

"What we're most excited about is the potential to use this as a living laboratory," Edelson said. "This could be a game changer for the Sierra's forests."

If they can show that thinning forests generates more water, that could convince water districts and other agencies to invest water bond money and other funds in expanding Sierra forest thinning to boost water supplies and reduce fire risk.

To pay for the \$10.1 million land purchase, the state provided \$5 million, most of which came from Proposition 84, a parks and water bond act passed in 2006 by California voters. The other \$5.1 million and the \$3 million research fund came from private donations, including \$1 million from the Morgan Family Foundation in Los Altos.

That foundation was established by Jim Morgan, former CEO of Applied Materials, and his wife, Becky, a former Santa Clara County supervisor and Republican state senator.

In 2007, the Morgans were the driving force behind setting up the Northern Sierra Partnership, an alliance of conservation groups that set a goal of preserving 100,000 acres between Lake Tahoe and Mount Lassen. So far, the partnership has preserved 50,715 acres by purchasing land or development rights from willing sellers, much of it adjacent to national forests in checkerboard-patterns that originated with federal grants to railroads in the mid-1800s.

"This was the largest piece of unprotected land along the Sierra Crest south of Donner Summit," Lucy Blake, president of the Northern Sierra Partnership, said of the recent purchase. "This is a big win for water quality, for wildlife and for everyone who loves the splendid landscapes of the Sierra Nevada."



## **Federal Negligence Leads to Catastrophic Wildfires Across the West**

NorthernAg.net, August 17, 2015

<http://www.northernag.net/AGNews/AgNewsStories/TabId/657/ArtMID/2927/ArticleID/5052/Federal-Negligence-Leads-to-Catastrophic-Wildfires-Across-the-West.aspx>



WASHINGTON (August 17, 2015) – As massive wildfires blaze across the West this week, the need to address the increasing wildfire threat is even more apparent. According to the Agriculture and Interior Departments, there are currently 19,000 interagency personnel fighting wildfires across 13 states. The Soda Fire that burned across southern Idaho and eastern Oregon consumed roughly 300,000 acres of rangeland, threatening the homes and lives of residents, livestock and wildlife.

While Washington bureaucrats call for more funds to suppress the growing fires, the Public Lands Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association sent a letter to the White House today stressing the importance of proper natural resource management in order to help prevent these catastrophic events, and furthermore, **the gross negligence and mismanagement of our nation's forests and rangeland by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.**

According to the U.S. Forest Service, wildfire suppression now costs the agency more than \$1 billion annually and for the first time in its 110-year history, the agency is spending more than half of its budget on wildfire suppression. When the cost of suppression exceeds the budgeted amount, USFS is forced to reallocate funds from other programs to cover the cost of fire suppression, known as fire-borrowing. While PLC and NCBA believe that having fire suppression funds available to cover the cost of fighting fire and prevent fire-borrowing is important, the organizations firmly believe that **proper forest and**

rangeland management is the key to reducing catastrophic wildfires in the first place.

PLC President Brenda Richards said the mismanagement of federally-owned forests and rangelands has created great economic hardship and danger for ranchers that depend upon the land.

"This year's fire season has proven once again the federal mismanagement of our forests and rangeland," said Richards, whose ranch has suffered damage in the current Idaho/Oregon fire. "The livestock industry and rural economies will spend decades attempting to recover from the millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure damage and forage loss that have been the result of catastrophic wildfire in recent weeks and years, not to mention the loss of valuable wildlife habitat. Because of frivolous litigation and attempts to keep peace with extremists, our government agencies have hampered the most natural and cost-effective wildfire prevention techniques, and subsequently put the lives of ranching families like mine and others in rural communities at risk."

As the letter stresses, natural forest fires were nature's tool to burn the underbrush and smaller trees, creating less competition for resources and resulting in healthier forests. Due to population growth and urban sprawl, people now live in the natural path of fires and as a result humans must take over managing the resources. However, Philip Ellis, NCBA president from Chugwater, Wyo., said with 82 million acres of Forest Service land at an elevated risk of catastrophic wildfires, insect, or disease outbreak, it is clear the federal agencies tasked to manage our forests are failing to exercise their responsibility.

**"We have seen more red tape and regulation than ever before, and our natural resources are paying the heavy price,"** said Ellis. **"This administration continues to push the best caretakers off the land, and now it's up to Congress to rein the agencies in.** As Congress continues discussions to address the lack of stewardship these agencies have shown to the land and natural resources, we encourage them to find a solution that will help prevent these wildfires, rather than simply throwing more money in the attempt to control them after the fact."

PLC and NCBA strongly supported H.R. 2647 introduced by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) which passed the House on a bipartisan vote, and continues to support S. 1691 introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) which saw a hearing in July. These bills would require the Forest Service to treat a minimum of 2 million acres with mechanical treatment or prescribed burns each year, with reduced NEPA requirements for these projects. Further, this legislation would discourage frivolous litigation by requiring litigants to post a bond equal to the estimated costs of court proceedings and would require an arbitration process

to precede the lawsuit. The legislation would also prevent fire borrowing and stop the federal agencies from raiding accounts necessary for proper forest and range management. PLC and NCBA encourage the Senate to take up this legislation and pass it without delay and call for federal land management agencies to streamline regulations that will allow for active management of forests and rangelands and discontinue harmful closed-door settlements with litigious radical groups that seek to see non-management on all lands across the west – the very action which leads to catastrophic wildfire.

**Legal Action Called for at Summit of Western State Advocates**

***Ravages of wildfires due to poor federal management***

By: [ADI News Services](#) August 5, 2015

<https://arizonadailyindependent.com/2015/08/05/legal-action-called-for-at-summit-of-western-state-advocates/>



**Ravages of wildfire due to poor management.**

Lawmakers, experts, and advocates from around the western states gathered in Phoenix, Arizona on Thursday, August 5, for the Public Lands Strategy Summit to discuss actions being taken to bring equity to the people of their respective states.

At issue is equal access to the lands and better management of natural resources within their mostly rural states, conducted at a local level by experts using the volumes of scientific data currently available.

Rising concerns about the health of state and local economies, as well as the destruction of the landscape, wildlife, and natural resources shape the core of their actions. Arizona State Representative Brenda Barton, (LD6), stated, "I believe that we have begun the process to make Arizona a whole state."

Gathering some of the greatest constitutional experts in the country, the effort is co-founded by Idaho County Commissioner, Jim Chmelik and Doyel Shamley of Veritas Research. Because lawsuits from an array of environmental organizations has led to the mismanagement of these resources and the decline not only of economic prosperity but also the health, safety, and welfare of our rural communities and our country as a whole, the group is left with a lawsuit as one of their only remedies.

The group offers the 2012 fire in Idaho County, as an example as to why action is necessary. In that case, "246,000 acres burned and along with it 1.3 billion board feet of timber was destroyed. This timber had a value of \$390,000,000.00. The economic multiplier in the timber industry is 5-7. Using just a multiplier of 3 the net gain to the local economy if the timber could have been salvaged would have been 1.17 billion dollars to Idaho County and the surrounding communities," notes the group.

Officials and western counties including Shoshone, and Washington in Idaho, and Mohave and Apache in Arizona are supporting the effort along with several representatives from both Arizona and Utah.

"We have a great legal argument to make. This is an issue of fairness, we don't have the same rights as the people of the other states. They get to enjoy full ownership of their land, our people deserve the same opportunity," stated Commissioner Chmelik. "It's about better access, better management, and a brighter future for our children."

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## **Judge Blocks Obama Administration's Rule On Waterways**

**It wasn't immediately clear if the injunction applied to other states.**

James Macpherson, AP, 08/27/2015

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/north-dakota-clean-water-rule/>

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge in North Dakota on Thursday blocked a new Obama administration rule that would give the federal government jurisdiction over some state waterways.

U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson in Fargo issued a temporary injunction against the rule which would have given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers authority over some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. The rule was scheduled to take effect Friday.

"The risk of irreparable harm to the states is both imminent and likely," Erickson said in granting the request of 13 states to block the rule from taking effect. The judge said that among other things, the rule would require "jurisdictional studies" of every proposed natural gas, oil or water pipeline project in North Dakota, which is at the center of an energy exploration boom.

The 13 states led by North Dakota asked Erickson to suspend guidelines that they say are unnecessary and infringe on state sovereignty. The federal government says the new rule clarifies ambiguity in the law and actually makes it easier for the states to manage some waterways. It wasn't immediately clear if the injunction applied to states other than the 13 that requested the injunction.

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, who filed the request, said he was pleased by the ruling.

"This is a victory in the first skirmish, but it is only the first," Stenehjem said in a statement. "There is much more to do to prevent this widely unpopular rule from ever taking effect."

The agriculture industry has been particularly concerned about the regulation, saying that it could apply to drainage ditches on farmland. The EPA and Army Corps said the only ditches that would be covered under the rule are those that look, act and function like tributaries and carry pollution downstream. A tributary would be regulated if it shows evidence of flowing water such as a bank or high water mark, the EP says.

The other states involved in the lawsuit are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Erickson cited Wyoming in his ruling, saying the state would have to bear the cost of things such as issuing permits and has no way of avoiding the increased expenses under the regulation.

State officials in North Dakota said the new rule will cost the state millions of dollars and take away from more important programs. State Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said there's "confusion and anxiety" among farmers and other landowners over the initiative.

At the very least, state officials argued, more time was needed to study the rule, which was finalized on May 27.

Stenehjem — along with attorneys general and officials from 30 other states — wrote last month to the EPA and the Army Corps asking that the law be postponed at least nine months. Lawyers for the states said they heard nothing back from the government, so they filed a request for the preliminary injunction.

The federal government said the request for an injunction was better suited to be heard by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rather than a federal judge, but Erickson rejected that notion.

## **OREGON**

### **THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION A LOOK BACK**

Senator Jeff Kruse, -Roseburg OR, District 1

It is helpful to let a bit of time pass before taking a look at what was and wasn't accomplished during a Legislative Session. While the majority party "talked" about jobs and the economy, it became quite clear the first priority was political payback. There were bills that gave clear wins to trial lawyers, public sector unions, anti-gun groups and environmental organizations. All one needs to do is take a look at campaign contributions to understand why these passed. It was also interesting that the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce had a list of bills they supported and a list they opposed. None of the bills they supported passed and all but one of the bills they opposed did pass. So much for "jobs and the economy."

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While each Legislature develops its own personality, this one was unique for a couple of reasons. First, the Democrats had a super majority in the Senate and were one vote short of a super majority in the House. Also we did have a change of Governor mid-stream, which further complicated things. What we found was basically a group of four people making all of the major decisions. Hopefully we will do better next time around.



## **Commissioners Oppose New Designation for Middle Rogue River**

The Josephine County Board of Commissioners ruled in favor of private property rights as well as sustained timber harvests and mineral extraction during its weekly business session this morning.

The commissioners unanimously approved a resolution of opposition to the proposed inclusion of an additional section of the Rogue River into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Bureau of Land Management plans to ask Congress to include a 63-mile section of the Rogue from Lost Creek Dam downstream to the mouth of the Applegate River in the designation. The section from the mouth of the Applegate down to the Lobster Creek Bridge is already Wild and Scenic.

In the resolution opposing the move, the commissioners pointed out that nearly 86% of the Rogue River corridor – including the Grants Pass section – is privately owned, plus the county operates several parks along the river. Any new Wild and Scenic River designation would adversely affect both private and public property rights affecting usage and development.

The board also unanimously approved responses to the BLM's Resource Management Plan. Commissioner Simon Hare stated that the plan falls short when it comes to proper management of timber and mineral resources. He also said the federal agency has failed to coordinate with Josephine County.



### **Voters may get chance to end Dems' abuse of 'emergency clause'**

by In the news Sunday, August 2, 2015

<http://oregoncatalyst.com/31501-voters-chance-dems-abuse-emergency-clause.html>

**In the 2015 legislative session, majority Democrats denied Oregonians their right to refer many bills to a public vote — almost certainly, in at least some instances, because they feared voters would reject those bills if given the chance.** Here's the story of one such bill — and of how voters, in 2016, might get an opportunity to stem future such lawmaking abuse.



[Senate Bill 932](#), which was approved by the House and Senate in early July and currently awaits Gov. Kate Brown's signature, credentials illegal-immigrant college students to compete with U.S. citizens for taxpayer-funded Oregon Opportunity Grants. This is objectionable enough: Plenty of Oregonians, as we'll see, went on record last year as opposing state-government benefits for foreigners here illegally.

But there's more: SB 932's **sponsors saddled the bill with an "emergency clause" — and with the evident intent of assuring that voters wouldn't again get the chance to take such firm official stand against illegal immigration.**

The Oregon constitution stipulates that "no act shall take effect until ninety days from the end of the session at which the same shall have been passed, except in case of emergency; which emergency shall be declared in . . . the law." Such declaration, known as the "emergency clause," speeds a bill's enactment into law. Though, in recent years, few bills containing the clause have addressed true emergencies, its use is common: according to Lewis and Clark senior lecturer emerita Chana Cox, in the 2015 session 46 percent of bills (as of early June) contained an emergency clause. Among those that passed: House Bill 2177, which automatically registers as voters all citizens holding Oregon driver licenses, and SB 941, which expands background checks on people transferring guns. SB 932's emergency clause declares the bill effective "on its passage" — which means it will become law the moment Brown signs it.

What's the official reason for SB 932's emergency clause? So its intended beneficiaries, bill sponsor Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) told Eugene's Register-Guard last spring, can (in the newspaper's words) "access opportunity grants in the coming school year."

But here's the rub: Absent a successful referral — for which, we'll see, there is a high bar — those beneficiaries would have been able to seek and win grants even if SB 932 hadn't had an emergency clause. For the next Oregon Opportunity Grants that will be available — for the school year of 2016-17 — the state government's Office of Student Access and Completion urges interested parties to submit their applications as soon after January 1, 2016 as possible. Had, then, Dembrow forsworn the emergency clause, and in SB 932's text merely stipulated that the bill take effect no fewer than 90 days from the end of the session (which will be early October), its beneficiaries still would have had ample time — some two-and-a-half months — to have prepared and submitted their applications within OSAC's suggested time frame. (For those who would argue that SB 932 needed the emergency clause because sessions' adjournment dates are never certain, consider: In the past 130 years no session

has extended beyond late August, and most recent sessions have concluded by early July.)

Might, then, there have been an unspoken reason for SB 932's emergency clause?

**Perhaps. When a bill contains an emergency clause, once signed it is not merely sped into law: the clause also forecloses Oregonians' ability to try to give their fellow citizens the chance to approve or disapprove it via referendum.**

The reason? To refer a bill to voters, its opponents must engage in a constitutionally-stipulated and time-consuming process: collect the signatures of registered voters numbering at least 4 percent of the votes cast for governor in the last election. This must be done within 90 days of a legislative session's end — not coincidentally, the same length of time it takes bills that don't have emergency clauses to become law. If a bill's opponents collect the requisite signatures, the bill, rather than become law after 90 days, remains unenacted until after the referendum vote, which affirms or rejects it as law. But when an emergency clause stipulates that a bill, once signed, becomes law immediately, it forecloses the referendum possibility.

Could this have been the real reason for SB 932's emergency clause.

Consider: In spring 2013, the legislature approved and Gov. John Kitzhaber signed SB 833, which would have authorized driver cards for illegal immigrants. But the bill's opponents collected sufficient signatures to refer it to the November 2014 ballot, at which [voters rejected it](#). The magnitude of that rejection — the margin was almost two-to-one — made clear: the vote transcended the issue of driver cards to constitute a general mandate against state-government policies that offer benefits to illegal immigrants.

Even after voters' annihilation of driver cards, however, Oregon's legislative Democrats remain virtually unanimous in their support of illegal-immigrant "rights." Case in point: A recent letter to Salem's Statesman Journal newspaper, signed by all 35 House Democrats, contended that "keeping our state a great place to live" will require that all Oregon residents are "treated equally" regardless "of their . . . citizenship status.

So it is reasonable to ask: Was an emergency clause written into SB 932 with the specific intent of keeping it from being referred to voters and, potentially, meeting the same fate as illegal-immigrant driver cards.

Only Sen. Dembrow and SB 932's co-sponsors can answer that question. Whatever their answer would be, however, the bill's story illustrates the need to rein in the emergency clause's future use.

For the November 2016 ballot, a measure has been filed to do just that. If passed by voters, the "No More Fake Emergencies Act" — Initiative No. 49 — would enact a constitutional amendment that would require most bills containing emergency clauses to receive the votes of two-thirds of the members of each the House and the Senate to pass. This would restrict legislators' ability to use the emergency clause to thwart potential referenda of bills they believe would be defeated if put to popular vote — a cynical, antidemocratic practice that poisons public confidence in the lawmaking process and, indeed, perverts the relationship between legislators and the Oregonians who elect them.

To reach the ballot, by July 2016 Initiative No. 49 will need the signatures of more than 117,000 registered voters. In days to come, information will be made available on how to print and sign an online petition to help qualify the initiative — and in doing so to help restore the voice of the citizen, as manifested in the referendum, to its preeminent place in Oregon's representative democracy.

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## **Cover Oregon Scandal Illustrates the Arrogance and Audacity of Failed Big Government**

[Dean Chambers](#), Human Events, Jul 30, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/07/30/cover-oregon-scandal-illustrates-the-arrogance-and-audacity-of-failed-big-government/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/07/30/cover-oregon-scandal-illustrates-the-arrogance-and-audacity-of-failed-big-government/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



Liberal Democrats had the audacity to believe that something as complex as providing health care to millions of citizens could be more effectively administered by government bureaucrats who had no experience or training in

administration of this sector of the economy, than by the experienced and trained experts who managed the provision of health care in the private sector.

In Oregon, Governor John Kitzhaber and his administration were confident the state would lead the way, setting the example for many others, in how it would set up its state Obamacare exchange and administer the signs-up for the program. After spending more than \$300 million setting up the state's health care exchange, not a single citizen of the state signed up for Obamacare via the website before it was closed down. The Cover Oregon failure was such a political liability, for a governor in a heated battle for reelection in 2014, that Kitzhaber appointed his chief political advisor and campaign consultant, Patricia McCaig, to lead and carry out the closing of the site to protect the governor's campaign for reelection.

In the process, they came up with the brilliant idea to deflect attention from their own glaring incompetent and rotten corruption and squandering of about \$300 million in Cover Oregon by blaming the whole fiasco on Oracle, the information technology firm they brought to try to fix the doomed health care exchange website. They not only blamed Oracle for their failure to make Cover Oregon work, they filed a lawsuit against the company claiming they were responsible for the failure. Kitzhaber and McCaig not only presided over the failed Cover Oregon, but they further compounded the mess by suing Oracle.

While the lawsuit against Oracle is wasting time and resources in the court system in Oregon, there are still many unanswered questions about how and why Cover Oregon failed to sign up a single citizen to Obamacare, and where all that money was spent. Taxpayers were taken for \$300 million and no one appears to know where all that money went.

Furthermore, as Gov. Kitzhaber got himself into trouble from other scandals as well as this one, he took the path of least resistance earlier this year and resigned his office. Clearly this whole mess needs to be thoroughly investigated, and it looks like the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, chaired by Utah Congressman Jason Chaffetz, is going to step up and conduct just such an investigation of what happened and where the money went in the Cover Oregon fiasco.

The failure of the Maryland Health Connection state Obamacare exchange has lead to a out-of-court settlement with the company contracted to create it, Noridian Healthcare Solutions. The [Washington Post](#) reported about this last week. In the settlement announced earlier this month by Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, Noridian will pay \$20 million upfront and another \$25 million over five years in annual installments of \$5 million. The money will be split

between the state of Maryland and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Exactly how much of the settlement funds goes to the state of Maryland appears to have not been disclosed.

Maryland was among the 14 states that established their own state healthcare exchanges under the Obamacare program. The Maryland state exchange failed just minutes after it opened on October 1, 2013, despite Noridian's \$193 million contract to build and implement the exchange in that state. The settlement still needs regulatory approval before it is finalized.

The Cover Oregon website never worked, and didn't sign up a single state citizen for Obamacare. Those who were able to sign up had to fill out and file paper applications for Obamacare. Those who did sign up for Obamacare, if they were not eligible for full government subsidies for their health care, signed up for plans that offered sub-par coverage combined with excessively high premiums and shockingly gigantic deductibles. When the stores of Obamacare health care policies with \$5000 and higher deductibles came out, it was clear that Obamacare was a joke. Clearly such a poorly designed plan seemed like it was either massively incompetently conceived or it was deliberately designed to fail. It clearly was anything but evidence that Big Government and liberal bureaucrats could administer such an important sector of the economy, such as health care, more efficiently and effectively than it was administered prior to Obamacare by the health care system we had in place.

As Cover Oregon failed quite disastrously and miserably, other state exchanges failed and the entire Obamacare system is proving unworkable. There is increasing talk about how the so-called health care reform signed by President Barack Obama is soon going to descend into a "death spiral" that collapse Obamacare into a black hole of epic failure. To succeed, economically, and bring in enough revenue to pay for those who qualify for subsidies (which is needed if Obamacare is going to cover any significant percentage of those who lacked health care insurance), it would have to sign up enough paying customers enrolling in those ridiculous plans with the sky-high deductibles. Since more who signed up for the program were those eligible subsidies, and not the ones who would be paying out of pocket, the whole system teeters on collapsing because the individual mandate is not succeeding in forcing millions to sign up and pay for Obamacare at the exchanges. The whole Obamacare system might yet go the way of Cover Oregon.

The entire Cover Oregon mess shows that liberal Democrat politicians had the audacity to think that government could manage such a large sector of economy and provision of health care better than could the private sector. And when it failed, it illustrated the arrogance of liberal politicians, such as Gov. John

Kitzhaber, who believed he could cover up the epic failure of the state Obamacare exchange by put a political appointee in charge of closing it down in time to save his reelection as governor of Oregon. Conservatives warned that government would not manage health care better than the private sector, and that enacting Obamacare would only make the health care system worse. The failure of Cover Oregon only proved this to be more true than any critics of Obamacare ever expected. It also proved, once again, that liberal Big Government is not the solution to our problems.

That warning was given quite clearly in 2010 as Congress debated over enacting Obamacare. But the liberal Democrat majorities ignored the warning, as did the president, and Obamacare was passed by narrow, partisan majorities in both houses of Congress, not receiving a single Republican vote on final passage. Cover Oregon, and Obamacare, are a prime example of the corruption, failure and incompetence in public policy that we were when Democrats alone, governing in one-party fashion and refusing to work with and compromise with Republicans, decides public policy. The arrogance displayed here should be enough alone for voters to be extremely hesitant to ever trust liberal Democrats to "reform" health care every again.

## FINANCE

### Financial Times Calls For Abolishing Cash

**Eliminating physical currency necessary to give central banks more power**

PAUL JOSEPH WATSON, INFOWARS.COM, | AUGUST 28, 2015  
<http://www.infowars.com/financial-times-calls-for-abolishing-cash/>



The Financial Times has published an anonymous article which calls for the abolition of cash in order to give central banks and governments more power.

Entitled [The case for retiring another 'barbarous relic'](#), the article laments the fact that people are stockpiling cash in anticipation of another economic collapse, a factor which is causing, "a lot of distortion to the economic system."

"The existence of cash — a bearer instrument with a zero interest rate — limits central banks' ability to stimulate a depressed economy. The worry is that people will change their deposits for cash if a central bank moves rates into negative territory," states the article.

Complaining that cash cannot be tracked and traced, the writer argues that its abolition would, "make life easier for a government set on squeezing the informal economy out of existence."

Abolishing cash would also give governments more power to lift taxes directly from people's bank accounts, the author argues, noting how "Value added tax, for example, could be automatically levied — and reimbursed — in real time on transactions between liable bank accounts."

The writer also calls for punishing people who use cash by making users "pay for the privilege of anonymity" so they will, "remain affected by monetary policy." Dated bank notes would lose their value over time, while people would also be charged by banks for swapping electronic reserves for physical cash and vice versa.

The article echoes an argument made by Kenneth Rogoff, former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, who has called for high denomination banks notes such as the €100 and €500 notes to be phased out of existence.

As we [previously reported](#), Rogoff attended a meeting in London earlier this year where he met representatives from the Federal Reserve, the ECB as well as participants from the Swiss and Danish central banks. The issue of banning cash was at the forefront of the agenda.

Last year, Rogoff [also called](#) for "abolishing physical currency" in order to stop "tax evasion and illegal activity" as well as preventing people from withdrawing money when interest rates are close to zero.

The agenda to ban cash was [also discussed](#) at this year's secretive Bilderberg Group meeting, which was [attended](#) by the Financial Times' chief economics commentator Martin Wolf.

Former Bank of England economist Jim Leaviss penned an article for the [London Telegraph](#) earlier this year in which he said a cashless society would only be achieved by “forcing everyone to spend only by electronic means from an account held at a government-run bank,” which would be, “monitored, or even directly controlled by the government.”

In the UK, banks are treating the withdrawal of cash in amounts as low as £5,000 as a [suspicious activity](#), while in France, citizens will be [banned from making cash payments](#) over €1,000 euros from Tuesday onwards. The withdrawal and deposit of cash over the amount of €1,000 euros will also be subject to ID verification.

“There is no more egregious anti-liberty economic policy imaginable than banning cash,” writes [Michael Krieger](#).

“Of course, if cash were involuntarily “ended,” there would be a surge in demand for physical gold and silver, which would then necessitate a ban on those items. Then the cycle of economic and financial tyranny would be complete, and crawling our way out of it, nearly impossible.”

## **The Ultimate Threat to Your Wealth**

Ted Bauman, Offshore and Asset Protection Editor, September 3, 2015  
<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=08f0bdqvj2j18#1052205038>

We live in a deeply corrupt society.

Actually, let me rephrase that: We live in a society run by deeply corrupt people. Most ordinary Americans are honest, hardworking and keenly aware of the difference between fair play and crony capitalism.

Not so for the masters of the universe in charge of the U.S. financial system. Not only have they created a financial structure that *guarantees* financial crises from which you and I must bail them out — they have basically purchased Washington, D.C. to insure their system continues.

This isn't a new phenomenon, however. In fact, the roots of Wall Street's “money power” go back over 100 years. But now the financial powers-that-be have overplayed their hand ... and put *your* wealth at risk.

### **A Century of Wrong**

The Federal Reserve Act of 1913 (FRA) established “the Fed” and required all federally chartered banks to become part of a new system of central banking.



Under this system, commercial banks “create” money by issuing loans. But unlike the pre-FRA world, the money thus created — the Federal Reserve Note, aka the dollar — was to be an obligation of the U.S. Treasury. In other words, we are all ultimately on the hook for commercial banks’ business decisions, as we learned in 2008.

Besides acting as the “lender of last resort” to U.S. banks, the Federal Reserve provides them with many services at low or no cost — services for which you and I pay an arm and a leg. They include wiring funds and securities, transporting currency and coin, redeeming and servicing savings bonds, issuing Treasury securities, vault inventories, settling stock trades and check clearing.

Now, under the FRA, banks are required to purchase non-transferable stock in their regional Federal Reserve banks equal to 6% of their assets. That stock doesn’t gain value and cannot be traded or sold. Sounds like a drag — that’s money that could be earning profits for the banks, right? Maybe that mandatory stock is what pays for all those Fed freebies?

Never fear, they thought of that: The Fed pays out a 6% *guaranteed* dividend payment on the banks’ stock, and it’s *tax-free*. You heard that right: While you and I are earning next to nothing on our bank savings, the banks themselves are earning a guaranteed 6% annual tax-free return on their own deposits with the Federal Reserve.

### **We Pay, They Profit**

What’s that got to do with me, you may ask? A lot. Any profit earned by the 12 Federal Reserve Banks is turned over to the U.S. Treasury and can be used to retire government debt. The banks’ guaranteed 6% comes out of Fed profit, reducing the amount available to the federal government by billions every year — and thus keeping us taxpayers on the hook for federal deficits.

That tax subsidy is in addition to the profits banks make by borrowing dollars from the Fed at 0.13% and lending them out to us at vastly higher rates. Consider what we’re paying for credit: 4% interest for student loans; 4% to 5% for a new car and 3% to 5% for a mortgage. Consumers pay up to 22% interest on credit-card debt.

Of course, because they can get money for nothing from the Fed, U.S. banks pay diddly for consumer savings. A few years ago, a \$500,000 retirement account paid around \$25,000 annually. But now it’s around \$5,000. Who can live on that?

## **Banks: The Ultimate Threat to Your Wealth**

Like my colleague [James Dale Davidson](#), I have an “old-fashioned” view of economic life. Central to that worldview is the recognition that money is not wealth. Whether it’s in a bank or under your mattress, money is just a claim on wealth, one that may or may not be honored in future. There’s no guarantee, despite what it says on the U.S. dollar.



Real wealth is something people can use: food, land and tools of all kinds. Try eating money: You won’t do it twice. The next best thing is something, [like gold](#), that people regard as a store of value regardless of what governments say — something that you can readily exchange for true wealth anywhere, at any time.

By behaving as if money was actual wealth, the U.S. banking system is destroying money as a claim on wealth. The more money that system generates, the less valuable it will be. When the dollar crashes, all the 6% dividends in the world won’t buy bankers anything to eat.

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## **The Best Asset to Own In Today’s “Alice in Wonderland” Economy**

Casey Daily Dispatch, September 3, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=08f0bdqvj2j18#1373938340>

Major world economies are slipping into recession...

Canada officially entered a recession on Monday. (A recession is when an economy shrinks two quarters in a row.)

Its economy shrunk 0.8% in the first quarter...and another 0.5% in the second quarter.

The **oil crash** is hitting Canada hard. A barrel of oil costs less than half of what it did a year ago. Oil makes up 27% of Canada’s exports.

### **• Brazil is in a recession...**

Brazil is in its worst economic downturn since the 2008 financial crisis.

The country’s stock exchange has fallen 26% over the past year. The Brazilian real has plummeted 36% against the US dollar in the past year, too.

Brazil is the world's seventh-largest economy and its second-largest iron ore exporter. **Plunging demand for commodities** like iron ore is slamming Brazil. The price of iron ore has plummeted 70% from its 2013 peak.

• **Australia could be headed for its first recession in twenty-five years...**

Last quarter, Australia's economy barely grew. Its GDP growth was just 0.2%...less than half of what economists expected. And the Australian dollar has plummeted 22% against the USD since last September.

Australia is facing the same problems as Canada and Brazil...low demand for commodities. Australia is the world's largest iron exporter. It's also the world's biggest coal exporter. The price of coal is down 40% since 2011.

• **A slowing China is slamming these countries...**

China is the world's largest commodity consumer. In the first quarter, its economy grew at its slowest rate in 25 years. And there are signs that things could get much worse. Last month, China's manufacturing output index had its lowest reading since 2009.

Things in China are so bad that some financial experts are now saying it could drag the entire world into a recession. This would be a first. For the past couple decades, the US was the only economy big enough to cause a worldwide recession by itself.

The Wall Street Journal explains...

*Historically, the U.S. has been the single largest contributor to global growth, and a contraction in the American economy has been the catalyst that tipped the world into recession...*

*This decade China has accounted for a third of the expansion in the global economy, compared with 17% from the U.S.—a role reversal of the preceding decade. The contribution from the other giant economies—Europe's and Japan's—has fallen to less than 10%. So the key to global growth is now in Beijing's hands.*

On Wednesday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it may make a big cut to its worldwide economic growth outlook. The IMF is worried about China's slowing economy and crashing stock market.

We recently explained that the MSCI All-Country Index, a broad measure of the global stock market, fell 6.8% in August. **It was the worst month for global stocks since 2012.**

• **The “Bond King” thinks we have bigger problems than China...**

“Bond King” Bill Gross thinks global financial markets are “out of whack.”

Gross founded Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO) in 1971. Under his watch, PIMCO became the world's biggest bond fund. Today, Gross runs his own bond fund at Janus Capital.

Gross thinks almost everything is expensive right now. In a letter to his clients published Wednesday, he wrote that “equity market capital gains and future returns are likely to be limited if not downward sloping.”

In other words, investors face a ton of risk right now...and not much opportunity.

Even though interest rates are close to zero, Gross still thinks investors are better off holding cash than overpriced stocks or bonds.

He blames the Federal Reserve's easy money policies for warping the economy:

*The Fed is beginning to recognize that 6 years of zero bound interest rates have negative influences on the real economy – it destroys historical business models essential to capitalism such as pension funds, insurance companies, and the willingness to save money itself. If savings wither then so too does its Siamese Twin – investment – and with it, long term productivity – the decline of which we have seen not just in the U.S. but worldwide.*

Gross explains that **the past six years of near-zero interest rates have created a “Frankenstein” economy.** He blames cheap credit for inflating both stocks and bonds to the point where there's nothing attractive to buy right now.

Gross is right. Artificially low rates have detached financial markets from reality...

Interest rates aren't just some number for the government to finker with. When they're not manipulated, interest rates help people make smart financial decisions.

For example, if you have an idea for a business that will earn 3%...but it costs 7% to borrow money...you know not to borrow money to start that business.

But the government has destroyed this signal. With interest rates at effectively zero, borrowing money is virtually free. So nothing looks like a bad purchase.

Since borrowing is ridiculously, laughably cheap, no business idea is too dumb to fund...no \$120,000 car goes unsold to someone who can't afford it...and no overpriced house sits on the market for more than a month.

The old question of "Does it make sense to borrow this much money?" has been replaced with "How much can I get?"

Cheap credit has stoked the economy, stocks, and the housing market. Zero interest rates have distorted prices so badly that we can't even know what prices would be if interest rates were normal. For most of the '80s and '90s, interest rates were 5% to 10%.

We're now Alice in Wonderland...where reality isn't what it seems.

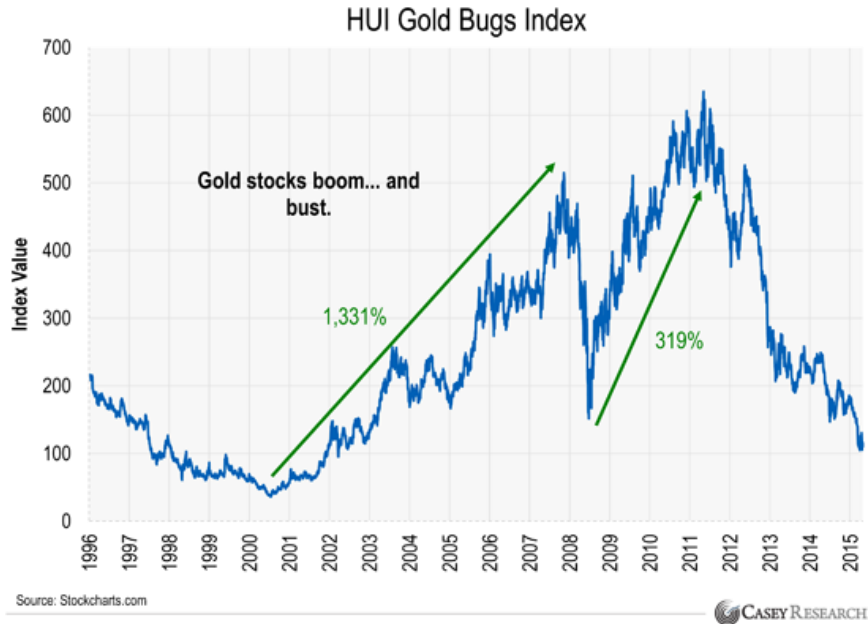
• **Because almost everything is overpriced, there's very little upside in stocks and bonds right now...**

**But gold stocks are a different story.**

Gold mining stocks are some of the cheapest assets on the planet right now. The HUI, an index that tracks gold miners, is down 83% since 2011.

These stocks will likely skyrocket when the next gold bull market begins. That's because miners are leveraged to the price of gold. When the price of physical gold goes up, gold stocks usually go up way more.

The chart below shows how gold stocks skyrocketed during the last two gold bull markets.



Keep in mind, the huge gains in green are averages. The best junior mining stocks did even better. It's not uncommon for a small mining stock to deliver 20 to 1 gains during a strong gold market. One time in the '90s, Doug Casey made over 26,000% on a single gold miner.

The secret to these huge gains is timing. The best time to buy gold stocks is after a bad bust...like the one we just had. Now is the ideal time to get in on the best gold mining stocks.

## A Look at Gold from a Risk Standpoint



Based on America's latest **Real Money Supply (RMS)** made up of total US checkable deposits, total US savings deposits, and US currency in circulation (currency component of M1) – and the **historical ratio of the RMS to the price of gold** – we are able to estimate **gold's fair value**, along with its worst case scenario **downside risk**, and best case scenario **upside potential**.

In September 2011 when gold reached its record nominal high of \$1,895 per ounce, the RMS was \$8.007 trillion. Since then, the RMS has **grown by 36.3%** to \$10.911 trillion vs. gold **declining by 42.5%** to \$1,089.40 per ounce.

**The RMS/Gold Ratio has increased from a low in September 2011 of 4.23 to 10.02 today.** Since 1975, the RMS/Gold Ratio has ranged from a January 1980 low of 0.675 to an April 2003 high of 12.91, with a **long-term median of 5.70.**

In NIA's opinion, the 40-year **median RMS/Gold Ratio of 5.70** represents **gold's fair value**, the **record high RMS/Gold Ratio of 12.91** represents gold's worst case scenario **downside risk**, and the **record low RMS/Gold Ratio of 0.675** represents gold's best case scenario **upside potential**.

Based on the long-term median RMS/Gold Ratio of 5.70, **gold has a fair value today of \$1,914 per ounce.** Already, gold's 2011 high of \$1,895 per ounce with a RMS/Gold Ratio of 4.23, would equal a gold price today of \$2,580 per ounce. In a worst case scenario for gold, if the RMS/Gold Ratio returned to the record high from 2003 of 12.91, it would equal a gold price today of \$845 per ounce.

While **gold's worst case scenario downside risk is \$845 per ounce**, let's take a look at its best case scenario upside. When gold first reached \$850 per ounce in 1980, the RMS was only \$574 billion for a RMS/Gold Ratio of 0.675. Today, a RMS/Gold Ratio of 0.675 gives gold **best case scenario upside potential of \$16,165 per ounce.**

Therefore, from gold's settlement price yesterday of \$1,089.40 per ounce, it currently has worst case scenario **downside risk of 22.43%** and best case scenario **upside potential of 1,383.84%**. Gold's upside potential is **61.7X greater** than its downside risk. **Gold's fair value is 75.7% above yesterday's settlement price.**

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## **These Stocks Go Up When Markets Crash**

Casey Daily Dispatch, August 25, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=08f0bdqvj2j18#145006825>

Investors are running for cover...

Financial markets around the world have had a meltdown over the last few days.

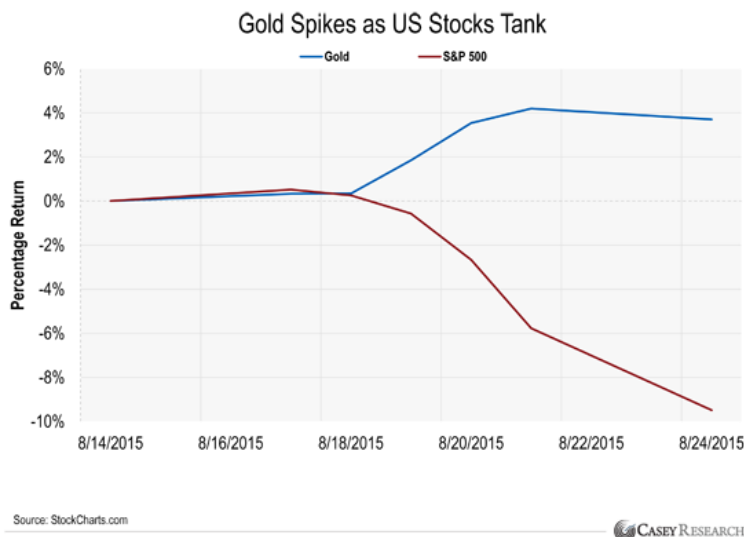
US stocks are coming off their worst week in four years...

The Euro Stoxx 600, an index that tracks 600 of Europe's biggest companies, has lost 8% over the last five days...

And in China, the Shanghai Stock Exchange is down 38% since early June.

There's been almost nowhere to hide from this global sell-off...except in gold.

The price of gold rose 3.8% last week, while US stocks lost 5.8%.



Louis James, editor of *International Speculator*, says gold is doing exactly what it should...

The worsening stock market crash in China is spreading around the world. The Nikkei is down in Japan. So are the markets in Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan, India, Australia...and, of course, in the US.

In this context, it makes sense for gold to rise. That's what a "safe haven" asset should do in times of financial chaos.

Gold is the ultimate wealth insurance. Unlike stocks, bonds, and paper currencies, gold is valuable no matter what happens to the global financial system. It's preserved wealth through recessions, wars, and every kind of financial upheaval. That's why people always flock to gold during a financial crisis.

• **Gold miners are doing even better than physical gold...**

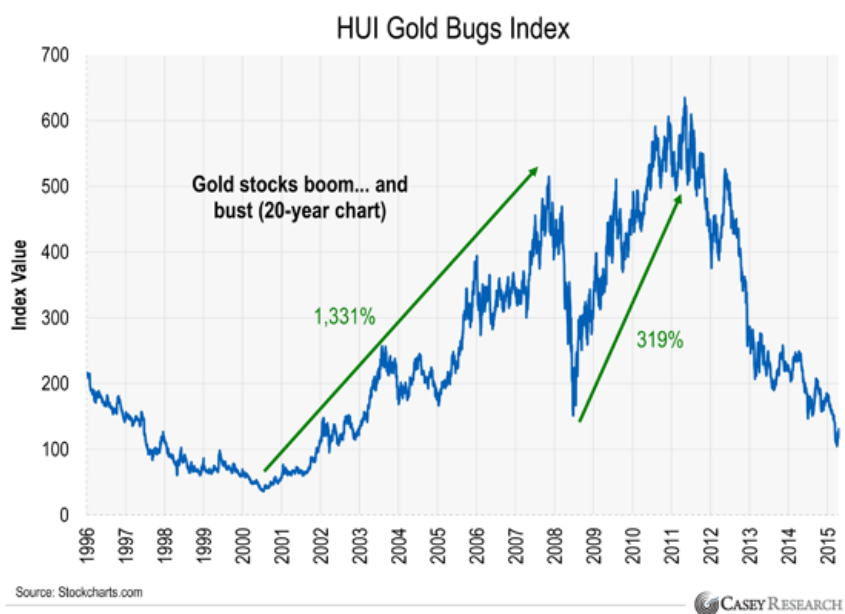
GDX, an ETF that holds major gold miners, has gained 8% since hitting a record low on August 5.



Investors own physical gold for security. Gold stocks won't give you security. They're extremely risky and extremely cyclical. This means they go through huge booms and huge busts.

The reason to own gold stocks is leverage. During gold bull markets, gold stocks usually rise much higher and much faster than the price of gold. Gold mining stocks can make huge gains in short periods...if you buy them at the right time.

The chart below shows how gold stocks jumped 1,331% and 319% during the last two gold bull markets



These are average gains. The very best gold stocks gained far more. In the 1990s, Doug Casey made a 26,000%-plus return on one junior miner.

It's not uncommon for small gold-mining stocks to rise 1,000% during a strong market. We call these "10-baggers."

- **Right now, gold miners are coiled like a spring...**

Gold mining stocks are some of the cheapest stocks on earth right now.

**Gold miners are in their second-worst bear market since World War II.** They've been falling since April 2011. As a group, gold miners are down 82% from their 2011 high...

The chart below compares the HUI, a gold miner index, to the price of gold. The lower the ratio, the cheaper gold-mining stocks are compared to physical gold.

As you can see, gold-mining stocks are the cheapest they've been in the HUI's 20-year history.



Most investors see these charts and vow to never buy a gold mining stock. They want nothing to do with a sector this volatile.

It's true that investing in gold mining stocks isn't for everyone. But if you do want a shot at the huge gains gold mining stocks can offer, now's the perfect time to get in.

As we mentioned earlier, gold mining stocks go through huge booms and huge busts. And the best time to get in is just after a huge bust...like we just had.

## **This Weird Story Suggests Gold Miners are Near a Bottom**

Casey Daily Dispatch, September 3, 2015

<https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=08f0bdqvj2j18#7885125818>

Things just keep getting worse for commodities...

Regular Casey readers know the oil market is crashing. Oil closed below \$39 yesterday, and is now down 64% since last summer.

But oil is just one of many commodities hitting multi-year lows. The price of palladium is down 13% since Friday...copper, aluminum, and silver are all at six-year lows...the price of oats, coffee, and sugar are all down 40% or more over the past year.

The Bloomberg Commodity Index, which tracks 22 raw materials, has dropped to its lowest level since August 1999.

• **The commodities collapse is slamming the world's largest mining companies...**

BHP Billiton (BHP) is the world's largest publicly traded mining company. It's worth over \$90 billion.

On Tuesday, BHP reported its lowest annual profit since 2003. The company's earnings dropped 86% from a year ago. Its stock price hit a 10-year low on Monday, and is now down 48% over the past year.

BHP is far more diversified than most commodities producers. It mines iron ore, coal, and copper. It also produces oil and natural gas. Its diversity hasn't helped shield it from the commodities crash since virtually all "hard" commodities are in a severe bear market right now.

Plunging commodities prices have also sent Glencore's (GLEN.L) stock price to an all-time low.

Glencore is the third-largest publicly traded mining company. It also runs one of the world's largest trading operations, which acts as a middleman between companies that buy and sell commodities.

Like BHP, Glencore has its hand in a lot of different commodities. It mines coal in Australia, copper in Africa, and zinc in South America. And its massive trading arm trades everything from grain to oil to metals.

Glencore lost \$676 million in the first half of 2015. News of the loss triggered a massive sell-off last week. It erased \$3.5 billion from the company's market value in a single day...

Glencore's stock sank 10%, and is now down 54% this year. Glencore is the worst-performing stock in the FTSE 100, an index that tracks the largest stocks on the London Stock Exchange

• **A vocal commodities bull thinks the market is close to a bottom...**

Jim Rogers is telling investors not to "give up on commodities."

Rogers is an extremely successful investor and a leading commodities expert. During the 1970s, he ran the Quantum Fund with George Soros. The fund

returned an amazing 4,200% under his watch, according to *Bloomberg Business*. At the same time, the S&P 500 gained just 47%.

Rogers is most famous for buying beaten-down assets that most investors wouldn't touch. In 1998, when investors loved tech stocks, Rogers launched the International Commodity Index. His timing was nearly perfect...tech stocks crashed a year later as a huge commodities boom began. The Bloomberg Commodity Index gained 114% over the next decade.

Rogers thinks the worst may be over for commodities. In an interview with CNBC this week, Rogers said commodities could bottom by early 2016:

*...most commodities will be making a bottom in the next year or so if not before, even if we have economic problems worldwide because of the supply side. Remember, (with) commodities it is supply and demand; you then have prices going higher even with low demand if supply dries up.*

• **We're seeing signs that supply could soon begin to "dry up"...**

We've been telling you how oil companies are slashing spending to deal with plummeting prices. [Oil companies have already delayed or canceled \\$200 billion worth of projects this year.](#) Lower investment eventually leads to lower production and lower supply.

The same thing is happening with other commodities producers. Rio Tinto (RIO), the world's second-biggest mining company, wants to cut spending by \$1 billion this year. Glencore plans to spend \$800 million less on capital projects in 2015 than it originally planned. And BHP plans to cut capital expenditures by \$4 billion next year.

In a separate interview with BBC, Rogers gave more detail on why he thinks commodities are near a bottom.

*As far as commodities are concerned, it's all about supply and demand, and you're having huge cutbacks in supply. We're already having supply problems in some agricultural products and we're going to have problems with oil products...*

*So I don't think that the bull markets in commodities have gone away forever, because supply is going to be a [factor]. You can have a bull market with flat demand or even declining demand if supply is not there.*

Rogers personally owns gold because he thinks “we are going to have a lot of turmoil in the world” over the next five to ten years. Like us, Rogers knows investors flock to gold when financial markets look shaky and dangerous.

We agree with Rogers that commodities are badly beaten down and could turn around soon. However, it also wouldn’t surprise us if global economic problems get worse and cause commodities to take another leg down.

## GOVERNMENT

### Waters of the United States (WOTUS)

#### Internal Memos Reveal Concerns with WOTUS

by [Rae Price, WLJ Editor](#), Western Livestock Journal, Aug 7, 2015  
<https://wlj.net/article-11861-internal-memos-reveal-concerns-with-wotus.html>



Documents criticizing EPA for flawed rulemaking were released just weeks before the Clean Water Rule is set to go into effect on August 28. Internal memos released by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (HCOGR) show discrepancies between the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Waters of the U.S. (WO- TUS) rule, renamed the “Clean Water Rule” prior to being published in the Federal Register by EPA and the Corps in late June, has been said to expand Clean Water Act jurisdiction over numerous new types of waterways. The measure has been closely watched and is of concern to many agricultural groups and their members because of fears the new law will create unnecessary burdens to comply with the rule.

In the one of the recently released documents from General John Peabody, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations to the Army’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, he wrote, “Corps data

to the EPA has been selectively applied out of context and mixes terminology and disparate data sets.” He went on to say, “In the Corps judgment, these documents contain numerous inappropriate assumptions with no connection to the data provided, misapplied data, analytical deficiencies and logical inconsistencies.”

Peabody also stated “The preamble to the proposed rule and the draft preamble to the draft rule state that the rule-making has been a joint effort of the EPA and the Corps, and that both agencies have jointly made significant findings, reached important conclusions, and stand behind the final rule. These statements are not accurate.”

The memos show the Corps is so concerned about the implications of this rule that at one point it states that any reference to the Corps name and logo should be removed from all documents pertaining to the rule.

The documents from the Corps validate concerns of agricultural groups including National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) that the rule makes it nearly impossible to determine which features on the landscape are regulated and which are not.

Responding to the memos being made public, NCBA President Philip Ellis said “These documents clearly show that EPA is not ready to begin enforcement of this flawed rule, and demonstrate why this rule should be withdrawn and rewritten with input from all stakeholders.” He continued, “The EPA snubbed concerns from the countryside, and now, these memos reveal they even disregarded concerns from the Army Corps.

The fact that other federal agencies’ concerns were ignored is appalling, especially given the scope of this rule-making.”

Ellis went on to say, “The EPA placed their radical agenda above the law and went far beyond the scope of the Clean Water Act. The legal flaws identified by the Corps in these memos are the same vulnerabilities we’ve identified in our lawsuit against this rule. The fact is, cattlemen and women still need certainty in the Clean Water Act, not a radical and arbitrary political agenda.”

Bob Stallman, AFBF President said, “It is clear from the memos that there were dire concerns internally that EPA was getting it wrong and with a high degree of arrogance. The flawed economic study is just the tip of the iceberg, and it was known internally that trouble was ahead.”

The documents, all stamped "Litigation Sensitive," call into question the science behind the rule and the legal justification of the law.

In a legal analysis of the Draft Final Rule, Lance Wood, the Corps Assistance Chief Council, Environmental Law and Regulatory Program said there definition of WOTUS contains serious flaws, and "If the rule is promulgated as final without correcting those flaws, it will be legally vulnerable, difficult to defend in court, difficult for the Corps to explain or justify, and challenging for the Corps to implement." The memo further stated that numerous edits, or "fixes" had been offered to correct the errors but the fixes have not been adopted.

Seeking answers, leaders of the HCOGR sent a letter on July 30 to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy asking her to provide a response to the Committee on whether each of the issues and recommendations raised by the Corps in the documents were in fact adopted or otherwise addressed in the final rule. They further asked for an explanation and justification for recommendations and issues that were not adopted or addressed. McCarthy was also directed to explain why the memos were not included in the rule's administrative record.

The HCOGR requested a response from McCarthy's office no later than Aug. 6. As of *WLJ* press time additional information was not available.

Asked what this may mean for pending lawsuits, NCBA's Vice President of Government Affairs, Colin Woodall told *WLJ* the fact that the agencies are fighting each other and that the Corps has asked that their name, logo or any association with the report is telling. "We do believe these memos will be a part of this particular lawsuit, and it definitely helps our case as we continue to find a legal way to stop the EPA."

NCBA and AFBF are calling on the EPA to immediately withdraw the final WOTUS rule and start again to craft a rule that achieves clarity and addresses the concerns of farmers, ranchers and business owners across the country.

Woodall also said it will be important for citizens to visit with their elected officials while they are back in their districts during Congress' summer recess.

## State of Jefferson

### Jefferson Activists ask El Dorado County to Back Secession from California

By Brad Branan, Sacramento Bee, August 24, 2015  
<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article30957114.html>

An overflow crowd of about 400 people gathered Tuesday night in El Dorado County and tried to persuade the Board of Supervisors to support a plan to secede from California and join the proposed state of Jefferson.

Supporters carried flags, signs and fans with the movement's "XX" logo, which originally stood for being double-crossed by state leaders in Sacramento and Salem, Ore. Backers include El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini, who testified in support at the board meeting.



**Gina Russell of Oroville holds a flag in support of the State of Jefferson in front of the Capitol last August when supporters of a 51st state submitted declarations to withdraw from California, signed by Boards of Supervisors from Siskiyou and Modoc counties.**

In messages often laced with references to revolution, Jefferson backers said California state leaders have ignored their concerns about over-regulation, gun rights, illegal immigration and other issues in rural parts of the state. They complained that leaders representing California's heavily populated urban areas – generally Democrats – set the agenda for the entire state.

"It's about representation, pure and simple," said Mark Baird, a spokesman for the Jefferson movement. "We don't have any and we need some."



In 1941, angry residents banded together to stage a secessionist drive in Northern California and southern Oregon to create a new state of Jefferson. That movement failed, but rural activists have taken up the effort in recent years by calling on county leaders to support secession. Though the original Jefferson hugged the California-Oregon border, the latest drive has focused on rural Northern California counties with conservative voters all the way down to Tuolumne County.

El Dorado is one of 16 counties where Jefferson supporters are trying to get supervisors to approve a “declaration of withdrawal” from the state. El Dorado County is the group’s first attempt at garnering an endorsement in the Sacramento region; they hope to make a similar pitch in Placer County next month. Supervisors in eight counties have approved such measures.

The declarations have no legal standing and are an attempt to build political support for the secession, Baird said. The group expects a state legislator to introduce a bill in January calling for the formation of Jefferson. After the bill’s inevitable demise, Jefferson advocates will take their movement for statehood to the courts, said Baird, a Siskiyou County resident.

Supervisors did not indicate their views during the meeting, and it isn’t clear whether they will formally vote on the group’s request. Board Chairman Brian Veerkamp said Wednesday he has not formed a position on the issue and needs to receive more information before deciding whether to back the plan. Despite assurances from Baird about no consequences for El Dorado County in endorsing the plan, Veerkamp said he wonders “what signal that will send to the people we have to work with at the state?”

D’Agostini told the board he supports secession and asked the board to approve the group’s request for a declaration of withdrawal. He said rural counties are not properly represented in state government, and El Dorado County needs to participate in the debate for change.

“If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu,” he said. “It’s in the best interests of El Dorado County and the citizens we serve to be at the table.”

Baird and other Jefferson supporters blame the lack of representation in state government on a 1964 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Reynolds v. Sims*, which found that Alabama legislative districts had to be based on population. In Jefferson, representation would more closely resemble Congress with a senate based on geography – each county having a senator – and an assembly based on population, Baird said.

This form of government would prevent the imbalance of power that exists in Sacramento, where Los Angeles has far more power than most of Northern California, he said.

Placerville attorney Ted Phillips, a member of a group opposing the secessionists, Keep it California, challenged Baird's argument. He said supporting a form of government found unconstitutional makes no sense. Keep it California also challenged a financial report produced by Jefferson backers, saying it contains inaccurate figures.

The Jefferson movement has committees in each of the counties where it seeks support, including El Dorado. Several county residents spoke Tuesday night in favor of the proposal, echoing Baird's arguments about underrepresentation at the capital and an increase in regulations they say burden small businesses.

## Illegal Immigration

### Adios America!

#### How Democrats Plan to Make the GOP Disappear

[Allan H. Ryskind](#), Human Events, Jul 1, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/07/01/coulter-adios-america-how-democrats-plan-to-make-the-gop-disappear/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/07/01/coulter-adios-america-how-democrats-plan-to-make-the-gop-disappear/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)

Ann Coulter's ¡Adios America! is a four-alarm siren aimed at alerting some still-drowsy conservatives that **the Democrats' hot pursuit of "immigration reform" is designed to blow up the Republican party and conservatism in general. It is an open conspiracy by the Left, but too many in the GOP appear indifferent or, worse yet, are suffering from Stockholm syndrome and are cooperating with those who seek the party's demise.**

Coulter lays all this out in specific, gruesome and verifiable detail in her customary lively and provocative style. It's a tutorial on the immigration debate, which conservatives ignore at their peril. Here is the real clear politics of what's happening. **Except for Lyndon Johnson's pummeling of Barry Goldwater in 1964, she writes, "Democrats have not been able to get a majority of white people to vote for them in a presidential election since 1948." Their response was to "overwhelm" Americans with "new voters from the Third World." And this they did by passing the historic 1965 Immigration Reform Act**, which, in essence, allowed enormous numbers of Hispanics to legally pour across America's borders, whetting the appetite for a massive invasion of illegal immigrants as well.

Democratic consultant Patrick Reddy let the donkey out of the bag in his piece for the Roper Center in 1998:

The reform act, he allowed, “promoted by President Kennedy, drafted by Attorney General Robert Kennedy and pushed through the Senate by Ted Kennedy, has resulted in a wave of immigration from the Third World that should shift the nation in a more liberal direction within a generation. *It will go down as the Kennedy family's greatest gift to the Democratic Party.*” (My emphasis) And so it has.

The Democratic effort to jam pro-Democrat immigrants into voting booths is both cynical and notorious. Before the 1996 presidential election, the Clinton administration undertook a major initiative to give citizenship to one million people so they could vote by Election Day.

The White House, Coulter reminds us, “demanded that applications be processed twelve hours a day, seven days a week. Criminal background checks were jettisoned for hundreds of thousands of applicants, resulting in citizenship being granted to at least seventy thousand immigrants with FBI criminal records and ten thousand with felony records. **Murderers, robbers, and rapists were all made citizens so that the Democrats would have a million foreign voters on the rolls by Election Day.**” Even the *Washington Post* realized this was intended to create a “potent new block of Democratic voters.”

Now that millions of illegal aliens have flooded America and are siding overwhelmingly with Nancy Pelosi, the Democrats—with help from too many obtuse Republicans—keep pressing for amnesties which will entice even more illegals to cross the border and allow even more millions of Hispanics to cast their votes for the Clinton-Obama party.

The 1976 Simpson-Mazzoli Act was a disaster. The amnesty came, Coulter notes, but “the border security never did.” She documents the results: Illegal immigration quickly sextupled. And there have been at least “a half dozen more amnesties since then, legalizing millions more . . . who broke our laws.” The browning of America is working out just swell for the Left, especially in important electoral states, but why do Republicans, Coulter wonders, keep acting like Charlie Brown and embracing these suicidal policies?

Amnesty and voting rights for illegal's aren't even high on the Hispanic wish list. Rep. Steve Pearce, a rock-ribbed New Mexico Republican, for instance, keeps winning a substantial number of Hispanics, despite telling them there is only one path to citizenship as far as he's concerned: Illegal's will just have to return to Mexico and get in the back of the line.

In 2011, 73 percent of California Hispanics said they'd support a candidate who wanted to "secure the border first, stop illegal immigration, and then find a way to address the status of people already here illegally." And these are *California* Hispanics. In a 2014 Univision poll, 58 percent chose "require border security first" over "pass immigration reform." Even Republican Whit Ayres, a too eager pro-Latino pollster, acknowledges that among Hispanics "jobs and the economy lead by a mile" over amnesty.

In virtually every presidential election the Democrats scoop up at least 60 percent of the Hispanic vote—a whopping 71% in 2012. Why? Because **Hispanics, as well as other groups in the lower economic brackets, are far more interested in government handouts.** "That's why," Coulter writes, "Obama's Spanish-language ads during the 2012 campaign didn't say one word about amnesty. Instead, he promised Hispanics free healthcare under Obamacare."

Coulter exposes dozens of deceptions surrounding this issue, which explains her firm rejection of "comprehensive immigration reform" solutions and supposed "fixes" coming from Republicans and Democrats alike. Like Lenin's supposed observation that promises, like piecrusts, are made to be broken, solemn, bipartisan pledges to ensure border security never materialize. Under Simpson-Mazzoli, border security provisions *in the law* were ignored. Teddy Kennedy swore that his 1965 bill would never "inundate America with immigrants from any one country or area," but more than half of all immigrants to the United States since 1970 are native Spanish speakers.

Is Obama really the Deporter in Chief, as some of his supporters claim, in order to lure Republicans into backing immigration "reform"? Not so, says Coulter, pointing out that he's deported "far fewer" than Bush, but has just changed the definition to include illegals turned away at the border. Her evisceration of Marco Rubio's 2013 "reform" proposal is done in devastating detail, as she also caustically describes how Rubio quickly abandoned his pledge on border security first.

New amnesties proposed by both Democrats and Republicans will, if approved by Congress and if history is a guide, almost certainly help swamp our welfare and prison rolls and lower the wages of our existing work force. And don't believe there are only 12 million "illegals," she says, since there are excellent studies—a very convincing one by Bear Stearns—which point to as many as 30 million.

Does Coulter have a solution? The only plan the Congress should push, she argues, is one that conservatives have been pushing for over a decade: Secure

the border first. Once it is *really* accomplished, she remarks, we can then debate what to do with those “in the shadows.” Still seems a reasonable plan for many of us on the right.

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## **Small But Honest Columnist Again Forced to Correct Highest-Rated Show on Cable TV**

[Ann Coulter](#), Human Events, Aug 26, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/08/26/small-but-honest-columnist-again-forced-to-correct-highest-rated-show-on-cable-tv/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/08/26/small-but-honest-columnist-again-forced-to-correct-highest-rated-show-on-cable-tv/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



To support his insane interpretation of the post-Civil War amendments as granting citizenship to the kids of illegal aliens, Fox News' Bill O'Reilly is now taking job applications for the nonexistent — but dearly hoped-for — Jeb! administration, live, during his show.

(Apparently my debate with O'Reilly will be conducted in my column, Twitter feed and current bestselling book, [Adios, America](#), against the highest-rated show on cable news.)

Republicans have been out of the White House for seven long years, and GOP lawyers are getting impatient. So now they're popping up on Fox News' airwaves, competing to see who can denounce Donald Trump with greater vitriol.

Last Thursday's job applicants were longtime government lawyers John Yoo and David Rivkin.

In response to O'Reilly's statement that “there is no question the Supreme Court decisions have upheld that portion of the 14th Amendment that says any

person, any person born in the U.S.A. is entitled to citizenship ... for 150 years" — Yoo concurred, claiming: "This has been the rule in American history since the founding of the republic."

Yes, Americans fought at Valley Forge to ensure that any illegal alien who breaks into our country and drops a baby would have full citizenship for that child! Why, when Washington crossed the Delaware, he actually was taking Lupe, a Mexican illegal, to a birthing center in Trenton, N.J.

If one were being a stickler, one might recall the two centuries during which the children of slaves were not deemed citizens despite being born here — in fact, despite their parents, their grandparents and their great-grandparents being born here.

Wouldn't anyone who wasn't applying for a job in the nonexistent, never-to-exist Jeb! administration remember slavery?

Incongruously, Yoo also said, "The text of the 14th Amendment is clear" about kids born to illegals being citizens.

Wait a minute! Why did we need an amendment if that was already the law — since "the founding of the republic"!

An impartial observer might contest whether the amendment is "clear" on that. "Clear" would be: *All persons born in the United States are citizens.*

What the amendment actually says is: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, *and subject to the jurisdiction thereof*, are citizens of the United States *and of the state wherein they reside.*"

The framers of the 14th Amendment weren't putting a secret trap door in the Constitution for fun. The "jurisdiction thereof" and "state wherein they reside" language means something. (Ironically, Yoo — author of the Gitmo torture memo — was demonstrating that if you torture the words of the Constitution, you can get them to say *anything*.)

At least Rivkin didn't go back to "the founding of the republic." But he, too, claimed that the "original public meaning (of the 14th Amendment) which matters for those of us who are conservatives is clear": to grant citizenship to any kid whose illegal alien mother managed to evade Border Patrol agents.

Whomever that was the "original public meaning" for, it sure wasn't the Supreme Court.

To the contrary, the cases in the first few decades following the adoption of the 14th Amendment leave the strong impression that it had something to do with freed slaves, and freed slaves alone:

– Supreme Court opinion in the Slaughterhouse cases (1873):

“(N)o one can fail to be impressed with the one pervading purpose found in (the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments), lying at the foundation of each, and without which none of them would have been even suggested; we mean the freedom of the slave race, the security and firm establishment of that freedom, and the protection of the newly-made freeman and citizen from the oppressions of those who had formerly exercised unlimited dominion over him.”

– Supreme Court opinion in Ex Parte Virginia (1879):

“[The 14th Amendment was] primarily designed to give freedom to persons of the African race, prevent their future enslavement, make them citizens, prevent discriminating State legislation against their rights as freemen, and secure to them the ballot.”

– Supreme Court opinion in Strauder v. West Virginia (1880):

“The 14th Amendment was framed and adopted ... to assure to the colored race the enjoyment of all the civil rights that, under the law, are enjoyed by white persons, and to give to that race the protection of the general government in that enjoyment whenever it should be denied by the States.”

– Supreme Court opinion in Neal v. Delaware (1880) (majority opinion written by Justice John Marshall Harlan, who was the only dissenting vote in Plessy v. Ferguson):

“The right secured to the colored man under the 14th Amendment and the civil rights laws is that he shall not be discriminated against solely on account of his race or color.”

– Supreme Court opinion in Elk v. Wilkins (1884):

“The main object of the opening sentence of the 14th Amendment was ... to put it beyond doubt that all persons, white or black, and whether formerly slaves or not, born or naturalized in the United States, and owing no allegiance to any alien power, should be citizens of the United States ... *The evident meaning of (the words, “and subject to the jurisdiction thereof”) is, not merely subject in some respect or degree to the jurisdiction of the United States, but completely*

*subject to their political jurisdiction, and owing them direct and immediate allegiance. ... Persons not thus subject to the jurisdiction of the United States at the time of birth cannot become so afterward, except by being naturalized ..."*

One has to leap forward 200 years from "the founding of the republic" to find the first claim that kids born to illegal immigrants are citizens: To wit, in dicta (irrelevant chitchat) by Justice William Brennan, slipped into the footnote of a 5-4 decision in 1982.

So to be precise, what Yoo means by the "founding of the republic," and Rivkin means by "the original public meaning" of the 14th Amendment, is: "Brennan dicta from a 1982 opinion."

Perhaps, if asked, the Supreme Court would discover a "constitutional" right for illegal aliens to sneak into the country, drop a baby, and win citizenship for the kid and welfare benefits for the whole family. (Seventy-one percent of illegal immigrant households with children are on government assistance.)

But it is a fact that the citizenship of illegal alien kids has never been argued, briefed or ruled on by the Supreme Court.

Yoo and Rivkin aren't stupid. It appears that the most significant part of their analysis was Yoo's legal opinion: "I don't think Trump is a Republican. I think actually he is ruining the Republican Party." *Please hire me, Jeb!! (or Rubio)!*

O'Reilly could get more reliable constitutional analyses from Columba Bush than political lawyers dying to get back into government.

## **General Information**

### **Search engines could already be tilting elections, study says**

By [Drew Harwell](#), The Washington Post, August 10

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2015/08/10/how-google-could-swing-the-2016-election/?wpisrc=nl\\_tech&wpmm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2015/08/10/how-google-could-swing-the-2016-election/?wpisrc=nl_tech&wpmm=1)

**The experiment was simple: Take a diverse group of undecided voters, let them research the candidates on a Google-esque search engine, then tally their votes — never mentioning that the search was rigged, giving top link placement to stories supporting a selected candidate.**

**The researchers expected the bias would sway voters, but they were shocked by just how much: Some voters became 20 percent more likely to support the favored candidate.**



The experiment was simple: Take a diverse group of undecided voters, let them research the candidates on a Google-esque search engine, then tally their votes — never mentioning that the search was rigged, giving top link placement to stories supporting a selected candidate.

The researchers expected the bias would sway voters, but they were shocked by just how much: Some voters became 20 percent more likely to support the favored candidate.

And almost none of the voters caught onto how the results were being skewed. In fact, those who did notice the preferential treatment, the researchers said, felt even more validated that they'd made the right choice.

The series of studies exploring the "search engine manipulation effect," to be [published](#) soon in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, highlights the vast and invisible influence that tech giants such as Google, which handles two-thirds of all U.S. searches, can wield on a national scale.

That search results color our thinking is nothing new: American companies spend tens of billions of dollars every year to get their sites to the top of the pile. But in an age where learning about candidates is always only one search away, researchers say the effect could wield a worrying level of influence — and that it has already helped swing some votes.

These studies [first](#) attracted attention a few years ago, but researchers Robert Epstein and Ronald E. Robertson now say they've been able to repeat its results across five double-blind, randomized experiments, covering a diverse pool of more than 4,500 undecided voters in the United States and India.

The tests, using a specially designed search engine called Kadoodle, found that voters tended to increase their preference for candidates favored higher in the search results, especially if they were unfamiliar with the names on the ballot.

"I couldn't even believe what we got," said Epstein, a senior research psychologist at the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology. "It seemed impossible ... to be able to shift that many undecided voters toward whoever we chose."

That effect, Epstein said, could grant leaders of the world's search engines extraordinary power over how voters cast their ballots. In the study, the researchers wrote that the effect has "perhaps already been affecting the outcomes of close elections."

Skeptics of the research have noted that voters are immersed in a swirl of information beyond just what they type into Google and can also be swayed by factors like political, religious and social ties.

The search engines also appeared relatively less influential in one experiment involving Indian voters in last year's Lok Sabha elections — the world's biggest election to date, with more than 800 million eligible voters — perhaps suggesting that the search effects are more subdued amid the tumult of a real-life vote.

Even without a sweeping (and unproven) search-engine conspiracy, the effect gives further insight into how we decide what to trust online.

Recent [research](#) published by the American Psychological Association found that just searching the Internet for information makes us feel smarter, probably because we confuse our own knowledge with the boundless wisdom on the Web.

A Pew [survey](#) in 2012 found that 73 percent of Americans believed most or all of what they found on search engines was "accurate and trustworthy"; a similar-sized group said the engines themselves were "a fair and unbiased source of information."

That becomes a problem, because researchers said search engines can — through its users, the media and the many others who contribute to the Web — end up placing greater weight on more popular candidates, snowballing and skewing the race.

And all it takes is securing the first page of search results: In a 2007 eye-tracking [study](#) in the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, searchers fixated on and trusted the higher-listed results far more, even when the lower links returned more relevant results.

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## **The U.S. Forest Service and a Box of Frogs**

Brian Gardner, From the Internet

After 30 years of dealing with the U.S. Forest Service, I sense that they are finally reaching a critical melt-down stage.

Land management policies are spinning wildly out of control and biological anarchy rules. Administrators and personnel jump in and out of the political cauldron like a box of frogs on steroids.

Here are ten reasons that explain how they got where they are and why you probably cannot expect things to change anytime soon:

**REASON 1: PROMOTION/ADVANCEMENT SYSTEM** The Forest Service rewards rank and tenure, not genuine experience, intelligence, skill or virtue.

Forest Managers and scores of other FS employees are regularly forced to fill job openings elsewhere across the nation in order to advance or survive within the government bureaucracy. Of course they are rendered completely ignorant when they arrive at their new job locations, since the land they descend upon is nothing like the landscape they left behind.

This kind of transient, revolving-door management scheme would be considered insane by any private, bedrock industry on the planet. Real enterprise requires talented, experienced personnel on site to direct and manage land holdings. But in the Forest Service, a ranking Supervisor from a tiny Florida cypress swamp is likely to be promoted to manage a vast, Oregon alpine forest of fir and pine. All they require is a basic understanding of the latest CFP Regulations and a means to deposit their paychecks.

**REASON 2: ROMAN ETHICS** Every Forest Service employee, regardless of rank, is indoctrinated with an ancient Roman concept: That government is an end in itself and their *raison d'être*. They must be made to believe that their regulations and penalties are actually a gift to the public and a benefit to all of humanity -- that without their superior control and enforcement, National Forests would become...well... the diseased, insect-infested, worthless wasteland that they have become.

Why else, in the face of their overwhelming failure, would they arrogantly persist in proclaiming themselves the saviors of the ecosystem and lords of the biosphere?

**REASON 3: HIRING/FIRING POLICIES** The Forest Service has become an employment juggernaut and safe haven for anyone who manages to break the barrier of 'temporary' job status. Once made permanent, you couldn't successfully terminate Charles Manson without reams of administrative documentation to substantiate individual acts of misconduct over five years, intervention hearings, formal appeals and supporting testimony.

More realistically though, it has become nearly impossible to dismiss from service the incompetent, the lazy, the inordinately prejudiced, the foolish, the

deranged... Unless they commit the most vile of bureaucratic sins: insubordination. To disagree or question any directive - no matter how senseless it may seem - is a cardinal violation of internal politics and will get you canned (or more likely re-assigned) in a week.

Their method tends to reward those who are lazy but compliant, to promote people who are incompetent but who object the least to performing nebulous tasks. Those who remain become entrenched Lemmings. When they retire or leave the FS (for any reason), they seldom find work in the private sector - unless the employer desperately needs a FS interpreter to fix government contracts - because they have no viable skill in the actual economy.

**REASON 4: JOB SECURITY MOTIVATION** Forest Service employees do not spend sleepless nights worrying about the condition of the National Forests or the welfare of American citizens. They do not drive to work dreaming of ways to improve land management or cut costs.

Instead, they mainly focus upon sustaining their jobs - along with the opulent medical and retirement benefits the government guarantees to all its minions - and upon positioning themselves to move up the bureaucratic food chain. The aloof and vacant attitude they project to the general public is not the result of some special, objective professionalism they possess. The fact is that they truly don't care. That is, of course, unless you're powerful enough to impact their job status or threaten their internal advancement.

**REASON 5: SOCIAL STIGMA** FS personnel don't often hang out with ranchers, farmers, loggers, miners or anyone else who has a sincere, vested interest in the land they manage.

Much like law enforcement officers, they sequester themselves into small cloisters of like-thinking individuals and conduct their social activities inside the sphere of their own little group. Thus surrounded by people who uniformly support and confirm their opinions, they begin to view everyone outside their group as an adversary or obstacle to their progress.

This elitist, esprit de corps attitude is widely promoted and encouraged in corporate America. But corporate America isn't a public service industry nor do they control vast tracts of public lands -- the disposition of which directly impacts millions of American families.

**REASON 6: THE NUREMBERG FACTOR** Immediately following WWII, at the Nuremberg Trials, and endless procession of war criminals pleaded innocent to a

laundry list of human atrocities by claiming that they were merely 'operating under the orders, directives and regulations of higher authorities'.

In similar fashion, the Forest Service regularly uses the identical blanket-excuse to justify ugly local land management decisions, horrible fiscal policies and performance failures. They want us to believe that they are merely the puppets of their masters in Washington D.C. and, as such, cannot be blamed for their blatant procrastination, incompetence, obstructionism or mismanagement. This 'don't kill the messenger' plea is nothing but a ruse to defray the responsibility for bad decisions away from themselves, which is precisely where it belongs.

It is the classic persona of the faceless, irresponsible bureaucrat who wishes to remain anonymous and distant from the destruction he/she creates. If we are to think of them as messengers of any kind, then they might better be described as the type that precede Armageddon rather than those who deliver babies.

**REASON 7: PSEUDO-MILITARY STRUCTURE** The only military operating procedures the Forest Service has adopted are the ones that make them among the least effective organizations on the planet.

The 'foyer' system was outdated shortly after the signing of the Magna Carta. The 'why have a hundred people do it with shovels when you can have a thousand do it with tea spoons' philosophy was dropped after the last depression but is still overwhelmingly popular with FS Administrators. Perhaps the one contemporary characteristic that both the military and the Forest Service share is their propensity to spend an incredible amount of money on new equipment and menial tasks.

**REASON 8: PROBLEM-SOLVING MENTALITY** Problem-solvers need -- uh, well -- problems. The Forest Service is saturated with people who couldn't pour water out of a boot if the directions were carved in the heel... unless the task was presented to them as a problem to solve. And everybody knows there isn't any money in prevention.

But the problem (with problems) is that something has to happen before a team can be assembled to fix it. That makes everything they do ex post facto. Insects must first destroy half the forest before the team can figure out how to save the other half, maybe. The ash from a 'controlled burn' has inadvertently landed in nearby drainages and formed natural lye, thus killing every species of fish in the streams for twenty miles in every direction. That's a problem.

But the real problem is you. Everything you might use the National Forest for -- whether it's hiking, riding, mining, grazing, camping, etc. -- is considered inherently destructive. The FS not only views you as an enemy, but considers your personal conduct potentially dangerous regardless of your activity. Smokey the Bear has become a paranoid, cynical, suspicious overlord.

**REASON 9: BUDGET PROCUREMENT** The government rewards lavish spending (see #7). The more you spend, the more you can ask for and receive. The unbelievable waste of both equipment and personnel used to fight forest fires in the west is legendary. But, even without a wildfire, the FS can spend a bloody fortune annually on a single EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) that takes years to produce. That, along with a whole raft of highly questionable employees on the payroll - including wolf-callers, bird-spotters, junior college archaeologists, illegitimate geologists, untrained biologists, tree painters and others - make the Forest Service the most extravagant, least efficient organization outside Sweden.

**REASON 10: LEGAL TIMIDITY** Like any bureaucracy, the Forest Service is terrified by lawyers, law suits, or even the suggestion of legal action. The law supersedes their Ranger Dictatorship and threatens to hold them accountable for their actions. And why are they so timid? Only because they realize that their regulatory laws are no match for actual statutory law. Their inter-office, kangaroo court decisions don't cut it when put under a microscope.

So they spend their time planning the battles they can win and scheme to assert their will upon individuals who cannot afford to oppose them.

**THE BOTTOM LINE** While I know and respect several exceptional individuals who work (or have worked) for the Forest Service, the overall condition of the agency itself is so dismal, corrupt and self-serving that any hope of repairing it is becoming more futile every day. Appointing a political commission of overseers is like asking the rats to watch the mice.

Alarmist environmental constraints will continue to force the Forest Service to circle the wagons and erect every regulatory barrier they can to prevent any activity that even hints of profitability. The legitimate development of natural resources - or even setting foot upon them - has been condemned as a sinful and destructive practice for any reason, let alone mining.

In the mean time, while the National Forests continue to self-destruct under poor management, the Forest Service will continue to thrive until it collapses utterly

and completely like the recent stock market or like a pillar of ash that has grow far too high only to implode upon its own flimsy structure.

## **How Corporations Buy Off Local Judges**

Farron Cousins, Executive Editor of Trial Lawyer magazine, December 31, 2014

<http://ringoffireradio.com/2014/12/how-corporations-buy-off-local-judges/>

**[EDITORS NOTE:** An interesting article. However, as you read through it, each time you see the word CORPORATION just change it to ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION or ELECTED OFFICIAL and it will read equally accurate.]

There is a simple, yet nearly impossible, recipe to follow in order to enact large-scale legislative change in America, for better or for worse. The first ingredient you need is a national disaster. The New Deal brought about sweeping changes in America, but that only happened as a result of the Great Depression. Our current surveillance state was put into hyperdrive as the result of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the never ending "War on Terror." But the reforms of both eras were accomplished because they also contained the second necessary ingredient for success: Unilateral party control over both the Executive and Legislative branches of government.

Given the complexity of this recipe, change is slow moving. A few pieces of good legislation here, a few bad ones there, and the net effect is almost unnoticeable.

So if you're a corporation looking to check off all of the items on your corporate shopping list, you can't sit around and wait for all of these ingredients to hop into your cart – you'd starve to death before that happens. Instead, you try for a simpler recipe that has fewer ingredients, thereby calling for fewer cooks in the kitchen.

This is the scenario that has played itself out with local judges for the last few years. Corporations have found out that it is easier to buy a small time politician at the local level, which means that they are able to better tailor their agenda.

If you're a corporation, it is a logical step. The Supreme Court currently holds a corporate-friendly majority; All but a handful of politicians in Washington, D.C. have some sort of corporate ties either through businesses or campaign donations (so you don't have to worry about what kind of judges will be appointed from this crowd); Trade deals have given them the authority to overstep national laws in other countries, but they still have to break down a few regulatory hurdles at home.

Here's the scenario: Suppose Exxon wants to start a fracking project on a piece of land in North Dakota that is protected by a local law forbidding the process. The oil company can either spend millions, even billions, of dollars on direct political campaign donations and lobbying at the federal level in the hopes that a nation-wide fracking permit would be put into motion. Or, they can spend a few thousand dollars on a judicial race in rural North Dakota, buy a local judge willing to throw out the environmental protection law, and have their drilling rigs in place and be making money before the case can even be appealed. It may not be a large-scale victory, but it is a quick victory that will immediately begin yielding profits – profits that will then go towards buying the next local judge a few towns over.

As much as 90% of litigation in the United States is decided in local and state courts, the vast majorities of these cases involve a corporation of some size. In terms of number, that's about 100 million cases – from traffic injuries to oil spills – that take place in lower level courts. So without even worrying about federal appeals courts or even the U.S. Supreme Court, corporations can give obscene amounts of money to local judges, which insures that they are covered for 90% of the litigation that they may face.

With roughly 30,000 judges serving in these levels, 25,500 judges face elections, serving up the opportunity for corporate America to buy up 85% of the lower judiciary. Only 11 states and the District of Columbia do not have direct election of judges.

In the week before the 2014 midterm elections, more than \$1 million was spent on judicial campaign ads (mostly negative ads). The grand total for judicial election spending in 2014 topped \$15 million.

So who's buying? The term "corporation" is thrown around so much that it really has lost all meaning. These aren't nameless, faceless groups buying justice; these are brand names that we use everyday, and special interest groups that we constantly battle against.

The first group to really understand the power of court-buying was the tobacco industry. Beginning in the late 80's and early 90's, R.J. Reynolds, Phillip Morris, and Lorillard began funneling money into state judicial races, right about the time that they were facing billions of dollars in lawsuits. The idea was to stop the suits at the state levels and bleed law firms dry during the appeals process.



While they may not have been as successful as they liked, the idea quickly caught on with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and so began their war on trial lawyers.

The Chamber had an easier time funneling money into elections, as they aren't a single group – they are every industry. By collecting the donations from their members and then donating, there isn't any immediately visible conflict of interest.

Believe it or not, the Chamber and tobacco industry approach to judicial elections has been small potatoes compared to the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC.)

Mike Ludwig, writing for TruthOut, explained the effectiveness of the RSLC: *The RSLC has helped Republicans fill seats in statehouses and legislatures across the country and spent \$27 million on races in 42 states during the 2012 election season alone. The group now claims to be the only national political group that is focused on state-level judicial elections, which are traditionally nonpartisan affairs in many states...*

The RSLC has laid out their plans as part of their “Judicial Fairness Initiative.” The ironically named plan is all about their perceived notion of “fairness” for corporations. The same corporations that pour money into their group every year. Corporations like Duke Energy, who received a 1,600% rate of return when they purchased a judge in West Virginia. Corporations like Koch Industries who wanted to unseat a judge in Montana, where they hope to expand their oil exploration activities. Corporations like State Farm who successfully placed a judge in Illinois that returned the favor by overturning millions of dollars worth of lawsuits against the company. Or Koch Industries again, when they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to get rid of three Florida judges (this time they were successful.)

It really is as simple as this – name a corporation that you've done battle with in the courtroom, and you can find a judicial race that they've poured money into.

And guess what? It works!

Three separate studies have been released in the last 18 months that show that a judicial candidate who receives money from a corporation for their campaign will consistently and predictably issue more corporate-friendly decisions than their counterparts who did not receive money. But at least the public has caught on – a full 87% of Americans surveyed by The Brennan Center for Justice

said that they believe that a judge taking money from industry will influence their rulings. And they couldn't be more correct.

The bottom line is that the Judicial Branch of our government is packed to the brim with corporate, political hacks. There are a few bright spots out there, but not enough to turn the tide of pro-corporate, anti-consumer rulings that are flowing endlessly out of our court system.

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## **Education Is Truly Dangerous ... to Tyranny!**

Written by [John F. McManus](#), New American, 24 August 2015

[http://www.thenewamerican.com/reviews/opinion/item/21457-education-is-truly-dangerous-to-tyranny?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=45f9e5d958-](http://www.thenewamerican.com/reviews/opinion/item/21457-education-is-truly-dangerous-to-tyranny?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=45f9e5d958-)

[The\\_Editors\\_Top\\_Picks\\_3\\_12\\_143\\_12\\_2014&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8ca494f2d2-45f9e5d958-282942837](http://www.thenewamerican.com/reviews/opinion/item/21457-education-is-truly-dangerous-to-tyranny?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=45f9e5d958-)

It isn't necessary to explain that Hitler's Nazi regime amounted to extreme totalitarianism. The leaders of the so-called "Master Race" considered huge numbers of human beings unworthy, even unworthy of life itself. But not all were to be exterminated. Some were needed as workers to produce goods and some were forced to become servants for the Nazi leaders.

In 1959, journalist William Shirer authored *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, a monumental 1,200-page study detailing much about Europe's experience with the Third Reich. Shirer laid out the attitude of Hitler and his chiefs about virtually everything in his remarkable work. He, of course, pointed to several varieties of horror practiced by the regime, and what he reported about education is especially revealing.

Hitler's right-hand man, Martin Bormann, explained the Nazi thinking with regard to the already conquered Slavs in a 1942 letter sent to a fellow Party member. In part, it stated: "Education is dangerous. It is enough if they can count up to 100.... Every educated person is a future enemy." Heinrich Himmler, the dreaded leader of the secret police, wrote that half of the conquered Czechs would be forced to become "workers." Those from the educated class were "intellectuals" and they were to be "eliminated."

As for the conquered Poles, Hitler himself stated that they were "born for low labor.... There can be no question of improvement for them. It is necessary to keep the standard of life low in Poland and it must not be permitted to rise." Addressing the potential problem of Polish priests, Hitler stated, "... they will preach what we want them to preach. If any priest reacts differently, we shall make short work of him. The task of the priest is to keep the Poles quiet, stupid and dull-witted."

Why bring this up in 2015? Simply because the education being supplied to America's youth parallels what was given to the people conquered by Nazi Germany, even what many living in Germany were provided.

In December 2013, statistics compiled by the 34 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) **ranked America's teenagers as follows: 31st in math; 24th in science; and 21st in reading.** Each of these rankings was worse than it had been over the preceding three years. Each continues to sink.

So what have the nation's educators done to address the continuing slide? They gave America's students Race to the Top, Outcome Based Education, Goals 2000, and No Child Left Behind. None of those programs helped to reverse the downward trend. Now they have produced Common Core, which is being resisted by many because it, too, will not bring improvement. It will lead even more surely to the kind of uneducated worker bees sought in years past by the Nazi regime.

**Education actually is dangerous for utopians or tyrants. An educated individual is a "future enemy" to a would-be totalitarian.** On the other hand, he or she poses no threat to free people living in a free country.

To learn more about how America's education system became such a failure, we recommend reading [Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians are Using Government Schools to Destroy America's Children](#). Veteran educator Samuel Blumenfeld teamed up with journalist Alex Newman to warn all Americans, especially American parents, about the need for radical change in teaching the young. Without radical change, including removing federal involvement from education (where it has no constitutional authorization), the ratings will sink further and the students coming out of the system will be ill-prepared to revitalize what was once the finest educational system in the entire world.

If you want your children or grandchildren to receive a classical education similar to our Founding Fathers, we highly recommend [FreedomProject Education \(FPE\)](#). An affiliate of The John Birch Society, FPE provides a full Kindergarten to 12th Grade curriculum from top teachers via the Internet. The best part? It's 100% free of Common Core!

## **Sin of Contemporaneity**

# **Cleansing History By Applying Today's Standards To Our Ancestors**

[Allan Brownfeld](#), Human Events, Jul 14, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/07/14/sin-of-contemporaneity-cleansing-history-by-applying-todays-standards-to-our-ancestors/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/07/14/sin-of-contemporaneity-cleansing-history-by-applying-todays-standards-to-our-ancestors/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



It is good that the Confederate battle flag has been removed from the South Carolina statehouse grounds. It properly belongs in a museum. Robert E. Lee himself would agree. After surrendering in 1865, he sought to bring the country together. He urged his fellow Confederates to furl their flags. He left instructions that the Confederate flag not be displayed at his funeral. In fact, when Lee surrendered at Appomattox, he was going against Jefferson Davis's order to fight on. "It's over," Lee declared.

What we are witnessing now, however, is a wholesale assault upon our history. The Founding Fathers have been targeted. It has been suggested that the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial are inappropriate, since they celebrate men who owned slaves. CNN commentator Don Lemon suggested that we "rethink" any homage to Jefferson. Even in states where slavery was outlawed at an early date, state flags are under attack, because of their depiction of Native Americans. Boston Globe columnist Yvonne Abraham said the Massachusetts flag "is no Confederate flag, but...still pretty awful." The Memphis City Council voted to dig up the bodies of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife from their public grave. The rebel flag-clad General Lee automobile from "The Dukes of Hazard" has been removed from memorabilia shops and the show itself removed from re-runs. The Washington National Cathedral is considering breaking its own windows because they contain Confederate flag imagery which was meant to be conciliatory. Louis

Farrakhan has demanded that the American flag itself be hauled down. Speaking at a Washington church he declared: "I don't know what the fight is about over the Confederate flag. We've caught as much hell under the American flag as under the Confederate flag."

It's time for all of us to take a deep breath. Those who seek to erase our history sound a bit like the Taliban and ISIS, who are busy destroying historic structures all over the Middle East if they predate the rise of Islam. History is what it is, a mixed bag of mankind's strengths and weaknesses, of extraordinary achievements and the most horrible depredations. To judge the men and women of past eras by today's standards is to be guilty of what the respected Quaker theologian Elton Trueblood called the "sin of contemporaneity." In the case of those who refer to slavery as our "original sin," a look at history is instructive.

Sadly, from the beginning of recorded history until the 19th century, slavery was the way of the world. Rather than some American uniqueness in practicing slavery, the fact is that when the Constitution was written in 1787, slavery was legal every place in the world. What was unique was that in the American colonies there was a strenuous objection to slavery and that the most prominent framers of the Constitution wanted to eliminate it at the very start of the nation.

Slavery played an important part in many ancient civilizations. Indeed, most people in the ancient world regarded slavery as a natural condition of life, which could befall anyone at any time. It has existed almost universally through history among peoples of every level of material culture—it existed among nomadic pastoralists of Asia, hunting societies of North American Indians, and sea people such as the Norsemen. The legal codes of Sumer provide documentary evidence that slavery existed there as early as the 4th millennium B.C. The Sumerian symbol for slave in cuneiform writing suggests "foreign."

The British historian of classical slavery, Moses I. Finley, writes, "The cities in which individual freedom reached its highest expression—most obviously Athens—were cities in which chattel slavery flourished." At the time of its cultural peak, Athens may have had 115,000 slaves to 43,000 citizens. The same is true of ancient Rome. Plutarch notes that on a single day in the year 167 B.C., 150,000 slaves were sold in a single market.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition was also one which accepted the legitimacy of slavery. The Old Testament regulates the relationship between master and slave in great detail. In Leviticus (XXV; 39-55), God instructs the Children of Israel to enslave the heathen and their progeny forever. By classical standards, the treatment of slaves called for in the Bible was humane. In Exodus (XXI: 20-21) it

states that if a master blinded his slave or knocked out one of his teeth, the slave was to go free. There is no departure from this approach to slavery in the New Testament. In a number of places, St. Paul urges slaves to obey their masters with full hearts and without equivocation. St. Peter urges slaves to obey even unjust orders of their masters.

Slavery was a continuous reality throughout the entire history which preceded the American Revolution. In England, 10 per cent of the persons enumerated in the Domesday Book (A.D. 1086) were slaves, and they could be put to death with impunity by their owners. During the Viking age, Norse merchant sailors sold Russian slaves in Constantinople. Venice grew to prosperity and power as a slave-trading republic, which took its human cargo from the Byzantine Empire. Portugal imported large numbers of African slaves from 1444 on. By the middle of the 16th century, Lisbon had more black residents than white.

Slavery was not a European invention, but was universal. Throughout the Middle Ages, black Africans sold slaves to other Africans and to Moslem traders who also brought slaves to Asia. Among the Aztecs, a man who could not pay his debts sold himself into slavery to his creditor. In China, poor families who could not feed all of their children often sold some as slaves. As the Founding Fathers looked through history, they saw slavery as an accepted institution.

What is historically unique is not that slavery was the accepted way of the world in 1787, but that so many of the leading men in the American colonies of that day wanted to eliminate it, and pressed vigorously to do so. Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton were ardent abolitionists. John Jay, who would become the first Chief Justice, was president of the New York Anti-Slavery Society. Rufus King and Gouverneur Morris were in the forefront of opposition to slavery.

One of the great debates at the Constitutional Convention related to the African slave trade. George Mason of Virginia made an eloquent plea for making it illegal: "The infernal traffic originated in the avarice of British merchants. the British government constantly checked the attempt of Virginia to put a stop to it...Slavery discourages arts and manufactures. The poor despise labor when performed by slaves...Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of heaven on a country."

The provision finally adopted read: "The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight..." This clause was widely viewed by opponents of slavery as an important first step toward abolition. The delay of 20 years was considered the price 10 of

the states were willing to pay in order to assure that the original union would include the three states of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Even in those states there was sympathy for an end to slavery, but they wanted additional time to phase out their economic dependence on it.

In his original draft of the Declaration of Independence, one of the principal charges made by Thomas Jefferson against King George III and his predecessors was that they would not allow the American colonies to outlaw the importation of slaves. When Jefferson was first elected to the Virginia legislature, at the age of 25, his first political act was to begin the elimination of slavery. Though unsuccessful, he tried to further encourage the emancipation process by writing in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal." In his draft of a constitution for Virginia he provided that all slaves would be emancipated in that state by 1800, and that any child born in Virginia after 1801 would be born free. This, however, was not adopted.

In his autobiography, Jefferson declared, "Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people are to be free." In 1784 when an effort was unsuccessfully made to exclude slavery from the Northwest Territory, Jefferson was one of its leading supporters. Finally, with the passage of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, slavery was indeed excluded from these territories—a further step along the path to the final elimination of slavery, and a clear indication of the view of slavery which predominated among the framers of the Constitution

American history is flawed, as is any human enterprise. Yet those who now call for the removal of statues and monuments commemorating our past are measuring our history against perfection, not against other real places. What other societies in 1787—or any date in history prior to that time, would these critics find more free and equitable than the one established by the Constitution? Where else was there religious freedom and no religious test for public office in 1787? Compared to perfection, our ancestors are found wanting. Compared to other real places in the world, they were clearly ahead of their time, advancing the frontiers of freedom.

If we judge the past by the standards of today, must we stop reading Plato and Aristotle, Sophocles and Aristophanes, Dante and Chaucer? Will we soon hear calls to demolish the Acropolis and the Coliseum, as we do to remove memorials to Jefferson and statues of Robert E. Lee? Must we abandon the Bible because it lacks modern sensibility. Where will it end? As theologian Elton Trueblood said, "contemporaneity" is indeed a sin. We would do well to avoid its embrace.

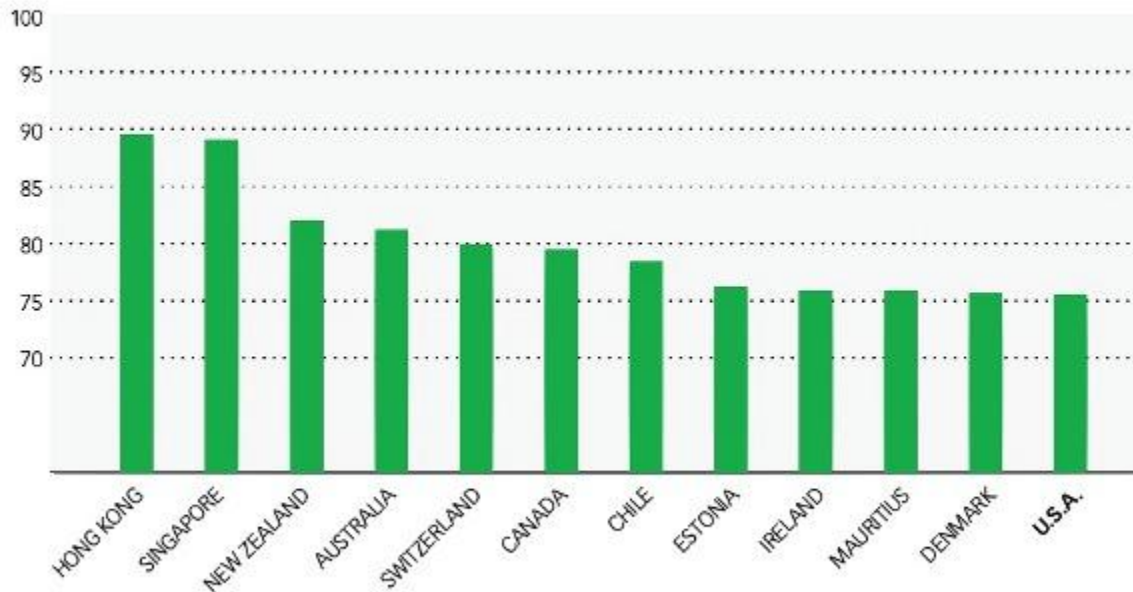
# U.S. losing living standard as economic freedom erodes

**Land of the heavily taxed, home of the highly regulated  
no longer world leader**

[Jerome R. Corsi](#), WND, 07/04/2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/07/u-s-losing-living-standard-as-economic-freedom-erodes/>

## Economic Freedom Score



Source: Heritage Foundation, 2015 Index of Economic Freedom

WND

**Editor's Note:** This is the fourth story in a series about the unprecedented dependence Americans have on their federal government. The [first story](#) shows how the food-stamp program has doubled under President Obama, as it did under President George W. Bush. The [second story](#) reports the strain on the welfare system caused by record numbers of Americans retiring amid a declining workforce. The [third story](#) shows how the government obscures the figures that indicate the real unemployment situation in the U.S.

NEW YORK – With the United States sinking on several major indices of economic freedom as it celebrates its Independence Day, free-market advocates have reason to ask, “Whatever happened to the land of the free and the home of the brave?”

**A review of several credibly researched global indices makes clear economic freedom in the United States has dropped in an alarming fashion since the year**



**2000, with no reversal in the trend yet evident from the Obama administration's highly touted "economic recovery."**

**With the United States rapidly becoming the land of the highly taxed and the home of the heavily regulated, it is losing its position as the world leader in entrepreneurial free enterprise.**

The economic theory underpinning global indices of economic freedom stems back to Adam Smith's classic book, "The Wealth of Nations," in which he stated in Book IV, Chapter 9, "Every man, as long as he does not violate the laws of justice, is left perfectly free to pursue his own interest his own way, and to bring both his industry and capital into competition with those of any other man, or order of men."

**The basic concept is that greater economic freedom will encourage the type of enterprise that will build general prosperity for the nation as a whole. Limitation on economic freedom created by burdensome intervention of the government in the economic affairs of the nation, meanwhile, will hamper economic growth, thereby diminishing prosperity and reducing the nation's standard of living.**

### **On the horizon: Lower living standard?**

Economists warn that as economic freedom in the United States diminishes, the nation risks losing the high standard its citizens have enjoyed since the end of World War II.

"Until 2000, the United States participated in the world's march toward greater economic freedom, its score rising from 7.6 in 1970 to 8.65 in 2000, when the country ranked second only to Hong Kong in economic freedom," [Investor's Business Daily said in a June 12 article titled "Economic Freedom Made America Rich – But It's Falling."](#)

"Since then, U.S. economic freedom has been faltering, declining to 7.74 in 2011 and dropping the United States out of the Top 15 in the worldwide rankings," continued IBD authors Michael Cox and Richard Alm, the director and the writer-in-residence respectively of the William J. O'Neil Center for Global Markets and Freedom at the SMU Cox School of Business.

The economic fundamentals predict U.S. consumption per capita of \$25,460 a year, a striking 22.2 percent below today's figure, they write.

"We're living above our means, just as many Americans have sensed without any real reason –until now," Cox and Alm noted.

They are concerned that America's slip in economic freedom will translate into a lower standard of living.

"For Americans, the impact on living standards will most likely be gradual rather than sudden, perhaps manifested in sluggish income growth or masked by higher inflation," the authors wrote.

"The country still has a large capital stock per capita, amassed over the decades of very high economic freedom, providing Americans a cushion to maintain living standards or even continue to raise them at a slow rate," they stressed.

Their conclusion: "Unless the United States reverses its decline in economic freedom, the best Americans can hope for is middling growth in living standards, and they may not even get that."

### **'Anemic economic recovery'**

The conservative Washington-based Heritage Foundation's ["2015 Index of Economic Freedom,"](#) an annual study conducted with the Wall Street Journal that began in 1995, pegs the [U.S. freedom economic score at 76.2](#), the 12th freest in the world.

The Heritage Foundation commented on the years of the Obama presidency, noting the "precipitous downward spiral in U.S. freedom since 2008 has come to a halt in the 2015 index."

It said the 1.6 point decline in overall economic freedom in the United States over the past five years reflects "broad-based deteriorations in key policy areas, particularly those related to the upholding the rule of law and limited government."

"The anemic post-recession recovery has been characterized by slow growth, high unemployment, a decrease in the number of Americans seeking work, and great uncertainty that has held back investment," the Heritage Foundation said. "Increased tax and regulatory burdens aggravated by favoritism toward entrenched interests, have undercut America's historically dynamic entrepreneurial growth."

The freedom index ranked five countries as "free": Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland.

Among the countries ranked “mostly free,” the United States is sixth, behind Canada, Chile, Estonia, Ireland, Mauritius and Denmark.

In an article titled “Why Does Economic Freedom Matter,” Heritage Foundation authors Kim R. Holmes, Ph.D., and Matthew Spalding, Ph.D., explained that ever since the American Revolution, the United States has had a tradition of resisting over-reaching government intrusion that limits economic freedom.

“America’s founders knew that liberty is about more than just securing political freedoms,” Holmes and Spalding noted. “True liberty requires economic freedom – the ability to profit from our own ideas and labor, to work, produce, consume, own, trade, and invest according to our own choices.

“Thomas Jefferson underscored that point when he observed that ‘a wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement,’” Holmes and Spalding continued.

### **Expanded use of regulations**

Conservative think tanks are not the only international groups concluding the United States is losing its place as the world leader in entrepreneurial free enterprise.

The Fraser Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Canada, in its [2014 Economic Freedom of the World index](#) dropped the United States to No. 12 in economic freedom among the 152 nations currently evaluated.

“Throughout most of the period from 1980 to 2000, the United States ranked as the world’s third freest economy, behind Hong Kong and Singapore,” the Fraser Institute report commented.

**The report said the “expanded use of regulation in the United States has resulted in sharp rating reductions for components such as independence of the judiciary, impartiality of the courts and regulatory favoritism.”**

**“To a large degree, the United States has experienced a significant move away from rule of law and toward a highly regulated, politicized, and heavily policed state.”**



## **Obamism and Neo-Fascist America**

By [Steve McCann](#), American Thinker, August 10, 2015

[http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/08/obamism\\_and\\_neofascist\\_america.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/08/obamism_and_neofascist_america.html)

The philosophical foundation of the American Left and the Democratic Party is a proprietary hybrid of Fascism. While in lockstep with the economic and political tenets of Fascism, the unique feature of the current American iteration is anti-nationalism as reflected in the belief that the United States is the locus of malevolence in the world as compared to militant nationalism of Italy and Germany in the 1920's and 30's.

Sheldon Richman in the [Concise Encyclopedia of Economics](#) describes Fascism as follows:

As an economic system, fascism is socialism with a capitalistic veneer.

Where socialism abolished all market relations outright, fascism left the appearance of market relations while planning all economic activities. Where socialism abolished money and prices; fascism controlled the monetary system and set all prices and wages politically.

Under fascism, the state, through official agencies, controlled all aspects of manufacturing, commerce, finance, and agriculture. Licensing was ubiquitous; no economic activity could be undertaken without government permission. Levels of consumption were dictated by the state, and "excess" incomes had to be surrendered as taxes or "loans".

The concept of a corporate state has been a staple of the American Left since Franklin Roosevelt. It was FDR that initiated the National Labor Relations Board to make the Government the final arbiter in labor issues. The National Recovery Act governed all aspects of manufacturing and commerce and the Agricultural Adjustment Act which introduced central planning to agriculture. It is generally acknowledged today that this approach by Roosevelt prolonged the Great Depression by another five years. (Jonah Goldberg's masterpiece *Liberal Fascism* convincingly demonstrates the fascist roots of today's liberalism.)

Beginning in the 1960's the American Left, while nominally in favor of Marxism, had as their foundational tenets narcissism and rampant anti-Americanism. However, as the societal and economic seeds of Fascism were already planted and generally accepted by a sizable segment of the populace, it was a short logical leap, therefore, to become proponents of the economic and political precepts of Marxism's closest cousin.

While the Fascism of Mussolini and Hitler incorporated extreme nationalism, the proponents of the American reincarnation believe that the United States, as founded, is malevolent and should surrender its position as the world's economic and military superpower by showing deference to America's enemies and casting aside any semblance of nationalism or uniqueness as penance for both domestic and international "sins" of the past.

Barack Obama, steeped in the stew that is the unique American version of Fascism since childhood, is the poster child for its success in becoming the dominate philosophy of the Democratic Party. He has, during his two terms as President, been so successful in advancing the tenets of this distinctive American political system that it should be named after him. Obamism is the confluence of the economic and political tenets of Fascism and the narcissistic anti-Americanism of the 1960's.

**The characteristics and current status of Obamism are as follows:**

- A.** Within Obamism ideology reigns supreme, and the state not the individual is paramount. Thus the mindset that produced the misanthropy of Planned Parenthood as well as the squalor rampant in the ghettos of the urban areas controlled by the Democratic Party. Totalitarianism in the form of thought and speech control through threats and intimidation has become epidemic and any lie or fabrication is allowable in order to destroy a political opponent. Additionally, as the United States is historically a racist and bigoted country, the society must be transformed through unfettered illegal immigration, de facto reparations through wealth redistribution, and re-education of the masses.
- B.** ObamaCare is not about health care, per se; rather it is intended to dictate to individuals what insurance they must buy, what health care they are allowed to access, and ultimately what behavior is acceptable -- all at the whim of a centralized bureaucracy. The Dodd-Frank Bill, which has spawned 28,000 pages of regulations, firmly establishes the concept of "too big to fail" for certain financial institutions, thereby subjecting them to the absolute control of the state while allowing, and in many cases forcing, others to cease doing business, as well as instituting lending and operating policies determined by government regulators. The entire alphabet soup of federal agencies, particularly the EPA and the IRS, have become agents of the administration actively bypassing Congress and writing laws and regulations in order to either limit or to erode individual rights.
- C.** The Obama regime willfully ignores what laws they deem to be inconvenient, all the while busily packing the courts with like-minded proponents of Obamism. They have set a precedent by throwing out the

rule of law when it comes to the rights of private investors by their actions against the bondholders of Chrysler and General Motors. They have chosen which businesses will succeed or fail by the use of taxpayer financing and subsidies or the arbitrary waving of rules and regulations.

- D.** A key characteristic of Fascist thinking is rampant cronyism and corruption. Myopic capitalists, forced to ingratiate themselves with the state, are coerced into underwriting the election of those in power in exchange for favorable government contracts and avoidance of regulatory wrath. Much of Wall Street, Hollywood, the Unions, major companies such as General Electric, and the super-wealthy such as Warren Buffet and various internet billionaires, are therefore willing to sleep with those in power and be used as props in any propoganda campaign initiated by the Democratic Party.
- E.** The Obama administration has, through the Justice Department and other agencies, behaved exactly as many quasi-fascist regimes in the past -- almost all of whom have been governed by groups of friends and associates who appoint each other to government positions and use governmental power and authority to protect themselves and their friends from accountability.
- F.** Barack Obama has traveled the world apologizing for the United States and, in his view, its innumerable failings of the past. He has gutted the Defense Department and reneged on agreements with various allies such as the Czech Republic, Poland and Israel. He has become an apologist for many of America's adversaries such as China, Iran and Cuba. His recent agreement with Iran regarding nuclear weapons guarantees instability through an inevitable nuclear arms race and eventual conflict in the Middle East which will involve the United States. It is apparent, through his actions, that he is determined to recast America into being just another nation on the world stage subject to global governance.

There are many conservative and a few mainstream pundits that claim the Obama presidency is a failure. On the contrary, it is the most ideologically successful administration in the history of the United States. Far exceeding what Franklin Roosevelt was able to accomplish in his three full terms.

Within the army of Republican presidential candidates, the vast majority are either ignorant of or refuse to accept the reality of who the opponents are and the depth to which the nation has sunk. The ultimate Republican nominee must recognize who the enemy is, their tactics and philosophical underpinning as well as the true depth of how far the nation has fallen. That must be the primary criteria in choosing a nominee.

# CONSTITUTION

## 2nd Amendment)

### THE RULES OF A GUNFIGHT

"Peace is that brief glorious moment in history when everybody stands around reloading."

In a gunfight, the most important rule is ....HAVE A GUN!!!

These are shooting tips from various Concealed Carry Instructors. If you own a gun, you will appreciate these rules... If not, you should get one, learn how to use it and learn the rules.

#### RULES

**A:** Guns have only two enemies: rust and politicians.

**B:** Its always better to be judged by 12 than carried out by 6.

**C:** Cops carry guns to protect themselves, not you.

**D:** Never let someone or something that threatens you get inside arm's length.

**E:** Never say "I've got a gun." If you need to use deadly force, the first sound they should hear is the safety clicking off or the hammer cocking.

**F:** The average response time of a 911 call is 23 minutes; the response time of a .357 is 1400 feet per second.

**G:** The most important rule in a gunfight is: Always Win - there is no such thing as a fair fight. Always Win - cheat if necessary. Always Win - 2nd place doesn't count

**H:** Make your attacker advance through a wall of bullets .... You may get killed with your own gun, but they'll have to beat you to death with it because it will be empty .

**I:** If you're in a gun fight: (a) If you're not shooting, you should be loading. (b) If you're not loading, you should be moving. (c) If you're not moving, you're dead.

**J:** In a life and death situation, do something .... It may be wrong, but do something !

**K:** If you carry a gun, people will call you paranoid. Nonsense! If you have a gun, what do you have to be paranoid about?

**L:** You can say "stop" or any other word, but a large bore muzzle pointed at someone's head is pretty much a universal language; and, you won't have to press 1 for Spanish/Mexican or 2 for Chinese or 3 for Arabic.

**M:** Never leave an enemy behind. If you have to shoot, shoot to kill. In court, yours will be the only testimony.

**N:** You cannot save the planet, but you may be able to save yourself and your family.

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## Gun Lies

[John Stossel](#), Human Events, Aug 5, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/08/05/gun-lies/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/08/05/gun-lies/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)



My town, New York City, enforces rigid gun laws. Police refused to assign me a gun permit. The law doesn't even let me hold a fake gun on TV to demonstrate something.

But New York politicians are so eager to vilify gun ownership that they granted an exception to the anti-gun group States United to Prevent Gun Violence. New York allowed States United to set up a fake gun store, where cameras filmed potential gun customers being spoofed by an actor pretending to be a gun-seller.

"This a nine-millimeter semi-automatic. It's a very handy gun. It's easy to use," he says. "You can carry it in a purse like that gal from Wal-Mart. Her two-year-old son reaches into her pocketbook, pulls it out, shoots her. Dead, gone, no Mom!"



States United then made that footage into an anti-gun public service announcement. "Over 60 percent of Americans think owning a gun will make them safer. In fact, owning a gun increases the risk of homicide, suicide and unintentional death," says the video.

It's a powerful message. But it's a lie, says John Lott of the Crime Prevention Research Center. He says that gun control advocates lie all the time.

Lott acknowledges the tragedies. Sometimes a gun in the home is used in a homicide or suicide, or leads to accidental death, but he adds, "It also makes it easier for people to defend themselves — women and the elderly in particular."

Lott says, "Every place in the world that's tried to ban guns ... has seen big increases in murder rates. You'd think at least one time, some place, when they banned guns, murder rates would go down. But that hasn't been the case."

I pushed back: what about people harming themselves?

"There are lots of different ways for people to commit suicide," Lott said, and researchers have looked at how those tragedies are affected by access to guns. "We find that people commit suicide in other ways if they don't have guns."

What about accidents? Lott replies that accidental shooting deaths are relatively rare: "about 500 a year." That sounds bad, but about 400 Americans are killed by overdosing on acetaminophen each year (most of them suicides), and almost as many Americans drown in swimming pools.

"It would be nice if it was zero (but) consider that 120 million Americans own guns," Lott says.

Often those guns are used to prevent crime. The homeowner pulls out the gun and the attacker flees. No one knows how often this happens because these prevented crimes don't become news and don't get reported to the government, but an estimate from the Violence Policy Center suggests crimes may be prevented by guns tens of thousands of times per year.

Add politics to the mix and the anti-gun statistics get even more misleading. Gang members in their late teens or early adulthood killing each other get called "children." Fights between gangs near schools get called school "mass shootings."

The number of mass shootings in America has been roughly level over the past 40 years, but the New York Times still runs headlines like, "FBI Confirms a Sharp Rise in Mass Shootings Since 2000." That headline is absolutely true, but only because they deceitfully picked the year 2000 as their start point, and that was a year with unusually few mass shootings. It's as if the paper wants to make it seem as if mass shootings are always on the rise, even as crime keeps going down.

It all helps stoke paranoia about guns. Some people respond by calling for more controls. Others, fearing the government may ban gun sales, respond by buying more weapons. The number of people holding permits to carry concealed weapons has skyrocketed to 12.8 million, up from 4.6 million just before President Obama took office. Since 40 percent of American households now own guns, anyone who wants to take them away will have a fight on his hands.

Has the increased gun ownership and carrying of guns led to more violence? Not at all. "Violent crime across the board has plummeted," says Lott. "In 1991, the murder rate was about 9.8 (people) per 100,000. (Now) it's down to about 4.2.

I can't convince my friends in New York City, but it's just a fact: More guns — less crime.

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## **Obama Wants to Tie the UN Noose Even Tighter Around the Necks of Gun Owners**

**Obama wants more UN-styled gun control**



<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=4ke8ju7qvbbdp#3856593930>

Right now White House officials are booking flights to Mexico..... and they're not bringing back souvenirs.

They're on their way to the [UN Small Arms Conference](#), to be held in Mexico City on August 24.

And they're planning to bring back the framework for a global gun control regime.

It's important that you contact your Senators right now and tell them to vote NO on any agreement reached at the Mexico UN conference.



Obama has already signed the UN Small Arms Treaty and it is waiting ratification by the Senate.

Obama's global gun grabbers are jetting down to Mexico to iron out the details of this tyrannical new regime.

It requires signing nations to "establish and maintain a national control system, including a national control list."

That means not just NATIONAL gun registration. You will be entered into a GLOBAL gun registration database.

Over the past century, we have seen registration lists used as a prelude to gun confiscation in countries like Rwanda, Cambodia and many more.

Gun confiscation, in turn, led to horrific genocides in many of these countries -- including Rwanda and Cambodia.

Imagine dictators around the world -- who can control the UN blue helmets (aka, the UN military force) -- having your name on record as a gun owner.

It's preposterous! And this is why the Senate MUST kill this toxic agreement.

Please take action to defend your gun rights.

**ACTION:** [Contact your senators right now.](#) Tell them to vote NO on any agreement reached at the Mexico UN conference.



## **Gun-Rights Defender Outsmarts Bureaucrats** **Offers innovative arms-ownership system that protects rights**

[Jerome R. Corsi](#), WND, August 31, 2015

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/08/gun-rights-defender-outsmarts-bureaucrats/>

NEW YORK – When attorney [Dennis Brislawn](#) unexpectedly came across an innovative way to protect Second Amendment firearm rights, he didn't waste time.

Brislawn was in a gun shop in Seattle, just across Lake Washington from his Bellevue office, when a customer uttered two words that grabbed his attention: "gun trust."

"I whipped my head around," Brislawn told WND in an interview, "and I asked him, 'What's a gun trust?'"

That is how [Gun Docx™](#) was born.

"Next thing I know this guy in the gun store explained, 'Well, I want to buy a silencer which is federally registered. The problem is that individuals must apply through their local sheriff or police chief and can get denied for any reason,'" Brislawn recalled the man saying.

The customer explained that using a trust bypasses local law enforcement and goes straight to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

"At that point I knew two things; I wanted a silencer and a gun trust for myself," Brislawn said.

The next week, he was scheduled to give a talk in Virginia for the National Rifle Association on charitable estate planning and planning for firearms, so he knew he had to get to work.

["Within a month, I had Gun Docx Version 1.0](#) drafted, with plans to make it into a system for attorneys to use," he said.

"I created a slideshow for gun owners to explain the issues and the benefits of gun-trust planning in avoiding what I started calling 'accidental felonies.'"

Brislawn emphasized that firearms possession and transfer done incorrectly risks criminal charges.

“And, I was thinking about the 80 to 100 million gun owners out there that might want to know about what I was learning and doing,” he said.

The conversation in the gun shop started a project that has transformed Brislawn’s life.

“On that day there was no guidebook to follow, no class to attend, no resource base to turn to about how this all worked,” he said. “But several friends and I had created trust-attorney software systems for the professional market over the last two decades, and I was confident that I could create a quality gun-trust system that did not exist anywhere.”

### **Gun Docx: The first clients**

Brislawn drafted his first 200 gun trusts for clients who wanted silencers under a new Washington law permitting their use.

“The gun trusts I drafted were submitted to ATF for approval, and about six months went by,” he said. “Then, all of a sudden one, a small flood of gun trusts got kicked back to me by ATF for confusion about the name of the trust.”

Brislawn discovered the ATF has a naming requirement that differs from the way estate attorneys typically name conventional trust documents.

“Under Title II of the NFA, the trust is actually the person,” Brislawn explained. “The name of the trust alone without any other descriptive information is what ATF must see.”

Common trust practice, Brislawn explained, is to state both an informal name, such as “John Smith Gun Trust,” and a more formal name, such as “John Smith, Trustee, or his successors, of the John Smith Gun Trust, dated 1 May 2012, and any amendments thereto.” The formal trust name is commonly used or even required to title assets such as banks and investment accounts, real estate and other assets in the trust.

“I got pretty depressed and wondered how to fix it,” he continued. “I had worked hard on this project, and my concern was about how this would affect my gun owners, that they would not understand.

“That’s not what happened, though, and, best of all, we were able to work out an efficient way to correct the problem by asking for help.”

Bislawn immediately reached out to the National Firearms Branch (NFA) of the ATF in Martinsburg, West Virginia, described the scope of the problem and simply asked for their help.

“The chief of the examinations section stepped in, a former Marine who proved to be an awesome professional and nice guy with total customer-service focus,” Bislawn recalled. “He invited me to come for a working visit to NFA Branch with him and his team.”

Bislawn took up the chief on the offer and flew down to meet the NFA branch director and then the chief and a team that included a senior state examiner and an ATF attorney for the branch.

“We spent a few hours reviewing trust language, concepts, issues, made corrections and created a process to fix things, which I went home and did,” he said.

“They were thrilled to talk to a practitioner and get focus on their issues with gun trusts, and I was rewarded with a tour of the facility. I promised to get the word out to other lawyers. It was clear to me that NFA Branch folks appreciated the chance to help gun owners like you and me to understand and comply with the law.”

Bislawn credits much of his success to his decision to go straight to the regulators and ask for help.

“I said to the ATF guys, ‘We’re trying to do this the right way and we need some help,’” he explained. “We got what we needed from NFA Branch. As I left, the section chief said again, ‘We are here to help gun owners do it right.’”

“I learned right there the value of having open dialogue with the regulators on gun law,” Bislawn said.

Back at home in Washington state, Bislawn's NW Gun Law Group reached out to gun-shop and gun-trust owners, told them what happened with the ATF and then set about to adjust every gun trust he had written, without charge.

“Our gun-trust owners appreciated our efforts and thanked us for having their backs,” he said. “And, from then on, I have done my best to share all lessons learned in this complex area with gun owners we serve.”

## **Outreach to other attorneys**

Brislawn also is dedicated to teaching gun-trust law to other attorneys.

“To date I have taught both online and live courses in gun-trust drafting to hundreds of attorneys around the country,” he said. “I plan to do this for the rest of my life, as it is a fascinating and complex area of law.”

Gun-trust planning gives a person a way to own and transfer firearms without breaking the law, Brislawn told WND.

Before creating Gun Docx, Brislawn had considered using a variety of other legal instruments, including partnerships, corporations and limited liability corporations, or LLCs.

“I concluded that for most private-gun collections they were the wrong tools and that a trust remained as the preferred solution for gun owners,” he explained.

“Why?” he asked rhetorically. “Most of us want to ‘share’ firearms with those with whom it’s lawful to do so. But this is technically a ‘transfer’ that can be an issue under federal and/or state law. Corporate- or partnership-owned firearms are not properly shared with non-officers, non-partners such as a friend. What legal relationship does a friend have to the corporation or partnership that owns firearms? None, and that’s the problem.”

Brislawn illustrated the point with a story a gun owner told him at a breakfast he attended with silencer enthusiasts,.

The gun owner, Brislawn explained, had created an online corporation to make and possess NFA and other firearms.

Then one day the man was approached by a forest ranger who saw his AR-equipped silencer.

“Yep, a ranger with a gun, badge and a Smokey Bear hat showed up to point at the AR-equipped silencer and ask, ‘Is that yours?’” Brislawn said.

“When the gentleman affirmed he was the owner, the forest-ranger officer asked, ‘Where is your Form 4?’”

Brislawn related that the man expressed surprise, since most people, even law enforcement officers, do not know anything about silencers or Title II of the Gun Control Act.

“The forest ranger, however, knew the law,” he continued. “So the gun owner produced the Form 4, which named the entity, a corporation, as owner of the silencer.”

For the next 45 minutes, Brislawn related, the gun owner tore his car and bags apart to find something that would link him to the corporation.

“She wanted to know why I had legal authority to possess corporate property.” Brislawn continued. “What would have happened if one of his friends was watching the firearms while he went to the local store for ice? I doubt that friend could prove he was an employee of ‘Billy Bob Corporation.’”

Brislawn pointed out that the moral of this story is that a well-drafted gun trust would have handled this without fuss by documenting the gun owner and also his friend as trustee-beneficiaries. Depending on state law, each would have the legal power to both possess and enjoy trust property.

### **Brislawn’s background**

Brislawn is a partner in the Private Client Law Group at Oseran Hahn, P.S. in Bellevue, Washington. He is licensed to practice in Washington, Oregon and Alaska, admitted to the federal courts and practices before the IRS. With more than 26 years of legal experience, he is nationally recognized as one of WealthCounsel, LLC’s legal systems architects and most recently as the creator of the Gun Docx Trust system.

He is a founding member of [WealthCounsel, LLC](#), where he has authored or coauthored numerous systems and professional presentations such as “Gun Trusts, How Not to Shoot Yourself in the Foot”; “Drafting Gun Trusts” (2011-2015 WealthCounsel, National Business Institute, MyLawCLE, Lorman, state bars and attorney associations); “Probate: Beyond the Basics” (2007 National Business Institute, Inc.); “Asset Protection Strategies for Washington Physicians” (2006 National Business Institute, Inc.); and is a coauthor of WealthCounsel’s “Settlement Counsel, Family Limited Partnership, LLC, and Living Trust Compendia.”

He is currently a team member working with Washington’s Conservation Commission and Office of Farmland Preservation and the Washington State Bar developing programs focused on helping specialty crop growers and family



farms with succession planning. Brislawn is a recipient of the Martindale Hubbell AV Peer Review Rating, ranking him at the top of his profession for ethical standards and professional excellence. He rated a “10,” the highest rating on AVVO, and has been recognized for excellence in a number of publications.

He graduated from Gonzaga University with honors and from the University of Washington School Of Law following his active duty service in the U.S. Army. Brislawn received several U.S. and foreign decorations and awards while in the service, notably Airborne-Ranger, French Army Commando and Expert Infantryman qualifications.

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## **Brace for Illegal Aliens – With Guns!**

### **New appeals court opinion opens door to possibility**

[Bob Unruh](#), WND, 08/28/2015



**Americans are being warned that the danger from the porous United States borders has increased because of a federal appeals court's determination that illegal aliens have a right to keep and bear arms under the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment.**

“Just think: Illegal aliens who are about to be deported have standing to sue for gun rights, but the sheriff of the fourth largest county located near the border, Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, has no standing to sue Obama for violating the law and flooding his jurisdiction with illegal immigrants,” [wrote Daniel Horowitz at Conservative Review.](#)

The outrage came on the heels of a [ruling from the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals](#) that said people “living in the United States illegally” share in the Second Amendment right.

In the ruling, which conflicts with the decisions of several other appeals courts, the Chicago-based court ruled one particular illegal alien was barred from possessing weapons because of a federal statute.

But the three-judge panel said Mariano Meza-Rodriguez is among “the people” cited in the Constitution and thus would be granted the right “to keep and bear arms” if not for the federal law.

He was found to have a bullet in his pocket when he was apprehended, but he argued that the charges that ensued should be dismissed because he possesses Second Amendment rights.

The author of the opinion, Judge Diane Wood, wrote, "We see no principled way to carve out the Second Amendment and say that the unauthorized (or maybe all noncitizens) are excluded."

So is a flood of armed illegal aliens looming?

[WND columnist Jeff Knox](#) explained recently that the driver's licenses progressive groups are demanding be issued to illegal aliens are the most common form of identification used to purchase firearms legally.

"A dozen states currently offer licenses regardless of immigration status, and of course the proponents of this idea object to any suggestion that these driver's licenses for illegal immigrants include any indication that the holder is not a fully vested citizen with all the rights and privileges of citizenship. They say that providing a license that is any different than a normal driver's license would be an invasion of the person's privacy and an invitation for discrimination," he wrote.

"Considering that the driver's license is the predominant form of ID used for most purposes, including voting and in firearm purchases, and is usually the only form of ID used, this means that, not only is this practice potentially enabling voter fraud, but it also invites people who are prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing firearms an easy means of buying them through legal channels," he wrote.

He said the 7th Circuit decision raises all sorts of questions on others issues, "such as the right to vote."

"No matter how the court ruling turns out, the issue remains that it is illegal for persons in the country illegally to be in possession of firearms or ammunition, but the mechanism that is supposed to prevent them from purchasing guns is easily bypassed with the driver's licenses 'progressives' want them to have," he wrote.

Horowitz pulled no punches in his commentary.

"How much longer are we going to sit idly by and allow the courts to violate our sovereignty and Republican form of government, flip the Constitution on its

head, and confer rights and privileges on those in the country in contravention to the laws duly passed by the people's representatives?"

He continued: "Forget about birthright citizenship for illegal immigrants, the leftwing activists disguised as judges on the federal bench have suddenly discovered a newfound alacrity for the Second Amendment. ... The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals conferred Second Amendment rights ... on illegal aliens!

"It's not enough that we allow criminal aliens to stay here illegally, let's give them guns too."

The decision conflicts with rulings from the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which said in 2011, "Illegal aliens are not 'law-abiding, responsible citizens' or 'members of the political community,' and aliens who enter or remain in this country illegally and without authorization are not Americans as that word is commonly understood."

A year later, the 4th Circuit agreed, ruling the "Second Amendment does not extend to provide protection to illegal aliens, because illegal aliens are not law-abiding members of the political community and aliens who have entered the United States unlawfully have no more rights under the Second Amendment than do aliens outside of the United States seeking admittance."

The ruling may eventually find its way up to the Supreme Court, which would present the Obama administration, which has been ardently anti-gun and pro-illegal alien, with what undoubtedly would be an uncomfortable choice.

Horowitz noted the irony "at a time when the political class is trying to infringe upon the gun rights of U.S. citizens."

The court precedent had been, Horowitz explained, "phrases like 'we the people' and 'the right of the people to keep and bear arms' cannot apply to those who forcibly infiltrate the people – defined as a sovereign citizens (or immigrants legally and consensually admitted) of a society."

Horowitz noted that dating back to the 1880s, "the courts have ruled that those here without lawful consent don't even have procedural due process rights to prove their eligibility to enter or remain in the country."

But the 7th Circuit, he said, "has now ratcheted up the insanity of conferring rights on illegals to a new level."

[At Guns.com](#), Jared Morgan reasoned that if the Second Amendment applies to illegal aliens, it follows that other rights would also apply.

“The court rejected the DOJ’s argument that the noncitizen cannot be part of the ‘the people’ because of the lack of commitment to basic obligation to U.S. society, according to analysis from Josh Blackman, an associate professor of law at the South Texas College of Law. The court rejected that notion, Blackman wrote, saying the Second Amendment is not a second-class right.”

The progressive website Think Progress suggested the ruling could have “profound ripple effects.”

“The Fourth Amendment also refers to a right belonging to ‘the people,’ so if that term does not include undocumented immigrants, their rights to be free from abusive police tactics could be severely curtailed. Similarly, the First Amendment refers to ‘the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.’ Those rights could also potentially be stripped from undocumented immigrants if the Justice Department’s arguments prevail.”

Bob Owens at Bearing Arms said, “I don’t think for a second that the Founding Fathers would support the concept of granting criminal invaders the same legal status as legal immigrants, legal resident aliens, and citizens.”

## **14th Amendment)**

### **Fox News Anchored In Stupidity on 14th Amendment**

[Ann Coulter](#), Human Events, Aug 19, 2015  
[http://humanevents.com/2015/08/19/fox-news-anchored-in-stupidity-on-14th-amendment/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/08/19/fox-news-anchored-in-stupidity-on-14th-amendment/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)

Based on the hysterical flailing at Donald Trump — *He’s a buffoon! He’s a clown! He calls people names! He’s too conservative! He’s not conservative enough! He won’t give details! His details won’t work!* — I gather certain Republicans are determined to drive him from the race.

These same Republicans never object to other candidates who lack traditional presidential resumes — Carly Fiorina, Ben Carson, Newt Gingrich and Herman Cain, to name a few. I’m beginning to suspect it’s all about Trump’s opposition to mass immigration from the Third World.

Amid the hysteria, Trump is the only one speaking clearly and logically, while his detractors keep making utter asses of themselves.

By my count — so far — Fiorina, Chris Christie, Rick Perry and the entire Fox News commentariat are unfamiliar with a period of the nation's history known as "the Civil War." They seem to believe that the post-Civil War amendments were designed to ensure that the children of illegal aliens would be citizens, "anchor babies," who can then bring in the whole family. (*You wouldn't want to break up families, would you?*)

As FNC's Bill O'Reilly authoritatively informed Donald Trump on Tuesday night: "The 14th Amendment says if you're born here, you're an American!"

I cover anchor babies in about five pages of my book, [Adios, America](#), but apparently Bill O'Reilly and the rest of the scholars on Fox News aren't what we call "readers."

Still, how could anyone — even a not-very-bright person — imagine that granting citizenship to the children of illegal aliens is actually in our Constitution? I know the country was exuberant after the war, but I really don't think our plate was so clear that Americans were consumed with passing a constitutional amendment to make illegal aliens' kids citizens.

Put differently: Give me a scenario — just one scenario — where guaranteeing the citizenship of children born to illegals would be important to Americans in 1868. You can make it up. It doesn't have to be a true scenario. Any scenario!

*You know what's really bothering me? If someone comes into the country illegally and has a kid, that kid should be an American citizen!*

Damn straight they should!

*We've got to codify that.*

YOU MEAN IT'S NOT ALREADY IN THE CONSTITUTION?

*No, it isn't, but that amendment will pass like wildfire!*

It's like being accused of robbing a homeless person. (1) I didn't; (2) WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

"Luckily," as FNC's Shannon Bream put it Monday night, Fox had an "expert" to explain the details: Judge Andrew Napolitano, Fox's senior judicial analyst.

Napolitano at least got the century right. He mentioned the Civil War — and then went on to inform Bream that the purpose of the 14th Amendment was to — I quote — “make certain that the former slaves and the native Americans would be recognized as American citizens no matter what kind of prejudice there might be against them.”

Huh. In 1884, 16 years after the 14th Amendment was ratified, John Elk, who — as you may have surmised by his name — was an Indian, had to go to the Supreme Court to argue that he was an American citizen because he was born in the United States.

He lost. In *Elk v. Wilkins*, 112 U.S. 94, the Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment did not grant Indians citizenship.

The “main object of the opening sentence of the Fourteenth Amendment,” the court explained — and not for the first or last time — “was to settle the question, upon which there had been a difference of opinion throughout the country and in this court, as to the citizenship of free negroes and to put it beyond doubt that all persons, white or black ... should be citizens of the United States and of the state in which they reside.”

American Indians were not made citizens until 1924. Lo those 56 years after the ratification of the 14th Amendment, Indians were not American citizens, despite the considered opinion of Judge Napolitano.

Of course it's easy for legal experts to miss the welter of rulings on Indian citizenship inasmuch as they obtained citizenship in a law perplexingly titled: “THE INDIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 1924.”

Yeah, Trump's the idiot. Or as Bream said to Napolitano after his completely insane analysis, “I feel smarter just having been in your presence.”

The only reason the 14th Amendment doesn't just come out and say “black people” is that — despite our Constitution being the product of vicious racists, who were dedicated to promoting white privilege and keeping down the black man (Hat tip: Ta-Nehisi Coates) — the Constitution never, ever mentions race.

Nonetheless, until Fox News' scholars weighed in, there was little confusion about the purpose of the 14th Amendment. It was to “correct” — as Jack Nicholson said in “The Shining” — the Democrats, who refused to acknowledge that they lost the Civil War and had to start treating black people like citizens.

On one hand, we have noted legal expert Bill O'Reilly haranguing Donald Trump: "YOU WANT ME TO QUOTE YOU THE AMENDMENT?? IF YOU'RE BORN HERE YOU'RE AN AMERICAN. PERIOD! PERIOD!" (No, Bill — there's no period. More like: "comma," to parents born "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States "and of the state wherein they reside.")

But on the other hand, we have Justice John Marshall Harlan II, who despite not being a Fox News legal expert, was no slouch. He wrote in the 1967 case, *Afroyim v. Rusk*, that the sponsors of the 14th Amendment feared that:

"Unless citizenship were defined, freedmen might, under the reasoning of the *Dred Scott* decision, be excluded by the courts from the scope of the amendment. It was agreed that, since the 'courts have stumbled on the subject,' it would be prudent to remove the 'doubt thrown over' it. The clause would essentially overrule *Dred Scott* and place beyond question the freedmen's right of citizenship because of birth."

It is true that in a divided 1898 case, *U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark*, the Supreme Court granted citizenship to the children born to *legal* immigrants, with certain exceptions, such as for diplomats. But that decision was so obviously wrong, even the *Yale Law Journal* ridiculed it.

The majority opinion relied on feudal law regarding citizenship in a monarchy, rather than the Roman law pertaining to a republic — the illogic of which should be immediately apparent to American history buffs, who will recall an incident in our nation's history known as "the American Revolution."

Citizenship in a monarchy was all about geography — as it is in countries bristling with lords and vassals, which should not be confused with *this* country. Thus, under the majority's logic in *Wong Kim Ark*, children born to American parents traveling in England would not be American citizens, but British subjects.

As ridiculous as it was to grant citizenship to the children born to legal immigrants under the 14th Amendment (which was about what again? That's right: slaves freed by the Civil War), that's a whole order of business different from allowing illegal aliens to sneak across the border, drop a baby and say, *Ha-ha! You didn't catch me! My kid's a citizen*

– while Americans curse impotently under their breath.

As the Supreme Court said in *Elk*: "[N]o one can become a citizen of a nation without its consent."

The anchor baby scam was invented 30 years ago by a liberal zealot, Justice William Brennan, who slipped a footnote into a 1982 Supreme Court opinion announcing that the kids born to illegals on U.S. soil are citizens. Fox News is treating Brennan's crayon scratchings on the Constitution as part of our precious national inheritance.

Judge Richard Posner of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals is America's most-cited federal judge — and, by the way, no friend to conservatives. In 2003, he wrote a concurrence simply in order to demand that Congress pass a law to stop “awarding citizenship to everyone born in the United States.”

The purpose of the 14th Amendment, he said, was “to grant citizenship to the recently freed slaves,” adding that “Congress would not be flouting the Constitution” if it passed a law “to put an end to the nonsense.”

In a statement so sane that Posner is NEVER going to be invited on Fox News, he wrote: “We should not be encouraging foreigners to come to the United States solely to enable them to confer U.S. citizenship on their future children. But the way to stop that abuse of hospitality is to remove the incentive by changing the rule on citizenship.”

Forget the intricate jurisprudential dispute between Fox News blowhards and the most-cited federal judge. How about basic common sense? Citizenship in our nation is not a game of Red Rover with the Border Patrol! The Constitution does not say otherwise.

Our history and our Constitution are being perverted for the sole purpose of dumping immigrants on the country to take American jobs. So far, only Donald Trump is defending black history on the issue of the 14th Amendment. Fox News is using black people as a false flag to keep cheap Third World labor flowing.

## **16th Amendment)**

### **The Sixteenth Amendment Was a Mistake**

[Grover Norquist](http://humanevents.com/2015/05/13/the-sixteenth-amendment-was-a-mistake/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl), Human Events, May 13, 2015

[http://humanevents.com/2015/05/13/the-sixteenth-amendment-was-a-mistake/?utm\\_source=hedaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://humanevents.com/2015/05/13/the-sixteenth-amendment-was-a-mistake/?utm_source=hedaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)

The week before April 15 my latest book was published, titled “[\*End the IRS Before it Ends US – How to Restore a Low Tax, High Growth, Wealthy America.\*](#)”



The timing was exquisite. The title drew two questions: Can you really mean getting rid of the IRS? Don't we need some agency collecting federal taxes?

When we think about getting rid of the IRS we focus on two different goals.

The first is getting rid of the IRS "as we know it." The second is, can we end the federal income tax?

We can and must end the political targeting of conservatives and Republicans by FDR, John F. Kennedy, LBJ, Clinton and now — on steroids — Obama. This has gone on too long and it is getting worse.

On April 15 this year seven bills to restrain and reform IRS abuses passed overwhelmingly through the House of Representatives. These bills were written and pushed by taxpayer heroes Peter Roskam (R-Ill.), Kenny Marchant (R-Texas), and Jim Renacci (R-Ohio). They would implement a Taxpayer Bill of Rights, prevent the IRS from taxing gifts to non profit organizations, prevent IRS employees from using personal email accounts for official business (à la Hillary Clinton), and makes it a firing offense for IRS employees to target individuals and groups based on ideology.

As with most good things in life this may require a different president to be enacted into law. But the anger of the American people is strong enough that the Senate and president might act to take this issue off the table before the 2016 election just as Bill Clinton signed Welfare reform (after vetoing it twice) to save himself in the 1996 election.

I think reining in the IRS abuses will take more than passing a few strong laws and enforcing them. One notes with sadness and fear that there were NO whistleblowers in the IRS. No one stood up for the conservative and Tea Party leaders abused by the IRS. The lower level staff did not object to following political orders from their political appointee supervisors. The rot goes to the core. It may take a generation to wash out a culture that corrupt and deeply embedded.

But if we did cleanse the present IRS staff, they would still be the sword and shield of the Sixteenth Amendment that allowed the federal income tax, and would be tasked by law to keep collecting 20 percent of everything Americans earn. The tax code and associated regulations contain over 73,954 pages and takes Americans six billion hours to comply with the paperwork — before we cut the painful check.

Is a pleasant, honest, even-handed IRS much of an improvement? Yes it would be, but it is certainly not enough.

I believe we can and will reduce the federal income tax over time to where we can consider repealing the Sixteenth Amendment and ending the federal income tax. Is that really possible? Well, to start, we didn't always have government at the federal, state, and local level take 30 percent of our income taxes (and with deficit spending, government spends even more). In 1774 Americans — colonists at that point — paid one to two percent of their income in taxes. Total.

Federal taxes were only 3.0 percent of GDP in 1900, 2.0 percent in 1910, 6.7 percent in 1920 and 8.3 percent in 1940.

We managed the federal government without an income tax until 1913. Today, nine states have no income tax. As late as 1960, twenty states did not have an income tax.

The book outlines 14 different lies the Friends of Government tell to talk us into raising taxes on ourselves and our families. A few examples:

**“This new tax will help reduce an old tax.”** The State of New Jersey in 1965 had no income tax and no sales tax. New Jersey did have a painful property tax. So the politicians said, let us put in a sales tax to reduce the property tax. Ten years later in 1977, New Jersey had an expensive sales tax and property tax and the pols recommended an income tax to fix this. Now New Jersey taxpayers have high property taxes, income, and sales taxes. When you have a tapeworm, swallowing a second one does not discipline the first one.

**“This will be a temporary tax.”** Said Congress when they put the tax on long distance phone calls in to pay for the (presumably temporary) “Spanish American War.”

The tax lasted more than 100 years.

**“This is a tax on the Rich.”** When pols say they will tax the rich they have not finished the sentence: “I will tax the rich...first...then you.” The Alternative Minimum Tax was structured to hit 155 high-income earners who were paying no or little in taxes. Today it hits millions.

So what do we do now? The first step is to stop the bleeding: no new taxes. No tax hikes. The Taxpayer Protection Pledge organized by Americans for Tax Reform now has 218 members of the house and 49 Senators who have made

this commitment. Ninety percent of the Republicans in Congress have signed and kept the pledge. It stopped the 2011 budget deal from including the \$1.4 trillion in tax hikes Obama and the Democrats wanted. It stopped any tax hike from 1993 and 2009, the two years the Democrats had complete control of the House, Senate, and White House.

Step two is to focus on spending. This was aided by the Tea Party movement of 2009 and 2010 that changed the makeup of congress. Earmarks were banned. Once a sign of virility and power, earmarks are now seen as a sign of corruption and bad government.

The measure of success or failure for those of us focused on defending and expanding liberty is the percentage of the economy consumed by government spending. It was 24 percent after Obama's first assault on taxpayers — the "Stimulus," TARP 2.0, The trillion dollar plus up to the budget — and fell to 20 percent when the GOP won the battle of the budget in 2011 and enacted spending limits enforced by the Sequester. That spending limit now lasts ten years.

Step three is to add more states to the nine that now have no state income tax. Kansas has passed a law that will phase out its state income tax by ratcheting down the income tax whenever revenues grow by more than two percent a year. Over time, normal growth will phase out the Kansas personal income tax. Maine's Governor Paul LePage has announced this is his goal. Mississippi's House of Representatives passed such a law. Arizona, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Missouri leaders have pointed to Kansas as the model to follow.

Step four is to enact the Paul Ryan budget plan at the national level which has already passed the U.S. House four times. It reforms entitlements and block grants to the states the major welfare programs. This will save six billion dollars in a decade and put us on a path to reduce spending in half from its present unsustainable trajectory by 2050.

The best way to eliminate the income tax is to reduce spending by reforming government programs to cost less over time and demand less tribute in taxpayer dollars.

Those possible reforms are outlined in the book and many already exist in legislation: The Ryan Plan. Moving all pensions from defined benefit to defined contributions at the federal, state, and local level. Selling off federal land and spectrum. Allowing drilling on federal land and offshore. Reducing the number of government employees by attrition. Re-establishing an "anti-appropriations committee," once called the Byrd Committee whose only job was to

recommend cutting government programs. Establishing another BRAC commission to allow military bases the Pentagon does not need to be reorganized or closed down.

The path forward is clear. Do not raise taxes. Focus on spending restraint. Reform government to cost less and reduce the tax burden as spending as a percentage of the economy declines. Someday we will be able to live without the federal income tax. I won't miss it.

## UNITED NATIONS AGENDA 21

### Pope Francis Calls for a New Global Government to Save Humanity

Posted By: [Inspire To Change World](http://www.inspiretochangeworld.com) August 26, 2015

[http://www.inspiretochangeworld.com/2015/08/pope-francis-calls-for-a-new-global-government-to-save-humanity/?utm\\_campaign=shareaholic&utm\\_medium=facebook&utm\\_source=socialnetwork](http://www.inspiretochangeworld.com/2015/08/pope-francis-calls-for-a-new-global-government-to-save-humanity/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork)



Pope Francis says that global warming is a fact and that **a new global political authority is necessary in order to save humanity from utter disaster**. The new encyclical that was scheduled to be released on Thursday has been leaked, and it is being reported that this **new global political authority** that Pope Francis envisions would be in charge of “the reduction of pollution and the development of poor countries and regions”.

The funny thing is that this sounds very much in line with the new sustainable development agenda that is going to be launched at the United Nations [in September](#). **This radical new agenda is already being called “Agenda 21 on steroids”** because it goes so much farther than Agenda 21 ever did. The new UN agenda [does not just address the environment](#) – it also addresses issues such as poverty, agriculture, education and gender equality.

It is essentially a blueprint for governing the entire planet, and that sounds very much like what Pope Francis also wants. In fact, Pope Francis is going to give the speech that kicks off the UN conference in September where this new sustainable agenda will be launched. For some reason, this Pope has decided to make the fight against climate change the central pillar of his papacy, and he is working very hard to unite as much of humanity as possible to get behind that effort.

It is not an accident that this new encyclical is coming out now. An article from [the Guardian](#) even states that the release was intended “to have maximum public impact” prior to the Pope’s major speech at the UN in September...

The rare encyclical, called “Laudato Sii”, or “Praised Be”, has been timed to have maximum public impact ahead of the pope’s meeting with Barack Obama and his address to the US Congress and the UN general assembly in September.

It is also intended to improve the prospect of a strong new UN global agreement to cut climate emissions. By adding a moral dimension to the well-rehearsed scientific arguments, Francis hopes to raise the ambition of countries above their own self-interest to secure a strong deal in a crucial climate summit in Paris in November.

Much of the encyclical is not that surprising. But what is raising eyebrows is the Pope’s call for a new global political authority. Here is more from [the Guardian](#)...

Pope Francis will this week call for changes in lifestyles and energy consumption to avert the “unprecedented destruction of the ecosystem” before the end of this century, according to a leaked draft of a papal encyclical. In a document released by an Italian magazine on Monday, the pontiff will warn that failure to act would have “grave consequences for all of us”.

**Francis also called for a new global political authority tasked with “tackling ... the reduction of pollution and the development of poor countries and regions”. His appeal echoed that of his predecessor, pope Benedict XVI, who in a 2009 encyclical proposed a kind of super-UN to deal with the world’s economic problems and injustices.**

What is even more alarming is who will be on the stage with the Pope when this encyclical is formally released. John Schellnhuber is a German professor that has some very radical views on climate change. For instance, he believes that our planet is [overpopulated by at least six billion people](#)...

Professor John Schellnhuber has been chosen as a speaker for the Vatican's rolling out of a Papal document on climate change. He's the professor who previously said the planet is overpopulated by at least six billion people. Now, the Vatican is giving him a platform which many expect will result in an official Church declaration in support of radical depopulation in the name of "climate science."

And Schellnhuber also happens to believe that we need a new global political authority. If he had his way, there would be an "Earth Constitution", a "Global Council" directly elected by the people of the planet, and a "Planetary Court" that would be above all other courts on the globe. The following is an excerpt [from a very disturbing piece that he authored...](#)

Let me conclude this short contribution with a daydream about those key institutions that could bring about a sophisticated — and therefore more appropriate — version of the conventional "world government" notion. Global democracy might be organized around three core activities, namely (i) an Earth Constitution; (ii) a Global Council; and (iii) a Planetary Court. I cannot discuss these institutions in any detail here, but I would like to indicate at least that:

- the Earth Constitution would transcend the UN Charter and identify those first principles guiding humanity in its quest for freedom, dignity, security and sustainability;
- the Global Council would be an assembly of individuals elected directly by all people on Earth, where eligibility should be not constrained by geographical, religious, or cultural quotas; and
- the Planetary Court would be a transnational legal body open to appeals from everybody, especially with respect to violations of the Earth Constitution.

Does the Pope want something similar?

It is quite telling that Schellnhuber was invited to stand with the Pope as this major encyclical is released to the world. Did Schellnhuber play a role in drafting it? Has he been advising the Pope on these matters? Does the Pope share his vision of the future?

And does the Pope share Schellnhuber's belief that our planet is currently overpopulated by six billion people? If so, how would the Pope solve that "problem"?

Without a doubt, most of those that make up the “global elite” would love to see the number of people on earth decline precipitously. This is something that I covered in my previous article entitled “[46 Population Control Quotes That Show How Badly The Elite Want To Wipe Us All Out](#)”. Of course the Pope is not going to publicly advocate for getting rid of six billion people, but clearly he is extremely concerned about the impact that all of us are having on this planet.

The funny thing is that the earth is not even warming. In fact, there has been no sign of global warming at all [for the past ten years](#)...

Over the years the government and the scientific community have largely stood their ground when it comes to climate change. They’ve been adamant in their assertion that the planet is gradually warming due to human activity, and that we all need to do our part to stop climate change. However, the data provided by the scientific community doesn’t always jibe with their claims.

At least, that seems to be the case with the data coming out of NOAA’s climate monitoring stations. They have a series of 114 stations across all 50 states, which is known as the US Climate Reference Network. For the past 10 years they’ve shown no sign of global warming. In fact, there’s been a very slight cooling in temperatures across the US.

But at this point, most of the world has bought into the propaganda. In most industrialized nations, a solid majority of the population actually believes that climate change is the greatest threat that humanity currently faces.

And since just about all forms of human activity produce “carbon emissions” or affect the environment in some way, it gives control freaks that dream of global government a good excuse to grab more power. They will always say that it is about “saving humanity” or “saving the planet”, but ultimately everything that they are trying to accomplish would mean more power in their hands.

So what do you think that the Pope is up to? And do you think that it is a good thing or a bad thing?



## **Who's that One-World Climate Guru who Helped Present the Pope's Encyclical at the Vatican?**

Maïke Hickson and John-Henry Westen, [lifesitenews.com](http://lifesitenews.com), June 19, 2015

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/whos-that-one-world-climate-guru-who-helped-present-the-popes-encyclical-at>

ROME, June 19, 2015 ([LifeSiteNews](http://LifeSiteNews)) -- On Wednesday the Vatican announced that [Pope Francis has appointed](#) controversial German Professor John Schellnhuber as an ordinary member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Schellnhuber was [one of the four presenters of the new encyclical](#) on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, on Thursday. He is also scheduled to chair a session of a Pontifical Academy for Sciences educational workshop on "[Children and Sustainable Development](#)" set for November.

Schellnhuber is the founding Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Chair of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU). He is considered one of the world's leading climate scientists, and one of the strongest advocates of the theory that the earth is undergoing catastrophic global warming. Perhaps most famously, he [is the father](#) of the "two-degree" tipping point – namely, the idea that if the earth warmed up by two degrees beyond what temperatures were at the beginning of industrialization, in the words of German Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen, "life on our planet, as we know it today, would no longer be possible."

According to [The New York Times](#), in 2009 he told a conference that if the earth's temperature rose by around five degrees Celsius, the human population would be, in the words of the reporter, "devastated." "In a very cynical way, it's a triumph for science because at last we have stabilized something -- namely the estimates for the carrying capacity of the planet, namely below 1 billion people," he is reported to have said at the time.

Although these comments have been widely misinterpreted to indicate that he believes the current capacity of the Earth is one billion people, in context he is referring to the capacity should the temperature rise five degrees Celsius. Referring to the possibility of a drop in the Earth's carrying capacity, he himself said, according to *The New York Times* article, "I think we can do much, much better." His estimate of the current carrying capacity of the earth is unknown.

Schellnhuber is also known for his advocacy of a one-world government. In order to avoid his catastrophic predictions for unchecked climate change, Schellnhuber proposes the need for indispensable forms of world governance – or in his own words, a "global democratic society" – to be organized within the



framework of the United Nations. Schellnhuber says in his 2013 article "Expanding the Democracy Universe" that "global democracy might be organized around three core activities, namely (i) an Earth Constitution; (ii) a Global Council; and (iii) a Planetary Court." He then described these three activities as follows:

- ★ the Earth Constitution would transcend the UN Charter and identify those first principles guiding humanity in its quest for freedom, dignity, security and sustainability;
- ★ the Global Council would be an assembly of individuals elected directly by all people on Earth, where eligibility should be not constrained by geographical, religious, or cultural quotas; and
- ★ the Planetary Court would be a transnational legal body open to appeals from everybody, especially with respect to violations of the Earth Constitution.

In his 1988 study "Geocybernetics: Controlling a Complex Dynamical System Under Uncertainty," Schellnhuber said countries should relinquish "a good deal of national sovereignty" in favor of "powerful supra-national institutions." He wrote:

While the borders of nation states have become almost irrelevant to global economic players (for instance) after the end of the Cold War, human and natural rights are still confined and dominated by thousands of frontiers. This situation can only be overcome by giving up a good deal of national sovereignty and establishing a true regime of global governance. As a prerequisite, the rather symbolic parts and pieces of the UN system must be transformed into powerful supra-national institutions: *allons corriger le futur!*"

Schellnhuber is also a full member of the Club of Rome, a think-tank that describes itself as "a group of world citizens, sharing a common concern for the future of humanity."

**Check it out for yourselves!!!**

**The World Parliament** <http://worldparliament.gov.org/constitution/the-earth-constitution/>

**The Global Council** <https://www.oclc.org/membership/councils.en.html>

**The Global Currency** <http://worldparliament.gov.org/federation-currency/earth-federation-currency-authorization/>

**Your new Pledge of Allegiance**

<http://worldparliament-gov.org/pledge-of-allegiance/>

**World Federation of Nations**

<http://www.wfuna.org/>



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