



**MILLENNIUM DIGGERS
ASSOCIATION
Keizer, Oregon**



Secretary/Editor: Penny Esplin

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

DATE: January 28, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The legislative committee hearing for anti-dredging SB1530 was Tuesday the 9th. With our legislature being heavily under one party control, we don't expect a favorable outcome.

If you wrote a letter to a senator, made a phone call, or showed up for the hearing, I want to say "thank you for your civic service." They say that "government goes to those who show up," but they never promised it to be a quick transition, so keep up the good work!

Diggers will receive a report on the outcome of SB1530 at the next meeting.,

Karen

Call to Order: All stood for Pledge of Allegiance. Karen greeted all with Happy New Year and welcomed guests.

Guest Speaker Tonight: Mark Anderson of Stream Savers

Attendance: 33 total – 24 members and 9 guests

Minutes from October: The motion was made that the minutes from the October meeting have been read by all, seconded and approved. (We didn't have meeting minutes to report from Nov and Dec because of Christmas party)

Treasurer's Report: Alice was absent.

Claims: Claudia reported that BLM has been slow to process claim papers due to the fact that out of originally having 4 people, they are now down to only 2.

-She also said there seems to be 1 of our claims paperwork according to LR 2000. We have heard nothing from BLM yet but they usually allow 30 days after being notified to fix any problems with paperwork. Penny will look into this.

-all New members that are gold miners will receive mining claim directions shortly.

Outings: For this New Year, we need to hear from our members of where they would like to go and what activities they are interested in. A lot of our newer members expressed interest in metal detecting. We will discuss and make a list of outings to plan for during our next meeting in February.

-Karen will occasionally send out email invitations when and where we can get together for any unplanned metal detecting outings; most of which are local and "*impromptu*".

Show and Tell: Beginning this year, we will be using two (2) letters each month for our show and tell (so to cover the entire alphabet by the end of the year).

January's letters are "A and B": Penny brought crystal specimens from her collection:

Anglesite (*lead sulfate*), **A**patite (*aluminum fluophosphate*), **A**pophyllite (*calcium potassium fluosilicate*), **A**damite (*alkaline zinc arsenate*) it is also bright fluorescent yellow-green under long wave UV light, **A**zurite (*copper carbonate*), "**A**fresite" **B**lack **B**eryl (*beryllium aluminum silicate*) and **A**ugite (*a pyroxene/metasilicate*).

-Terrie brought some examples of the **a**gatized and petrified wood she found while on the outing to Hampton Butte with Ken in October. He had tumbled some her rocks for her and brought them, they all looked really nice.

-Karen brought a jar full of some **b**each **a**gates she found.

-Walt Evens brought some 2016 calendars to share with us; featuring White's Metal Detectors and Garrett Metal Detectors. Both calendars have some neat "detecting" pictures with great scenery. Thanks Walt!

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February's letters will be "C and D"

New Business: Walt Evens reported from Galice Mining District: "Do not need State's permission to mine on a Federal mining claim." Mining "*Districts*" have the ability to govern themselves.

Our Guest Speaker: Mark Anderson of StreamSavers and ISpyRadio.com gave us a detailed presentation of StreamSavers, from their beginnings, where they're at presently and the intricate workings involved in getting the program off the ground. He says they have worked out certain strategies that they [StreamSavers] feel confident in. He says they are moving forward slowly, purposely and methodically, covering all necessary bases, while looking ahead positively to providing a service that will benefit everyone. -*Thank you Mark, for your very thorough and interesting presentation.*

Break and Raffle ticket sales: winners announced at close of meeting.

- **Elections** will be held during February's meeting. Nominees for officers: Karen will continue as president. Vice president nominees: David Schmidt and Penny. Claudia declined since she has been an officer many times to allow new members to share their ideas and directions with the association. Nominations for secretary and treasurer will also be accepted at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

OUR NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 25th, @ 7:00pm Be There!



The Digger's Christmas Party December 2015



Lee is jazzed over his bag of coal



Ken has big plans for his winnings

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

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

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

Clear Lake United Methodist Church

920 Marks Drive

Keizer, OR 97303

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

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GOING'S ON OUT WEST

There's Something Strange Happening Here In Burns, Oregon...

by Belinda Bee, February 9, 2016
Posted By Becky on Feb 7, 2016 ~ Written by **Diane Rodgers**

We captured this article from TVOI News – Voice of Idaho before it disappeared! When we went to look for the article we noticed it was in “cache” form only, meaning that someone has taken the website & article down. So we have cut & pasted the article here, word for word, including pics & links, for future reference.

Feb. 7, 2016

About two years ago the Nation watched as Cliven Bundy stood in opposition against an unjust seizure of his ranch and grazing rights by the BLM. The event grew as patriotic Americans responded and came to his aid. The growing protest was ultimately successful in forcing the BLM to turn tail and retreat in face of the growing support that they could no longer control.

Fast forward now to January 2, 2016 and we have a similar situation with the BLM in small town out west called Burns, Oregon.

Since the start of this protest, the **MainStream Media (MSM)** has been putting forth articles and news reports using such adjectives as "armed militants", "right wing racists", "terrorists" or "armed thugs". Every story I read or listened to was basically the same, always one sided. I follow the belief that there are 3 sides to every story; you could call it her side, his side and the Truth. So when only one side is ever told, it is safe to assume that there is an agenda afoot. *An agenda the MSM never speaks about.*

So in my quest to get to the Truth, I decided to take an eight day vacation from my full time job to travel 3,000 miles via plane and car to that small town out west call Burns. What you are about to read is exactly what I witnessed and learned from my westward trip. I hope that this article, and those to follow, will help you see through the smokescreen of lies the media, at the bequest of our federal government , have been and are still telling us as the means to controlling the narrative.

Contrary to the MSM stories one finds on the situation in Burns Oregon, the real terrorists in Burns Oregon are not the farmers, ranchers or loggers, nor are they the patriotic first responders.

The farmers, ranchers and loggers are salt of the earth people. They are hardworking folks who bust their butts every day to earn a living as many of us do on a daily basis.

The Patriotic first responders; men and women who have left behind their lives, families, friends and jobs in order to come to Burns to bring attention to the illegal land grabs and the usurpation of our Constitution. These people present no threat to the people of Burns as evidenced by the fact that they frequent the local stores, shops, restaurants and bars without any issues.

At first glance, it is easy to accept the media story that Sheriff David Ward invited the FBI to take over local control of the situation to help protect the citizens of Burns Oregon from a band of "armed occupiers". But that is for another article. So let's take a closer look at several key issues that most may not be seeing.

In past decades whenever there was a civil protest it was customary for the local police and maybe the use of the state police to control and insure that the protest remains peaceful. During the protests of the late 60's when demonstration began turning violent, State's at the request of their Governors started to call in the National Guard to assist the police in maintaining order and protecting the public.

The question to ask is why didn't Oregon Governor, Kate Brown, in accordance with Title 32 of the United States Code, call for the Oregon National Guard to assist in any local police action in response to the "armed occupiers" at the Malheur Refuge. Could it be that Gov. Kate Brown was appointed to her position, not elected by the People of her State, as was Sheriff David Ward of Harney County? Could it be that these appointed officials are beholden, not the good People of Oregon, but strictly to those entities that placed them in their position and power. Another unusual fact is that Special Agent Greg Bretzing in charge of the Malheur Refuge Occupation happens to be linked to a Nation Security breach along with other fraud and corruption violation, as reported by The Shasta Lantern. Click [here](#) to view that article.

But, here in Burns the situation is much different and potentially much more ominous and deadly, as evidenced by the murder of LaVoy Finicum, by agencies yet to be fully disclosed. Authorities acting under the color of law but not in adherence to our laws, first closed down the Burns school system, even though the "armed occupiers", of which only 4 are now remaining, are located 30 plus miles from downtown Burns in the middle of nowhere. WHY? Why was this necessary?

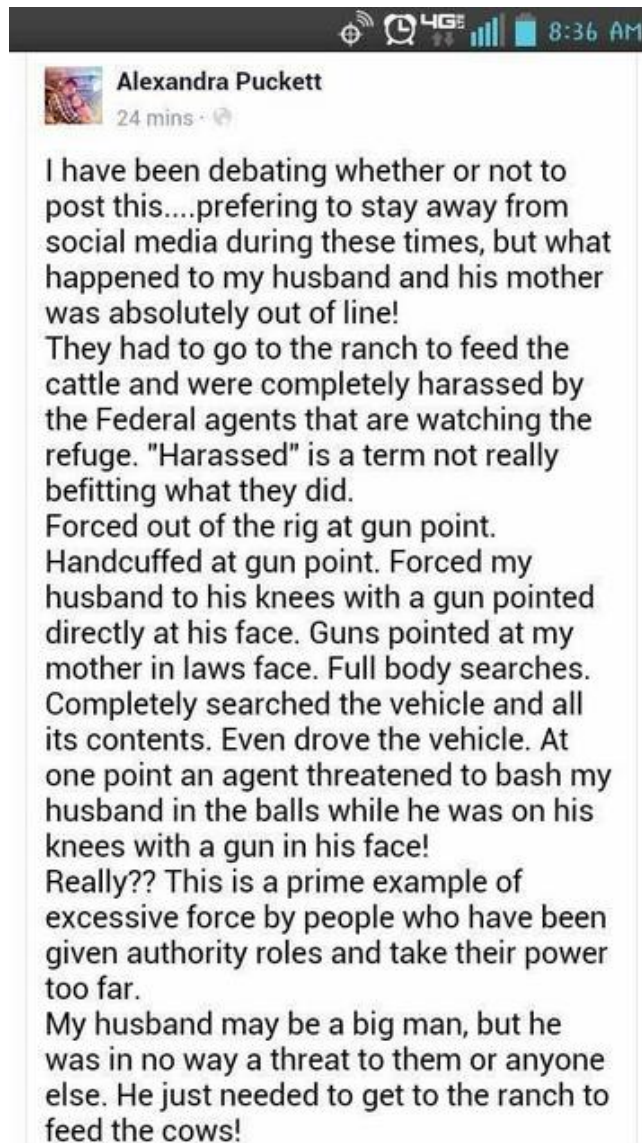
Road blocks, closures and check points are now common place in and around Burns. Many of the local people have claimed that they are being randomly pulled over by "authorities" demanding they provide their ID's for just driving down the street. There are locals being stopped at armed check points and forced out of their vehicle at gun point while their personal belongings and vehicle are thoroughly searched.



One rancher, Thom Davis, related his story in which he had a slowly dying horse on the range that needed to be humanly put down in order to relieve its suffering. The only trouble being that he was not that far from one of these check points and feared that should he have ended the horse's suffering with a shot to the head, he too would have suffered the same fate. A fate that was later confirmed when he talked to the sheriff.

In another case the authorities actually took their vehicle a quarter mile beyond the check point and made them walk to get it.

Yet, in another case, Alexandra Puckett, described in a facebook post, the treatment and gun point threats from authorities that her husband and his mom encountered while trying only to feed their cows.



These actions taken by authorities have more in common with those of a Military Occupying Force in Iraq or Afghanistan they do with normal police actions here in American. The terrorization of Burns and throughout Harney County is, by no stretch of the imagination, being conducted by the ever increasing militarization of Federal and State agencies. With many reports of in conjunction with an illegal and unconstitutional buildup of a foreign mercenary army of PMC's, an invading army if you will, acting under the color of law but not in adherence to our laws. Claim as they do that they are FBI, their tactics and use of vehicle void of any US military or alphabet agency marking or insignia's, and lack of compliance with US Law, even when asked they present no documentation that they are indeed FBI. A video clip of this fact can be seen [here](#).

Additionally, other armored assets from distant counties are in Burns. I ask, is all this really necessary to protect the public from 4 people still at the Refuge located 30 miles away, armed with a few rifles and hand guns, and already contained by authorities so they cannot escape from there. Or is something else going on here?



Further there are claims that Blackhawk helicopters are being stationed at Burns Airport and in the surrounding area. For a link to that report click [here](#).

In a recorded phone call to Major Bomar, Judge Darby explains that the forces present in Burns are most likely under the command and control of the UN and the IMF. In other words, foreign forces acting freely on US soil, a clear violation of our Constitution.

Judge Darby audio click [here](#).

Why, you ask, would foreign PMC's be doing here on the ground in the middle of nowhere in eastern Oregon, and under whose authorization are they being allowed to operate? Could it be that they are here to seize control of these lands for the mineral rights and related wealth for foreign governments? Well, as usual it's all about following the money. In this case the money is the mineral wealth that these lands contain.

As most are aware Hillary Clinton has sold our uranium to Russia, for personal gain and power. While China is buying up as much gold as possible, and gold is another mineral the lands out west are still rich in. Could China be laying claim to this gold as collateral for our national debt?

Further info can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

It is time for the People of America to start asking questions of their representatives as to whose authority these foreign forces and here operation under and why none of them are

Obeying their Oath to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic!

It's time We The People embrace our differences, differences that make each and every one of us an Individual, Unite in One Voice and Demand a Redress of Grievances to address these issues in a manner that is consistent with the procedures set forth in the US Constitution . Our Founders wrote in the Declaration of Independence :

“That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall deem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness”

Therefore, We have the Constitutional Right and Duty to cast aside an overbearing federal government and build anew, by putting the Power back into the hand of its Rightful Owners...We the People.

To do otherwise plays into their bloody hands.



Two Separate Judges say the Federal Government has Acted Illegally in their Attack on Oregon's Ranchers!

By [Tim Brown](#), eaglerising.com, 5 February 2016

<http://eaglerising.com/29724/two-separate-judges-say-the-federal-government-has-acted-illegally-in-their-attack-on-oregons-ranchers/>

I have known that the United States Constitution has been undermined for some time, [beginning with Abraham Lincoln](#). I have also know of the [incorporation of the united States that is based in London, England](#). However, now, there are at least two Superior Court Judges, who are also common law judges under the Postmaster General of their respective regions in Alaska and Colorado, are pointing out the actions of the Bureau of Land Management and the actions of criminal politicians in the united States government to undermine the American view of government and law. This is especially enlightening with what has been going on with [the Bundys](#), [the Hammonds](#) and the [death of LaVoy Finicum](#).

Judge Anna Maria Riezinger and Judge Bruce Doucette issued a letter in which they exposed the illegal actions of the BLM and the unconstitutionality of what is really taking place in Oregon.

In speaking with Judge Bruce Doucette (Colorado) via telephone, he told me that this is all true and that one could reference [Judge Reizinger's website](#) (Alaska) for more information, as well as his Facebook page.

After verifying the information did come from these judges, I'm providing you with a letter that they jointing issued on January 4, 2016. America, it's time to wake up! Conservatives and Liberals are not going to save you from this. We, must stand against this tyranny! No presidential candidate, nor any congressman, is talking about this!

The entire idea, according to Judge Bruce Doucette is to undermine the Law of God and Christianity, which our nation was built upon, and establish a Beast, or false god of the State. Read and judge for yourselves... then make your stand!

Issued by Judge Anna Maria Riezinger

January 3, 2016

Although it may come as a surprise to many Americans we have been mischaracterized and misidentified as British Crown Subjects for the better part of a hundred years. This travesty has never been corrected; instead, the British Crown, a commercial investment organization, has kidnapped and press-ganged American land assets into the international jurisdiction of the sea and has pillaged our labor and our resources without mercy in criminal conspiracy and contempt of our Constitution. They have been aided and abetted in this activity by members of the American Bar Association and the Internal Revenue Service acting as licensed privateers.

These vipers nurtured in our bosom pretending to be our "Friends" and our "Allies" and even our "Trustees" have practiced identity theft against the American people, have involved us in their own private bankruptcies as sureties obligated to pay their debts; they have pretended that because of their fraud against us, we have "abandoned" our property including our land patents, our bank accounts, and our organic states. They have usurped against our lawful government, enslaved our people, and acted as criminals in our midst.

The corporations responsible for this behavior are no different and no better than Walmart or Sears or Burger King; they have used names like "Bureau of Land Management" or "United States Department of Agriculture" and so on under color of law.

The "Bureau of Land Management" is not an actual unit of the American government. It is a foreign corporation whose only business here is to provide us with "essential governmental services".

The land patents to the western states are owed to the States of America and the Indigenous Tribal Governments without exception. The only ownership accruing to the Federal United States dba District of Columbia Municipal Corporation or in other corporate guises is vested entirely in the ten square miles of the District and limited to its Boundary Stones. The only ownership vested in the Federal Government in the western states or anywhere else is a lease interest in facilities that have been provided to expedite their service missions.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) facilities being occupied by American Militiamen were bought and paid for by the people of this country for the use of the BLM with the

understanding that the BLM is a unit of the American government and is working in good faith for the people of this nation.



However, according to the public and private records, the BLM is not in fact any part of our lawful government at all and has not been so for decades. It is a privately owned foreign "governmental services corporation" operating under color of law; it has no business interfering in the activities of the ranchers and farmers, occupying government facilities under conditions of fraud, or otherwise presenting false claims of interest, ownership, or authority.

The Hammonds and the Bundy Family are Priority Creditors of all the governmental services corporations which are now or which have operated in this country in the past. They are tax exempt and their "vessels in commerce"--- meaning the various trusts and public utilities operated under their NAMES without their knowledge or consent--- are all tax-prepaid. They and their countrymen are owed the patent to all land within the geographically defined boundaries of their respective states, free and clear of liens, encumbrances, or other presumptions against their property rights by foreign corporations operating under conditions of self-interested fraud.

BLM employees are here to provide "essential governmental services". Those services do not include acting as undeclared commercial mercenaries operating under color of law and against the best interests of their employers and benefactors. Any federal employee offering to harm or interfere in the normal occupations of their employers, that is, the people of this country, or to prohibit their employer's customary use of the land and resources they are heir to is acting as an Outlaw in contempt of the Public Law and the actual Constitution and is subject to arrest under the Bounty Hunter provisions of the United States Statutes-at-Large.

Being employed by BLM like being employed by JC PENNY confers no special authority, grants no immunity, and is not a license to undertake any activity that would otherwise be unlawful—including trespassing on private property, making fraudulent claims, and racketeering under armed force. The rule for federal employees and law enforcement officials including "Federal State" and "Federal County" officials is that if you can't do it in your private capacity, you can't do it at all.

Members of the Press Corps are similarly reminded of their responsibility to safeguard public safety and obey the Public Law, including their obligation not to incite, misrepresent, or engage in insurrection against the lawful government of the people, by the people, and for

the people. This is not a country of the corporation, by the corporation or for the corporation. Anyone needing to be reminded of that fact should question both their education and their sanity.

The highest Law Officer in this country is the County Sheriff who has accepted the public office, received his bond, and taken his Oath. He is enabled to deputize as many men as he needs to enforce the Public Law within the borders of his county and may require the use of any and all equipment and facilities paid for with public funds in pursuit of these ends. He works directly for the people of his county and is accountable only to them.



All federal employees are guests of the people of each county and state. So long as they pursue their lawful duties and do not inappropriately presume upon, threaten, harass, or otherwise offer to harm their hosts, over-reach their lawful jurisdiction, or make false claims against land assets they are owed safe conduct and support. The moment they breach the peace, break the Public Law, offer contempt against the Constitution, engage in operations under color of law—including trespass on private property, cattle rustling, armed racketeering and so on, they are subject to arrest like any common felon.

The people of this country are the employers, benefactors, and Priority Creditors of all federal corporations, all federal employees, all federal contractors, and all federal officials. The people did not grant their hirelings any power to harass them, indebt them, mischaracterize them, change their political status, seize upon their property, defraud them, trespass upon them, or engage in any other criminal activity whatsoever.

It must be squarely recognized that the burning of barns is arson. The theft and removal of livestock is cattle rustling. The bringing of false claims of indebtedness and obligation is fraud. The presentation of weapons, especially tactical weapons, employed in any of these activities is assault and attempted racketeering under force by undeclared private mercenary forces. It is now easy to recognize that these are crimes masquerading as "law enforcement".

The private in-house laws of corporations must remain in accord with the Public Law or those corporations must be liquidated as crime syndicates and their assets distributed to those they have harmed and to their lawful creditors. This includes the BLM, the UNITED STATES, the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, the STATE OF OREGON, or any other corporation found to be operating in violation of the Public Law and their own charter.

Any questions may be addressed to:
Judge Anna Maria Riezinger
(907) 250-5087
Judge Bruce Doucette
(720) 338-0394



BLM Ranger

NOVEMBER 13, 2001

PALOMINO VALLEY WILD HORSE FACILITY



WHEN WILL THIS STOP???

Attached is the photo showing a BLM gun slinger (a.k.a. LEO) just about to shoot Ken. I'm convinced the only reason he didn't shoot is because other people came upon the scene and even in his berserk condition he knew there were witnesses. You can see by his expression that he was out of control and that is probably the nature of the BLM Rangers you saw at the Bundy ranch as well.

Ken and other members of the Nevada Live Stock Association were at the BLM horse corrals in Palomino Valley to protest the pending sale of cattle that the BLM had confiscated. The cattle belonged to Ben in Esmeralda County and BLM first tried to get the auction yard in Fallon to take them for sale but the sale yard owners told them no.

Of course there is more to the story, but regardless of the situation, the US Constitution makes no *general* authorization of law enforcement authority for federal employees and provides *very limited police powers* to the legislature. BLM Rangers are *impersonating police officers* when they travel throughout Nevada, yet they never seem to be prosecuted.

The underlying issue is one of lawful jurisdiction that has been formally ceded from the state to the federal government. *[note: The Supreme Court already ruled the federal government cannot acquire additional powers by cession from the states. State representatives do not have that authority, and the Constitution may not be altered other than by amendment.]* Jurisdiction is one of those odd words that get used in conversation to indicate a geographic area where sheriffs or other LEOs do their work. The common example is the jurisdiction of city police ending at the city boundary or of the Sheriff ending at the county line. The legal definition of jurisdiction is a lot more formal.

Federal laws are for the most part federal *municipal law* which is only valid and enforceable within *federal enclaves* as opposed to federal positive law that is in fact enforceable nationwide. Laws such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act etc. can be lawfully enforced under the federal police powers *[only]* within federal enclaves, also called federal territory and public land. U.S. Supreme Court has defined “public land” as those lands to which no other claim or ownership has attached which means that when Nineteenth Century miners and ranchers took up water rights and established easements, then the federally controlled lands were no longer public land. Unfortunately, the phrase public land gets used really carelessly.

I’m told that many federal laws are enforced within states on the basis that when a state does not object to the actions of the federal officials—that is when a state condones the federal regulatory activity—then the federal activity is undertaken by using the name, authority, and lawful jurisdiction of the respective state. *[note: That it what is happening, but it is an unconstitutional usurpation of power.]* If that is true, then a state should be fully able to rescind that delegation of authority and tell the federal agencies to go regulate a federal enclave where they belong.

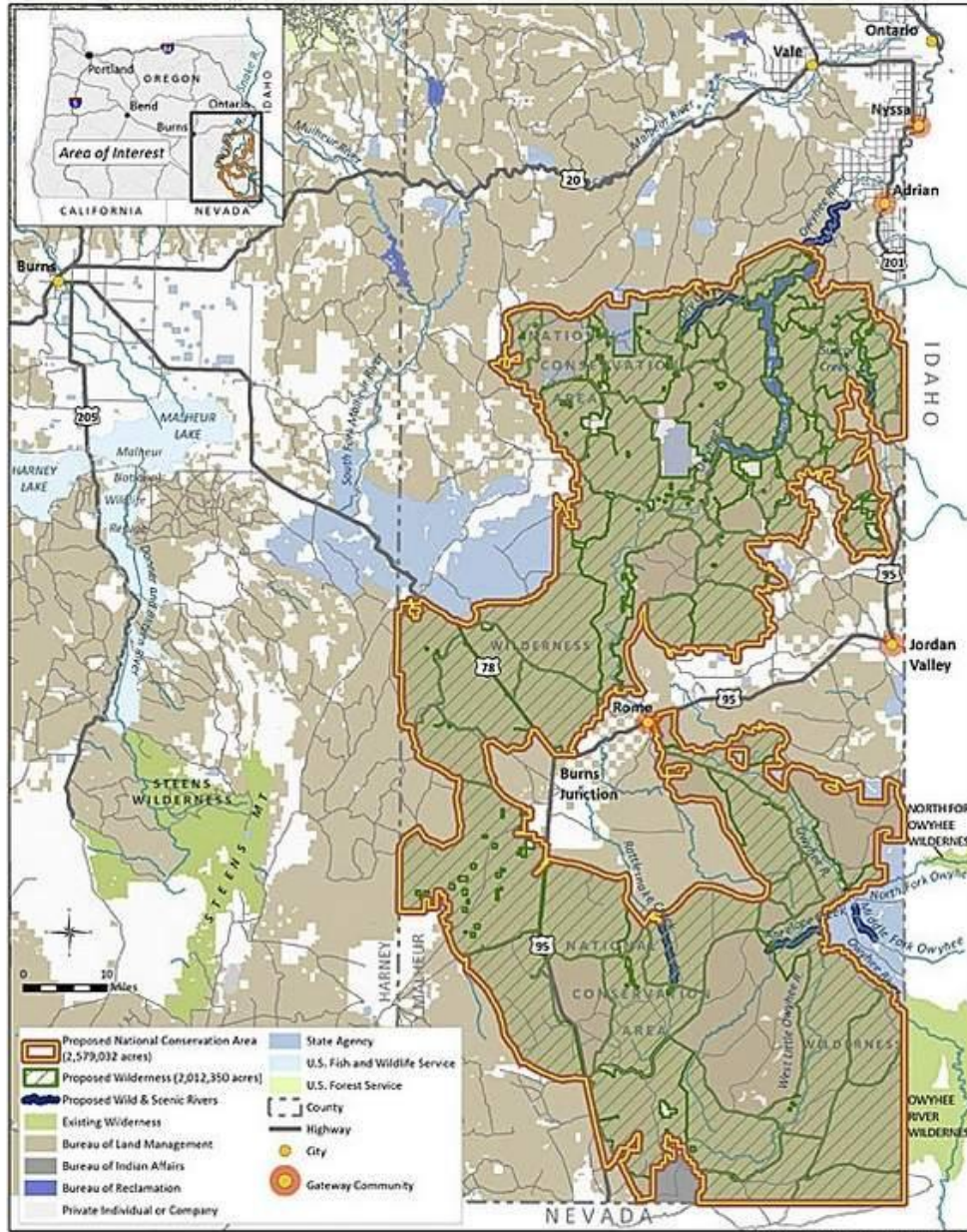


Owyhee Canyonlands wilderness proposal unresolved

Eric Mortenson, Capital Press, January 27, 2016

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Oregon/20160127/owyhee-canyonlands-wilderness-proposal-unresolved>

Owyhee Canyonlands Conservation Proposal



Courtesy of wildowyhee.org The proposed Owyhee Canyonlands wilderness and conservation area would cover 2.5 million acres in Southeast Oregon.

The wildlife refuge standoff may have been broken, but another divisive issue remains unsettled in Southeast Oregon.

The occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge may have been broken, but a divisive wilderness proposal remains unresolved in Southeast Oregon.

The underlying issues are familiar: Anger over federal land management and government “over-reach,” and frustration over loss of economic opportunity in the rural West.

The Bend-based environmental group Oregon Natural Desert Association, backed by the Keen Footwear company of Portland, has proposed a 2.5 million acre Owyhee Canyonlands wilderness and conservation area.

Ranchers and other Malheur County residents are dead set against it. “Not only no, but hell no,” prominent rancher Bob Skinner said.

The Obama administration, which could establish the canyonlands area by presidential proclamation, has given no sign what it will do. Many people speculate the administration did not want to throw gas on the fire while the wildlife refuge occupation was going on.

“We don’t know where it is in the process, there’s nobody who knows that,” Skinner said.

The proposed area is bigger than either the Yellowstone, Yosemite or Grand Canyon national parks, critics point out, and would cover 40 percent of Malheur County. Residents believe designation would be accompanied by restrictions and regulations that would prohibit or severely complicate grazing, mining, hunting and recreation.

While proponents say traditional uses of the land will be allowed, a local group called Citizens in Opposition to the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument does not believe them.

Skinner, a fifth-generation rancher who leads the opposition group, said one faction believes ranchers and other landowners should “settle” with those pushing for establishment of the canyonlands.

But Skinner said agreements with “radical environmental groups” always turn out bad. While they say traditional land uses such as cattle grazing could continue, such assurances soon fall apart, Skinner said.

“Historically, every single solid time,” he said. “It starts collapsing on the uses. That’s historic, I can tell you.”

Skinner said his contacts among Oregon’s congressional delegation and others in Washington, D.C. indicate Obama will establish the wilderness and conservation area under the Antiquities Act, which can be done by presidential order and does not require approval of Congress.

A White House media staffer said the administration has “no announcement to make at this time” and did not respond to detailed questions.

Jessica Kershaw, senior adviser and press secretary with the Department of Interior, said in an email that the department has not made a recommendation to the White House, “but we know that this is an important issue to many, and we will carefully consider all input about how to best manage these lands for current and future generations.”

Brent Fenty, executive director of the Oregon Natural Desert Association, did not respond to a telephone call and email seeking comment.

A press secretary for U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, who represents Eastern Oregon in Congress, said Walden has repeatedly called upon the administration to say what it plans to do. Early in the wildlife refuge occupation, Walden said Obama could ease some of the tension by backing away from the canyonlands proposal.

“If they don’t plan to do it, they should just come out and say so,” press secretary Andrew Malcolm said in an email.

Skinner, the rancher, consistently distances his cause from the case made by the refuge occupiers.

“I don’t agree with the Bundys at all, period,” he said. “I don’t agree with their methods, especially with grazing issues. But nobody can help but say, ‘I can understand.’” “Greg Walden said it: You understand why people have reached the end of their rope. That’s why they’ve got followers.”



Vilsack to Congress- Give Me More Money or I’ll Let the West Burn

By Randal O’Toole, CATO Institute, December 22, 2015

<http://www.cato.org/blog/vilsack-congress-give-me-more-money-or-ill-let-west-burn>

Congress [rejected](#) the Forest Service plan to give the agency access to up to [\\$2.9 billion](#) a year to suppress wildfires. In response, Secretary of Agriculture [threatened to let fires burn up the West](#) unless Congress gives his department more money. In a [letter](#) to key members of Congress, Vilsack warned, “I will not authorize transfers from restoration and resilience funding” to suppress fires. If the Forest Service runs out of appropriated funds to fight fires, it will stop fighting them until Congress appropriates additional funds.

This is a stunning example of [brinkmanship](#) on the part of an agency once known for its easygoing nature. Since about 1990, Congress has given the Forest Service the average of its previous ten years of fire suppression funds. If the agency has to spend more than that amount during a severe fire year, Congress authorized it to borrow funds from its other programs, with the promise that Congress would reimburse those funds later. In other words, during severe fire years, some projects might be delayed for a year—hardly a crisis.

Yet Vilsack and the Forest Service are intent on turning it into a crisis. In a [report](#) prominently posted on the Forest Service's web site, the agency whines about "the rising costs of wildfire operations"—that cost not being the dollar cost but the "effects on the Forest Service's non-fire work."

Numerous graphs in the report show declines in inflation-adjusted funding for various line items—but, deceptively, none of the graphs have the Y-axis set to zero, thus exaggerating those declines. Moreover, many of those line items are ridiculous anyway: who cares if land-management planning budgets have declined? The Supreme Court [decided in 1998](#) that land-management planning was a waste of time, so why are they still spending any money at all on it? In any case, most of the items tracked by the charts aren't programs the Forest Service borrows against for fire, so creating the proposed \$2.9 billion emergency fund would do nothing to stop the funding declines.

The question Vilsack should ask is not "Why won't Congress give his agency a blank check?" but "Why does the Forest Service spend so much on fire anyway?" The answer to that question is [complex](#) but comes down to one simple thing: the Forest Service has no incentive to control costs as long as Congress keeps reimbursing them.

As wildfire historian [Stephen Pyne](#) wrote in 1995, Forest Service fire managers have long been known for "creative accounting," transferring "as many costs as possible" to the emergency fire funds. One of these is the "presuppression fund" that becomes available when fire danger is high; the other is the suppression fund that becomes available when a fire isn't controlled by the first responders. When either of these conditions takes place, Pyne notes, "everything imaginable is charged to fires." This situation has only gotten worse in the last two decades.

So it's not surprising that many Forest-Service-fed news articles have reported that [2015 was the costliest fire year ever](#), citing Forest Service costs of \$1.7 billion. But none of the articles mention costs to the Department of the Interior, and while I can't find that number anywhere, I suspect it was not a lot more than half a billion dollars, as the most it has ever spent in the past was around [\\$470 million](#).

The reason why this is important is that most fires this year were on Interior lands, not national forests. The Forest Service and its parent, the Department of Agriculture point to the near-record number of acres burned in 2015, about [9.8 million](#). But less than 20 percent of those acres were on national forest lands, while 54 percent were on Interior lands.

Firefighting Costs Per Acre Burned

	Forest Service	Interior
2010	2,834	177
2011	818	200
2012	564	105
2013	983	252

Forest Service Interior

2014	1,371	264
2015	922	?
Average	916	171

As the table above shows, the Forest Service habitually spends more than five times as much as the Department of the Interior per acre burned on their respective lands. Unlike the Forest Service, Interior agencies have never had a blank check for suppressing fire, so they have had little incentive to wildly overspend.

Worse, Congress' policy of giving the Forest Service the average of its previous ten years' of fire suppression costs gives the agency an incentive to spend more each year so that its ten-year average spirals upwards. Meanwhile, in mild fire years, Congress says that the appropriated fire suppression funds that the agency doesn't need "may be transferred to the National Forest System, and Forest and Rangeland Research accounts to fund forest and rangeland research, the Joint Fire Science Program, vegetation and watershed management, heritage site rehabilitation, and wildlife and fish habitat management and restoration."

Thus, it's heads the Forest Service wins; tails the taxpayers lose. When fire years are mild, the agency gets a windfall to spend on non-fire programs. When fire years are severe, it gets to borrow from those non-fire programs to spend all it wants on fire suppression, knowing it will be reimbursed—and then complains that its non-fire programs are hurt by the borrowings.

One of the reasons why the administration and some environmental groups are behind the Forest Service proposal to give it \$2.9 billion a year to draw upon is that increasing fire costs fit neatly into their global climate apocalypse. Yet the data don't show that the United States is suffering worse droughts today than in the past. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the percentage of the nation that was [severely or extremely dry](#) during summer months (July-September) averaged about 15 percent in 2015. That's high, but hardly a record.

In recent years, this percentage has ranged as low as 3 percent in 1992 to as high as 24 percent in 1953. It was 20 percent in 2012 and 22 percent in 2000. There was a six-year period in the 1950s when it was 15 percent or more in all but one year (when it was 13 percent), and reached as high as 24 percent. So far, both the 1930s and the 1950s were dryer than the 2010s. This suggests that droughts are cyclical, not growing.

What is growing is the Forest Service's spending on fire. It will continue to grow until Congress gives the agency incentives to contain its costs rather than incentives to spend more each year.



GOVERNMENT

Feds Protect Their Turf By Re-classifying Patriots As Domestic Terrorists

<https://www.technocracy.news/index.php/2016/02/04/feds-protect-turf-re-classifying-patriots-domestic-terrorists/>



TN Note: This is a most dangerous precedent when the government turns its forces against its own citizens. With anti-government sentiments already running so high in America, this could result in a massive confrontation if not checked.

U.S. eyes ways to toughen fight against domestic extremists

By Julia Harte, Julia Edwards and Andy Sullivan,  REUTERS, February 4, 2016

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Justice Department is considering legal changes to combat what it sees as a rising threat from domestic anti-government extremists, senior officials told Reuters, even as it steps up efforts to stop Islamic State-inspired attacks at home.

Extremist groups motivated by a range of U.S.-born philosophies present a "clear and present danger," John Carlin, the Justice Department's chief of national security, told Reuters in an interview. "Based on recent reports and the cases we are seeing, it seems like we're in a heightened environment."

Over the past year, the Justice Department has brought charges against domestic extremist suspects accused of attempting to bomb U.S. military bases, kill police officers and fire bomb a school and other buildings in a predominantly Muslim town in New York state.

But federal prosecutors tackling domestic extremists still lack an important legal tool they have used extensively in dozens of prosecutions against Islamic State-inspired suspects: a law that prohibits supporting designated terrorist groups.

Carlin and other Justice Department officials declined to say if they would ask Congress for a comparable domestic extremist statute, or comment on what other changes they might pursue to toughen the fight against anti-government extremists.

The U.S. State Department designates international terrorist organizations to which it is illegal to provide "material support." No domestic groups have that designation, helping to create a disparity in charges faced by international extremist suspects compared to domestic ones.

A Reuters analysis of more than 100 federal cases found that domestic terrorism suspects collectively have faced less severe charges than those accused of acting on behalf of Islamic State since prosecutors began targeting that group in early 2014.

Over the past two years, 27 defendants have been charged with plotting or inciting attacks within the United States in the name of Islamic State. They have faced charges that carried a median prison sentence of 53 years - half of the defendants faced more, and half faced less.

In the same period, 27 adherents of U.S.-based anti-government ideologies have been charged with similar activity. They faced charges that carried a median prison sentence of 20 years.

Carlin said his counter-terrorism team, including a recently hired counsel, is taking a "thoughtful look at the nature and scope of the domestic terrorism threat" and helping to analyze "potential legal improvements and enhancements to better combat those threats."

The counsel, who was appointed last October and has not been named publicly, will identify cases being prosecuted at the state level that "could arguably meet the federal definition of domestic terrorism," a Justice Department official said.

That would give the department a direct role in more domestic extremism cases.

Recognizing that domestic threats were "rapidly evolving, and had the potential to grow," the department in March 2015 rated disrupting such terrorists as a key component of its broader counter-terrorism efforts, officials said.

THE THREAT PENDULUM

The Justice Department aggressively pursued domestic extremists after Timothy McVeigh bombed a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, killing 168 people.

The government shifted its focus to international terrorism after al Qaeda killed nearly 3,000 Americans on Sept. 11, 2001.

But in recent years anti-government activists, like those who occupied a wildlife preserve in eastern Oregon last month, have regained prominence.

As law enforcement experts confront domestic militia groups, "sovereign citizens" who do not recognize government authority, and other anti-government extremists, they also face a heightened threat from Islamic extremists like the couple who carried out the Dec. 2 shootings in San Bernardino, California.

"A new development we're seeing is that when it comes to ISIL investigations, the flash-to-bang time from radicalization to action appears to be happening faster than with other types of terrorists," said Michael Steinbach, the head of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division.

As a result, government agents are quick to investigate people who appear sympathetic toward Islamic State, current and former officials say. But some say the government has been overzealous in its pursuit of Islamic State suspects.

Similar actions by extremist suspects have yielded sharply disparate sentences.

Eight Islamic State-related defendants have been sentenced so far, to prison terms that range from three to 20 years, the Reuters review found. Over the same period, 18 domestic extremists have been sentenced to terms from one day to 12 years.

Prosecutors say Harlem Suarez, 23, of Key West, Florida, tried to buy a bomb last year from an undercover FBI agent as he plotted attacks on behalf of Islamic State. He faces a possible sentence of life in prison and has pleaded not guilty.

Michael Sibley, 67, left two unexploded pipe bombs and a Koran in a park in Roswell, Georgia in 2014 in what he later told police was an attempt to highlight the danger of Islamic terrorism. He pleaded guilty and faces a maximum of five years in prison.

"A different standard is being applied to Muslims than to other people," said Daryl Johnson, a former counterterrorism expert at the Department of Homeland Security who now works as a law enforcement consultant.

"SPRING-LOADED"

Steinbach said that the FBI can never open up any type of investigation "just on the basis of race, creed, or religion,"

But he added that federal agents are "spring-loaded" to open investigations into Americans who support groups on the State Department list of designated terrorist organizations.

The maximum penalty for supporting one of these groups has been raised from 10 years to 20 years in prison since 2001.

It has been applied in 58 of the government's 79 Islamic State cases since 2014 against defendants who engaged in a wide range of activity, from traveling to Syria to fight alongside Islamic State to raising money for a friend who wished to do so.

Judges usually issue sentences below the maximum, but some charges trigger sentencing "enhancements" that raise the baseline sentence a judge can issue – and the material support charge raises it more than most.

Domestic groups enjoy greater constitutional protections because being a member of those groups, no matter how extreme their rhetoric, is not a crime.

Prosecutors can bring "material support" terrorism charges against defendants who aren't linked to groups on the State Department's list, but they have only done so twice against non-jihadist suspects since the law was enacted in 1994. The law, which prohibits supporting people who have been deemed to be terrorists by their actions, carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Current and former federal prosecutors say they rarely consider that statute in domestic terrorism cases because it is often hard to convince a jury that someone who is not affiliated with a foreign group can be guilty of terrorism.

William Wilmoth, a former federal prosecutor who invoked that law in a 1996 case against a West Virginia militia member, said he was surprised to hear that it isn't used more often.

"These guys have every right to have off-center political views," he said. "But when they made affirmative steps to blow up an actual federal facility... we thought it was an important place for us to go and prosecute."



How Presidents Lie

It's nothing new for a president to lie to us, but Obama's style is unique.

by Victor Davis Hanson, [National Review Online](http://www.nationalreview.com), December 10, 2013

<http://victorhanson.com/wordpress/?p=6824>

In the past there have been all sorts of presidential fibbing. Some chief executives make promises that they know they probably cannot or will not keep. Before his reelection for his third term in the midst of a world war, Franklin Roosevelt swore that he would never send American boys to fight in a foreign war. In just a little over a year, he did just that. Lyndon Johnson likewise before the 1964 election said he would not send troops to Vietnam. But once reelected, he sent nearly 200,000 troops to fight the North Vietnamese; by the time he left office, over a half-million Americans were deployed in Vietnam.

In 1988 presidential candidate George H. W. Bush pledged that he would not raise taxes and did so emphatically: "Read my lips — no new taxes!" But in 1990 he flipped and agreed to tax hikes.

Barack Obama has offered all sorts of similar empty pledges, like promising to close the federal detention center at Guantanamo Bay within a year of taking office. It is still open. Obama also promised to halve the deficit by the end of his first term. Instead he doubled it. Ditto Obama's promises on the good things to follow Cash for Clunkers, on the shovel-ready jobs that would follow the stimulus, and on the summer of recovery to be spawned by massive borrowing. At your own job, if you promise the boss that you will do something and then don't, you're likely to get fired; when presidents do the same, it's called politics.

VIRTUAL PAST

Sometimes presidents fib about their behavior — usually to hide embarrassing information or to exaggerate past accomplishments. Bill Clinton, for example, claimed that he never had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky. That was about as true as his assertion that although he had smoked marijuana, he never inhaled the drug. Obama too has fudged on lots of things about his past, notably his relationships with the Reverend Jeremiah Wright and the famously unrepentant terrorist Bill Ayers. Obama suggested that he scarcely knew either shady character, but he somehow named his book [*The Audacity of Hope*](#) from a slogan of the former, and he had a campaign fundraiser in the house of the latter.

Most recently, his yarn that he had never met his paternal uncle, Omar Obama — an illegal immigrant who has been charged with almost hitting a police car while driving intoxicated — proved absolutely false. Obama had actually stayed at Omar's home for three weeks while he was preparing to attend Harvard Law School and had spoken with him after that. Many of the details that Obama has related about his parents, his former girlfriends, his life in college, and his legal and legislative career are not just inexact but cannot be true.

IN THEORY, IT COULD BE TRUE

Then there is presidential wishful thinking that turns out to be untrue. George W. Bush reiterated that intelligence proved Saddam Hussein had stocks of WMD even though they soon proved nonexistent. Barack Obama swore over 20 times that Obamacare would not result in canceled insurance coverage or mean losing your doctor, but it would save the average family \$2,500 a year in premiums. All those fantasy guarantees proved not just false, but beyond the realm of logic. Similarly, Obama, along with other members of his administration, alleged that an Internet video had incited rioters to storm American facilities in Benghazi, resulting in the death of our ambassador and three other Americans. That yarn also was demonstrably untrue. Yet the president has never renounced it or explained why the producer of the video was summarily jailed for a minor parole violation.

HOCUS-POCUS

Deliberate distortion is a sort of lying as well. Richard Nixon had so many explanations for Watergate and the subsequent cover-up that the public never knew which was operative at any given time. Clinton will be forever remembered for unabashedly offering of his escapades with Monica, "It depends upon what the meaning of the word 'is' is."

Obama bragged that he had overseen record domestic oil and gas production. In fact, he did his best to stop most new federal oil and gas leases; vast increases in energy

development came mostly on private lands and despite, not because of, Obama's efforts. Is he proud that the private sector is lowering gasoline prices and lessening dependence on foreign oil, or angry that we are burning more fossil fuels rather than building more Solyndras?

When the IRS scandal was disclosed, Obama railed to the press that it was "outrageous." Once the outrage died down, Obama started blaming the scandal mostly on the media and claiming that they had made up something out of nothing. But Obama says so many things so often that it is hard to keep any of his assertions straight. The result again is not just that no one believes that he stopped the revolving door, banned lobbyists from administration jobs, or ushered in a new era of civility, but that no one believes that he expected us to believe any of this nonsense. When Obama speaks, listeners now assume two things: The teleprompted cadences will still sound good, and almost nothing of what they hear can possibly be accurate.

PINK LINES

A final category of presidential untruth is the empty blusters and threats. Ronald Reagan swore that he would not be intimidated by the Hezbollah terrorists who blew up the Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1983. But he offered only half-hearted retaliation for the mass murder of Americans, and not long afterwards, he withdrew U.S. troops. In the same way Obama warned Bashar Assad about "game changers" and "red lines" should he use WMD. When Assad did just that, Obama pledged to intervene, then pledged maybe to intervene, then pledged not to intervene, then just outsourced the embarrassment to Vladimir Putin.

What is different about Obama? Rarely, when caught, do presidents simply lie about their original dissimulation. Barack Obama, in contrast, when asked about his faux red line in Syria, simply denied ever issuing it ("I didn't set a red line").

Unlike presidents who paid high prices rather quickly for their dissimulations, Obama kept getting away with serial deception. The result was similar to a reckless bluffer at the poker table who keeps upping the ante each time he wins with a bad hand — only to lose his enormous pile of bluffed winnings when finally called out. Obama was empowered by a compliant public and a press invested in his progressive agenda. He assumed that while others had had to atone for deception, he did not, given his utopian talk about lowering the seas and cooling the planet, his landmark racial profile, and his youthful charisma and scripted eloquence. Being hip and progressive, he assumed, exempted him from an accounting. Yet unless the economy is booming, even a cool president does not necessarily recover once the public ceases believing what he says. After five years of 7-plus percent unemployment, almost no GDP growth, and record debt, Obama now enjoys few extenuating offsets when he serially misleads.

When the president speaks now, few listen. He realizes that and so, like Richard Nixon, must add emphatics as a substitute for honesty. But by now we know ad nauseam all the banal intensifiers — "make no mistake about it," "I am not kidding," "in point of fact," and "let me be perfectly clear."

Obama is playing a strange game: The more he speaks untruthfully, the more he resorts to emphatic intensifiers that instead confirm that he is speaking untruthfully. In turn, Obama's audiences play an even stranger game: The more they hear their president speak, the more they are impressed that he can sound so sincere in being so nonchalantly insincere and mellifluously misleading. When I first heard, "You can keep your doctor and your health plan," I thought, "That can't be true; he knows it can't be true; and the American people must know it can't be true" — and, then, I shrugged: "But he's hit upon a winning lie."

And so he did — until now.

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Liberal Apartheid

The elite mostly lead a reactionary existence of talking one way and living another.

by Victor Davis Hanson, *National Review Online*, July 2, 2013
<http://victorhanson.com/wordpress/?p=6164>

One of the strangest things about the modern progression in liberal thought is its increasing comfort with elitism and high style. Over the last 30 years, the enjoyment of refined tastes, both material and psychological, has become a hallmark of liberalism — hand in glove with the art of professional altruism, so necessary to the guilt-free enjoyment of the good life. Take most any contemporary issue, and the theme of elite progressivism predominates.

Higher education? A visitor from Mars would note that the current system of universities and colleges is designed to promote the interests of an elite at the expense of the middle and lower-middle classes. UCLA, Yale, and even CSU Stanislaus run on premises far more reactionary and class-based than does Wal-Mart. The teaching loads and course responsibilities of tenured full professors have declined over the last half-century, while the percentage of units taught by graduate students and part-time faculty, with few benefits and low pay, has soared.

The number of administrators has likewise climbed — even as student indebtedness has skyrocketed, along with the unemployment rate among recent college graduates. A typical scenario embodying these bizarre trends would run something like the following: The UC assistant provost for diversity affairs, or the full professor of Italian literature, focusing on gender and the self, depend on lots of graduate and undergraduate students in the social sciences and humanities piling up debt without any guarantee of jobs, while part-time faculty subsidize the formers' lifestyles by teaching, without grading assistants, the large introductory undergraduate courses, getting paid a third to half what those with tenure receive.

The conference and the academic book, with little if any readership, promote the career interest and income of the trendy administrator and the full professor, and are subsidized by either the taxpayers or the students or both. All of the above assumes that a nine-month teaching schedule, with tenure, grants, sabbaticals, and release time, are above reproach and justify yearly tuition hikes exceeding the rate of inflation. The beneficiaries of the system win exemption from criticism through loud support of the current progressive agenda, as if they were officers with swagger sticks in the culture wars who must have their own perks if they are to properly lead the less-well-informed troops out of the trenches.

Take illegal immigration. On the facts, it is elitist to the core. Big business, flush with cash, nevertheless wants continued access to cheap labor, and so favors amnesties for millions who arrived without English, education, or legality. On the other end of the scale, Jorge Hernandez, making \$9 an hour mowing lawns, is not enthusiastic about an open border, which undercuts his meager bargaining power with his employer.

The state, not the employer, picks up the cost of subsidies to ensure that impoverished illegal-immigrant workers from Oaxaca have some semblance of parity with American citizens in health care, education, legal representation, and housing. The employers' own privilege exempts them from worrying whether they would ever need to enroll their kids in the Arvin school system, or whether an illegal-alien driver will hit their daughter's car on a rural road and leave the scene of the accident. In other words, no one in Atherton is in a trailer house cooking meth; the plastic harnesses of missing copper wire from streetlights are not strewn over the sidewalks in Palo Alto; and the Menlo schools do not have a Bulldog-gang problem.

Meanwhile, ethnic elites privately understand that the melting pot ensures eventual parity with the majority and thereby destroys the benefits of hyphenation. So it becomes essential that there remain always hundreds of thousands of poor, uneducated, and less-privileged immigrants entering the U.S. from Latin America. Only that way is the third-generation Latino professor, journalist, or politician seen as a leader of group rather than as an individual. Take away illegal immigration, and the Latino caucus and Chicano graduation ceremony disappear, and the beneficiaries become just ordinary politicians and academics, distinguished or ignored on the basis of their own individual performance.

Mexico? Beneath the thin veneer of Mexican elites suing Americans in U.S. courts is one of the most repressive political systems in the world. Mexican elites make the following cynical assumptions: Indigenous peoples are better off leaving Mexico and then scrimping to send billions of dollars home in remittances; that way, they do not agitate for missing social services back home; and once across the border, they act as an expatriate community to leverage concessions from the United States.

Nannies, gardeners, cooks, and personal attendants are increasingly recent arrivals from Latin America — even as the unemployment rates of Latino, African-American, and working-class white citizens remain high, with compensation relatively low. No wonder that loud protestations about “xenophobes, racists, and nativists” oil the entire machinery of elite privilege. Does the liberal congressman or the Washington public advocate mow his own lawn, clean his toilet, or help feed his 90-year-old mother? At what cost would he cease to pay others to do these things — \$20, \$25 an hour? And whom would he hire if there were no

illegal immigrants? The unemployed African-American teenager in D.C.? The unemployed Appalachian in nearby West Virginia? I think not.

Or take the green industry. At about the same time that statisticians readjusted the first-quarter GDP growth markedly downward — to a 1.8 percent annual rate, from the previously reported 2.4 percent — President Obama announced sweeping new regulations to curtail carbon emissions that will hamper the coal industry, further slow the economy — and delight his elite green base. Al Gore thought the speech historic. And why would he not? Gore has made hundreds of millions of dollars in the Marcus Licinius Crassus style of hyping a disaster and then profiting from its remedy. Gore hates carbon emissions. So much so that he dismisses those who live by them, such as coal-company executives, coal miners, and the rubes who mindlessly use coal-based electricity. But Gore also likes money and what money can do for him — SUVs, private jet travel, multiple residences. That's why he just sold his interest in a failed cable-television network to a broadcasting network backed by a Middle Eastern authoritarian sheikhdom, known for both its anti-Semitism and its huge cash profits from the sale of fossil fuels. Take away the talk of polar bears and melting ice caps, and Gore becomes just another huckster, cashing in on oil profits from the Middle East, a region that is ensured continuance of its riches in part because of environmental restrictions that hamper fracking, horizontal drilling, and coal production on public lands in the United States.

Here in central California there are predictable themes to the new environmentalism: Land that could produce food and provide jobs will be idled to protect a bait fish in the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta. Rivers that are critical to irrigation and are anchors of the economy will be diverted to their 19th-century course in order to fulfill the dream of salmon runs through a desert-like San Joaquin Valley, and hundreds of billions of dollars worth of gas and oil that could be fracked and provide jobs for communities suffering 10-plus percent unemployment will be ignored. On one side, there are academics, lawyers, high government officials, those with inherited wealth, and those with enough capital to easily afford the higher taxes and higher costs of fuel, power, and food that are the inevitable wages of their own boutique ideology. On the other side, there are the apparent losers and clingers who are out of work, who pay over \$4 a gallon for gas for their silly used Dodge Ram trucks, and who stupidly splurge by turning their air conditioners on for an hour or two a day in 108-degree Fresno.

In the real world, the tiny delta smelt is a good psychological totem for a well-paid Google exec in Mountain View, who doesn't mind paying a little more for his arugula or paying higher sales taxes. But the worship of a bait fish is not shared by Manuel Lopez, a tractor driver in Bakersfield who has no more fields to disc this summer. Those in breezy, cool Malibu hate coal, and apparently believe those who mine it would be better off on food stamps and unemployment insurance, which the generous seaside denizens would so selflessly be willing to pay for.

Take gun control. What caused the latest round of furor over the Second Amendment was not gun-related deaths per se. In fact, they have been declining overall in the United States for some time. Nor is it the death toll in Chicago, where last year over 500 mostly African-American and Latino youths gunned each other down, almost exclusively with illegally obtained handguns in a city that has enacted among the tightest gun laws in the nation.

Instead, the horrible tragedies of Columbine and Sandy Hook and Aurora suggest that the atypical shooter with a semi-automatic long gun will on rare occasions slaughter anywhere, from an upscale school to a cinema in a good neighborhood. Worse still, the most effective remedies for stopping these typically young, white, unhinged suburbanite shooters — detain the mentally ill far more frequently, curb the promiscuous use of psychotropic drugs, treat violent video games for our youth as we do pornography, jawbone Hollywood to show some restraint in its graphic and titillating portrays of gun carnage — rub up against liberal elite views on mental health, civil liberties, free expression, and the arts.

The result is that the elite find resonance in demonizing the largely white lower-middle-class gun crowd, who are not responsible for the vast majority of yearly gun deaths, but whose culture as the proverbial clingers is ripe for caricature and the fuel of elite outrage. No gun law that Barack Obama has supported would have stopped any of the recent suburban violence — given the millions of weapons that exist throughout the United States. To stop Sandy Hook — where the deranged Adam Lanza stole from his own mother firearms that she had legally purchased — the president would have had to confiscate privately owned semi-automatic rifles and larger clips, or made the possession of existing rifle ammunition illegal. No matter: Obama knew well that the liberal elites were outraged that savage violence had hit the suburbs; he knew too that there was nothing he could do to stop it that was acceptable to those elites, while there were lots of cultural targets that would at least allow the elites to vent. Thus followed the hysterical calls to ban all sorts of evil-looking black “assault weapons” and the demonization of the redneck beer-bellies who for some reason like to shoot them at their inane target ranges.

Modern liberalism, among other things, is a psychological state, in which very-well-off Americans find ways through their income and privilege to be exempt from the ramifications of their own ideologies, while adopting causes and pets that exempt them from guilt over their own status and limitless opportunities. Judging by their concrete actions, they are indifferent to the poor whom they romanticize at a safe distance. In short, voting for larger government and subsidies is seen as a necessary cost of being a reactionary, liberal elite.



Our Postmodern Angst

In our unheroic age, victimhood has replaced valiant struggle.

by Victor Davis Hanson, [National Review Online](http://www.nationalreview.com), August 13, 2013

<http://victorhanson.com/wordpress/?p=6333>

In the globally connected and affluent world of the 21st century, we thankfully have evolved a long way from the elemental poverty, hunger, and ethnic, religious, and racial hatred that were mostly the norm of the world until the last century.

Yet who would know of such progress — and the great sacrifices made to achieve it — from the howls of our postmodern oppressed? In fact, the better life has become, the more victimized modern affluent Westerners seem to act.

Over ten women have come forward to charge Bob Filner, the current mayor of San Diego, with harassment — the liberal bookend to the political return in New York of former representative Anthony “Carlos Danger” Weiner and former governor Eliot “Client #9” Spitzer. Filner did not really deny that he has groped, grabbed, kissed, or verbally harassed lots of females; instead, he checked himself into some sort of sexual-therapy program. In the old days, Filner would have resigned in shame — suffering the stigma accorded a pervert, and terrified that an angry boyfriend or husband might surface to settle up with fisticuffs.

Now, in our more progressive, enlightened days, the mayor need not fear much of anything. His lawyers have suggested that the city of San Diego was at fault because it did not ensure that its hormonally overcharged mayor took his required dose of sexual-harassment training. Ostensibly, Filner was victimized by not having his social meds. Without them, he was soon overwhelmed by animalistic passions and Neanderthal urges. In short, Filner seeks to be as much a victim as the women he offended.

The late-19th-century industrialization that ensured a vastly better American material existence also took a terrible toll on the American landscape. Conservation movements of the mid-20th century struggled with the monumental task of cleaning up a century’s worth of polluted rivers, toxic waste, and dirty air. The battle for a cleaner environment must continue, but given its astounding successes, it now lacks the drama of past existential challenges.

If our grandparents once agitated to ensure that San Francisco Bay would not shrink in half because of landfills, or that there would still be stands of virgin redwoods along the California coast, our generation continues the heroic green struggle by bonding with a three-inch-long bait fish in the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta. The efforts to divert irrigation water for the poor delta smelt not only were based on fuzzy science, but took thousands of acres of prime farmland out of production — and threw thousands of struggling farmworkers out of a job. Giants used to save bald eagles; their progeny stop important projects in order to investigate the livelihood of a local species of rat or toad.

If John Muir and his followers saved Half Dome and El Capitan, his present adherents wish to blow up the dam that created the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, killing a crucial supply of drinking water, hydroelectric power, flood control, and irrigation. For decades, the historic stone bridges over the flood-prone Merced River have enhanced an idyllic Yosemite Valley. Today environmentalists want them destroyed to ensure that the river can occasionally expand into “wetlands.”

Multimillionaire rapper Jay-Z recently warned that class warfare in the streets may be looming, given the growing chasm between the haves and the have-nots. But contemporary Americans are not quite John Steinbeck’s Joads. And Jay-Z is no straitlaced Eugene Debs, the ex-locomotive fireman and socialist firebrand who sought a revolution in the society of early-20th-century America.

Today, obesity, not malnutrition, is America’s epidemic. Our youth’s education is hindered by too many cell phones, not access to too few books. Misogynistic and obscene lyrics may have enriched Jay-Z, but they reflect the sort of values that lead millions to remain in poverty, rather than becoming disciplined cadres organizing for social justice.

Are we to imagine that Jay-Z and Beyoncé, in the manner of their recent promenading among the impoverished of socialist Cuba, will hit the streets to storm the American Bastille — accompanied by their retinue of hairdressers, chauffeurs, investment advisers, and bodyguards?

Much has been written about Rachel Jeantel, routinely described as the prosecution's "star witness" in the George Zimmerman trial, almost as if she were some sort of new-generation civil-rights icon. Jeantel has been variously praised by liberals for her street smarts, and lamented by conservatives as emblematic of the tragic detours of the Great Society. Both agree that in some sense she is a victim of the social forces that for decades now have been forging an underclass.

Perhaps — but from her testimony and her post-trial interviews for hire, we learned that Ms. Jeantel was confident and savvy about using electronic media while at the same time apparently illiterate, given that she could not read "cursive." Yet whose fault is it that she preferred to post obscenities rather than scroll over to a book? Jeantel's worldview appears anti-liberal to the core. She admitted that her original testimony under oath was not fully accurate: Trayvon Martin, we now learn, wanted to "whoop ass" and so threw the first blow against Zimmerman. Yet Jeantel did not say that at the trial; she was quite willing to see the defendant convicted on false testimony.

Jeantel was unapologetic about her use of "retarded" as a putdown, her preposterous homophobic accusations that George Zimmerman could have been some sort of crazed gay rapist, and her casual use of slurs like "bitch," "nigga," and "crazy ass cracker." True, Jeantel is impoverished and no doubt "underserved" by a host of government agencies entrusted with providing support to the less well off. Yet by both past American and present global standards, she is not victimized in the sense of suffering hunger, unaddressed health problems, or lack of access to technology.

In today's topsy-turvy world, we are to emphasize the untruth that Ms. Jeantel is poor in the Dickensian sense, while ignoring the truth that her matter-of-fact worldview is by contemporary liberal benchmarks homophobic, racist, and misogynistic — and entirely contrary to the race-blind meritocracy that a much poorer, much more heroic generation of civil-rights leaders once sacrificed for.

From 1619 to 1865, African-Americans in a large region of North America were enslaved. For the century following the Civil War, they were deprived in the South of civil rights that were supposed to be accorded citizens of the United States, and elsewhere were often subjected to insidious racism. In the last half-century, a vast private effort has sought to change the American psyche while a vast public one has used government resources to attempt to redress racist legacies. These are elemental issues of good and evil that are at the heart of the human experience and must continue to be addressed — but not in the manner of our era of psychodramatic trivialization.

Recently, ten former contestants on the hit show *American Idol* sued, alleging that they lost the competition because of the supposedly racist and prejudicial practice of taking competitors' prior records of arrest into account. That injustice prompted the failed contestants to sue for \$25 million in damages — on the grounds that they had been subjected to “cruel and inhuman treatment.”

A prior age sought to ensure civil rights for all; our era assumes that not winning millions from a game show is proof of literal torture — for each “victim” worth \$25 million in compensation. But then again, we live in an age when the word “brown bag” is considered racist diction. Miffed Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, after his tussle with the Cambridge police, donated his plastic handcuffs to the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian. Perhaps Gates's plastic cuffs will be displayed alongside the rusty iron chains of chattel slaves.

Our generation does what it can, but in this time of unbridled wealth and leisure, it can be an unheroic task. The historically ignorant Oprah Winfrey exemplified such psychodrama when she compared Travon Martin to the lynched and mutilated Emmett Till — and by extension George Zimmerman to the acquitted racist murderers of Till. Oprah must have thought that false simile up while jetting back to her Montecito estate.

Since Barack Obama took office in 2009, 15 million Americans have been added to the food-stamp rolls — on top of the over 14 million who were added during President Bush's eight years in office. Recipients now include almost one in six Americans. Yet apparently to suggest that this vast increase in subsidies is a result of vast relaxation in standards, or that the increase does not mean that another 15 million Americans were suddenly in elemental need, is, in the words of former speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, tantamount to “taking food out of the mouths of babies.”

We are all worried about the diet of those on government assistance, but in my community the dangers to youth are the results not of an absence of calories, but rather of the uneconomical and habitual consumption of fast-food meals, sugar-laden soft drinks, and processed desserts, coupled with a lack of exercise — and the commensurate epidemic of obesity, diabetes, and kidney ailments that threatens to institutionalize poor health and ensure abbreviated lives. If nearly 50 million people on food stamps in a society suffering record levels of obesity is supposed to indicate too little rather than too much government help, why not ensure that 70 or 80 or 100 million have similar access to assistance?

Our entire society is experiencing the sort of cultural devolution associated with the further decline from modernism to postmodernism. If a skilled modern artist like Picasso became famous by ignoring canons of classical representation, then postmodern hack successors were left with nothing much to rebel against, and so gave us crucifixes in urine bottles and excrement thrown onto pictures of Christ. If brilliant moderns like T. S. Eliot often abandoned strict rules of metrics, rhyme, and poetic diction that they had themselves mastered, postmodern mediocrities who could not distinguish an hexameter from a metaphor write out banal phrases, randomly slice and dice the lines, and call it poetry.

In the same way, our modern social critics suffer and agonize when the war to save redwoods becomes a battle over the possible decline of a bait fish, and iron chains hang next to plastic handcuffs.



Two Americas

In early January 2014, Bob Lonsberry, a Rochester talk radio personality on WHAM 1180 AM, said this in response to Obama's "income inequality speech":

Two Americas

The Democrats are right, there are two Americas.

The America that works, and the America that doesn't.

The America that contributes, and the America that doesn't.

It's not the haves and the have nots, it's the dos and the don'ts.

Some people do their duty as Americans, obey the law, support themselves, contribute to society, and others don't. That's the divide in America.

It's not about income inequality, it's about civic irresponsibility.

It's about a political party that preaches hatred, greed and victimization in order to win elective office.

It's about a political party that loves power more than it loves its country. That's not invective, that's truth, and it's about time someone said it.

The politics of envy was on proud display a couple weeks ago when President Obama pledged the rest of his term to fighting "income inequality." He noted that some people make more than other people, that some people have higher incomes than others, and he says that's not just.

That is the rationale of thievery. The other guy has it, you want it, Obama will take it for you. Vote Democrat.

That is the philosophy that produced Detroit. It is the electoral philosophy that is destroying America .

It conceals a fundamental deviation from American values and common sense because it ends up not benefiting the people who support it, but a betrayal.

The Democrats have not empowered their followers; they have enslaved them in a culture of dependence and entitlement, of victim-hood and anger instead of ability and hope.

The president's premise - that you reduce income inequality by debasing the successful - seeks to deny the successful the consequences of their choices and spare the unsuccessful the consequences of their choices. Because, by and large, income variations in society is a result of different choices leading to different consequences. Those who choose wisely and responsibility have a far greater likelihood of success, while those who choose foolishly and irresponsibly have a far greater likelihood of failure. Success and failure usually manifest themselves in personal and family income.

You choose to drop out of high school or to skip college - and you are apt to have a different outcome than someone who gets a diploma and pushes on with purposeful education and/or employment.

You have your children out of wedlock and life is apt to take one course; you have them within a marriage and life is apt to take another course.

Most often in life our destination is determined by the course we take.

My doctor, for example, makes far more than I do. There is significant income inequality between us. Our lives have had an inequality of outcome, but, our lives also have had an equality of effort. While my doctor went to college and then devoted his young adulthood to medical school and residency, I got a job in a restaurant.

He made a choice, I made a choice, and our choices led us to different outcomes. His outcome pays a lot better than mine. Does that mean he cheated and Barack Obama needs to take away his wealth? No, it means we are both free men in a free society where free choices lead to different outcomes.

It is not inequality Barack Obama intends to take away, it is freedom. The freedom to succeed and the freedom to fail. There is no true option for success if there is no true option for failure. The pursuit of happiness means a whole lot less when you face the punitive hand of government if your pursuit brings you more happiness than the other guy. Even if the other guy sat on his arse and did nothing. Even if the other guy made a lifetime's worth of asinine and shortsighted decisions.

Barack Obama and the Democrats preach equality of outcome as a right, while completely ignoring inequality of effort. The simple Law of the Harvest - as ye sow, so shall ye reap - is sometimes applied as, "The harder you work, the more you get." Obama would turn that upside down. Those who achieve are to be punished as enemies of society and those who fail are to be rewarded as wards of society.

Entitlement will replace effort as the key to upward mobility in American society if Barack Obama gets his way. He seeks a lowest common denominator society in which the government besieges the successful and productive to foster equality through mediocrity. He and his party speak of two Americas, and their grip on power is based on using the votes of one to sap the productivity of the other. **America is not divided by the differences in our**

outcomes, it is divided by the differences in our efforts. It is a false philosophy to say one man's success comes about unavoidably as the result of another man's victimization.

What Obama offered was not a solution, but a separatism. He fomented division and strife, pitted one set of Americans against another for his own political benefit. That's what socialists offer. Marxist class warfare wrapped up with a bow.

Two Americas, coming closer each day to proving the truth to Lincoln's maxim that a house divided against itself cannot stand.



The Press and Dr. Faustus

Too late, American journalists realize their mistake.

by Victor Davis Hanson, *National Review Online*, July 5, 2013

<http://victorhanson.com/wordpress/?p=6176>

In the old Dr. Faustus story, a young scholar bargains away his soul to the devil for promises of obtaining almost anything he wants.

The American media has done much the same thing with the Obama administration. In return for empowering a fellow liberal, the press gave up its traditional adversarial relationship with the president.

But after five years of basking in a shared progressive agenda, the tab for such ecstasy has come due, and now the media is lamenting that it has lost its soul.

At first, the loss of independence seemed like a minor sacrifice. In 2008, MSNBC's Chris Matthews sounded almost titillated by an Obama speech, exclaiming, "My, I felt this thrill going up my leg." Earlier, *New York Times* columnist David Brooks had fixated on Obama's leg rather than his own: "I was looking at his pant leg and his perfectly creased pant, and I'm thinking, a) he's going to be president, and b) he'll be a very good president."

For worshiper and former *Newsweek* editor Evan Thomas, Obama was divine: "Obama's standing above the country, above the world, he's sort of God." TV pundit and presidential historian Michael Beschloss ranked the newly elected Barack Obama as "the smartest guy ever to become president."

For a press that had exposed Watergate, Iran-Contra, and the Monica Lewinsky affair, and had torn apart George W. Bush over everything from the Iraq War to Hurricane Katrina, this hero worship seemed obsessive. The late liberal reporter Michael Hastings summed up a typical private session between President Obama and the press during the 2012 campaign: "Everyone, myself included, swooned. Swooned! Head over heels. One or two might have even lost their minds. . . . We were all, on some level, deeply obsessed with Obama, crushing hard."

Sometimes the media and Obama were one big happy family — literally. The siblings of the presidents of ABC News and CBS News are both higher-ups in the Obama administration. The White House press secretary's wife is a correspondent for ABC's *Good Morning America*.

When Obama's chief political aide, David Axelrod, went to work for MSNBC, Obama jokingly called it "a nice change of pace, because MSNBC used to work for David Axelrod." Nor was Obama shy about rubbing in his subjects' hero worship: "My job is to be president; your job is to keep me humble. Frankly, I think I'm doing my job better." In Africa recently, Obama advised his traveling press corps to "behave," then compared them unfavorably with the more polite and compliant media of an increasingly authoritarian South Africa.

Four hundred reporters even formed their own off-the-record shared email chat group, JournoList, to strategize attacks against Obama's political opponents. AttackWatch.com (paid for by Obama for America) read like some sort of secret-police operation, asking readers to report any criticism of Obama as it compiled "Attack Files" in blaring black and red headers.

When President Obama kept open Guantanamo Bay or expanded the Bush war on terror, he was described as "anguished" and "torn" as he broke his earlier promises. Bad news like unemployment spikes or flat GDP growth was customarily editorialized with adverbs like "unexpectedly" — as if Obama's setbacks surely were aberrant and would quickly subside. In one of the 2012 presidential debates, the moderator, CNN's Candy Crowley, was so exasperated that Obama seemed to need help that she jumped in to challenge Mitt Romney.

Obama rightly assumed that when the Benghazi scandal surfaced during the 2012 campaign, the press would largely ignore it. Likewise, he knew that the politicization of the IRS would not warrant headline news. Ditto *Fast and Furious* and the NSA mess.

But then a Faustian thing happened. This year it was also revealed that the Obama administration had monitored the communications of Associated Press reporters on the suspicion that they were publishing leaks. For the first time, outrage arose: Liberal presidents were not, in Nixonian fashion, supposed to go after liberal reporters.

The Obama administration did not object to AP reporters' leaking classified information per se. Indeed, it had leaked the most intimate details of the cyber war against Iran, the drone protocols, and the bin Laden raid to pet reporters like the *New York Times*'s David Sanger and the *Washington Post*'s David Ignatius. The election-year "exclusive" revelations of both usually portrayed Obama as an underappreciated, muscular commander-in-chief.

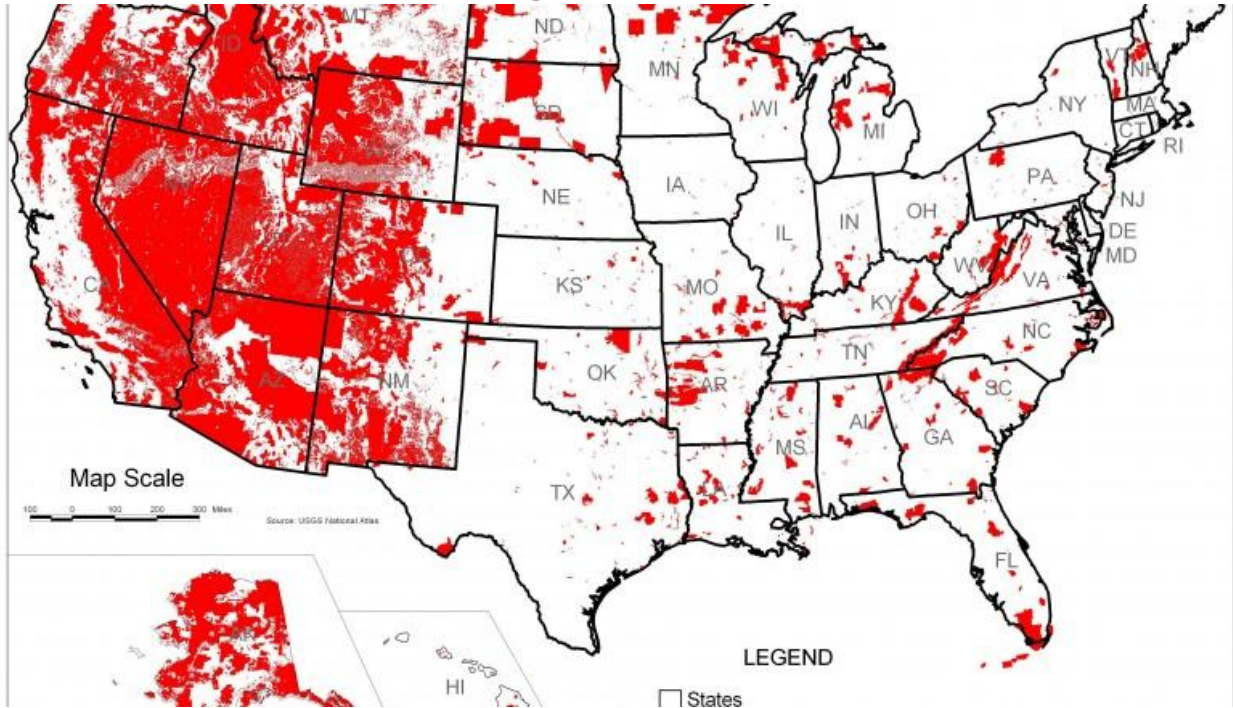
The crime instead was that AP was freelancing and might publish leaks that were not always flattering. Since long ago the media had made a pact, it was natural that the Obama administration assumed it had a right to monitor what it had bought.

In one version of the tale, Dr. Faustus at least got 24 years of freebies before being hauled off to Hell. Our poor media did not even get five years of adulation before Obama called in their souls.



UNITED NATIONS AGENDA 21

The Manic Drive to Return Land to Nature While Destroying Agriculture



Written By: [Patrick Wood](http://www.technocracy.news), Technocracy.news, February 8, 2016

<https://www.technocracy.news/index.php/2016/02/08/the-manic-drive-to-return-land-to-nature-while-destroying-agriculture/>

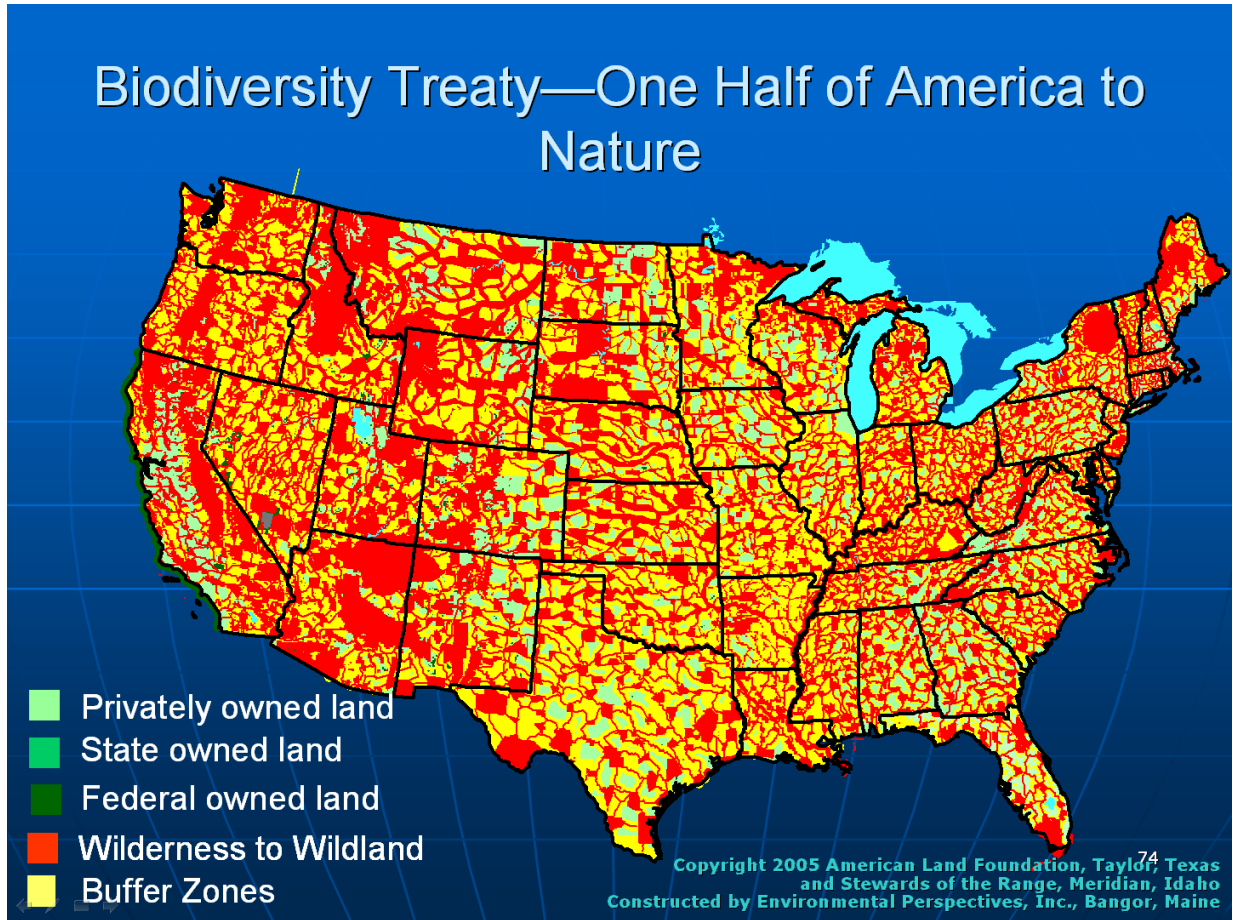
Since 1992, war on agriculture and food production in the United States has been under fierce attack, but the greatest heat has been felt in the West.

Ranchers have had their long-existing grazing and water rights methodically stripped away on Federal land. Farmers have been relentlessly sued by environmental groups and over-regulated by the government.

The so-called Sagebrush Rebellion was just gaining momentum when Ronald Reagan was elected in 1979. As a Westerner, even Reagan counted himself part of the Rebellion.

At the heart of the early stages of the Sagebrush Rebellion was the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In the 35 years since 1979, the USFS and BLM have steadily advanced like a Sherman tank, treading over any who would resist and destroying any who would actually attack.

An ignorant and apathetic public never came to the aid of their beleaguered brethren, leaving them to crushing machine of the Federal government. This could change shortly, because the recent Bundy (Nevada) and Hammond (Oregon) confrontations have raised public awareness of the resurgent Sagebrush Rebellion.



Courtesy of American Land Foundation

The larger picture is seen with the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in June 1992. The Earth Summit also codified and produced Agenda 21 (Agenda for the 21st Century).

President Clinton signed the CBD treaty on 04 June 1993, but ratification was flatly rejected by the Senate after the above map was introduced on the Senate floor. However, ratification aside, the Executive Branch has steadfastly prosecuted the CBD's policies and agenda until the present, primarily through operations of the BLM and USFS.

Who has mostly felt the increasing pressure of the BLM and USFS? Ranchers, farmers and anyone else who creates wealth from the land (lumber, mining, etc.).

This writer has thoroughly documented the connection between Technocracy, the Trilateral Commission and the United Nations' Agenda 21/2030 Agenda plan for the world. The CBD is a central component to the transformation process sought by Technocracy: to return arable

land to wilderness state and to drive rural populations into mega-cities where they can more easily be managed. (See [Technocracy Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation](#))

While the Sagebrush Rebellion has a name and increasing public visibility, agricultural farmers are not so fortunate. A recent press release from the National Alliance for Environmental Reform (NAER) seeks to rectify that:

Powerful new film documents devastating impact of environmental lawsuit abuse on California's Central Valley

SACRAMENTO, CA — The National Alliance for Environmental Reform (NAER) today released a “powerful and provocative” new documentary film entitled “Dead Harvest,” about the devastating impact federal laws and environmental lawsuits restricting water are having on farms, towns and agricultural workers in California’s Central Valley, and increasingly on the state’s urban areas.

Written and directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Ray McNally, “Dead Harvest” can be viewed at www.NAER.info.

“California’s Central Valley is the most abundant and productive agricultural land in the world,” said NAER board member Jack Stewart, who recently retired as president of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association.

“From fruits, nuts and vegetables, to beef, milk and cheese, a quarter of America’s food is produced here — and yet nearly a million acres have already been forced out of production because of a relentless onslaught of lawsuits filed by environmental groups that want to return large portions of the valley to desert by cutting off its water,” said Stewart.

“Despite costing thousands of jobs and billions in lost economic activity, virtually no one living outside the valley knows what’s happening here,” said Stewart. “‘Dead Harvest’ brings the crisis to life, detailing the devastating human and economic cost of these lawsuits, the hypocrisy of those filing them, and the damage they’re doing to California’s economy.

“It’s a powerful and provocative story that’s finally being told.”

The following film “Dead Harvest” is highly recommended and can be seen at <https://www.technocracy.news/index.php/2016/02/08/the-manic-drive-to-return-land-to-nature-while-destroying-agriculture/>



THE 2ND AMENDMENT

The futility of fighting terrorism with gun control

By [Rich Lowry](#), New York Post, December 7, 2015

<http://nypost.com/2015/12/07/the-futility-of-fighting-terrorism-with-gun-control/>



Self-righteousness is liberating. The same people who are most exercised about guns in America, and want to ban and even confiscate entire categories of firearms, know little about them and evidently feel no compunction to learn.

The worst terror attack in the United States since 9/11 has become the occasion for another frenzied, poorly informed push for new gun restrictions.

President Obama gave a prime-time address on the terror threat, in which he resolutely reaffirmed the status quo in the campaign against ISIS. Except that he hopes that gun control, one of the signal political and policy failures of our time, will now be deployed to help foil the apocalyptic terror group.

Almost every time there is a mass shooting, there is a rush to push old gun-control chestnuts regardless of their applicability.

The San Bernardino terror couple didn't buy their guns at a gun show (making the effort to close the so-called gun-show loophole irrelevant); they weren't on the terrorism watch list (so the proposal to ban people on the list from buying guns wouldn't have stopped them); and Syed Farook passed a background check when he bought two handguns (rendering calls for universal background checks moot).

The president and The New York Times, which saw fit to publish a front-page editorial for the first time since it thundered against Warren Harding in 1920, have fastened on the two "assault weapons," AR-15s, used in the attack. The Times called them "weapons of war, barely modified." President Obama referred to them as "powerful assault weapons."

On this question, the left has fallen for its own propaganda. Decades ago, gun-controllers decided to play on the confusion between semi-automatic versus automatic weapons to

push for a ban on nasty-looking assault weapons, even though they are, for the most part, functionally indistinguishable from other semi-automatic rifles.

The AR-15 is one of those semi-automatic guns. It isn't exotic or particularly powerful. It is the most popular rifle in the country. At least 3.5 million are in circulation. It is accurate and light, without much kick. You wouldn't use it in combat and, in fact, wouldn't necessarily use it to hunt.

A .223-caliber gun, it is less powerful than many handguns. Some states forbid .223-caliber rifles in deer hunting because they aren't powerful enough to reliably take down the game.

If gun-controllers know any of this, they hide it well. And they don't seem to care that a prior version of the assault-weapons ban, in effect in the 10 years after 1994, was wholly ineffectual.

A Department of Justice-backed study concluded, "Should it be renewed, the ban's effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement." (Rifles of all types, let alone assault rifles, are used in gun homicides only rarely.)

The proposal to keep people on the terrorist watch list from buying guns sounds sensible, yet it is problematic in that it denies people an explicit constitutional right on the basis of little or no due process. Last year, the Times itself inveighed against "the shadowy, self-contradictory world of American terror watch lists." If the watch list is to become a no-gun list, it has to be cleaned up and listees should have an opportunity to challenge their status upon attempting to buy a gun.

Such a prohibition would affect a tiny slice of gun purchases and would likely be mere symbolism, like the assault-weapons ban. The overriding reality that gun-controllers ignore is that almost all gun homicides are committed with handguns in routine street crime, handguns that are often obtained in informal networks operating outside the gun rules we already have.

But please don't confuse the anti-gun campaigners with facts. Their ignorance is invincible, and necessary to their crusade.



GLOBAL WARMING (CLIMATE CHANGE)

Prominent climate scientist offers scathing critique of Obama's Paris plans

James Hansen says President selling "our children, and theirs, down the river."

by [Eric Berger](#) , - Nov 27, 2015

<http://arstechnica.com/science/2015/11/prominent-climate-scientist-offers-scathing-critique-of-obamas-paris-plans/>



Hansen, in 1988, testifying before a U.S. Senate committee.

Three days before the beginning of a critical international climate conference in Paris, one of the world's most famous climate scientists, James Hansen, has written a withering criticism of President Obama's approach.

The Paris meeting will be attended by the heads of state of more than 130 countries, including Obama. Heading in, the United States has adopted a policy of calling for each country to set limits on carbon dioxide emissions, and will push for the adoption of technology to capture and store carbon dioxide. **That approach**, Hansen wrote in a [new letter](#) posted on his web site, **"is so gross, it is best described as unadulterated 100 percent pure bullshit."**

In his "communication" published on Friday, Hansen argued that world leaders are eager to avoid the embarrassment of the last major climate meeting in Copenhagen in 2009, which was largely ineffectual. This time, world leaders will reach a deal, Hansen says, and pat themselves on the back. This deal will likely include pledges to cut emissions by 2025. For example, the United States is expected to aim for cuts of 25 percent based on 2005 carbon levels.

Further Reading



[No, scientists aren't predicting 10ft higher sea level by 2050](#)

A look at the unusual story behind recent headlines.

"Watch what happens in Paris carefully to see if all that the leaders do is sign off on the pap that UN bureaucrats are putting together, indulgences and promises to reduce future emissions, and then clap each other on the back and declare success," Hansen writes. "In that case **President Obama will have sold our children, and theirs, down the river.**"

However, Hansen says, that approach will fail as it has in the past. The only way to meaningfully address carbon emissions is to put a tax on carbon-based fuels, and to refund the entire amount as a dividend to consumers. The net effect of this will be to spur research and development of renewable fuels, Hansen believes. The document also makes clear that Hansen believes that conservatives in the US and elsewhere would eventually be receptive a tax-based approach.

An atmospheric physicist, Hansen became a leading voice among scientists in the 1980s and 1990s, raising public and political concern about climate change. From 1981 to 2013, he was the head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York City. During that time, while he continued to do scientific research, he became more involved in advocacy, and further removed from US climate policy decisions.



97% Climbs to 99.5%- Obama Increases Percentage of Scientists Who Agree on Climate Change

By Barbara Hollingsworth, cnsnews.com, December 2, 2015

<https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=9100ghqj62qbn#9724333075>

(CNSNews.com) – President Obama said Tuesday that he's confident his successor will honor any climate change agreement negotiated in Paris because "99.5 percent of scientists and 99 percent of world leaders" think that climate change "is really important."

Obama's claim that there is a 99.5 percent consensus among scientists on climate change represents a 2.5 percent increase since May 16, 2013, when the president [tweeted](#): "Ninety-seven percent of scientists agree: #climate change is real, man-made and dangerous."

“Everybody else is taking climate change really seriously. They think it's a really big problem. It spans political parties,” Obama said during his [press conference](#) in Paris, where the United Nations' [COP 21](#) climate change summit is being held.

Responding to a question about whether foreign leaders can believe the U.S. will keep any commitments it makes in Paris if a Republican succeeds him in the White House, Obama said:

“Whoever is the next president of the United States, if they come in and they suggest somehow that that global consensus — not just 99.5% of scientists and experts, but 99% of world leaders — think this is really important, I think the president of the United States is going to need to think this is really important.”

The origin of the “97 percent” statistic has been [traced back to a 2009 study](#) by University of Illinois/Chicago graduate student Kendall Zimmerman, who sent a survey to 10,257 earth scientists asking them two questions:

“When compared with pre-1800s levels, do you think that mean global temperatures have generally risen, fallen, or remained relatively constant?” and
“Do you think human activity is a significant contributing factor in changing mean global temperatures?”

Eighty-two percent of the 3,146 scientists who completed the survey (a 30.7% response rate) answered “yes” to question 2. That figure included 75 of the 79 individuals (97.4%) who self-identified themselves as climate scientists.

In a 2013 paper [published](#) by the Institute of Physics IOPScience and [cited](#) by NASA, University of Queensland climate communication fellow [John Cook](#) also stated that 97 percent of scientists who took a position on global warming agreed that humans were the primary cause.

“Among abstracts expressing a position on AGW [anthropogenic global warming], 97.1% endorsed the consensus that humans are causing global warming,” Cook and his co-authors [stated](#).

However, a peer review of Cook's paper by [David Legates](#), a former state climatologist and professor at the University of Delaware, that was published in the April 2015 issue of *Science and Education* [debunked](#) the 97 percent consensus figure.

Legates pointed out that **only 41 of the 11,944 academic papers Cook examined in his meta-analysis (0.3%) explicitly stated that most of the global warming since 1950 was caused by human activity.**

“It is astonishing that any journal could have published a paper claiming a 97% climate consensus when in the authors' own analysis the true consensus was well below 1%,” Legates wrote.

Cook's paper was also criticized by other scientists for what they said was a number of [methodological errors](#).

"Probably the most widely repeated claim in the debate over global warming is that '97% of scientists agree' that climate change is man-made and dangerous," the three authors of [Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming](#) wrote in a just-released book published by the Heartland Institute.

"This claim is not only false, but its presence in the debate is an insult to science."

<<<<>>>>

'Climate change' lawyers quietly lay groundwork for EPA takeover of U.S. energy



[Michael Bastasch](#), CFACTs, February 4, 2016

http://www.cfact.org/2016/02/04/climate-change-lawyers-quietly-lay-groundwork-for-epa-takeover-of-us-energy/?utm_source=CFACT%20Updates&utm_campaign=6e48d7f0e7-Takeover2_4_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-6e48d7f0e7-270344661

Environmental lawyer Michael Bastasch has been pushing a legal theory that would give the Environmental Protection Agency cover to regulate every facet of state energy policy — effectively eliminating states' authority to craft their own regulations.

"Buried in the Clean Air Act is an extremely powerful mechanism that effectively gives EPA carte blanche to tell states to make drastic cuts to their emissions," [Brian Potts, a partner at the law firm Foley & Lardner](#) wrote in [Politico Monday](#).

"This provision, which can now be used thanks to the completion of the Paris climate deal, raises important questions about national sovereignty and states' rights — questions that Republicans would undoubtedly use to try and kill such a proposal," Potts wrote. "But the benefits of using this mechanism dwarf those concerns."

Potts is referring to Section 115 of the Clean Air Act. Liberal legal scholars argue the Paris global warming treaty has triggered this little-known provision of federal law, and now the EPA can launch a full takeover of states' environmental regulatory agendas.

“Section 115 of the Clean Air Act provides an untapped but potent opportunity for achieving many of the United States’ long-term climate change goals,” [13 liberal legal experts wrote in a January brief published by the Institute for Policy Integrity](#).

Several lawyers working for various environmental law groups want the EPA to use this provision to implement a nationwide cap-and-trade system. Ever since the defeat of cap-and-trade in Congress in 2010, environmentalists have been looking for legal loopholes for the EPA to use to unilaterally impose cap-and-trade on the U.S. economy.

“EPA and the states could implement a Section 115 regime with less difficulty than the current ... approach,” the lawyers wrote, “and could instead combine multiple sectors and source types in a single rulemaking that could establish a nationwide, market-based emissions reduction program.”

‘We Saw This Coming’

Attorney Chris Horner isn’t surprised by the arguments coming from these environmental law groups. Horner says *President Barack Obama has always sought to use the United Nations agreement in Paris to further his regulatory agenda.*

“As we have made plain all along to any who cared to listen, the administration’s intention behind agreeing to the Paris deal was quite transparently to create an argument and a trap for successive congresses and administrations to impose ever-tighter EPA energy rationing rules in the name of catastrophic man-made global warming,” Horner, an attorney with the Energy & Environmental Legal Institute, told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

Horner has led the charge against the EPA’s so-called Clean Power Plan, filing lawsuits and [uncovering emails showing the agency’s cozy relationship with environmental activists](#) hoping to push more regulations on businesses. Now, Horner has turned his attention to uncovering the legal implications of Obama’s agreeing to cut U.S. emissions.

“Unlike previous global warming treaties like Kyoto, which had a finite life, Paris — which obviously a treaty on its face — includes an evergreen provision promising new rules every five years,” Horner said, adding *the Obama administration is already using the Paris agreement as legal precedent to block challenges by states to EPA rules.*

“Going forward, expect those arguments in court and in the media echo chamber to help shield EPA’s rules, and to compel more rules every five years,” Horner said. “‘We’ve promised the world!’ Except, only Obama promised them.”

The Path To EPA Rule

Legal scholars say there are two conditions that need to be satisfied before the EPA can take over state regulatory decisions.

First, **EPA needs findings from an international agency showing American pollution is harming public health in other countries.** Carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas blamed for global warming, has been listed as a pollutant by the EPA.

“The many reports put out by the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change over the past few decades meet this requirement,” Potts argued. “The U.S. is one of the top greenhouse gas emitters in the world, and its pollution undoubtedly endangers public health and welfare in many other countries.”

Next, **EPA must show a foreign country that’s harmed by U.S. emissions has given America “essentially the same rights with respect to the prevention ... of air pollution occurring in that country,”** according to Potts. This is where the recent United Nations agreement comes into play.

“The Paris agreement satisfies this reciprocity requirement because there are now nearly 190 countries planning to reduce their emissions, at least in part, to protect one another’s health and welfare,” Potts wrote.

Potts even argued the fact that the Paris agreement isn’t legally-binding doesn’t matter. In his words, “nothing in Section 115 requires such enforceability.”

But the Paris agreement can still be derailed by the Senate, even though it’s not seen as a traditional treaty. **The Senate can still assert its constitutional power over treaties to derail the agreement before Obama signs it.**

“It is the complete failure by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to do its job, choosing instead by inaction to cede its shared constitutional role in the treaty process to be one that exists at the pleasure of the president,” Horner said. “Now it is time for others to take over.”

“If the Senate as a whole does not provide its Art. II ‘advice’ — that Paris requires ‘consent’ to mean anything to anyone — prior to the president’s planned “Mother Earth Day” signature, we might as well disband the committee and agree with Sec. Kerry that the treaty process is dead, that binding us into perpetual, unpopular schemes is now a unilateral function of the executive,” he added.

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NOAA’s climate change science fiction

The environmental intelligence agency ignores satellite data

By Lamar Smith, Washington Times, November 26, 2015

<http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/nov/26/lamar-smith-noaas-climate-change-science-fiction/>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the nation’s leading collector of climate data. Every day, NOAA analyzes vast amounts of data to predict

changes to our climate, weather, oceans and coasts. The agency also publishes monthly temperature averages across the nation and compares those numbers to historical temperature records.

As the nation's self-proclaimed authority on "environmental intelligence," NOAA should be held to the highest scientific standards. This means their conclusions should be objective, independent of political consideration and based on all available sources of information.

NOAA's top official, Kathryn Sullivan, has described the agency's role as providing "timely, reliably, and actionable information — based on sound science — every day to millions of Americans."

In testimony before the House Science Committee, NOAA's deputy administrator, Manson Brown, made similar remarks, noting the importance of satellite data. He said that NOAA's ability "to deliver environmental intelligence starts with keeping the pulse of the planet, especially the atmosphere and the ocean, and this is the central capability where space-based assets come into play." So why does NOAA leave out satellite data when it releases climate projections?

NOAA often fails to consider all available data in its determinations and climate change reports to the public. A recent study by NOAA, published in the journal *Science*, made "adjustments" to historical temperature records and NOAA trumpeted the findings as refuting the nearly two-decade pause in global warming. The study's authors claimed these adjustments were supposedly based on new data and new methodology. But the study failed to include satellite data.

In testimony before the House Science Committee, NOAA's deputy administrator, Manson Brown, made similar remarks, noting the importance of satellite data. He said that NOAA's ability "to deliver environmental intelligence starts with keeping the pulse of the planet, especially the atmosphere and the ocean, and this is the central capability where space-based assets come into play." So why does NOAA leave out satellite data when it releases climate projections?

Atmospheric satellite data, considered by many to be the most objective, has clearly showed no warming for the past two decades. This fact is well documented, but has been embarrassing for an administration determined to push through costly environmental regulations.

Instead, NOAA focused its study on surface temperature monitoring that is often flawed because these sites measure thousands of independent temperature readings and utilize a hodgepodge of different methods that have changed over time. For example, measurements from land-based stations can be skewed because of their location and proximity to surrounding heat-holding asphalt in urban areas.

Satellite data, on the other hand, is highly calibrated and provides complete global coverage. For decades, satellites have been used to monitor the earth and collect information. Satellites measure something extremely important — the deep atmosphere. The

temperature readings collected by satellites often differ from ground monitoring stations and have consistently shown much smaller rates of warming. Yet NOAA refuses to incorporate satellite data into its monthly projections that are released to the public. Why?

NOAA appears to pick and choose only data that confirms their bias. NOAA then disseminates this incomplete data to the media who manufacture alarming headlines but ignore the uncertainty of the conclusions.

Earlier this year, NASA issued a news release stating that 2014 was the warmest year on record. Few media acknowledged the footnote: Scientists were only 38 percent sure this was actually correct. That is less than 50-50.

NOAA fully understands margins of error and works with them on a daily basis. But where are these details in their news releases? While NOAA's monthly projections usually warn of increased warming, they ignore satellite data that refutes their alarmist statements.

The ability to remain independent of political consideration seems like a minimum requirement for an agency that should provide unbiased scientific information. But NOAA's habit of picking and choosing data raises serious questions about the agency's independence. In fact, it shreds NOAA's credibility.

As a self-proclaimed "environmental intelligence agency," NOAA's reports should be based only on the best available science that takes into account all sources of data. Unfortunately, NOAA continues to rely upon biased science in pursuit of a predetermined outcome. That's not good science, it's science fiction.

This administration is pursuing an extreme political climate change agenda and has made NOAA its accomplice. These are not the actions of an objective agency. NOAA needs to come clean about why it cherry-picked and changed certain data, while ignoring satellite data, to get the results it wanted.

• *Lamar Smith, Texas Republican, is chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.*



Celebrate! U.S. Supreme Halts Obama EPA Climate Regs – Skeptics Pleased: ‘This is a major victory’



By: [Marc Morano](#) - [Climate Depot](#) February 9, 2016

<http://www.climatedepot.com/2016/02/09/celebrate-u-s-supreme-halts-obama-epa-climate-regs-skeptics-pleased-this-is-a-major-victory/#ixzz3znMldUbn>

“The U.S. Supreme Court has dealt a decisive blow to President Obama's so-called EPA climate regulations. The Court may have stopped the EPA cold with the EPA regulations unlikely to be implemented before Obama leaves office. This will give political leaders time to mobilize and ensure that the EPA ‘climate rules’ never see the light of day. Delay is nothing short of a victory.

This is a major victory for U.S. sovereignty, energy freedom, climate science and a blow to economic central planning.

This ruling is first and foremost a victory for science. Halting — even temporarily- the EPA regulations mean we no longer have to listen to Obama officials claiming the rules – which would not even impact global CO2 levels – would somehow lessen extreme storms. See: [EPA Claims That ‘Global Action’ On Global Warming Will Stop ‘Extreme Weather’ – Flashback 2009: Former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson: “U.S. action alone will not impact world CO2 levels.”](#)) [Watch: Morano on Fox News on EPA Calling Skeptics NOT ‘Normal’: It’s abnormal to believe symbolic regs by U.S. govt would impact future extreme storms’ – EPA Chief Admits Obama Regs Have No Measurable Climate Impact: ‘One one-hundredth of a degree?’ EPA Chief McCarthy defends regs as ‘enormously beneficial’ – Symbolic impact](#)

The notion that EPA regulations could somehow impact global temperatures can now be dispatched to the dustbin of history along with [Medieval witchcraft!](#)

Climate sanity may be restored to the U.S.

The Supreme, by stopping the EPA climate rules, has also — at least temporarily — stopped the Obama administration from using the EPA to implement the UN Paris climate agreement. See: [UN Paris Agreement Is a Real Tiger: Lock and Load – ‘A device for mobilizing political pressure against opponents of Obama’s climate policies’](#)

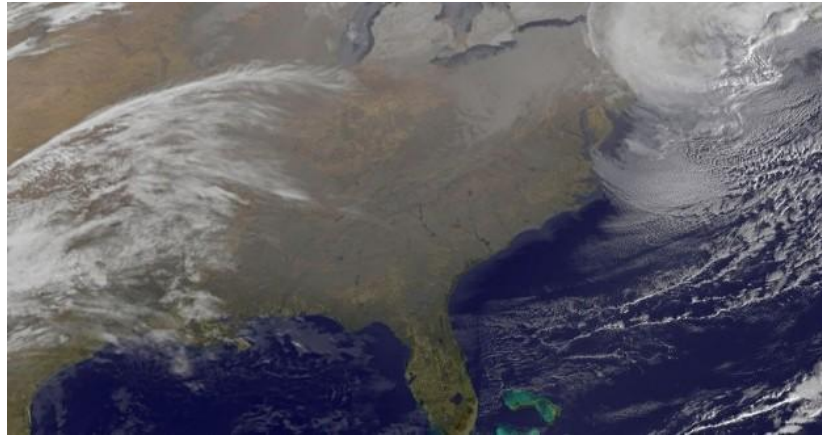
President Obama's climate agenda just suffered a major setback by this ruling. Obama's **attempt to bypass Democracy** on climate, may be officially doomed. Obama had been

poised to implement the **scientifically meaningless 'climate regulations'** by bypassing Congress through executive orders and by bypassing any potential Senate ratification of the UN Paris agreement. See: ['The Chinafication of America': Reaction to Obama Bypassing the Senate with UN Climate Treaty: 'Obama is taking a page from China's government'](#)

This is truly a decision — at least for now — to celebrate!"



Scientist Ruthlessly Debunks NOAA Climate Claim



[Michael Bastasch](#), CFact, February 2, 2016

[http://www.cfact.org/2016/02/02/scientist-ruthlessly-debunks-noaa-climate-claim/?utm_source=CFACT%20Updates&utm_campaign=f691a3bb1d-](http://www.cfact.org/2016/02/02/scientist-ruthlessly-debunks-noaa-climate-claim/?utm_source=CFACT%20Updates&utm_campaign=f691a3bb1d-Dr_Christy_weighs_in2_2_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-f691a3bb1d-270344661)

[Dr_Christy_weighs_in2_2_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-f691a3bb1d-270344661](http://www.cfact.org/2016/02/02/scientist-ruthlessly-debunks-noaa-climate-claim/?utm_source=CFACT%20Updates&utm_campaign=f691a3bb1d-Dr_Christy_weighs_in2_2_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a28eaedb56-f691a3bb1d-270344661)

In face of intense criticism from alarmist scientists, Dr. John Christy went to great lengths in a Tuesday congressional hearing to detail why satellite-derived temperatures are much more reliable indicators of warming than surface thermometers.

"That's where the real mass of the climate system exists in terms of the atmosphere," Christy, a climate scientist at the University of Alabama and Alabama's state climatologist, said in a Wednesday hearing before the House science committee.

"When a theory contradicts the facts" you need to change the theory, Christy said. "The real world is not going along with rapid warming. The models need to go back to the drawing board."

Texas Republican Rep. Lamar Smith, the committee's chairman, [convened a hearing on the implications of President Barack Obama's recent United Nations deal](#) in Paris, which agreed to cut carbon dioxide emissions.

Christy doesn't think signing onto a U.N. deal is good for Americans, and challenges the very data politicians and environmentalists rely on to push green energy policies.

“One of my many climate interests is the way surface temperatures are measured and how surface temperatures, especially over land, are affected by their surroundings,” [Christy wrote in his prepared testimony](#).

Christy recently [co-authored a study with veteran meteorologist Anthony Watts](#) that found the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was basing its temperature adjustments on “compromised” temperature data.



Dr. John Christy

The study found most of NOAA’s 1,218 thermometers were sited near artificial surfaces and heat sources like concrete, asphalt, and air conditioner exhausts that were causing more warming to show in the U.S. temperature record than was present at weather stations that were well-sited.

Christy and Watts surmised NOAA was basing its temperature adjustments (efforts made to get “biases” out of the temperature record) on bad data.

“I closely examined individual stations in different regions and have come to the conclusion that the magnitude of the relatively small signal we seek in human-induced climate change is easily convoluted by the growth of infrastructure around the thermometer stations and the variety of changes these stations undergo through time, as well as the variability of the natural ups and downs of climate,” Christy noted in his testimony.

“It is difficult to adjust for these contaminating factors to extract a pure dataset for greenhouse detection because often the non-climatic influence comes along very gradually just as is expected of the response to the enhanced greenhouse effect,” Christy added.

But that’s why Christy argues satellite-derived temperatures are a better way to look at how greenhouse gases are impacting the Earth’s climate.

“The bulk atmospheric temperature is where the signal is the largest,” Christy said in the hearing, referring to the greenhouse gas effect. “We have measurements for that — it doesn’t match up with the models.”

Satellite-derived temperatures have come under fire recently by scientists more alarmist about global warming than Christy, but the Alabama climatologist addressed those criticisms.

“Because this result challenges the current theory of greenhouse warming in relatively straightforward fashion, there have been several well-funded attacks on those of us who build and use such datasets and on the datasets themselves,” Christy said.

Climate models for the bulk atmosphere (where satellites measure temperature) show 2.5 times as much warming as has been observed by satellites and weather balloons.

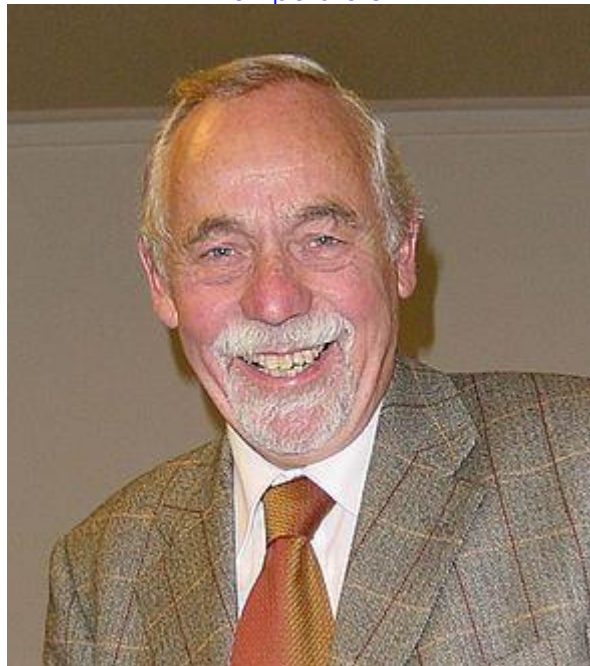
“It is a bold strategy in my view to actively promote the output of theoretical climate models while attacking the multiple lines of evidence from observations,” Christy wrote. “Note that none of the observational datasets are perfect and continued scrutiny is healthy, but when multiple, independent groups generate the datasets and then when the results for two completely independent systems (balloons and satellites) agree closely with each other and disagree with the model output, one is left scratching one’s head at the decision to launch an offensive against the data.”



German Scientist Accused NASA of ‘Massive’ Temperature Alterations

By [Barbara Hollingsworth](#), cnsnews.com, November 30, 2015

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/barbara-hollingsworth/german-scientist-accuses-nasa-massive-alteration-temperature>



Dr. Friedrich-Karl Ewert (University of Paderborn)

(CNSNews.com) – A German scientist has accused the National Aeronautics and Space Agency's (NASA) [Goddard Institute of Space Studies](#) (GISS) of altering temperature records between 2010 and 2012 to produce the illusion that the Earth has been warming since 1950.

GISS datasets are used by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) to document global warming.

In a [presentation](#) at the 2012 [EIKE Climate Conference](#) in Germany, Professor Friedrich-Karl Ewert, a retired geologist and data expert from the [University of Paderborn](#), said that he examined publicly available archived temperature records from 1,153 weather stations around the globe going back to 1881 and found evidence of "massive" tampering by GISS between 2010 and 2012.

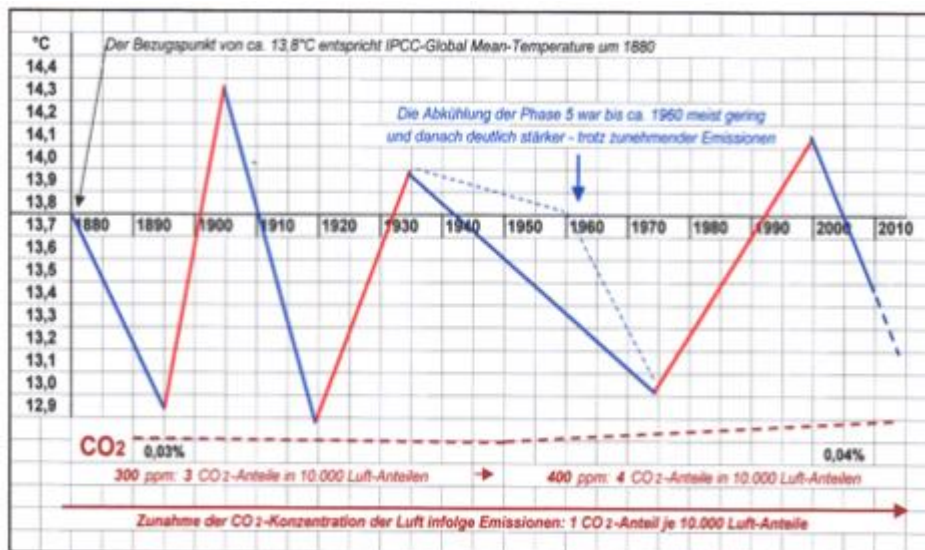
Ewert noticed that "the temperature data of Reykjavik [Iceland] and Nuuk Nuur [Greenland] had been changed retroactively," veteran German television journalist [Gunter Ederer writes](#). The 2012 data was higher than the temperatures recorded before 2010.

The German scientist then randomly selected 120 weather stations around the world and manually compared the [archived data](#) to GISS' 2012 temperature records.

"He always came to the same conclusion: The temperature supplied from 2012 showed a higher warming than the published [archived data] in 2010," Ederer writes.

Ewert also found that since 1881, four distinct cooling stages have alternated with three warming phases. He says the Earth is currently in a cooling phase.

And since a stronger warming cycle occurred before carbon dioxide emissions began to rise, Ewert concluded that "an influence of our CO2 emissions [on] temperatures can not be seen."



(Source: Dr. Friedrich-Karl Ewert)

“Mankind always knew that constantly there are climate changes,” according to a [translation](#) of Ewert’s EIKE article. “The parable of the seven fat and seven lean years [is] an indication.”

Ewert also claims to have found 10 different statistical methods used by NASA-GISS to change the overall trend from cooling to warming.

“Between the years 2010 and 2012 the data measured since 1881 were altered so that they showed a significant warming, especially after 1950.... A comparison of the data from 2010 with the data of 2012 shows that NASA-GISS had altered its own datasets so that especially after WWII, a clear warming appears – although it never existed,” Ederer writes.

“Using the NASA data from 2010 the surface temperature globally from 1940 until today has fallen by 1.110°C, and since 2000 it has fallen 0.4223°C. ... The cooling has hit every continent except for Australia, which warmed by 0.6339°C since 2000. The figures for Europe: From 1940 to 2010, using the data from 2010, there was a cooling of 0.5465°C and a cooling of 0.3739°C since 2000.”

Noting that “an entire industry of air rescuers and the resulting trillions of dollars that are so invested [in deindustrialization] are at stake,” Ederer adds that “the thesis of man-made global warming has taken on a whole new meaning: Yes, it is always made by people when the data are adjusted to fit the theory.”



'Klimate-Change' Kooks Suffer New Setback: Ancient Tropical Forest Found in Norway

By [Michael Walsh](#) PJ Media, November 21, 2015

<https://pjmedia.com/trending/2015/11/21/klimate-change-kooks-suffer-new-setback-ancient-tropical-forest-found-in-norway>

An ancient tropical forest found in Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, may explain one of the most dramatic climatic shifts in Earth's history. Some 400 million years ago, Earth's atmosphere witnessed a **15-fold reduction in carbon dioxide**. Climate scientists have long tried to account for the drop.

Some scientists believe it was the rise of forests just like the one found in Norway that precipitated the change. As the planet came to host large plants for the first time, the mighty tropical trees sucked millions of tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

The newly unearthed forest -- dated at 380 million years old and with its tree stumps preserved still in their upright positions -- may mark the beginning of the transition from small plants and grasses to large tree forests.

"These fossil forests shows us what the vegetation and landscape were like on the equator 380 million years ago, as the first trees were beginning to appear on the Earth," researcher Chris Berry, a professor of earth sciences at Cardiff University, [said in a press release](#).

You really have to laugh at a "scientific consensus" that is so transparently absurd that it can be defeated by the slightest exercise of rational faculties, but such is the extent of the profoundly anti-human "climate-change" racket today. Meanwhile, if you want to see real change on planet Earth, read on:

Over the course of the ancient forest's long existence, the now-frozen trees have enjoyed a lengthy journey. During the Devonian period, 420 to 360 million years ago, the Norwegian archipelago was part of Laurasia, one of two supercontinents along with Gondwana. The ancient trees grew up near the equator, **several hundred miles south of their current home**.

The forest's discovery supports the theory that the emergence of forests led to a drop in CO2 levels. In addition to sucking up more carbon dioxide, the tall trees also helped block out more of the sun's radiation. Slowly, the planet cooled to temperatures closer to today's.

Continents shift, temperature rise and fall. And man has absolutely nothing to do with it. What arrogance, what presumption -- and mostly, what greed!



John Kerry's Surprising Comments on International Regulations and Climate Change

[Nicolas Loris](#) / [@NiconomistLoris](#), The Daily Signal, December 11, 2015
<http://dailysignal.com/2015/12/11/john-kerrys-surprising-comments-on-international-regulations-and-climate-change/>

Although he probably didn't mean to, Secretary of State John Kerry made a compelling case for why the U.S. and other countries should not go down the path of shutting down coal-fired plants, raising energy prices and stunting economic growth to combat global warming.

Speaking in Paris, Kerry said:

The fact is that even if every American citizen biked to work, carpooled to school, used only solar panels to power their homes, if we each planted a dozen trees, if we somehow eliminated all of our domestic greenhouse gas emissions, guess what – that still wouldn't be enough to offset the carbon pollution coming from the rest of the world.

If all the industrial nations went down to zero emissions – remember what I just said, all the industrial emissions went down to zero emissions – it wouldn't be enough, not when more than 65 percent of the world's carbon pollution comes from the developing world.

He's exactly right. Paul Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels estimate that the climate regulations the Obama administration are imposing on the energy sector – costs that will be

passed down to households – [will avert a meager 0.018 degree Celsius](#) of warming by the year 2100.

In fact, the U.S. could cut 100 percent of its CO2 emissions and it would not make a difference in global warming.

Using the same climate sensitivity modeling as the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world [would only be 0.137 degree C cooler by 2100](#). What's worse is that if you included 100 percent cuts from the entire industrialized world in their modeling, then you would only [avert warming by 0.278 degree C](#) by the turn of the century.

If Kerry got his wish, developing countries like India and China would play ball. But they're not going to and quite frankly, neither is the rest of the developing world and some parts of the developed world.

According to the Climate Action Tracker, there are plans to build more [than 2,400 coal-fired power plants](#) over the next 15 years. That [includes](#) plants that have been announced, in the pre-permit stage, permitted or under construction. These countries want access to cheap and abundant energy, in order to provide their citizens with a stable current of electricity and to keep their economy growing.



Kerry got one point very wrong, however. We're talking about carbon dioxide emissions, not carbon pollution. The administration has evolved their message on this issue, from global warming, to climate change, to carbon pollution.

Carbon dioxide is a colorless, non-toxic gas that does not have adverse impacts on human health. Calling CO2, carbon pollution, is deceiving the public. But at least Kerry spoke clearly about the futility of any unilateral or multilateral plans to address global warming.



Pentagon orders commanders to prioritize climate change in all military actions

By Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times, February 7, 2016

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/feb/7/pentagon-orders-commanders-to-prioritize-climate-c/>

The Pentagon is ordering the top brass to incorporate climate change into virtually everything they do, from testing weapons to training troops to war planning to joint exercises with allies.

A new directive's theme: The U.S. Armed Forces must show "resilience" and beat back the threat based on "actionable science."

It says the military will not be able to maintain effectiveness unless the directive is followed. It orders the establishment of a new layer of bureaucracy — a wide array of "climate change boards, councils and working groups" to infuse climate change into "programs, plans and policies."

The Pentagon defines resilience to climate change as: "Ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions."

To four-star generals and admirals, among them the regional combatant commanders who plan and fight the nation's wars, the directive tells them: "Incorporate climate change impacts into plans and operations and integrate [DoD](#) guidance and analysis in Combatant Command planning to address climate change-related risks and opportunities across the full range of military operations, including steady-state campaign planning and operations and contingency planning."

The directive, "Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience," is in line with President Obama's view that global warming is the country's foremost national security threat, or close to it. Mr. Obama says there is no debate on the existence of man-made global warming and its ensuing climate change. Supporters of this viewpoint label as "deniers" any scientists who disagree.

But there are stubborn doubters. A climate center in Colorado has said its researchers looked at decades of weather reports and concluded there has been no uptick in storms. The [United Nations](#) came to a similar finding, saying there is not enough evidence to confirm an increase in droughts and floods.

A previous Pentagon report on climate change attributed Super Storm Sandy to climate change.

Dakota Wood, a retired Marine Corps officer and U.S. Central Command planner, said the Pentagon is introducing climate change, right down to military tactics level.

“By equating tactical actions of immediate or short-term utility with large-scale, strategic-level issues of profound importance, the issue of climate change and its potential impact on national security interests is undermined,” he said. “People tend to dismiss the whole, what might be truly important, because of all the little silly distractions that are included along the way.”

He said climate change is typically measured in long stretches of time.

“The climate does change over great periods of time, typically measured in millennia, though sometimes in centuries,” he said. “But the document mentions accounting for such down to the level of changes in ‘tactics, techniques and procedures’ as if reviewing how a squad conducts a patrol should be accorded the same level of importance and attention as determining whether the naval base at Norfolk, Virginia, might have to be relocated as sea levels rise over the next 100 years.”

Multipoint strategy

The directive originated in the office of Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. Final approval came from Deputy Defense Secretary Robert O. Work.

The directive is loaded with orders to civilian leaders and officers on specifically how counter-climate change strategy is to permeate planning.

“This involves deliberate preparation, close cooperation, and coordinated planing by DoD to provide for the continuity of DoD operations, services and programs,” it states.

“The DoD must be able to adapt current and future operations to address the impacts of climate change in order to maintain an effective and efficient U.S. military,” it adds. “Mission planning and execution must include anticipating and managing any risks that develop as a result of climate change to build resilience.”

Climate change must be integrated in:

- Weapons buying and testing “across the life cycle of weapons systems, platforms and equipment.”
- Training ranges and capabilities.
- Defense intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance.
- Defense education and training.
- Combatant commander joint training with allies to “assess the risks to U.S. security interests posed by climate change.”

- Joint Chiefs of Staff collaboration “with allies and partners to optimize joint exercises and war games including factors contributing to geopolitical and socioeconomic instability.”

Mr. Wood, now a military analyst at The Heritage Foundation, said the directive is muddled.

“I understand the motivation behind and intent for such guidance,” he said. “The problem is that it includes such a wide variety of issues with no explication or context that enables the offices mentioned to differentiate and prioritize activities and efforts across time or intensity.”

‘A lack of evidence’

The Department of Defense last issued a broad directive on climate change in July. It declared climate change an “urgent and growing threat to our national security” and blamed it for “increased natural disasters.”

The report also told commanders there are “more frequent and/or severe extreme weather events that may require substantial involvement of DoD units, personnel and assets in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.”

This assertion is not supported by the U.N.'s most recent global warming predictions.

Roger Pielke Jr., a professor of environmental studies at the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research at the University of Colorado, also has come to conclusions at odds with the Obama administration. He has testified on Capitol Hill, clashing with liberals who say his data are wrong.

“Current datasets indicate no significant observed trends in global tropical cyclone frequency over the past century,” he wrote in 2013. “No robust trends in annual numbers of tropical storms, hurricanes and major hurricanes counts have been identified over the past 100 years in the North Atlantic basin.

“In summary, there continues to be a lack of evidence and thus low confidence regarding the sign of trend in the magnitude and/or frequency of floods on a global scale.”

Rep. Raul M. Grijalva, Arizona Democrat, tried to silence Mr. Pielke by unleashing allegations and starting an investigation.

Fellow scientists have come to Mr. Pielke's defense and accused Democrats of violating academic freedom.

“Congressman Grijalva doesn't have any evidence of any wrongdoing on my part, either ethical or legal, because there is none,” Mr. Pielke wrote on a blog. “He simply disagrees with the substance of my testimony — which is based on peer-reviewed research funded by the U.S. taxpayer, and which also happens to be the consensus of the IPCC.”

The IPCC is the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"I have no funding, declared or undeclared, with any fossil fuel company or interest. I never have. Rep. Grijalva knows this too, because when I have testified before the U.S. Congress, I have disclosed my funding and possible conflicts of interest," Mr. Pielke said. "So I know with complete certainty that this investigation is a politically motivated 'witch hunt' designed to intimidate me [and others] and to smear my name."

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Climate Change Will Not Be Dangerous for a Long Time **Slower warming than predicted gives the world time to develop better energy technologies**

- By [Matt Ridley](#), Scientific American, November 27, 2015

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/climate-change-will-not-be-dangerous-for-a-long-time/>



The climate change debate has been polarized into a simple dichotomy. Either global warming is "real, man-made and dangerous," as Pres. Barack Obama thinks, or it's a "hoax," as Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe thinks. But there is a third possibility: that it is real, man-made and not dangerous, at least not for a long time.

This "lukewarm" option has been boosted by recent climate research, and if it is right, current policies may do more harm than good. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other bodies agree that the rush to grow biofuels, justified as a decarbonization measure, has raised food prices and contributed to rainforest destruction. Since 2013 aid agencies such as the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the World Bank and the European Investment Bank have restricted funding for building fossil-fuel plants in Asia and Africa; that has slowed progress in bringing electricity to the one billion people who live without it and the four million who die each year from the effects of cooking over wood fires.

In 1990 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was predicting that if emissions rose in a "business as usual" way, which they have done, then global average temperature would rise at the rate of about 0.3 degree Celsius per decade (with an uncertainty range of 0.2 to 0.5 degree C per decade). In the 25 years since, temperature has risen at about 0.1 to 0.2 degree C per decade, depending on whether surface or satellite data is used. The IPCC, in its most recent assessment report, lowered its near-term forecast for the global mean surface temperature over the period 2016 to 2035 to just 0.3 to 0.7 degree

C above the 1986–2005 level. That is a warming of 0.1 to 0.2 degree C per decade, in all scenarios, including the high-emissions ones.

At the same time, new studies of climate sensitivity—the amount of warming expected for a doubling of carbon dioxide levels from 0.03 to 0.06 percent in the atmosphere—have suggested that most models are too sensitive. The average sensitivity of the 108 model runs considered by the IPCC is 3.2 degrees C. As Pat Michaels, a climatologist and self-described global warming skeptic at the Cato Institute testified to Congress in July, certain studies of sensitivity published since 2011 find an average sensitivity of 2 degrees C.

Such lower sensitivity does not contradict greenhouse-effect physics. The theory of dangerous climate change is based not just on carbon dioxide warming but on positive and negative feedback effects from water vapor and phenomena such as clouds and airborne aerosols from coal burning. Doubling carbon dioxide levels, alone, should produce just over 1 degree C of warming. These feedback effects have been poorly estimated, and almost certainly overestimated, in the models.

The last IPCC report also included a table debunking many worries about “tipping points” to abrupt climate change. For example, it says a sudden methane release from the ocean, or a slowdown of the Gulf Stream, are “very unlikely” and that a collapse of the West Antarctic or Greenland ice sheets during this century is “exceptionally unlikely.”

If sensitivity is low and climate change continues at the same rate as it has over the past 50 years, then dangerous warming—usually defined as starting at 2 degrees C above preindustrial levels—is about a century away. So we do not need to rush into subsidizing inefficient and land-hungry technologies, such as wind and solar or risk depriving poor people access to the beneficial effects of cheap electricity via fossil fuels.

As the upcoming Paris climate conference shows, the world is awash with plans, promises and policies to tackle climate change. But they are having little effect. Ten years ago the world derived 87 percent of its primary energy from fossil fuels; today, according the widely respected BP statistical review of world energy, the figure is still 87 percent. The decline in nuclear power has been matched by the rise in renewables but the proportion coming from wind and solar is still only 1 percent.

Getting the price of low-carbon energy much lower will do the trick. So we should spend the coming decades stepping up research and development of new energy technologies. Many people may reply that we don't have time to wait for that to bear fruit, but given the latest lukewarm science of climate change, I think we probably do.

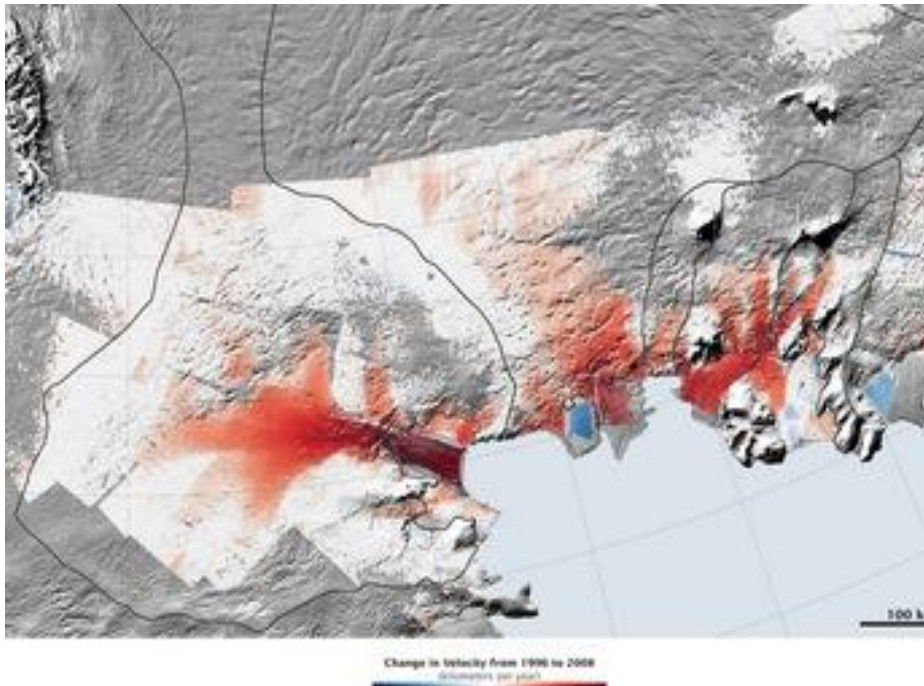
Matt Ridley writes a weekly column in The Times of London and writes regularly for The Wall Street Journal. He was elected to the House of Lords in February 2013. He declares a relevant interest in income derived from leasing land for farming, coal mining and wind power.



Earth May Spin Faster as Glaciers Melt

by Charles Q. Choi, Live Science Contributor, December 11, 2015

<http://www.livescience.com/53071-melting-glaciers-change-earth-spin.html>



Scientists say a section of the West Antarctic ice sheet has reached a point of inevitable collapse, an event that would eventually raise sea levels more than 3 feet (1 meter).

Melting ice triggered by global warming may make Earth whirl **faster** than before and could shift the axis on which the planet spins, researchers say.

This could also affect sunset times, as the [length of Earth's day](#) depends on the speed at which the planet rotates on its axis. Prior research found the rate at which Earth spins has changed over time.

For instance, ancient Babylonian, Chinese, Arab and Greek astronomers often recorded when eclipses occurred and where these phenomena were seen. This knowledge, in combination with astronomical models that calculate what the positions of the Earth, sun and moon were on any given date and time, can help reveal how fast Earth must have been spinning. To do so, researchers calculate the speed necessary for the planet to face the sun and moon in ways that allowed those astronomers to observe the eclipses. [[50 Amazing Facts About Earth](#)]

In general, the gravitational pull of the moon and sun on Earth is relentlessly slowing the planet's rate of spin. However, in the short term, a variety of different factors can also speed up and slow down how fast Earth whirls.

Previous research has found that [melting glaciers triggered by global warming](#) helped cause a significant amount of global sea-level rise in the 20th century. In theory, rising sea levels — once estimated to be climbing at a rate of about 0.06 to 0.08 inches (1.5 to 2 millimeters) per year — should also have slightly shifted Earth's axis and increased the rate at which the planet spins.

When [polar ice caps melt](#), they remove weight off underlying rock, which then rebounds upward. This makes the poles less flat and the planet more round overall. This should in turn cause Earth to tilt a bit and spin more quickly.

However, previous research mysteriously could not find evidence that melting glaciers were triggering a shift in either Earth's rotation or axis that was as great as predicted. This problem is known as "Munk's enigma," after oceanographer [Walter Munk](#) at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, who first noted the mystery, in 2002.

Now, in a new study, researchers may have solved this enigma and shown that rising sea levels are indeed affecting Earth's spin and axis.

"The rise of sea level and the melting of glaciers during the 20th century is confirmed not only by some of the most dramatic changes in the Earth [system](#) — for example, catastrophic flooding events, droughts [and] heat waves — but also in some of the most subtle — incredibly small [changes in Earth's rotation rate](#)," said study lead author Jerry X. Mitrovica, a geophysicist at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

First, the scientists noted that recent studies suggested 20th-century glacial melting was about 30 percent less severe than Munk assumed. This should significantly reduce the predicted amount of shift in Earth's spin and axis.

Moreover, the research team's mathematical calculations and [computer](#) simulations found that prior research relied on erroneous [models of Earth's internal structure](#). This meant previous studies did not correctly account for how much glaciers would deform underlying rock and influence Earth's spin.

Furthermore, interactions between Earth's rocky mantle and the planet's molten metal outer core should have helped slow the planet's spin more than was previously thought.

Altogether, these adjustments helped the scientists find that ongoing glacial melting and the resulting [sea-level rise](#) are affecting the Earth in ways that match theoretical predictions, astronomical observations, and geodetic or land-survey [data](#).

"What we believe in regard to melting of glaciers in the 20th century is completely consistent with changes in Earth's rotation [as] measured by satellites and astronomical methods," Mitrovica told Live Science. "This consistency was elusive for a few years, but now the enigma is resolved.

"Human-induced climate change is of such pressing importance to society that the responsibility on scientists to get things right is enormous," Mitrovica said. "By resolving Munk's enigma, we further strengthen the already-strong argument that we are impacting climate."

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GLOBAL COOLING- Decade long ice age predicted as sun 'hibernates'

SCIENTISTS claim we are in for a decade-long freeze as the sun slows down solar activity by up to 60 per cent.

By [Jon Austin](#), Express UK, Dec 1, 2015

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/science/616937/GLOBAL-COOLING-Decade-long-ice-age-predicted-as-sun-hibernates>



The big freeze could last a decade as sun goes to sleep

A team of European researchers have unveiled a scientific model showing that the Earth is likely to experience a "mini ice age" from 2030 to 2040 as a result of decreased solar activity.

Their findings will infuriate environmental campaigners who argue by 2030 we could be facing increased sea levels and flooding due to glacial melt at the poles.

However, at the National Astronomy Meeting in Wales, Northumbria University professor Valentina Zharkova said fluctuations in an 11-year cycle of solar activity the sun goes through would be responsible for a freeze, the like of which has not been experienced since the 1600s.

From 1645 to 1715 global temperatures dropped due to low solar activity so much that the planet experienced a 70-year ice age known as Maunder Minimum which saw the River Thames in London completely frozen.

The researchers have now developed a "double dynamo" model that can better predict when the next freeze will be.

Based on current cycles, they predict solar activity dwindling for ten years from 2030.

Professor Zharkova said two magnetic waves will cancel each other out in about 2030, leading to a drop in sun spots and solar flares of about 60 per cent.



Sunspots are dark concentrations of magnetic field flux on the surface that reduce surface temperature in that area, while solar flares are burst of radiation and solar energy that fire out across the solar system, but the Earth's atmosphere protects us from the otherwise devastating effects.

She said: "In cycle 26, the two waves exactly mirror each other, peaking at the same time but in opposite hemispheres of the Sun.

"We predict that this will lead to the properties of a 'Maunder minimum.

"Over the cycle, the waves fluctuate between the Sun's northern and southern hemispheres. Combining both waves together and comparing to real data for the current solar cycle, we found that our predictions showed an accuracy of 97 per cent."

Research colleagues Simon Shepherd of Bradford University, Helen Popova of Lomonosov Moscow State University and Sergei Zarkhov of the University of Hull used magnetic field observations from 1976 to 2008 at the Wilcox Solar Observatory at Stanford University.

A Royal Astronomical Society spokesman said: "It is 172 years since a scientist first spotted that the Sun's activity varies over a cycle lasting around 10 to 12 years.

"But every cycle is a little different and none of the models of causes to date have fully explained fluctuations."

The "double dynamo" theory appears to support claims of researchers who argue Earth will soon experience major global cooling due to lower solar activity as the sun goes into a sustained period of hibernation.

Environmentalists meanwhile claim global temperatures will increase over the period unless we drastically reduce carbon emissions.



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