

Selling Out

Trump's Real Record On Public Lands

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TL/DR:

Trump's focus on giving Big Oil everything they want has undermined any election year attempt at trying to greenwash his pro-polluter record.

- In fact, his efforts to cut royalty rates for offshore oil drillers directly [impacts the funding stream](#) for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is supported by revenues from offshore drilling.
- In the [first lease sale of Trump's administration](#), royalty rates on shallow water offshore drilling leases were slashed to the statutory minimum of 12.5%, down from 18.75%.
- Recently, Trump's administration has [proposed a discount scheme](#) to allow oil companies to effectively pay [even less than the legal minimum](#) for oil pumped from our coasts.

Trump prioritized selling out our nation's public lands for fossil fuel development.

- The Department of the Interior under Trump's administration has been characterized as a "[Return to the Robber Baron Years](#)," a reference to the oil barons who financed the election of Warren G. Harding.

- Trump's Interior department released a strategic plan [that prioritized approving more oil and gas permits](#) on public lands, even when the industry was sitting on thousands of approved permits.
- Staff at the Bureau of Land Management were even directed to [promote images of oil and gas wells](#) on the agency's social media.

Trump rolled back protections on public lands to allow oil and gas drilling.

- Trump rescinded protections for nearly [2 million acres](#) of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah.
- Much of that land was later [made available for drilling and mining](#).
- After passage of the 2017 tax cut bill, [Trump bragged](#) about the fact that he had managed to secure a provision in the bill to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling.
- Since the start of the Trump administration, the Department of the Interior has turned over [24.4 million acres](#) to be made available for oil and gas leasing.

Instead of using the Antiquities Act to protect natural and historic resources as national monuments, Trump is focused on protecting monuments to the Confederacy.

- Trump [signed an executive order](#) on protecting monuments, memorials and statues after protestors toppled statues of figures from the Confederacy.
- Trump even [deployed Homeland Security officials](#) across the country ahead of July 4th to protect controversial statues.

Trump's zeal for handing over lands to oil companies means he has repeatedly ignored Native Americans' tribal sovereignty and rights.

- Trump [tried to rush approval](#) of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, which would have [violated tribal sovereignty](#) and threatened [burial sites, water supplies](#), and other important natural resources.
- By opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, Trump threatened the caribou herds that the Gwich'in people rely upon for food.
 - As the oil leasing process moved forward in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a [Gwich'in leader said](#): 'This document disrespects the Gwich'in Nation and all people in the Arctic and world who suffer

the impacts of climate change and nonstop exploitation, while formally scratching the backs of those who seek to desecrate land and dishonor human rights to fill their pockets.”

- In Utah, Trump's moves to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments and open up oil drilling leases [put sacred sites and cultural artifacts at risk](#).

Trump sides with fringe anti-public-lands extremists

- Trump [pardoned the Oregon ranchers](#) who were convicted of arson for setting fire to federal lands, and whose sentencing inspired an armed standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
- Trump [nominated](#) William Perry Pendley, an anti-public-lands crusader to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
 - Pendley [spent decades](#) campaigning against federal land protection and suing to try to open up more lands for drilling and mining.
 - Pendley has [repeatedly denied](#) the existence of climate change and mocked the scientific consensus around environmental issues as rooted in "bad science." Pendley called believers in climate change “kooks” and claimed concern over global warming was “all about government control.”

Trump is running (again) with a Republican platform that calls for selling out public lands.

- The 2016 Republican National Committee platform [included a provision](#) calling for a transfer of federal public lands to the states.
- In [June of 2020](#), the Republican National Committee moved to keep the 2016 platform in place through 2024.
- [Experience has shown](#) time and time again that handing federal lands to the states is a [precursor to](#) selling them off to private development, drilling, and mining.

Trump even signed a measure to block public input on how public lands are managed.

- Trump [signed into law](#) a repeal of the Bureau of Land Management's “Planning 2.0” rule, which created a framework for how the BLM develops management plans for our nation's public lands.

**CLIMATE
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- [Backcountry Hunters and Anglers said](#) “Planning 2.0 revises outdated regulations, in part by giving hunters, anglers and other citizens a greater say in the management of our public lands.”
- After the repeal passed the Senate, [Trout Unlimited said](#) “Putting the public back in public land management just became a whole lot more difficult.”

CONTENTS

TL/DR:	1
CONTENTS	5
HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING	6
RESEARCH	9
Trump's Giveaways To Oil Drillers Undermines His Election Year Greenwashing	9
Trump Prioritized Selling Out Our Public Lands For Fossil Fuels	10
Trump Rolled Back Protections For Public Lands To Allow Oil & Gas Drilling	11
The Trump Administration Has Repeatedly Ignored Native American Tribal Rights In Order To Open Up Lands For Big Oil's Use	13
Trump Sided with Fringe Anti-Public Lands Extremists And Even Nominated One To Manage The Nation's Public Lands	15
The GOP Platform Supports Selling Out Public Lands	17
Trump Signed A Measure To Block Public Input On Public Lands	19

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

Trump's focus on giving Big Oil everything they want has undermined any election year attempt at trying to greenwash his pro-polluter record.

In fact, his efforts to cut royalty rates for offshore oil drillers directly [impacts the funding stream](#) for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is supported by revenues from offshore drilling.

In the [first lease sale of Trump's administration](#), royalty rates on shallow water offshore drilling leases were slashed to the statutory minimum of 12.5%, down from 18.75%.

Recently, Trump's administration has [proposed a discount scheme](#) to allow oil companies to effectively pay [even less than the legal minimum](#) for oil pumped from our coasts.

The Department of the Interior under Trump's administration has been characterized as a "[Return to the Robber Baron Years](#)," a reference to the oil barons who financed the election of Warren G. Harding. Trump's Department of the Interior has prioritized selling out our public lands for fossil fuels.

Trump's Interior department released a strategic plan [that prioritized approving more oil and gas permits](#) on public lands, even when the industry was sitting on thousands of approved permits. Staff at the Bureau of Land Management were even directed to [promote images of oil and gas wells](#) on the agency's social media.

A major focus of Trump's prioritizing fossil fuel special interests has been his rolling back of protections on public lands in order to allow oil and gas drilling. For example, Trump rescinded protections for nearly [2 million acres](#) of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah and much of that land was later [made available for drilling and mining](#).

After passage of the 2017 tax cut bill, [Trump bragged](#) about the fact that he had managed to secure a provision in the bill to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling.

Since the start of the Trump administration, the Department of the Interior has turned over [24.4 million acres](#) to be made available for oil and gas leasing.

Trump's zeal for handing over lands to oil companies means he has repeatedly ignored Native Americans' tribal sovereignty and rights. Trump [tried to rush approval](#) of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines,

which would have [violated tribal sovereignty](#) and threatened [burial sites](#), [water supplies](#), and other important natural resources.

By opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, Trump threatened the caribou herds that the Gwich'in people rely upon for food. As the oil leasing process moved forward in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a [Gwich'in leader said](#): 'This document disrespects the Gwich'in Nation and all people in the Arctic and world who suffer the impacts of climate change and nonstop exploitation, while formally scratching the backs of those who seek to desecrate land and dishonor human rights to fill their pockets.'

In Utah, Trump's moves to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments and open up oil drilling leases [put sacred sites and cultural artifacts at risk](#).

Instead of using the Antiquities Act to protect national monuments like Bears Ears, Trump is focused on protecting monuments to the Confederacy.

Trump [signed an executive order](#) on protecting monuments, memorials and statues after protestors toppled statues of figures from the Confederacy. Trump even [deployed Homeland Security officials](#) across the country ahead of July 4th to protect controversial statues.

Trump made it clear that he sides with fringe anti-public-lands extremists when he [pardoned the Oregon ranchers](#) who were convicted of arson for setting fire to federal lands, and whose sentencing inspired an armed standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Trump then [nominated](#) William Perry Pendley, an anti-public-lands crusader to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Pendley [spent decades](#) campaigning against federal land protection and suing to try to open up more lands for drilling and mining.

Pendley has [repeatedly denied](#) the existence of climate change and mocked the scientific consensus around environmental issues as rooted in "bad science." Pendley called believers in climate change "kooks" and claimed concern over global warming was "all about government control."

Trump is the leader of a political party dedicated to selling out America's public lands. The 2016 Republican National Committee platform [included a provision](#) calling for a transfer of federal public lands to the states. In [June of 2020](#), the Republican National Committee moved to keep the 2016 platform in place through 2024.

[Experience has shown](#) time and time again that handing federal lands to the states is a [precursor to](#) selling them off to private development, drilling, and mining.

While fossil fuel special interests continue to get their way, users of public lands such as hunters and anglers are being cut out of the decision-making process for how our public lands are managed.

Trump [signed into law](#) a repeal of the Bureau of Land Management's "Planning 2.0" rule, which created a framework for how the BLM develops management plans for our nation's public lands.

[Backcountry Hunters and Anglers said](#) "Planning 2.0 revises outdated regulations, in part by giving hunters, anglers and other citizens a greater say in the management of our public lands." After the repeal passed the Senate, [Trout Unlimited said](#) "Putting the public back in public land management just became a whole lot more difficult."

RESEARCH

TRUMP'S GIVEAWAYS TO OIL DRILLERS UNDERMINES HIS ELECTION YEAR GREENWASHING

Offshore Drilling Revenue Forms The Funding Source For The Land And Water Conservation Fund. According to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition, "It was a simple idea: use revenues from the depletion of one natural resource - offshore oil and gas - to support the conservation of another precious resource - our land and water. Every year, \$900 million in royalties paid by energy companies drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) are put into this fund. The money is intended to protect national parks, areas around rivers and lakes, national forests, and national wildlife refuges from development, and to provide matching grants for state and local parks and recreation projects. Over the years, LWCF has also grown and evolved to include grants to protect working forests, wildlife habitat, critical drinking water supplies and disappearing battlefields, as well as increased use of easements. Yet, nearly every year, Congress breaks its own promise to the American people and diverts much of this funding to uses other than conserving our most important lands and waters." [[LWCF Coalition website accessed 7/21/2020](#)]

The Trump Administration Slashed Royalty Rates For Shallow Water Oil Platforms From 18.75% To 12.5%. In July of 2017, Reuters reported: "The Interior Department said it would lower royalty rates for shallow-water leases in the August sale to encourage drilling by oil companies, which have faced lower profits during years of sustained low global crude prices. Energy companies will pay 12.5 percent royalty rates for leases in less than 200 meters (656 feet) of water, instead of a rate of 18.75 percent that had been proposed earlier." [[Reuters, 7/13/2017](#)]

Trump's BOEM (The Agency In Charge Of Offshore Leasing) Suggested That The Statutory Minimum 12.5% Royalty Rate For Shallow Water Oil Drilling Might Not Be Low Enough. According to a Government Accountability Office report on offshore oil and gas leasing, "In the Lease Term Reassessment Report covering its August 2018 and March 2019 lease sales, BOEM indicated that the statutory floor of 12.5 percent might not be low enough to encourage new exploration and development, particularly for smaller fields for which a lower royalty would have a reduced financial benefit and effect on early cost recovery than for larger fields. As a result, BOEM was

considering incorporating into its price-based royalty the suspension of royalty collection for a certain initial volume of oil or gas produced to effectively lower the royalty rate below the statutory minimum and incentivize the development of smaller, marginal fields.” [\[GAO Report 19-531, “Offshore Oil and Gas” September 2019\]](#)

The Trump Administration Proposed A Discount Scheme To Further Reduce Royalty Rates For Shallow Water Oil Drillers. In November of 2019, the Washington Post reported: “The Trump administration wants offshore drillers to tap more of the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and natural gas production. And it has just figured out a way of encouraging them to do so: cutting the operators of some new wells a break on how much they have to pay the federal government. The new policy, described this week by two federal agencies in charge of overseeing the sea of petroleum underneath the Gulf and other public waters, is designed to spur business to drill for more than \$20 billion worth of oil and gas near the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.” [\[Washington Post, 11/22/2019\]](#)

TRUMP PRIORITIZED SELLING OUT OUR PUBLIC LANDS FOR FOSSIL FUELS

High Country News Headline: “Interior Department’s Return To The ‘Robber Baron’ Years.” In December of 2017, High Country News reported: “In 1921, President Warren G. Harding, R, at the behest of the oil barons who financed his election, appointed Albert Bacon Fall to be his secretary of the Interior. Fall had vowed not only to transfer all public lands to private interests, but also to abolish the Interior Department altogether. As a Cabinet member, he set out to dismantle the conservation ethos that Republican President Theodore Roosevelt had brought to Washington and to open federal fossil fuels and other resources to unfettered development, effectively handing the keys to Interior to his oil buddies. ‘All natural resources should be made as easy of access as possible to the present generation,’ he once said. Ryan Zinke, the current Interior secretary, likes to compare himself to Roosevelt. Yet he far more closely resembles Fall.” [\[High Country News, 12/8/2017\]](#)

Interior Department’s 5-Year Strategic Plan Prioritized Oil and Gas Development. “While disregarding climate change, the 2018–2022 strategic plan places a premium on facilitating oil and gas development. It calls for speeding up the processing of parcels nominated for oil and gas leasing on public lands. It establishes an Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting to facilitate on- and -offshore leasing, and aims to reduce the time it takes to green-light energy projects on Native land by 50 percent. The department is

also seeking to speed up the application process for drilling permits, even though industry is currently sitting on thousands of approved permits. 'It is bewildering that the agency would prioritize approving more permits—at the inevitable expense of your environmental responsibilities—when companies have plenty and appear to be simply stockpiling them,' wrote Representative Raúl Grijalva, ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, in an April letter to the acting director of the Bureau of Land Management." [\[The Nation, 10/25/2017\]](#)

Public Lands Agency Ordered Staff to Promote Oil and Gas on Social Media. In December of 2017, Motherboard reported: "In March, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) flooded its Flickr page with photos of oil wells and mining pits. The transformation was meant to boost the visibility of fossil fuel development on public lands, according to internal emails obtained by Motherboard through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request." [\[Motherboard, 12/11/2017\]](#)

TRUMP ROLLED BACK PROTECTIONS FOR PUBLIC LANDS TO ALLOW OIL & GAS DRILLING

Trump Rescinded Protections For Nearly 2 Million Acres Of Bears Ears And Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments In Utah. In December of 2017, the New York Times reported: "President Trump sharply reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah on Monday by some two million acres, the largest rollback of federal land protection in the nation's history. The administration shrank Bears Ears National Monument, a sprawling region of red rock canyons, by 85 percent, and cut another monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, to about half its current size. The move, a reversal of protections put in place by Democratic predecessors, comes as the administration pushes for fewer restrictions and more development on public lands." [\[New York Times, 12/4/2017\]](#)

- **Trump Opened Up Land That Was Formerly Part Of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument To Drilling And Mining.** In February of 2020, the New York Times reported: "The Trump administration on Thursday finalized plans to allow mining and energy drilling on nearly a million acres of land in southern Utah that had once been protected as part of a major national monument. The Interior Department's release of a formal land-use blueprint for the approximately 861,974 acres of land will allow oil, gas and coal companies to complete the legal process for leasing mines and wells on land that had once been part of Utah's Grand

Staircase-Escalante National Monument, established by President Bill Clinton.” [\[New York Times, 2/6/2020\]](#)

GOP Tax Law Included A Provision Opening The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge To Drilling. In December of 2017, The Atlantic reported: “The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which the Senate passed early Saturday morning, will change federal law on a matter that has little to do with the tax code. The bill authorizes the sale of oil and gas leases in a section of the ANWR on Alaska’s North Slope, the coastal plain that faces the Arctic Ocean. Soon, energy companies will be able to search for—and extract—oil and gas from the frozen tundra. The Senate bill will now be reconciled with the House version in conference and go to President Donald Trump’s desk for his signature. It brings a quiet end to the battle over whether to drill in the ANWR, one of the longest-running and most acrimonious battles in U.S. environmental history. The question has been embedded in federal law for 40 years, nearly as long as Alaska has been a state.” [\[The Atlantic, 12/2/2017\]](#)

- **Shortly After Passage Of Tax Legislation, Trump Boasted “We’re Going To Start Drilling In ANWR.”** After Congressional passage of a Republican tax overhaul bill, The Hill reported: “Trump boasted Wednesday at a White House meeting with his Cabinet that ANWR drilling is passing under his presidency, after so many political leaders tried unsuccessfully. ‘We’re going to start drilling in ANWR, one of the largest oil reserves in the world, that for 40 years this country was unable to touch. That by itself would be a massive bill,’ Trump told reporters assembled at the meeting.” [\[The Hill, 12/7/2017\]](#)

The Trump Administration Has Offered Up Over 24 Million Acres Of Federal Public Lands For Oil And Gas Companies. According to the Center for Western Priorities, “At least once per quarter, the Bureau of Land Management offers up parcels of publicly-owned oil and gas at auction, primarily under public lands. These parcels can be purchased for as little as \$2/acre. The Trump administration has rushed to offer tens of million of acres for oil and gas development; however, oil and gas companies have only leased one fifth of the acreage offered at auction. This dashboard will be continuously updated.” As of July 21, 2020, the Center for Western Priorities’ dashboard had tracked 24,462,754 acres of federal public land offered up for oil and gas leasing. [\[Center for Western Priorities Dashboard: Oil and Gas Leasing, accessed 7/21/2020\]](#)

TRUMP IS FOCUSED ON PROTECTING MONUMENTS TO CONFEDERATE GENERALS

Trump Signed An Executive Order On Protecting Monuments, Memorials, and Statues After Protesters Toppled Statues Of Confederate Figures. On June 27, 2020, CBS News reported: “President Donald Trump signed an executive order to protect federal monuments and statues. The order instructs federal law enforcement to prosecute people who damage federal monuments, and threatens to withhold federal funding from state and local governments that fail to protect their own public monuments and statues. ‘I just had the privilege of signing a very strong Executive Order protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues - and combatting recent Criminal Violence. Long prison terms for these lawless acts against our Great Country!’ Mr. Trump tweeted Friday evening. The order comes after weeks of protests against police violence and racial injustice across the country, and after statues and monuments have been toppled nationwide. Monuments and statues of Confederate officials and other controversial historical figures have been targeted and vandalized.” [[CBS News, 6/27/2020](#)]

Trump Deployed Homeland Security Agents To Protect Statues Ahead Of The July 4th Weekend. On July 3, 2020, CNN reported: “Homeland Security officials have deployed across the country ahead of July Fourth to protect federal monuments as President Donald Trump continues to fume about activists who have attempted to topple controversial statues in moments of protest that have gone viral. ‘Rapid deployment teams’ from the Department of Homeland Security have been sent to cities including Seattle and Portland, Oregon, where anti-police protests have swelled in recent weeks, while ‘regional deployment teams’ are pre-positioned with the intent to be available anywhere in the US within six hours, according to an agency official.” [[CNN, 7/3/2020](#)]

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS REPEATEDLY IGNORED NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL RIGHTS IN ORDER TO OPEN UP LANDS FOR BIG OIL’S USE

Trump’s Administration Finalized Plans To Permit Drilling, Mining, and Grazing In Formerly-Protected Areas Considered Sacred To Several Native American Nations. In February of 2020, the Washington Post reported: “The

Interior Department finalized plans Thursday to permit drilling, mining and grazing in areas of southern Utah that had once been protected as two national monuments, sparking an outcry from tribal groups and conservationists. The decision comes more than two years after Trump dramatically cut the size of the monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, and is likely to intensify a legal fight over the contested sites. The expanses of wind-swept badlands, narrow slot canyons and towering rock formations are sacred to several Native American nations and prized by scientists and outdoor enthusiasts. Bears Ears contains tens of thousands of cultural artifacts and rare rock art. In the rock layers of Grand Staircase, researchers have unearthed 75 million-year-old dinosaur fossils. But the lands also harbor significant amounts of oil, gas and coal that the administration hopes to develop, as well as grazing land valued by local ranchers. The earliest the government could approve new mining claims and other kinds of development is Oct. 1, because of language Congress adopted in a spending bill." [[Washington Post, 2/6/2020](#)]

Trump Tried To Revive The Keystone XL Pipeline And The Dakota Access Pipeline In One Of His First Acts As President. In January 2017, the New York Times reported: "In his latest moves to dismantle the legacy of his predecessor, Mr. Trump resurrected the Keystone XL pipeline that had stirred years of debate, and expedited another pipeline in the Dakotas that had become a major flash point for Native Americans." [New York Times, [1/24/2017](#)]

- **The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Opposed The Dakota Access Pipeline, Citing A Violation Of Their Rights Under The Fort Laramie Treaty.** According to the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, "The controversial construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) gained national and international attention when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accepted an application filed by Energy Transfer Partners, a Texas-based developer behind the project. The position of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is that the Dakota Access Pipeline violates Article II of the Fort Laramie Treaty, which guarantees the 'undisturbed use and occupation' of reservation lands surrounding the proposed location of the pipeline. In 2015 the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, operating as a sovereign nation, passed a resolution regarding the pipeline stating that 'the Dakota Access Pipeline poses a serious risk to the very survival of our Tribe and ... would destroy valuable cultural resources.'" [[Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian website accessed 7/21/2020](#)]
- **The Keystone XL Pipeline Would Have Traversed Lands Of The Great Sioux Nation Guaranteed By Treaty, Including Sacred Sites, Ceremonial**

Sites, Burial Sites, Water Supplies, And Other Natural Resources Important To Native Nations. According to a resolution in opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline published by the National Congress of American Indians, “the lands over which the pipeline will traverse are the traditional lands of the Great Sioux Nation as guaranteed in the Treaties of 1851 and 1868, and the traditional lands of numerous other Native Nations, and contain numerous sacred sites, ceremonial sites and burial sites, water supplies and other natural resources that are a central aspect to the traditional way of life and spiritual view of the respective Native Nations.” [[National Congress of American Indians resolution October, 2018](#)]

Gwich'in Leader On Trump's Move On Arctic Drilling: “This Document Disrespects The Gwich'in Nation And All People In The Arctic And World Who Suffer The Impacts Of Climate Change And Nonstop Exploitation, While Formally Scratching The Backs Of Those Who Seek To Desecrate Land And Dishonor Human Rights To Fill Their Pockets.” In an article on the Trump administration’s final environmental impact statement laying out a plan for oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Washington Post reported: “Some Alaska Natives — including the Gwich'in, who live outside the refuge but who rely on the Porcupine caribou herd that migrates through it — also decried the administration’s move. ‘This document disrespects the Gwich'in Nation and all people in the Arctic and world who suffer the impacts of climate change and nonstop exploitation, while formally scratching the backs of those who seek to desecrate land and dishonor human rights to fill their pockets,’ said Bernadette Demientieff, executive director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee.” [[Washington Post, 9/13/2019](#)]

TRUMP SIDES WITH FRINGE ANTI-PUBLIC LANDS EXTREMISTS

Donald Trump Pardoned Convicted Arsonist Ranchers Who Inspired An Armed Standoff At A Wildlife Refuge In Oregon. In July of 2018, The Oregonian reported: “President Donald Trump on Tuesday pardoned two eastern Oregon ranchers serving time in federal prison for setting fire to public land in a case that inflamed their supporters and gave rise to the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Dwight Hammond Jr., 76, and son Steven Hammond, 49, walked out of a federal prison in California about 6 1/2 hours later. They were convicted in 2012 of arson on Harney County land where they had grazing rights for their cattle. They were ordered back to prison in early 2016 to serve out five-year sentences.” [[The Oregonian, 7/10/2018](#)]

Donald Trump Nominated William Perry Pendley To Officially Lead The Bureau Of Land Management. In June of 2020, The Hill reported: “President Trump on Friday nominated William Perry Pendley, who has controversially served as the acting head of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for months, to lead the agency. Pendley is also a controversial figure to lead the bureau tasked with managing federal lands because he has previously advocated for selling them off.” [[The Hill, 6/26/2020](#)]

William Perry Pendley Spent Decades Campaigning Against Federal Land Protection. According to an article in High Country News, “The Trump administration last week tapped William Perry Pendley, a conservative lawyer who has spent decades campaigning against federal land protection, to oversee 245 million acres of public land — more than 10% of the entire U.S. landmass.” The article went on the point out: “Pendley is the former longtime president of Mountain States Legal Foundation, a conservative nonprofit that advocates for selling off millions of federal acres in the West.” [[High Country News, 8/8/2019](#)]

William Perry Pendley Has Repeatedly Denied And Mocked Scientific Consensus Over Climate Change. In October of 2019, CNN reported: “Pendley has repeatedly denied the existence of climate change and mocked the scientific consensus around environmental issues as rooted in ‘bad science.’ ‘People don’t have to shovel too much global warming off their sidewalk before they begin to doubt the sky-is-falling radicals who demand they we all but destroy our civilization in order to ‘save the planet,’” Pendley wrote in a 2001 column on his organization’s website. ‘People are beginning to realize they have been deceived, lied to, tricked. They have.’ Pendley echoed the same claim in a 2011 Mountain States Legal Foundation press release stating, ‘public support for the fiction of man-made climate change’ was ‘at an all time low.’ Speaking on ‘The Americhicks’ podcast earlier this year, Pendley said environmentalists were ‘preaching fear’ about climate change and claimed ‘global cooling’ was a widespread concern ‘just a couple of years ago.’” [[CNN, 10/8/2019](#)]

William Perry Pendley Called Believes In Climate Change “Kooks” And Claimed Concern Over Global Warming Was “All About Government Control.” In October of 2019, CNN reported: “In a 2010 blog post, Pendley called climate change believers ‘kooks’ and again invoked ‘global cooling’ to repudiate climate change. There is a consensus in the scientific community that human activity is the main cause of rising temperatures and climate skeptics will often invoke claims that global temperatures are actually cooling or that scientists believed so recently. At times, Pendley’s denial of climate change has drifted into even more fringe claims linking the broader US environmental movement to the fall of the Soviet Union and communism.

'It's all about government control. I knew when the wall came down between the United States and the red Soviet Union, the red curtain came to the, uh, the iron curtain came down that the, that the left, the people who believe in statism and government control would have to find another issue. And they found it in global warming. They found it in environmental catastrophe,' Pendley said in a 2015 speech." [[CNN, 10/8/2019](#)]

William Perry Pendley Sued To Overturn Several National Monuments, By Calling Into Question The Antiquities Act. In August of 2000, the Associated Press reported: "Land-use groups are challenging five new national monuments in federal court, claiming President Clinton overstepped his authority by putting new restrictions on 1.5 million acres in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon and Washington state. The Mountain States Legal Foundation and the BlueRibbon Coalition filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court here Tuesday seeking to overturn creation of the monuments, which are among 10 Clinton designated this year on 4 million acres the government already owned. Mining, logging, oil drilling and off-road vehicle use are banned or restricted in the monuments. 'The bottom line is, the president doesn't have the authority to do what he's done,' said William Perry Pendley of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, a conservative group with a pending lawsuit challenging Clinton's 1996 creation of a national monument in Utah." [[Associated Press 8/30/2000](#)]

THE GOP PLATFORM SUPPORTS SELLING OUT PUBLIC LANDS

RNC Moved To Allow The 2016 Platform To Stand For The Next Four Years. In June of 2020, ABC News reported: "Nearly four years ago, the Republican Party, on their way to nominating Donald Trump, adopted a strict, conservative platform around issues of gender and sexual orientation in Cleveland, Ohio, against the efforts by some of the party's more moderate faction to soften the language. Now, the Republican National Committee moved this week to simply allow that 2016 platform to stand for the next four years, instead of working to approve a new one - a decision that is roiling some Republicans who argue that the old platform is outdated and not reflective of the current views of the president or the party." [[ABC News, 6/12/2020](#)]

RNC Platform In 2016 Included A Plank Calling For Divesting Federal Public Lands. In July of 2016, Outside Magazine reported: "This week at the Republican National Convention, the party adopted a platform that includes this language: 'Congress shall immediately pass universal legislation

providing for a timely and orderly mechanism requiring the federal government to convey certain federally controlled public lands to states.' The phrasing is vague and has been misinterpreted by many. But it comes after a multi-year campaign by Republican lawmakers to transfer large swaths of national forest and other public lands to state control, thereby forcing their sale to private companies." [[Outside Magazine, 7/22/2016](#)]

Montana Wildlife Federation Warned State Control Of Public Land Would Lead To Private Sales. In April of 2014, the Billings Gazette reported on proposals to transfer federal public lands to the state: "But Nick Gevock, outreach director for the Montana Wildlife Federation, adamantly opposed the idea. 'This isn't personal, but getting to the policy, I think it's a horrible idea,' Gevock said. 'Montana has a \$5.8 billion annual outdoor industry and these federal lands are absolutely essential to that. These are the places where Montanans hunt and fish and hike and ski and go wildlife watching, and that is essential to the quality of life here.' Gevock also predicted that if the state took over the federal lands, Montana would have to sell off large swaths of land to private landowners in order to pay for firefighting costs. 'We couldn't afford to manage these lands,' Gevock said. 'It would be a budget buster for the state of Montana. Once those lands are in private hands, they are off-limits, or they very well could be.'" [[Billings Gazette, 4/18/2014](#)]

Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: "State Ownership Of Lands Presently Owned And Managed By The Federal Government Would Result In Only One Likely Outcome: The Sale Of Any Lands Not Producing Significant Quantities Of Timber, Minerals Or Energy To Private Interests." [[Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, 6/18/2015](#)]

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Executive Director Land Tawney: "Look At History: States Have A Track Record Of Selling These Lands That Were Given To Them At Statehood." In April of 2017, E&E Greenwire reported on proposals to transfer federal public lands to the state: "In challenging Chaffetz and other proponents of transferring federal land to individual states, sportsmen and conservationists often turn to one particular argument to shore up their opposition: Turning over public lands will result in states selling those parcels off to the highest bidder. 'Look at history: States have a track record of selling these lands that were given to them at statehood,' said Land Tawney, executive director of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, which led the protest against Chaffetz's bill earlier this year. 'The concern here is they've already done it, and they could definitely do it again.'" [[E&E Greenwire, 4/11/2017](#)]

Idaho Sold 41 Percent Of Land It Got From The Federal Government To Timber Companies, Ranchers, Fishing Clubs, and Homeowners. In May of 2016, E&E Greenwire reported: “Since Idaho became a state, it has sold 41 percent of its acres to timber companies, cattle ranchers, fishing clubs and homeowners on Priest and Payette lakes. Throughout its history, the state has sold 1,760,783 acres of the 4,254,448 acres that it obtained during statehood to private interests, according to an analysis of Idaho Department of Lands data acquired by the Wilderness Society. The society reviewed data of more than 16,000 parcels of land auctioned by the state and released the data in a report titled ‘SOLD! Idaho lands -- and recreation access -- lost to the highest bidder.’” [[E&E Greenwire, 5/5/2016](#)]

New Mexico Sold 30 Percent Of Land It Got From The Federal Government To Private Interests. In March of 2017, E&E Greenwire reported: “New Mexico has sold nearly 30 percent of the land it received from the federal government before becoming a state, an analysis by the Wilderness Society has found. The report looked at original state trust lands — 13.4 million acres transferred from the federal government to the then-territory more than 100 years ago. The Land of Enchantment has sold off 4 million acres of state trust lands since it joined the union in 1912, the group found. Wilderness Society New Mexico State Director Michael Casaus said the analysis should serve as a warning to residents, arguing that state officials could similarly dispose of federal lands if that acreage were turned over to state control.” [[E&E Greenwire, 3/21/2017](#)]

TRUMP SIGNED A MEASURE TO BLOCK PUBLIC INPUT ON PUBLIC LANDS

Trump Signed A Resolution Repealing The BLM Planning 2.0 Rule. According to the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School, “President Trump signed a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to repeal the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)’s Planning 2.0 rule. The Planning 2.0 rule was a regulation aimed at improving BLM’s ability to respond to changing conditions and implement landscape-level management approaches that transcend traditional administrative boundaries. The rule also contained provisions aimed at ensuring that BLM officials incorporate the most current data and technology into their plans and reviews. One goal of the rule was to allow BLM to more readily address changing conditions on public lands caused by climate change. As reported earlier, the resolution had already passed both the House and Senate. With Trump’s approval, the resolution now becomes law and the Planning 2.0 Rule will be repealed.” [[Columbia Law School, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, 3/27/2020](#)]

Backcountry Hunters And Anglers President: Planning 2.0 Gives Hunters, Anglers And Other Citizens “A Greater Say In The Management Of Our Public Lands.” Following the vote by the U.S. Senate to withdraw the BLM Planning 2.0 rule, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers President and CEO Land Tawney issued a statement, saying: “For years BHA has worked with other sportsmen’s groups to improve planning policies for lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management,” said Tawney. “Planning 2.0 revises outdated regulations, in part by giving hunters, anglers and other citizens a greater say in the management of our public lands. Unfortunately, some members of Congress were determined to eliminate this collaborative approach,” Tawney continued. “Earlier today, the U.S. Senate, following similar action by the House of Representatives in February, advanced legislation that will revert BLM planning practices to a dysfunctional rule from 1983 – and will strip forever the BLM’s authority to revise similar regulations. Planning 2.0 was an all too rare conservation success story,” concluded Tawney, “It was efficient, expanded input from sportsmen, other citizens and local decision makers, provided greater certainty for fish and wildlife habitat and balanced a range of land uses. Our frustration at this vote by Congress knows no bounds. Hunters and anglers – not to mention our nation’s \$646 billion outdoor economy – deserve better.” [[Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, 3/7/2017](#)]

Trout Unlimited: “Putting The Public Back In Public Land Management Just Became A Whole Lot More Difficult.” Following the vote by the U.S. Senate to withdraw the BLM Planning 2.0 rule, Trout Unlimited issued a press release, saying: “Were disappointed that our elected officials voted to kill a proposal that created a more transparent, collaborative and efficient process for developing land use planning decisions, said Corey Fisher, senior policy director for Trout Unlimiteds Sportsmens Conservation Project. The use of the Congressional Review Act was heavy handed and unnecessary. Putting the public back in public land management just became a whole lot more difficult. Planning 2.0 provided the public with three additional opportunities to be involved in the land management planning process, while also ensuring that important fish and wildlife habitats are identified early in the planning process and given due consideration in management decisions. Additionally, Planning 2.0 retained the role of state, local and tribal cooperating agencies, as required by the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. Significant changes were made to the final planning rule to address concerns that the rule diminished the role of state and local governments.” [[Trout Unlimited, 3/9/2017](#)]

Trout Unlimited: “Sportsmen And Women Will Have Less Opportunity To Be Meaningfully Engaged In Decisions Affecting Our Public Lands.” Following

the vote by the U.S. Senate to withdraw the BLM Planning 2.0 rule, Trout Unlimited issued a press release, saying: “With today’s vote, the BLM will revert back to the outdated 1983 planning rules. The Congressional Review Act prevents new rules from being developed that are ‘substantially the same.’ In other words, we’ll be stuck with an ineffective, outdated process for developing public land management plans and sportsmen and women will have less opportunity to be meaningfully engaged in decisions affecting our public lands. Fisher said. We hope that under the leadership of Secretary Zinke, the BLM will be able to take measures that help to give the public more and earlier opportunities to have a say in how our lands are managed.” [[Trout Unlimited, 3/9/2017](#)]