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Stop the 30 X 30 LAND GRAB

Keep Texas Land in Texas Hands

By **Margaret Byfield**, Executive Director, American Stewards of Liberty, 4/26/22

On January 27, 2021, President Biden launched the “30 x 30” initiative by Executive Order¹, implementing in America the international agenda to permanently protect, in its natural state, at least 30 percent of the world’s lands and oceans by 2030.

In 2019 the Center for American Progress, published the primary report

behind this agenda, entitled “How Much Nature Should America Keep?”² In this report, they claim over one million of the world’s species and over one-third of America’s species will go extinct in the coming decades if the lands are not returned to nature. They also state that we are losing a football field of land every 30 seconds to development.

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This equates to approximately 3,000 acres converted a day, or 11 million acres over ten years. That raises the question: Why are they advocating that we must “permanently protect” an additional 400 million acres in 9 short years?

According to the Department of the Interior³, only 12 percent, or approximately 300 million acres of America’s land, is currently “permanently protected.” These include our national and state parks, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and permanent conservation easements on private lands. To reach the 30 percent goal, they will need to protect the equivalent of one state of Nebraska every year for the next nine years, or two states of Texas, as Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts has stated. This is the largest unauthorized federal land grab our nation has ever faced.

The initial reaction of many Texans has been that this radical notion would only apply to lands the federal government already owns, the majority of which are not in Texas. But this has been a misguided assumption, because the proponents of this program have always had as their primary target American’s private property.

They claim that two-thirds of all development is occurring on private lands, but only one percent of these lands are permanently protected. They believe they must either acquire or permanently control American’s private property to have the regulatory assurance that habitats and species are protected. They will accept progress towards this goal if they do not succeed in getting all of this in one Presidential term.

Thankfully, Governor Ricketts recognized the dangers of this program to private landowners early. Nebraska is 97-percent privately owned, the fifth-best conserved state in the nation, according to *U.S. News and World Report*, and their primary industry is agriculture.

He led his colleagues in opposing the federal program last year with a letter to President Biden⁴ that was signed by 14 other Governors, including Greg Abbott. The letter reaffirms the position that conservation of America’s lands should be left to the states and private landowners, not Washington, D.C. This is an important point given that the lands most in need of restoration are those currently managed by the federal government. Why should we give them more?

While Governor Ricketts has issued an Executive Order⁵ to stop 30 x 30 in Nebraska, New Mexico’s Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued an Executive Order calling for the conservation of 30 percent of New Mexico, plus an additional 20 percent for “climate stabilization areas.” That is a total of 50 percent, better known as the “Half-Earth” agenda launched by biologist E.O. Wilson.

You can be assured Beto O’Rourke will quickly follow her lead if given the chance. How much easier will this be to implement if Texans embrace Biden’s call for conservation of our lands?

Our Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo, one of the four Department heads on the 30 x 30 Task Force, has stated the program is just the Administration’s first step towards “Half-Earth” in an interview she gave to Vox Media last year. She said: “30 percent isn’t the end ... 30 percent is the beginning. It’s setting a very strong foundation, and we hope [it] will build the

momentum for longer-term conservation to benefit current and future generations.”

Selling this international agenda in America is more difficult than in other nations. Unique to America is the right of every citizen to own private property with the assurance of its protection, regardless of financial status. In fact, 60 percent of the land in America is still privately owned.

This is a good thing for a society of free people who want to retain control of their government. But to those wanting to control our land, it poses a significant hurdle. Their solution is enticing landowners to voluntarily enroll in federal conservation programs, creating a federal connection to the private lands, eventually allowing for increased conservation restrictions as we move closer to 2030.

Faced with significant opposition and substantive questions, the Biden Administration released a report last May that attempts to deflect the serious debate by rebranding the program “America the Beautiful.” They assure us their intent is not to preserve the land; rather, it is to “conserve and restore.” Then they fail to define the difference.

They avoid the important questions that address how they will acquire 400 million additional acres in nine years. Instead, they talk about small-sized actions such as more city parks, more access for hunters and recreationists, and more federal funding to keep working lands working. They also assure us this internationally-rooted agenda is locally-led.

Do you trust the Administration, that has abandoned their federal responsibility at our Southern Border and destroyed our economy in one short year, to oversee the “conservation” of Texan’s private property?

The White House has said they will be using all the tools in the toolbox to implement 30 x 30—and they are. The Administration is paying more for conservation set-asides, artificially raising the cost of land and directly competing with working landowners. They are also funding non-profit land trusts to acquire conservation easements on private lands, giving the easement holders primary control of the land, in many cases, forever. And, of course, this must all be done to save nature and humanity.

Yet, the notion that we are losing habitats and species in America is blatantly false. The Heritage Foundation recently released a report authored by Robert Gordon entitled “Land and Habitat in the United States: A Reality Check.”⁶ This report relies on actual data, not scientific models created by environmentalists. It finds that only 5.3 percent of the lower 48 states are developed and that 54 percent of this is considered open space with golf courses, city parks, and large lots.

Over 150 counties across the nation have passed resolutions opposing 30 x 30, and over 60 of these are in Nebraska, where

Governor Ricketts has met directly with the people in town halls across the State. Texas, unfortunately, only has six counties opposed. Those counties leading the way are Edwards, Jeff Davis, Kerrville, Llano, Presidio, and Titus.

More should follow suit, and the Texas Legislature and state government should also consider taking stronger action to keep Texan's lands in Texan's hands. Our Governor could sign an Executive Order similar to Nebraska's Governor Ricketts. Another solution is to limit conservation easements to a maximum term of 30 years, so that the current generation cannot permanently bind the next generation from the grave.

I'll leave you with one last question: Do you trust the Administration that has abandoned their federal responsibility at our Southern Border and destroyed our economy in one short year to oversee the "conservation" of Texan's private property?

Regardless of what name they give this agenda, it is not about conservation, protection, or restoration. It is simply about who is going to control, and thereby own, America—the people or the government.

NOTE: Go to www.stop30x30.americanstewards.us to learn what you can do to help stop the 30 x 30 land grab in Texas.

- 1 Executive Order 14008 ("Order") entitled "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619 (Feb. 1, 2021)) Section 216.
- 2 "How Much Nature Should America Keep?" By Matt Lee-Ashley, published by The Center for American Progress, August 2019.
- 3 "FACT SHEET: President Biden to Take Action to Uphold Commitment to Restore Balance on Public Lands and Waters, Invest in Clean Energy Future," Department of the Interior, January 27, 2021.
- 4 Governor's Joint Letter to President Biden on Federal Overreach of 30x30 Program, available at americanstewards.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Joint-Letter-to-President-Biden-on-30-x-30-Program-04.21.20.pdf
- 5 Executive Order No. 21-08, "Stop 30x30: Protect Our Land and Water," available at governor.nebraska.gov/press/gov-ricketts-signs-executive-order-help-stop-president-biden-s-30-x-30-land-grab
- 6 "Land and Habitat in the United States: A Reality Check," by Robert Gordon, published by The Heritage Foundation, March 4, 2022.

A Con-Con Could Usher in a New Constitution

Excerpts from an article by
Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh, 3/31/22

Modern politics have morphed into an all-out assault against our country and against its Constitution. If the Con-Con movement succeeds, the Constitutional Convention will be assembled to amend the Constitution to allegedly reign in the political corruption in Washington. The political class does not follow our Constitution as is, what makes one think that they will follow it with more amendments? And what will prevent a runaway convention in which delegates might replace our Constitution with their latest version?

The Left is drooling with the desire to replace our Constitution with their own version of the Constitution for the World, called The Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development (D.I.C.E.D), 5th Edition. Twenty years in the making, this is a constitution that pays homage and gives power to the new world order, a form of planetary and borderless government as described in Klaus Schwab's Great Reset devised by his World Economic Forum (WEF) and clearly explained in this document as a climate change emergency and the need for their development visioning.

The Covenant (agreement) is described by writers as a "living document." When the world did not believe in global warming, they morphed it into a new euphemism, the climate change. And its profitable fairy dust wind and solar industry grew rapidly at the expense of the hapless American taxpayers.

The fifth edition of D.I.C.E.D. has a preamble, forewords to all five editions (the first was published in 1995), and 83 articles. The document is obviously intended to be a "world constitution for global governance," an onerous way to control population growth, movement, redistribute wealth, force 'social and economic equity and justice,' economic control, consumption control, land and water use control, and resettlement control as part of social engineering globalist plans.

The only thing "DICED" is going to be your freedom and your private property, "DICED" in perpetuity among the global elites 'stakeholders.' They have a strong claim and 'stake' in your wealth and everything you have, do, and hold dear in your daily lives now and forever.

The purpose of this constitution is to finally legalize the installation of U.N Agenda 21 now morphed into U.N. Agenda 2030 with its Sustainable Development, the lynchpin of fundamentally changing everything you do in the global visioning of a few elites, supporters, and subscribers to Klaus Schwab's Great Reset in which you "will own nothing and be happy about it." And when you do, you will "build back better," Biden's oft repeated but empty words, with nothing but misery, despair, abject fear, and want.

NOTE: Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh is a freelance writer, author, and speaker. Her books include, Echoes of Communism, Liberty on Life Support, and U.N. Agenda 21: Environmental Piracy. Her entire article can be read at canadafreepress.com/article/democracy-has-gone-to-your-head.



ALA Elects a Marxist as President

The American Library Association (ALA) has long been considered a left-wing organization, and its latest choice for president confirms this. The ALA has just elected Emily Drabinski, a self-ascribed “Marxist lesbian,” and there is evidence that suggests she will use her position to push sexually explicit material and other sordid texts directed at children. According to The Federalist’s Joy Pullman: “Drabinski posts openly on her Twitter feed in support of sexually exposing children, union-led political strife, socialist politicians, and libraries pushing explicit and far-left material on unwilling taxpayers.” She claims there’s “no big library agenda,” but it is obvious that whoever controls the books placed in public, taxpayer-funded libraries controls the ideas and the discourse of the public. This is a far cry from Benjamin Franklin’s original idea for the public library.

SOURCE: Emily Griffin, “American Library Association: Worst of the Worst,” *The Patriot Post*, 4/26/22

Americans Are Poorer Under Biden

According to the Heritage Foundation, higher prices have cost the average American family \$2,445 in real annual income since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021. EJ Antoni, research fellow with the The Heritage Foundation’s Center for Data Analysis, says, “Under the Biden administration the American people have become demonstrably poorer. The dramatic rise in prices means that American families can’t buy as much today as they could just 14 months ago. Prices have surged so rapidly that real earnings—earnings adjusted for price changes—have dropped 4.5 percent on Biden’s watch. If President Biden and others are serious about helping working Americans, they need to take responsibility for the mess they created, cut government spending, and end the regulatory war on American energy production.”

SOURCE: Heritage Foundation, 4/12/22

Having Second Thoughts?

Florida recently dissolved Disney World’s special “self-governing district,” subjecting the not-so-family-friendly theme park to huge tax implications. There is a hopeful sign that the backlash against Disney is making other companies think twice about going woke. Energy giant ExxonMobil announced that it is no longer permitting so-called “affinity flags” or “external position flags,” like the gay pride flag or the BLM flag, to fly outside its corporate offices. Needless to say, the company is under tremendous pressure from left-wing activists and their media allies to reverse course.

SOURCE: American Values, 4/25/22

Homeschooling Surge Continues

Public schools’ political agendas are pushing more parents to choose homeschooling than ever before. The Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) estimates more than 750,000 Texas students are being educated at home. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the number of Texas families who chose to homeschool their kids nearly tripled in 2020, from 4.5 percent to 12.3 percent. Interest in homeschooling continues to rise due to backlash from COVID policies and what parents see happening in public schools, according to Tim Lambert, THSC President. Parents seeing their local schools push social indoctrination and infuse academics with leftist ideology turned them to homeschooling.

SOURCE: Texas Minute, 4/26/22

Quote of the Month

“Without free and fair elections, we are not a democracy; we are a criminal cartel masquerading as a democracy.”

~ Dinesh D’Souza, from the trailer of his documentary film, *2000 Mules*, 4/2022

Great American Quote

“One’s god dictates the kind of law one implements and also controls the application and development of that law over time. Given enough time, all non-Christian systems of law self-destruct in a fit of tyranny.”

~ President George Washington

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