# U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT BISHOP (R-UT)

U.S. Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT-1) has been a member of the U.S. House since 2003. He has served as Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources since 2015. Previously, Bishop was a high school teacher and served in the Utah House of Representatives. In August 2017, Bishop announced that he would serve one more term if re-elected in 2018.

Key findings include:

**Rob Bishop’s Top Industry Donor Was the Oil and Gas Industry.** Over the course of his career, the oil and gas industry has been Rob Bishop’s top industry donor, giving him nearly $490,000. Bishop has also received over $224,000 from the casino and gambling industry, over $130,000 from the mining industry, nearly $121,000 from the electric utility industry, and nearly $72,000 from the livestock industry. Bishop’s top individual donors included EnergySolutions, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, and National Mining Association.

**Bishop Suggested That Anyone Who “Likes the Antiquities Act the Way it is Written [Should] Die” to Get “Stupidity Out of the Gene Pool.”** Rob Bishop strongly opposes the Antiquities Act, a 1906 law that allows Presidents to designate national monuments. In a July 2015 speech at the Western State Lands Commissioners Association conference, Bishop stated, “If anyone here likes the Antiquities Act the way it is written, die. I mean, stupidity out of the gene pool. It is the most evil act ever invented.” Bishop frequently rails against the “repeated abuse of the Antiquities Act” and believes the law has been used to “circumvent Congress, impose pet policies of Washington elites and radical special interest groups on local communities, and, most significantly, chip away at the traditions of rule of law and checks and balances.” Bishop strongly supported the Trump Administration’s reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments and has introduced a bill that would limit the size of monument designations to less than 85,000 acres and require state and local approval.

**Bishop Supported Efforts to Transfer Federal Lands to the States.** In 2012, Utah’s legislature passed a law demanding the federal government transfer its lands to the state. Utah State Rep. Ken Ivory and U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop were present when Governor Gary Herbert signed the bill into law. The Constitutional Defense Council, which created the Commission on Federalism, received $3 million to defend this the land transfer bill by any means, including litigation. Bishop told the commission that “all states need to be able to make choices and live with those choices even if they are incredibly stupid.” Bishop further believes ‘there is both a constitutional and a statutory reason on why the federal lands are actually yes, the states’ lands and has suggested it is an issue of fairness since localities with extensive public lands are not able to generate enough revenue from property taxes. In 2017, Bishop authored a provision attached to a larger rules package that would allow the federal government to transfer land without having to bill the state for lost revenue. That same year, Bishop asked budget writers for $50 million to pay for federal land transfers. Bishop stated that “poorly managed federal lands create a burden for surrounding states and communities.”

**Bishop Believed Endangered Species Act Was Abused and “Very Premise [Was] Illogical.”** In a December 2017 Washington Examiner op-ed, Rob Bishop wrote that the issue with the Endangered Species Act was that it had “been morphed and abused by some people, and the very premise is illogical” since “the listing [of species] does not improve it.” He also stated that “neither endangered species, not the American people, are benefited by this lack of [ESA] modernization.” Bishop believed the law needed more effective benchmarks and wanted states to have involvement in the listing process.

**Bishop Was Sympathetic to Malheur Occupation; Blamed Federal Government for Standoff.** In January 2016, the Malheur Wildlife Refuge was occupied by several gun-toting anti-government activists led by Ammon and Ryan Bundy. Bishop stated that he hoped the standoff ended peacefully, but “under[stood] the frustration and feelings people have working with land agencies…They have been very heavy-handed.” In further comments, Bishop suggested the occupation would have never occurred “if the Department of Interior was concerned about people instead of dogma.” He also believed the standoff was not unique and represented a “continuing story” about federal land mismanagement.

**Bishop Was a Climate Change Denier; Wanted to Investigate Environmental Group for Climate Work in China.** In 2009, Bishop rejected Obama Administration attempts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, stating, “Despite the fact that scientific data underlying the studies of global warming appear to have been manipulated to produce an intended outcome, EPA officials disregarded the contaminated science, calling it little more than a ‘blip on the history of this process.” Bishop referred to a 2013 attempt to regulation carbon emissions as “capitulating to the whims of special interest group allies.” In 2016, he called on his fellow legislators to “mellow out” on climate change.” In 2018, he called for an investigation into NRDC over their climate change work in the China.

**Bishop Supported Increased Oil and Gas Development on Public Lands.** Rob Bishop has stated that there are “thousands of acres of federally controlled land that can be safely and environmentally responsibly tapped to access millions of barrels of oil and billions of cubic feet of natural gas” and called for the “politically driven, slow moving, regulation dominated, federal government [to get] out of the way of permitting oil and gas wells on federal land and let the states manage the process.” Bishop has also supported approval of the Keystone XL pipe, opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas leasing, and increased offshore oil and gas exploration along the U.S. coast.

**Bishop Delivered Remarks At The Utah Freedom Conference Which Featured A Presentation By Sheriff Richard Mack And Was Sponsored By The Sutherland Institute, John Birch Society, American Lands Council, And Utah Precious Metals Foundation.** According to the *Deseret Morning News*, Bishop “railed against the federal government over land-control issues” at the Utah Freedom Conference. Richard Mack’s presented on “The Constitutional Sheriff” at the same conference. This event was held at the University of Utah Guest House and Conference Center and sponsored by the Sutherland Institute, John Birch Society, American Lands Council, and the Utah Precious Metals Foundation.

**Bishop Co-Founded The U.S. House of Representatives Tenth Amendment Task Force Which Proposed The “Repeal Amendment” To Allow Repeal of Any Law Or Regulation by Vote of the States.** RobBishop co-founded the House’s Tenth Amendment Task Force. Its goal was to “restore or strengthen states’ rights; empower states to resume the power and authority afforded to them in the protection of our God-given right to life, liberty, and property; inform the public about federalist principles; and, to provide members of congress with model legislation and action items.” In 2010, the Tenth Amendment Task Force and Rob Bishop sponsored the “Repeal Amendment.” This proposed amendment would allow states to repeal “any provision or law or regulation of the United States” if two-thirds of state legislatures banned together and voted to do so.

**East Bay Patriots attended the Eagle Forum Agenda 21 Property Rights Rally before going to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Field Hearing on “Restoring Public Access to the Public’s Lands: National Forests.”** Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) and Representatives Tom McClintock (CA-04) and Wally Herger (CA-02) attended the hearing in Sacrament, California. One participant noted that "McClintock did not say the word Agenda21, but he basically laid it all out there and didn’t have to. After the hearing we all mingled and thanked the congressmen and especially the sheriff. He was a rock star!”

# PUBLIC LANDS

**LCV Deputy Legislative Director: “We Think Of Him As Public Lands Enemy Number One….(T)He Leader Of The Anti-Parks Caucus In Congress.”** “‘We think of him as public lands enemy Number One….(t)he leader of the anti-parks caucus in congress,’ says Alex Taurel, deputy legislative director for the League of Conservation Voters. The environmental group has given Bishop a 2-percent lifetime rating. A March report by the Center for Biological Diversity labeled Bishop the Number 2 ‘public lands enemy’ out of Congress’ 435 members. (Utah swept the top three spots, with Bishop sandwiched between senators Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch.) Out of 84 bills identified by the environmental group as ‘anti-public lands’ introduced in the House during the last three Congresses, Bishop authored or co-sponsored 30 of them.” [Outside Online, [6/16/17](https://www.outsideonline.com/2188486/public-lands-enemy-number-one)]

**Rob Bishop: “Public Lands Should Be Open To All Americans. It Is Shocking To See Self-Proclaimed Defenders Of Public Lands In Congress Vote To Perpetuate A Permanent Ban On Bikers, Parents, The Disabled, Or Certain Hunters From Accessing Public Lands.”** “Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed H.R. 1349. Introduced by Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA), the bill clarifies that the Wilderness Act never intended for a universal ban of wheelchairs, adaptive cycles, bicycles, and other human-powered implements in wilderness areas… ‘This bill prevents unelected bureaucrats from arbitrarily banning bicycles, strollers and wheelchairs from our public lands,’ Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) said. ‘Public lands should be open to all Americans. It is shocking to see self-proclaimed defenders of public lands in Congress vote to perpetuate a permanent ban on bikers, parents, the disabled, or certain hunters from accessing public lands. I’m proud to stand with Rep. McClintock in fighting for American citizens who are tired of government officials telling them they can’t enjoy our nation’s public lands.’” [Rob Bishop Press Release, 12/13/17]

**Bishop Has Lifetime LCV Score of 2%.** [LCV Scorecard, accessed [12/18/18](http://scorecard.lcv.org/moc/rob-bishop)]

## Department of Interior

**Rob Bishop: “People No Longer Need To Be Afraid Of The Department Of Interior. That Is Something This Administration Sees And That Is One Of Their Goals.”** “Zinke is doing that. That’s his goal. That is his reorganization model. To get more decisions being made on the ground. To get people that actually like to work with the administration. People no longer need to be afraid of the Department of Interior. That is something this administration sees and that is one of their goals. And that is so refreshing.” [Washington Examiner, [12/26/17](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rob-bishop-congress-must-cement-trumps-public-lands-agenda-into-law)]

**Rob Bishop: “I Support Empowering Regional And State-Level Interior Officials, In Cooperation With Local Stakeholders, To Manage The Federal Lands In Their Areas Without Interference From Washington.”** “I echo Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s statement: ‘There’s a lot of anger out there in Utah on federal land policies emanating from Washington, D.C. Public lands belong to the public; they don’t belong to Washington, D.C.’ Under our current system, decision-makers lack regular interactions with the actual people who are affected by their decisions. For this reason — and many others I have detailed in previous columns on this issue — I support empowering regional and state-level Interior officials, in cooperation with local stakeholders, to manage the federal lands in their areas without interference from Washington.” [Deseret News, [1/31/18](https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900009084/rob-bishop-changing-the-dialogue-on-public-lands-from-the-problem-to-our-problem.html)]

**Bishop Supported Shifting Decision Making Away from Washington, DC.** “I agree with Zinke’s stance that the Interior would benefit from a significant shake-up that includes reallocating bureaus’ decision-making authority to the respective areas of impact and streamlining cross-bureau coordination by consolidating mission support functions. These reforms will facilitate senior Interior employees familiarizing themselves with the lands they are managing and the people who are affected by their decisions. Transforming a distant bureaucracy to ensure people have a voice in decisions that impact their livelihoods is our only path to accountable, effective and transparent government. At the Department of the Interior, let’s create a government closest to the people that serves them better.” [Deseret News, [1/31/18](https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900009084/rob-bishop-changing-the-dialogue-on-public-lands-from-the-problem-to-our-problem.html)]

## Oil and Gas Drilling

**July 2013: Bishop: “There Are Thousands of Acres of Federally Controlled Land that Can Be Safely and Environmentally Responsibly Tapped to Access Millions of Barrels of Oil and Billions of Cubic Feet of Natural Gas.”** According to an article in the Houston Business Journal, “Shifting control of the development of the energy resources on federal lands from the U.S. government to the states in which the real estate lies would help the nation move closer to energy independence, according to legislation filed by several lawmakers in Washington, D.C…[In a blog featured on The Hill website](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/307965-energy-independence-today?utm_source=heritageaction&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gr-hill&utm_content=), Cruz, Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., and Reps. Diane Black, R-Tenn., and Rob Bishop, R-Utah, say that the Obama administration is stonewalling access to the resources and jobs that manifest with the development of additional oil and gas resources. ‘There are thousands of acres of federally controlled land that can be safely and environmentally responsibly tapped to access millions of barrels of oil and billions of cubic feet of natural gas,’ they wrote. ‘It is time to get the politically driven, slow moving, regulation dominated, federal government out of the way of permitting oil and gas wells on federal land and let the states manage the process.’” [Houston Business Journal, 7/1/13]

**July 2013: Bishop Supported Oil-Producing Mecca Project: “It’s an Exciting Project that Has the Potential to Create Significant Revenue and Jobs…”** According to an article in the Deseret Morning News, “A conference room at the downtown City Library was bustling with activity…much in the same way an Estonian company wants to transform a vacant chunk of land into an oil-producing mecca for Utah. ‘We need projects like this,’ said John D. Adamson, an Evanston, Wyo., resident who attended the informational meeting laying out the details for the Uintah County oil shale project…In political circles, the project is earning praise from key leaders. ‘It’s an exciting project that has the potential to create significant revenue and jobs here in Utah and help with energy independence nationwide,’ said Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, whose congressional district is host to the project. ‘As with other responsible energy developers in our state, including other oil shale companies, I think their efforts to be good neighbors in the basin and good stewards of the land are commendable. I’m impressed by their outreach, their expertise, and their plans and efforts so far.” [Deseret Morning News, 7/17/13]

**July 2013: Bishop Struck Conciliatory Note; High Country News Called Him “One of the West’s Most Conservative, Pro-Industry Lawmakers…”** According to an article in High Country News, “One of the West’s most conservative, pro-industry lawmakers could put an end to Utah’s wilderness stalemate…Congressman Rob Bishop, a Republican from a deeply conservative stretch of northern Utah, sent a letter to groups representing environmentalists, oil and gas companies, off-road vehicle users and others, announcing his plan to end the state’s decades-long wilderness war. The missive didn’t specify what was at stake - millions of acres of jaw-dropping red-rock desert, lands that hold riches in oil and gas, and that, if opened to off-road riding, could be a motorhead’s Disneyland - but the battle-hardened recipients needed no reminder…Now, Bishop claimed he wanted to turn over a new leaf. ‘I believe Utah is ready to move away from the tired arguments of the past,’ he wrote. ‘We have a window of opportunity to end the gridlock and bring resolution to some of the most challenging land disputes in the state.’” [High Country News, 7/22/13]

**August 2013: Bishop Held Town Hall in Utah on Public Land Use; Had Been Frequent Critic of Land Management in Utah.** According to an article in the Vernal Express, “U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)…will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at the Utah State University…The meeting will offer a two-part format with an open forum for questions on the issues in the first part and a second part on the issues surrounding the use of public lands. Bishop’s Public Lands Initiative (H.R. 2852) is action plan for the public lands use, looking to loosen the bonds of federal ownership on western land to raise educational funding, according to his website. The congressman has been critical of federal land management in Utah. This will an opportunity for the public to engage Rep. Bishop on the issues important to the Uintah Basin’s residents.” [Vernal Express, 8/6/13]

**August 2013: Bishop: “We Are Confident…We Can Bring Certainty to Federal Land Management…”** According to an article in the Deseret Morning News written by Bishop and others, “Dating back to the first sessions of Congress, congressmen and senators returned to their home states to escape the blistering summer heat in our nation’s capital…We are among the many members who utilize August to travel around and meet with constituents throughout the entire district…We have scheduled a series of open house meetings and field trips throughout the eastern part of the state in areas that are at the center of the Public Lands Initiative…Ultimately, we hope to introduce legislation that encompasses these principles and reflects the priorities of all who engage in this process. We are confident that through hard work, collaboration and some compromise, we can bring certainty to federal land management and show the country that Utah is leading the way in the management of our beloved natural resources.” [Deseret Morning News, 8/6/13]

**August 2013: Bishop Wanted to Exclude Federal Government from Public Lands Decisions in Utah.** “Bishop, who serves on the House Rules, Armed Services and Natural Resources committees and chairs the House Natural Resources Public Lands and Environmental Regulation subcommittee, told the audience he is working to develop a land policy initiative. There are ongoing efforts to complete a large recreational land exchange between the state and federal government. Federal legislation in 2009 allowed Utah’s School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to trade lands with scenic and conservation values for federal land with oil and gas potentials. The exchange includes lands in Uintah County. There are potential economic benefits to public education. The state is just as competent to manage public lands as the federal government, Bishop said. He called for the state of Utah rather than the federal government to make decisions about public lands in Utah.” [Vernal Express, 8/15/13]

**August 2013: Vernal Express: Bishop “Said There Should Be Exploration of Energy Wherever Energy Is Found in Utah.”** “He also said there should be exploration of energy whenever energy is found in Utah. Bishop said oil exploration and environmental protection can go together.” [Vernal Express, 8/15/13]

**August 2013: Bishop Answered Question in Town Hall about Methane Gas Releases from Natural Gas Production.** “A woman expressed concerns about air quality in the Uintah Basin in relation to methane gas releases from natural gas production. She asked Bishop about additional regulation. He responded that federal oversight should be based on scientific data from multiple sources.” [Vernal Express, 8/15/13]

**Rob Bishop: “Our Western States Hold Vast Reservoirs Of Liquid Natural Gas And Oil Shale, But There Remains Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens To Moving Energy Products To Areas Of Demand.”** “Today, Congressman Scott Tipton (CO-03) stressed the importance of utilizing Western Colorado’s vast energy resources at a House Natural Resources Committee field hearing entitled Examining the Natural Gas and Oil Shale Opportunities in Western Colorado. Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) joined Tipton at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction to examine opportunities for the export of natural gas from the Piceance Basin through the proposed Jordan Cove Energy and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline as well as evaluate the potential to develop domestic oil shale resources…’Today’s field hearing revealed the abundance of American energy available for exploration,’ said Chairman Rob Bishop. ‘Our western states hold vast reservoirs of liquid natural gas and oil shale, but there remains unnecessary regulatory burdens to moving energy products to areas of demand. I would like to thank U.S. Rep. Tipton for working tirelessly to bring this issue to light for Colorado’s third congressional district and fighting to bring well-paying jobs to the people of Colorado and across the nation. With what we’ve learned today, we can better pursue a path forward that will allow for strategic and environmentally safe energy extraction.’” [Scott Tipton Press Release, 6/1/18]

### Keystone XL

**August 2013: Bishop: “Keystone Should Have Been Passed and Up and Running by Now.”** “Bishop addressed the proposed Canada to Texas Keystone Oil Pipeline that has met opposition from environmental groups and the Obama Administration. ‘Keystone should have been passed and up and running by now,’ Bishop said.” [Vernal Express, 8/15/13]

### Offshore Drilling

**June 2013: Bishop Supported Bill to Open up Coastal Drilling.** According to an article in Nation Now, “In spite of a White House veto threat, the Republican-controlled House…launched a new effort to open up the California and Atlantic coasts to oil drilling. The measure is a long shot in the face of fierce opposition in the Democratic-led Senate…Still, Republicans are eager to stoke the debate over offshore drilling and highlight differences between the parties over energy policy heading into next year’s election battles for control of the House and Senate. The bill, which passed 235-186, would require lease sales by the end of next year for energy production off the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. It also would direct the Interior Department to develop a new five-year plan for drilling in areas containing the ‘greatest known oil and natural gas reserves,’ including areas off Southern California, Alaska and the Eastern Seaboard…Republicans argued that the new bill would help lower fuel prices, create jobs, generate $1.5 billion over 10 years for the U.S. Treasury and enhance the nation’s energy security. ‘I think, by most standards, that would be considered a fairly good bill,’ said Rep. Rob Bishop…” [Nation Now, 6/29/13]

**Rob Bishop Supported Trump Administration’s Offshore Oil Drilling Program.** “Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) issued the following statement on the Department of the Interior’s Draft Proposed National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program: ‘The previous administration’s approach to offshore development started from the premise of considering ‘as little as possible.’ The Trump administration starts from the premise of considering ‘as much as possible.’ American energy dominance will only be achieved by taking the latter approach. I look forward to continuing to work with the Administration to responsibly develop American energy, spur job growth and maximize revenues to the benefit of taxpayers.’” [Rob Bishop Press Release, 1/4/18]

### ANWR

**Rob Bishop Supported Opening ANWR for Energy Development.** “Today, the House approved the conference report on H.R. 1, the ‘Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.’ The bill includes language that opens up a small portion of the non-wilderness 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for responsible energy development. Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) issued the following statement: ‘How do you improve a historic tax cut’ I can’t think of a better way than to add the pro-jobs, pro-growth and pro-American energy provisions opening ANWR to responsible development. Senator Murkowski and Rep. Young should be commended for securing this long overdue win for Alaska, its people and the country.’” [Rob Bishop Press, Release, 12/19/17]

### Methane

**Rob Bishop: “This Rule Adds Another Layer Of Duplicative Federal Regulation On Top Of Already Existing Federal And State Regulations.”** “House Republicans want the Interior Department to drop plans to regulate methane emissions on federal lands. In a Wednesday letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Republicans said the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lacks the power to regulate emissions from oil and gas drilling wells, and that it should instead work to more quickly approve transmission lines to get natural gas on the market. ‘This rule adds another layer of duplicative federal regulation on top of already existing federal and state regulations,’ said the letter, led by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.).” [The Hill, [7/27/16](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/289439-republicans-push-back-on-interior-methane-leak-plan)]

**Rob Bishop: “The Previous [Methane] Rule Was Outside The Limits Of BLM's Authority. It Was One Of The Obama Administration's Half-Baked Schemes To Force Responsible Energy Development Off Federal Lands. Reining In Bad Policies To Expand American Energy Strength, Grow Jobs And Increase Revenues Is More Welcome News From Trump Administration.”** [Rob Bishop Press Release, 12/11/17]

## National Parks

**Rob Bishop: “As America’s Beloved National Parks Buckle Under The Weight Of Broken Pipes, Crumbling Roads And Other Incomplete Projects, Additional Funding Is Crucial To Keeping Parks Safe And Accessible For The Public.”** “Last week, the House Committee on Natural Resources approved The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act, a measure that would set aside for park repairs more than $5 billion from energy development royalties over several years that now flow into the general U.S. Treasury. The measure heads to the full House. A similar Senate proposal, led by Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Mark Warner, D-Va., would dedicate $6.5 billion in royalties for maintenance. ‘As America’s beloved national parks buckle under the weight of broken pipes, crumbling roads and other incomplete projects, additional funding is crucial to keeping parks safe and accessible for the public,’ said Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, who chairs the Natural Resources panel.” [USA Today, 9/21/18]

**Bishop Supported Bill Address National Park Deferred Maintenance.** “Today, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed H.R. 6510 (U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah), the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act. ‘As America’s beloved national parks buckle under the weight of broken pipes, crumbling roads, and other incomplete projects, additional funding is crucial to keeping parks safe and accessible for the public. This bill addresses that need. I thank Secretary Zinke, Ranking Member Grijalva, Rep. Mike Simpson, and all those on both sides of the aisle who have supported this legislation. Maintaining our national parks knows no party lines,’ Chairman Bishop said. H.R. 6510 establishes, funds, and provides for the use of amounts in a National Park Service and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education.” [House Natural Resources Press Release, 9/13/18]

**Rob Bishop: “Our National Parks Are The Crown Jewels Of Our Public Lands, And The Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund Will Help Ensure They Remain The Crown Jewel For Decades To Come.”** “This legislation comes at the right time: our national parks are getting more popular every year. The maintenance backlog poses a real threat to this upward trend. Our bipartisan bill is a chance for some unity on a problem the American people want us to solve. If we want millions of people to continue visiting and enjoying our national parks – and making return trips to celebrate our shared history and love of the natural world – we have to put our money where our mouth is, work together and move forward to reduce the backlog. Allowing our parks to crumble is simply not an option. Our national parks are the crown jewels of our public lands, and the Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund will help ensure they remain the crown jewel for decades to come.” [The Hill, [7/25/18](https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/398677-lets-work-together-to-fix-our-national-parks)]

## National Monuments

**Rob Bishop: “Bears Ears Is A Symptom Of The Problem…The Disease Is Still The Antiquities Act.”** “On a sunny day in early May, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke hiked in southeast Utah’s Bears Ears National Monument as part of a presidential order to revisit the fates of dozens of monuments nationwide. At his right strolled a man dressed in shorts, loafers, and an uncollared shirt. With his snowy white hair, the man could have been mistaken for a snowbird who’d wandered from his RV to check out the commotion—until he turned to a television camera. ‘Bears Ears is a symptom of the problem,’ the man said tartly. ‘The disease is still the Antiquities Act.’ The man was Republican Congressman Rob Bishop of Utah, one of the biggest fans on Capitol Hill today of handing federal public lands over to the states and reducing environmental protections on them.” [Outside Online, [6/16/17](https://www.outsideonline.com/2188486/public-lands-enemy-number-one)]

**Rob Bishop: “If Anyone Here Likes The Antiquities Act The Way It Is Written—Die…I Need Stupidity Out Of The Gene Pool. It Is The Most Evil Act Ever Invented.”** “The U.S. government owns and manages nearly half of the American West for the public, and Bishop firmly believes that Uncle Sam is a terrible landlord. ‘I am an adherent to the concept of federalism,’ Bishop told Outside. ‘Federalism implies a balance of power. But the whole purpose is to protect people’—particularly from an overreaching executive branch that isn’t responsive enough to citizens, he says. To Bishop, there is no better example of this abuse than how presidents have wielded the Antiquities Act, the 1906 law that lets presidents declare buildings, landmarks, and places ‘of historic or scientific interest’ on federal lands to be monuments, without the say of Congress or the public. ‘If anyone here likes the Antiquities Act the way it is written—die,’ he said to the laughter of members of the Western State Land Commissioners Association in 2015. ‘I need stupidity out of the gene pool. It is the most evil act ever invented.’” [Outside Online, [6/16/17](https://www.outsideonline.com/2188486/public-lands-enemy-number-one)]

* **Rob Bishop: “If Anyone Here Likes The Antiquities Act The Way It Is Written, Die. I Mean, Stupidity Out Of The Gene Pool. It Is The Most Evil Act Ever Invented.”** [Center for Western Priorities, accessed [12/18/18](https://soundcloud.com/wstrnpriorities/rep-rob-bishop-on-the-antiquities-act-if-you-like-it-die)]

**Rob Bishop: “Just Making Something A Monument Doesn't Neccessarily [Sic] Mean It Will Be Protected More Than It Already Was.”** “We can only overcome it with the truth. The reality is this was never about conservation versus development. Interest groups who claim to be environmentalists are always making pictures of oil rigs and oil wells drilling on these areas. That is a false narrative and it’s a fake issue. We are taking that narrative off the table and we are simply saying it’s a lie. It’s what the locals want. Trump has given them a win by finally listening to the people who live in that area and giving their voice a chance to be heard. We want to make sure we codify what the president did to ensure the local people and especially the local Native American tribes get to have real management. And we actually do protect it. Just making something a monument doesn’t neccessarily mean it will be protected more than it already was.” [Washington Examiner, [12/26/17](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rob-bishop-congress-must-cement-trumps-public-lands-agenda-into-law)]

**Bishop Offered Proposal to Weaken Antiquities Act.** “Now, some 10 months later, Bishop is making good on his threat with a proposal introduced in Congress that would severely curtail the ability of presidents to establish monuments while giving them authority to diminish existing ones. ‘No longer would we have to blindly trust the judgment or fear the whims of any president,’ he told reporters in an Oct. 11 phone call explaining his ‘National Monument Creation and Protection Act.’ ‘It will provide a reasonable degree of consultation with local stakeholders and an open public process,’ Bishop said. ‘It strengthens the authority of the president to protect actual antiquities without disenfranchising people.’ His bill would narrow the Antiquities Act’s scope and impose thresholds on the size of future monuments, barring designations exceeding 85,000 acres, and require approval by local and state political leaders.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [10/24/17](https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2017/10/24/is-the-antiquities-act-broken-utah-congressman-thinks-so/)]

* **Rob Bishop: “The Antiquities Act Is My Old Glove. There Is Nostalgia To It, And There Is Romance To It. There Was A Purpose To It, Just Like There Was A Purpose To That Glove.”** “At a recent appearance before a sympathetic Heritage Foundation audience, Bishop romanticized his late father’s old baseball glove, handed down to him in 1969. The cherished family heirloom that remained wonderful to hold, Bishop said, but not so good for catching with. ‘The Antiquities Act is my old glove. There is nostalgia to it, and there is romance to it,’ Bishop told his audience. ‘There was a purpose to it, just like there was a purpose to that glove.’ But, like that glove, Bishop said, the Antiquities Act is no longer suited to its original purpose, allowing four of the past six presidents to abuse the law, with Obama the leading culprit. The former president made 34 designations, covering 5.7 million acres of land, or 540 million when ocean monuments are included.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [10/24/17](https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2017/10/24/is-the-antiquities-act-broken-utah-congressman-thinks-so/)]
* **Rob Bishop: “A Fish Is Not An Antiquity. A Tree Is Not An Antiquity…It Was Supposed To Be An Antiquity And Something That Was In Danger, And It Was Supposed To Be The Smallest Footprint Possible.”** [Salt Lake Tribune, [10/24/17](https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2017/10/24/is-the-antiquities-act-broken-utah-congressman-thinks-so/)]

**Rob Bishop: “There Is No More Flagrant Violation Of This Principle Of Our Government Than The Repeated Abuse Of The Antiquities Act In The Designation Of National Monuments.”** “I said that the rule of law should still be the foundation of our politics. Unfortunately, that certainly does not mean it is not threatened. There is no more flagrant violation of this principle of our government than the repeated abuse of the Antiquities Act in the designation of national monuments. Passed in 1906 authorizing the president to protect ‘antiquities,’ or objects of historic interest under imminent threat, the plain language of the law requires that all designations be ‘confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.’” [Salt Lake Tribune, [10/24/17](https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2017/10/24/is-the-antiquities-act-broken-utah-congressman-thinks-so/)]

* **Rob Bishop: “The Law Has Been Distorted Beyond Recognition By Presidents Who Have Used It To Circumvent Congress, Impose Pet Policies Of Washington Elites And Radical Special Interest Groups On Local Communities, And, Most Significantly, Chip Away At The Traditions Of Rule Of Law And Checks And Balances.”** “Let that sink in: 553.6 million acres (more than half a billion). That is an average of 189,000 acres designated with the stroke of a pen for every single day Obama was in office. It’s 830 times the size of Rhode Island, and more than 5 times the size of California. Actions such as these are not the rule of law. It is arbitrary rule by one man. The argument that recent uses of the act have conformed to the law’s legal limitations would be funny if it wasn’t so damaging. The law has been distorted beyond recognition by presidents who have used it to circumvent Congress, impose pet policies of Washington elites and radical special interest groups on local communities, and, most significantly, chip away at the traditions of rule of law and checks and balances.” [Salt Lake Tribune, [10/24/17](https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2017/10/24/is-the-antiquities-act-broken-utah-congressman-thinks-so/)]
* **Rob Bishop: “The Time Has Come For Congress To Reform The Antiquities Act And Rein In The President.”** [Salt Lake Tribune, [10/24/17](https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2017/10/24/is-the-antiquities-act-broken-utah-congressman-thinks-so/)]

**Rob Bishop: “Under The Antiquities Act, There Is No Ability Of Having Any Input.”** “‘Under the Antiquities Act, there is no ability of having any input,’ says Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah. Bishop, who chairs the powerful House Committee on Natural Resources, has emerged as one of the act’s biggest critics. ‘No one ever gets to have a say, you don’t work out things in advance,’ Bishop says. ‘It has to be a gotcha moment where the president unveils something unilaterally.’ Bishop wants the Trump administration to also act by executive order, and either shrink Bears Ears or nullify it altogether. Bears Ears connects a huge protected corridor that links several monuments that ultimately bring you to the Grand Canyon. The land is also considered sacred to Native American tribes.” [NPR, [2/5/17](https://www.npr.org/2017/02/05/513492389/utah-representative-wants-bears-ears-gone-and-he-wants-trump-to-do-it)]

**Rob Bishop: “There Is No Oil And Gas In The Area To Drill. In That Bears Ears Area, There Is No Development Possibilities That Are Down There.”** “There is no oil and gas in the area to drill. In that Bears Ears area, there is no development possibilities that are down there. Within the monument itself there, the resources that are there are simply not viable at today’s market prices. In fact, the only kind of economic development that is viable is grazing. So one of the reasons we are extending the mineral extraction moratorium that was originally part of the presidential proclamation and putting into the statute is to illustrate the point this is not about industry development. It’s not about oil or gas or drilling or mining or anything like that. It’s about how you actually control the lands. Who gets to have a say in the management of the lands and how you actually protect the lands, all of which were done very poorly in the president’s [Obama’s] proclamation and which were solved by legislation.” [Washington Examiner, [12/26/17](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rob-bishop-congress-must-cement-trumps-public-lands-agenda-into-law)]

**Bishop Claimed That the Creation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Would Hinder State and Federal Government’s Ability to Police the Border.** According to an article in Environment and Energy Daily, “Obama's plans and previous legislative proposals to protect five mountain ranges above the Chihuahan Desert grasslands surrounding Las Cruces have sparked debate for years over whether they would slow officers' pursuit of illegal drug smugglers. Bishop, the chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, sent a letter to Obama this week saying … ‘Restrictive environmental laws within these federal corridors limit Border Patrol access and, as a result, make it easier for drug smugglers and human traffickers to move their drugs and people in and out of the United States unnoticed,’ he said.” [Environment and Energy Daily, 5/21/14]

**Doña Ana County Sheriff Todd Garrison Also Opposed Organ Mountains National Monument Because “The Lands They're Trying To Promote Will Be Torn Up And Misused By People That Don't Give A Flip About Them Anyway.”** According to an article in Environment and Energy Daily, “In addition, Doña Ana County Sheriff Todd Garrison was quoted this week in the Las Cruces Sun-News warning that the designation would shut down access for his deputies, allowing border crossers to treat the land as they wish. ‘The lands they're trying to promote will be torn up and misused by people that don't give a flip about them anyway,’ Garrison said.” [Environment and Energy Daily, 5/21/14]

## Land Seizure/Transfer Movement

### Lands Transfer

**Bishop Said Education Funding In Utah Suffered Because Of Federal Land Ownership**. According to a media advisory, Bishop stated “Education funding in Utah, like many other western states, has disproportionately suffered due the abundant presence of federal land within our state's borders. Utah's children deserve to have educational opportunities afforded to those who come from states with few federal lands. The current situation is not what was intended to become of the West, yet greedy Washington bureaucrats have decided that hording land in the federal estate is more important than education…” said Congressman Rob Bishop.” [States News Service, 3/21/12]

**Bishop Delivered Remarks At The Utah Freedom Conference Which Featured A Presentation By Richard Mack About “The Constitutional Sheriff.”** According to an article in the Deseret Morning News, “A celebration of states' rights and restoring that sovereign authority is happening all day Saturday at the University of Utah Guest House and Conference Center. The Utah Freedom Conference, which is held each year to highlight constitutional issues, is particularly focused this year on the ability of states to exercise control over their own destiny… Saturday's event also features remarks by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, who has railed against the federal government over land-control issues. Another conference topic will be ‘The Constitutional Sheriff’ featuring Richard Mack, a former Provo police officer who went on to become Graham County sheriff in Arizona.” [Deseret Morning News, 9/14/12]

* **Utah Freedom Conference Was Sponsored By The Sutherland Institute, John Birch Society, American Lands Council, And The Utah Precious Metals Foundation.** According to an article in the Salt Lake Tribune, “Speakers at Utah's Freedom Conference -- an annual gathering co-sponsored by conservative groups including the Sutherland Institute, the John Birch Society, American Lands Council and the Utah Precious Metals Foundation -- also said bills passed by the Utah Legislature are national models for solutions to such problems. Leaders including U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, GOP Utah attorney general nominee John Swallow, GOP congressional nominees Chris Stewart and Mia Love and GOP state Reps. Ken Ivory and Brad Galvez urged a return to the Founding Fathers' original intent for the Constitution and other traditional values.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 9/17/12]

**Columnist Paul Rolly: Ken Ivory And Rob Bishop Were Among The “Stalwart Protectors Of Truth, Justice, And The American Way” Who Were “On The Front Lines To Take Back Our State Lands From Carpetbagger Feds And Let Us, The True Stewards Of The Land, Treat It As We May.”** According to an column in the Salt Lake Tribune, ““Utah's stalwart protectors of truth, justice and the American way have been dauntless in their defense of state sovereignty against those vile federal agencies like the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency that would enslave us all. Our heroes like Reps. Mike Noel and Ken Ivory, U.S. Sen. Mike Lee and Rep. Rob Bishop have been on the front lines to take back our state lands from the carpetbagger feds and let us, the true stewards of the land, treat it as we may.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 6/15/13]

**Rob Bishop and Ken Ivory Participated in a Digital Question and Answer Session at the Utah Farm Bureau Federation’s 2013 Midyear Conference**. According to an article in the Richfield Reaper, “The Utah Farm Bureau Federation is set to host its midyear conference today and Friday, July 18 and 19, at the Sevier Valley Center in Richfield… The theme of the conference -- Many Voices, One Vision -- speaks to the fact that despite the diversity of Utah's agricultural industry, farmers and ranchers share a common goal of working to produce quality food products for American dinner tables, said Matt Hargreaves, UFBF vice president of communications. Other scheduled presentations include a digital question and answer session with U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, Utah Rep. Ken Ivory and an informational forum concerning environmental stewardship.” [Richfield Reaper, 7/18/13]

**Ken Ivory Told Rob Bishops’ Staffers That He Had A “Mandate” To Secure The Transfer Of Federal Lands To The State.** According to an article in the Salt Lake Tribune, “Last week in a legislative briefing, state Rep. Ken Ivory told Gov. Gary Herbert and staffers for Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz that he has a ‘mandate’ to secure the transfer of our federal land to the state. Of course with all the great promises Ivory has made about what will happen when the people of Utah take total control over the public land, it is no surprise that he has gotten some attention.” [Salt Lake Tribune, 9/4/15]

**Bishop Supported Rule Change Easing Federal Land Transfer.** “House Republicans on Tuesday changed the way Congress calculates the cost of transferring federal lands to the states and other entities, a move that will make it easier for members of the new Congress to cede federal control of public lands. The provision, included as part as a larger rules package the House approved by a vote of 233 to 190 during its first day in session, highlights the extent to which some congressional Republicans hope to change longstanding rules now that the GOP will control the executive and the legislative branches starting Jan. 20. Many Republicans, including House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), have been pushing to hand over large areas of federal land to state and local authorities, on the grounds that they will be more responsive to the concerns of local residents.” [Washington Post, [1/3/17](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/01/03/house-gop-rules-change-would-make-it-easier-to-sell-off-federal-land/?utm_term=.296090ea3f14)]

**Bishop Wanted to Set Aside $50 Million for Land Transfer.** “The chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee is asking budget writers to set aside $50 million to account for the costs to transfer federal land to state or local governments. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) put the request on a wish list sent Friday to the House Budget Committee. In his request, Bishop argued that ‘poorly managed federal lands create a burden for surrounding states and communities.’ He reasoned that divesting the federal government of its land would be good for the federal budget. It would reduce the costs of maintaining that land, he said, as well as the payments the federal government makes to local and state governments for tax dollars they can’t collect.” [The Hill, [3/6/17](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/322537-gop-chairman-seeks-50m-to-transfer-federal-land)]

**Rob Bishop: “(T)here Is Both A Constitutional And A Statutory Reason On Why The Federal Lands Are Actually Yes, The States’ Lands.”** “Asked to expand on his philosophy toward federal lands, though, Bishop offered a startling argument for a congressman: he claimed that federal land in western states such as Utah may not even belong to the federal government, and thus the broader American public, at all. The former history teacher cited a variety of reasons based on esoteric points of American history and how the states entered the union. ‘(T)here is both a constitutional and a statutory reason on why the federal lands are actually yes, the states’ lands,’ he concluded. Bishop’s assertions have been echoed by fringe movements, implicitly and sometimes explicitly, from the 1970s Sagebrush Rebellion to those who side with Nevada’s scofflaw Bundy family and those who took over Oregon’s Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.” [Outside Online, [6/16/17](https://www.outsideonline.com/2188486/public-lands-enemy-number-one)]

**Bishop Believed Land Transfer Was an Issue of Fairness.** “Bishop argues that giving states control of the lands within their borders is ultimately an issue of fairness. Utah, for instance, is nearly two-thirds federal lands. Lack of private property means little property tax to fund education. What’s more, the federal system that compensates such states for the absence of taxable private property is woefully underfunded, Bishop and even some of his critics agree. Giving a state more control of lands within its borders could mean more uses allowed on them—from recreation to energy extraction—and thus more tax revenue, he says.” [Outside Online, [6/16/17](https://www.outsideonline.com/2188486/public-lands-enemy-number-one)]

#### Federal Land Action Group

**April 2015: Representatives Rob Bishop And Chris Stewart Launched The Federal Land Action Group “To Determine The Best Congressional Action Needed To Return These Lands Back To The Rightful Owners.”** According to a press release in Congressional Documents and Publications, “Today, Representatives Chris Stewart (R-Utah) and Rob Bishop (R-Utah) launched the Federal Land Action Group, a congressional team that will develop a legislative framework for transferring public lands to local ownership and control… Rep. Bishop, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said, ‘This group will explore legal and historical background in order to determine the best congressional action needed to return these lands back to the rightful owners. We have assembled a strong team of lawmakers, and I look forward to formulating a plan that reminds the federal government it should leave the job of land management to those who know best.’” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 4/28/15]

**House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Ra M. Grijalva Said The Federal Land Action Group Was Built “On The Ides Of Extremists Like Cliven Bundy.”** According to an statement published in States News Service, “House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Ral M. Grijalva released the following statement on the recent formation of the House Republican ‘Federal Land Action Group.’"Building on the ideas of extremists like Cliven Bundy, House Republicans have formed a group to explore the idea that if you see a federal resource you like, maybe you can just take it. Hopefully I can save them some time and spare the State of Utah the $12 million the Legislature wants to spend on this. The American people overwhelmingly support keeping our National Parks, Forests, Wildlife Refuges and Public Lands right where they are, open to the public for multiple uses, including hunting, fishing, tourism, grazing and conservation. There is no legal authority to give these lands away to developers and no chance the American people will support such a scheme.’” [States News Service, 4/29/15]

**Congressman Raul Labrador Reintroduced The Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act Which Would Create “Community Forest Demonstration Areas;” Bill Complimented Work Of Federal Land Action Group.”** According to a news release, “Congressman Raul Labrador, R-Idaho, on Thursday reintroduced a bill that will allow state and local management of federally-owned forests and improve forest health, boost local economies and save taxpayers money… Labrador's Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act… would create ‘community forest demonstration areas’ of at least 200,000 acres, not exceeding 4 million acres nationwide. Governors would appoint an Advisory Committee to oversee management. The committee must include representatives from local government, recreational users, the forest products industry and grazing or other permit holders… The bill complements the efforts of the Federal Land Action Group, recently cofounded by the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. Labrador is a member of both the committee and the new group working to provide a legislative framework for transferring federal lands to local ownership and control.” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 5/14/2015]

**“The Federal Land Action Group’s Strategy Of Transferring Lands To State Ownership Is Nothing Short Of A Scheme To Divide And Conquer Public Lands For Private Development…”** According to a letter to the editor in the Durango Herald,” Broadly, the Federal Land Action Group 's strategy of transferring federal lands to state ownership is nothing short of a scheme to divide and conquer public lands for private development, eroding our rich heritage of wilderness, national forests and wide-open landscapes. We've worked hard through the years to develop federal management of these lands that serves a diverse public interest, and throwing that all away in an experiment of state management is, at best, an incredibly foolish experiment. At worst, it is a shameless land grab driven by raw greed… Lionel Di Giacomo, Durango.” [Durango Herald, 5/14/15]

**Representatives Bishop And Stewart Hosted Forum On Public Land Management And Ownership**. According to a news release, “Chairman of the Federal Land Action Group, Rep. Chris Stewart, and Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Rep. Rob Bishop, hosted the first in a series of forums aimed at exploring historical precedents and best practices with regard to public land management and ownership… During questioning, Rep Bishop said, ‘It's not because the federal managers are malevolent or incompetent, they just have too damn much land to manage. It's too big to succeed. It's not too large to fail, it's too large to succeed.’” [Targeted News Service, 7/29/15]

**“The Same Crowd That Is Pushing For The Transfer Of Federal Lands To State Ownership Around Montana And The Rest Of The West, Is The Same Group That Has Successfully Maneuvered The Expiration Of The LWCF.”** According to an article in the Helena Independent Record, “Despite our pleading to the contrary, Congress failed to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund last month, putting one of the most successful tools for funding recreation, conservation and public access at dire risk… The LWCF is in the crosshairs of an ultra-conservative crowd in Congress, specifically chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Rob Bishop, R-Utah… He is part of the federal land action group which he launched last spring with fellow Congressman Chris Stewart, R-Utah. The stated goal of this group of representatives is to hold a series of forums on public land policy with the goal of introducing legislation for the transfer of federal lands back to the state… The same crowd that is pushing for the transfer of federal lands to state ownership around Montana and the rest of the West, is the same group that has successfully maneuvered the expiration of the LWCF.” [Helena Independent Record, [10/11/15](http://helenair.com/news/opinion/an-ir-view-montana-delegation-must-push-to-reauthorize-lwcf/article_224da386-4384-5d91-a63e-fc5a1029fcac.html)]

#### Constitutional Defense Council

**Bishop Said He Was “Pleased To Join In Support” Of Utah Law Demanding That The Federal Government Transfer Lands To The State By The End Of 2014**. According to a media advisory, “Tomorrow, Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert will sign a bill [H.B. 148] into law demanding that the federal government transfer federal lands located within the state of Utah over to the state by December 31, 2014… ‘This bill is an important and essential component of our united efforts to return control of our land back to the state of Utah… Like most Utahns, I disagree. I'm pleased to join in support of the signing of this important legislation,’ said Congressman Rob Bishop.” [States News Service, 3/21/12]

* **Rob Bishop And Ken Ivory Participated In The H.B. 148 Signing Ceremony.** According to a press release issued by Senator Mike Lee, “Today, Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert signed House Bill 148, which demands the federal government make good on the promises made in the 1894 Enabling Act to extinguish title to federal lands in Utah. The Governor was joined by U.S. Senators Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee,Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah Representatives Ken Ivory and Roger Barrus, and other stakeholders in a show of unity for the effort to return public lands to state control.” [US Official News, 3/28/12]

**2013: The Commission on Federalism Was Created by the Constitutional Defense Council’s Federalism Committee.”** According to an article in The Salt Lake Tribune, “For too long Utah and other states have not exercised their sovereign powers in the face of the federal government's growing reach into new arenas, according to leading members of a new state commission assembled to study and push back against federal authority. "History has shown that if you concentrate power it was a fundamental threat to the rights of people and it was corrupting," Senate Majority Leader Wayne Niederhauser, R-Sandy, told the inaugural meeting of the Commission on Federalism. "We have watched that happen for the last 50 years as the federal government has broadened its jurisdiction in a number of issues.”… The group was spun from the governor-appointed Constitutional Defense Council's federalism committee. Its charge is to investigate examples of federal overreach and report back to the Legislature, according to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan.” [Salt Lake Tribune 7/4/13]

* **Bishop To Commission on Federalism: “All States Need To Be Able To Make Choices And Live With Those Choices Even If They Are Incredibly Stupid.”** According to an article in The Salt Lake Tribune, “Among the commission's first witnesses was Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, who described the 10th Amendment's crucial role. This final provision of the Constitution's Bill of Right says any power not explicitly accorded to the federal government is reserved for the states or the people. ‘All states need to be able make choices and live with those choices even if they are incredibly stupid,’ Bishop said. “ [Salt Lake Tribune, 7/4/13]

**Bishop Supported Utah Lawmakers Who Filed Resolutions And Bills Outlining Grievances Against Federal Government And Calling For Transfer Of Federal Lands To The State By The End Of 2014.** According to an article in the Deseret Morning News, “Utah lawmakers are fervidly setting the stage for another Sagebrush Rebellion…The House approved two resolutions and two bills that outline grievances and set deadlines for the federal government to transfer to the state millions of acres currently controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It excludes military installations, national parks and congressionally designated wilderness, but includes areas such as the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument… Congressman Rob Bishop, R-Utah, supports legislators' efforts and encouraged them to keep the bills and resolutions coming. He likes to display a U.S. map showing the stark contrast between federal land in the East and the West. The right half shows scattered spots of red designating federal ownership. The left half is nearly all red.” [Deseret Morning News, 3/4/12]

**Utahan Lawmakers Set Aside $3 Million for Constitutional Defense Council to sue federal government if it did not respond to lands transfer demand.** According to an article in the Deseret Morning News, “Should Washington not respond, lawmakers have set aside $3 million for its Constitutional Defense Council to seek other remedies including going to court. ‘Are we not a state?’ said Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, one of the leaders of the charge. ‘If sovereignty means anything, it means not having to say pretty please or mother may I to exercise our rights as a state.’” [Deseret Morning News, 3/4/12]

### Extremism

#### Bundy

**Bishop Denounced Cliven Bundy’s Racist Remarks**. According to an article in The Salt Lake Tribune, “Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, joined a chorus of Republicans on Thursday denouncing remarks by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy about race that could hurt efforts by the new folk hero and anti-government icon to rally supporters to his cause… Bishop, chairman of a House subcommittee over public lands, distanced himself from Bundy's comments and his actions and said the Nevada rancher had hurt himself by making such racist remarks.” [The Salt Lake Tribune, 4/24/14]

* **Bishop: “His Comments Are Inaccurate And Degrading, And I Think They Are Sad.”** According to an article in the Salt Lake Tribune, Bishop Said Bundy’s “comments are inaccurate and degrading, and I think they are sad …Unless I am missing something, I don't think it had any relevance to the situation he has but the fact that he said them does not help his situation, does not help his case, does not help his credibility.” [The Salt Lake Tribune, 4/24/14]

**Rob Bishop on Malheur Refuge Occupation**. “Key Western lawmakers yesterday sought to distance themselves from the armed militia that is occupying a national wildlife refuge in Oregon, while highlighting the state-federal tensions underlying the dispute. Returning from the holiday recess to start the new legislative session, House Republicans said they understood the frustrations that led to one to two dozen armed protesters seizing the remote Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, while calling for a peaceful end to the situation. ‘I want it to end without violence, but I also understand the frustration and feelings people have working with land agencies,’ House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) told E&E Daily last night. ‘They have been very heavy-handed.’” [E&E News, [1/6/16](https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060030176)]

**Bishop Blamed Federal Government for Malheur Refuge Occupation**. “Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) also dismissed the resolution, adding he does not support violence but blames the standoff on overly aggressive land policies by the federal government. ‘This did not have to take place. If the Department of Interior was concerned about people instead of dogma this situation would not have occurred,’ he said. Bishop said the standoff in Oregon is part of a ‘continuing story’ about how the federal government has mismanaged lands in the West and does not stand out as unique. He said special hearings are not expected on it.” [E&E News, [1/8/16](https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060030303)]

#### Tenth Amendment

**February 2010: Representative Rob Bishop Spoke About The Tenth Amendment During The Conservative Political Action Conference.** According to an article in The Frontrunner, “1 p.m. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT), a dedicated champion of Federalist principles and proponent of the 10th Amendment, will be speaking tomorrow during the ‘Who Cares About the 10th Amendment session,’ running concurrent with the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. Washington. Virginia Ballroom.” [The Frontrunner, 2/18/10]

**Representative Rob Bishop Was A Member Of The 10th Amendment Task Force**. According to an article in the Abilene Reporter-News, “Abilene Congressman Randy Neugebauer and Big Country Congressman Mike Conaway are among 10 conservative House Republicans who recently formed the Tenth Amendment Task Force to do just that… Politicians have raised those sam+e concerns, when convenient, going back to debates about slavery in the 1800s and civil rights in the 1960s, said the experts from Washington-based George Washington University… House Republicans who co-founded the Tenth Amendment Task Force Rob Bishop of Utah…” [Abilene Reporter-News, 4/26/10]

* **Goals Of The Tenth Amendment Task Force. “Restore Or Strengthen States’ Rights. Empower States To Resume The Power And Authority Afforded To Them In The Protection Of Our God-Given Right To Life, Liberty, And Property. Inform The Public About Federalist Principles And To Provide Members Of Congress With Model Legislation And Action Items.”** [Abilene Reporter-News, 4/26/10]
* **Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01), Founder Of The Task Force: "This Is Not Yesterday's States' Rights Argument. It's Much Bigger Than That. This Is About Better Governance And Breaking Up Big, Inefficient, Unresponsive Government-Returning Power Back To The People Of This Country."** [Congressional Documents and Publications, 5/6/10]

**Bishop: “It Doesn’t Mean Cutting Programs, It Just Means Taking Them Out Of Control… It’s Not Just About Shrinking the Size of Government, It’s About Increasing The Number Of Options And Choices People Have.”** According to an article in Roll Call, “Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), one of the founding members of the new 10th Amendment Task Force, said Monday that the group will look at ways to restore power that has been siphoned away from the states by the federal government. ‘It doesn't mean cutting programs, it just means taking them out of federal control,’ he said. ‘It's not just about shrinking the size of government, it's about increasing the number of options and choices people have’ on the state level.” [Roll Call, 5/4/10]

**April 2011: Bishop Hosted A Forum About “The Current Status Of Our Federalist System And To Identify Strategies And Methods To Restore A More Appropriate Balance Between States And The National Government For The Next Century.”** According to an article in Congressional Documents and Publications, “Tomorrow, Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT), co-founder of the 10th Amendment Task Force, will host a forum to examine the current status of our federalist system and to identify strategies and methods to restore a more appropriate balance between states and the national government for the next century. Both state and federal lawmakers will participate in the dialogue about the need to reaffirm a commitment to the broad principles of American federalism.” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 4/13/11]

**July 2010: 10th Amendment Task Force Introduced A House Resolution Stating “The Cause Of Liberty Demands That Government Should Be Made Accountable Again To The Consent Of The Governed.”** According to an announcement in Congressional Documents and Publications, “The Congressional 10th Amendment Task Force today introduced a House Resolution, reaffirming Congress' commitment to the principle of federalism and the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The resolution specifically calls for ‘real decentralization of power’ and recognizes that ‘the cause of liberty demands that government should be made accountable again to the consent of the governed’ through the restoration of American federalism.” [Congressional Documents and Publications, 7/30/10]

#### “Repeal Amendment”

**Bishop Supported “Repeal Amendment” To US Constitution Which Would Allow The States To Repeal “Any Provision Or Law Or Regulation Of The United States” If Two-Thirds Of State Legislatures So Voted.** According to a press release in the States News Service, “…Congressman and 10th Amendment Task Force Chairman, Rob Bishop (R-UT)… State Speakers, Senate Presidents, and other state legislative leaders, in nine states across the country along with members of Congress are coalescing behind a movement to amend the U.S. Constitution to include The Repeal Amendment. The Repeal Amendment text is simple: ‘Any provision of law or regulation of the United States may be repealed by the several states, and such repeal shall be effective when the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states approve resolutions for this purpose that particularly describe the same provision or provisions of law or regulation to be repealed.’” [States News Service, 11/19/10]

**Bishop: “I'm Proud To Sponsor The Repeal Amendment In Congress Because It Will Provide A Powerful Tool To Reduce The Concentration Of Power In Washington And Return Power, Money, And Decision-Making Back To The States And The People Respectively.”** According to a press release in the States News Service, “An overzealous and bloated federal government is one of the greatest threats to individual liberty. Over time, the federal government has accumulated more and more power to feed its insatiable appetite for a bigger and more intrusive role in the lives of all Americans. When the federal government accumulates more power, states and individuals have less. The Repeal Amendment will reverse this trend by empowering states and the people with a powerful check against overreaching federal laws and regulations. This amendment will help restore balance essential to the preservation of all American liberties, which power-hungry Washington bureaucrats often attempt to undermine. I'm proud to sponsor the Repeal Amendment in Congress because it will provide a powerful tool to reduce the concentration of power in Washington and return power, money, and decision-making back to the states and the people respectively. Congressman Rob Bishop (UT-01), Chairman of the Congressional 10th Amendment Task Force.” [States News Service, 11/19/10]

#### Sacramento Field Hearing

**September 2011: House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Held a Field Hearing Titled “*Restoring Public Access to the Public’s Lands: National Forests.*”** According to the House Committee on Natural Resources, “September 20, 2011 … the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands traveled to Sacramento, California for a field oversight hearing entitled, Restoring Public Access to the Public’s Lands: Issues Impacting Multiple-use on Our National Forests. Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) and Representatives Tom McClintock (CA-04) and Wally Herger (CA-02) attended the hearing, held in the state Capitol, where a crowd of over two hundred people gathered to hear from the U.S. Forest Service, state officials and impacted citizens on access issues on U.S. Forest Service land.” [House Committee on Natural Resources, accessed [11/13/15](http://naturalresources.house.gov/newsroom/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=260834)]

**Members Of The East Bay Tea Party Participated In The Eagle Forum Agenda21/ Property Rights Rally In Sacramento Before A Congressional Field Hearing Led By Bishop**. According to a post on the American Freedom Watch Radio website, “Yesterday the East Bay Tea Party traveled to SAC for the Eagle Forum Agenda21/Property Rights Rally the Capitol steps up in SAC. The rally preceded a field hearing about forest issues; road closings and abusive actions and fines by the Forest service and other environmental groups… After the rally we all headed to the 4th floor room for the hearing. We packed the place to overflow so they opened up the upper balcony and we packed that too. During the hearing 3 Congressmen; McClintock (Ca), Bishop (Ut) and Herger (Ca) grilled the National Forest Service Director and other left wing environmentalists.” [American Freedom Watch Radio, accessed [11/13/15](http://americanfreedomwatchradio.com/?page_id=92%20%3C%3E)]

* **Plumas County Sheriff Spoke At The Congressional Hearing**. According to a post on the American Freedom Watch Radio website, “Several ranchers, outdoor enthusiasts and the Plumas County Sheriff spoke. They all told the same story of over reach. The fact that so many patriots showed up made a huge impression on the Congressmen.” [American Freedom Watch Radio, accessed [11/13/15](http://americanfreedomwatchradio.com/?page_id=92%20%3C%3E)]
* **“McClintock Did Not Say The Word Agenda21, But He Basically Laid It All Out There And Didn’t Have Too. After The Hearing We All Mingled And Thanked The Congressmen And Especially The Sheriff. He Was A Rock Star!”** [American Freedom Watch Radio, accessed [11/13/15](http://americanfreedomwatchradio.com/?page_id=92%20%3C%3E)]

## Land and Water Conservation Fund

**Rob Bishop: “The LWCF Has Played A Vital Role In Creating Recreational Opportunities For Americans.”** “In 1965, Congress created the LWCF. Using revenue from energy development from federal resources, the LWCF finances conservation and outdoor recreation programs. Its genius is that it generates revenue from one natural resource to conserve another. The LWCF has played a vital role in creating recreational opportunities for Americans. That’s the main reason why the program should be reauthorized. However, Congress must also ensure the program is fulfilling its intended purpose.” [Daily Caller, [10/9/18](https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/09/land-and-water-conservation/)]

**Bishop Believed LWCF Should Focus Less On Land Acquisition.** “Unfortunately, since 1965, the LWCF has drifted from its noble vision. Despite a ballooning deferred maintenance backlog, the LWCF has become overly focused on new land acquisition. At a time when states face unmet recreational needs of more than $18 billion, the ‘stateside’ program has sunk to as low as 12 percent of total LWCF funding. Today, federal lands, including national parks, are buckling under $20 billion in deferred maintenance projects. Yes, those pesky sewer systems, crumbling roads and bridges, and leaky roofs need to be fixed. This impacts visitor access, enjoyment, and safety on public lands. If we don’t pay to maintain our existing federal land infrastructure now, we’ll pay even more to replace it later. In 1965, the National Park Service (NPS) administered 203 units on less than 30 million acres. Today, NPS manages 417 units and over 80 million acres. The units have doubled and acreage almost tripled since the creation of LWCF. Since 2005 alone, more than a dozen parks were added to the NPS, in addition to land acquisitions through LWCF.” [Daily Caller, [10/9/18](https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/09/land-and-water-conservation/)]

**Bishop Supported Bill Reforming and Reauthorizing LWCF.** “Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva and I reached a bipartisan agreement on two pieces of legislation – H.R. 6510 and H.R. 502 – that, together, achieve this vision. H.R. 6510, the Restore our Public Lands Act, provides dedicated investments to address the backlog of the National Park Service. H.R. 502 reforms and reauthorizes LWCF, ensuring stateside grants receive a minimum of 40 percent. It also ensures that no less than $20 million of total LWCF funds be used to improve access to existing federal lands for hunters, fishermen and other outdoor recreationalists. Both bills passed the House Committee on Natural Resources with bipartisan support in September. Together, these reforms ensure recreational access for local communities is at the heart of the LWCF and reassert conservation and responsible use as our public land management priorities. Supporting both these bills will help us solve this problem.” [Daily Caller, [10/9/18](https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/09/land-and-water-conservation/)]

## Wildfire

**Rob Bishop Advocated for Streamlining Environmental Review to Prevent Wildfires.** “This week, the House will consider the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017. The bill, developed in conjunction with Forest Service leadership under the past two administrations, provides a new path forward. It provides the agency with streamlined environmental review authorities to expand vegetation management and fuel reduction projects. These are tools that can be used immediately to restore forest resiliency and protect communities. Whether Congress passes the Resilient Federal Forests Act as a stand-alone bill or includes similar provisions in a future legislative package, we must enact reforms to increase the pace and scale of hazardous fuel reduction. Hurling money at the flames without management reforms accomplishes nothing more than assuaging our own guilty consciences.” [The Hill, [10/31/17](https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/357904-congress-at-a-crossroads-we-can-prevent-further)]

**Bishop Believed Key to Preventing Wildfire Was Forest Management.** “Wildfires are fierce, unpredictable and unforgiving, but they are also preventable. Proper forest management is key. The Forest Service is tasked with the big job of managing our forests, but it has had a lackluster record when it comes to preventing wildfires. Nearly 6 million acres were ravaged by fires last year, which is about the size of Maryland. We keep losing millions of acres each year because of defunct forest management. Lives and livelihoods are destroyed by these natural disasters, and our natural resources are being depleted. While some believe an unfettered forest is progress, it’s really a recipe for greater disaster. Wildfires kill. They tear communities apart and obliterate local economies. Just look at the Carr fire in California, which is still burning. It has killed seven people and destroyed over 177,000 acres. Nature isn’t kind. We have an obligation to steward our forests so humans and forests flourish simultaneously.” [Deseret News, [8/9/18](https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900027567/rob-bishop-wildfires-and-washington-how-congress-can-stop-catastrophe-before-it-starts.html)]

* **Rob Bishop: “These Practices Use Techniques Such As Controlled Burns And Strategic Thinning Of Overgrowth And Dead Trees So Devastating Fires Are Stopped Before They Start.”** “Congress still has time to do the right thing and enact real reforms. This year’s farm bill provides a vehicle for major policy changes. The conferees working on the farm bill must integrate active forest management practices into the overarching piece of legislation. These practices use techniques such as controlled burns and strategic thinning of overgrowth and dead trees so devastating fires are stopped before they start. Funding for forest rehabilitation projects is also extremely important. Scorched land won’t heal quickly by itself. Forest managers will need tools to help bring recovery to damaged forests. If implemented, these practices and funds will help keep our forests healthy and thriving. The legislative clock is ticking as we enter election season. If we fail, the catastrophic wildfires will keep burning. We must not allow the sacrifice of American land and lives to continue simply because the Senate lacks the political will to do what is right. Meaningful forestry reform is within our grasp. Let’s get the job done and help our country’s forests thrive once again.” [Deseret News, [8/9/18](https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900027567/rob-bishop-wildfires-and-washington-how-congress-can-stop-catastrophe-before-it-starts.html)]

# CLIMATE CHANGE

**2009: Bishop: “The Scientific Data Underlying the Studies of Global Warming Appear to Have Been Manipulated to Produce an Intended Outcome…”** According to a Bishop press release, “The Obama administration took a major step toward imposing the first federal limits on climate-changing pollution from cars, power plants and factories, declaring there is compelling scientific evidence that global warming from man-made greenhouse gases endangers Americans’ health. The announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency was clearly timed to build momentum toward an agreement at the international conference on climate change that opened…in Copenhagen, Denmark…Utah Congressman Rob Bishop immediately condemned the announcement in his role as chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus…‘Despite the fact that scientific data underlying the studies of global warming appear to have been manipulated to produce an intended outcome, EPA officials disregarded the contaminated science, calling it little more than a ‘blip on the history of this process.’” [Bishop Press Release, [12/8/09](http://robbishop.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=159376)]

**Bishop Asked Legislators to “Mellow Out” on Climate Change.** “House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop has a message for both Democrats and Republicans: ‘Mellow out’ on climate change. The Utah Republican made the statement after Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., began questioning White House Council on Environmental Quality managing director Christy Goldfuss, who testified before the committee Wednesday on a new climate guidance issued by the administration. Westerman criticized her political science degree as not proper science, suggesting that her background should disqualify her as an expert on climate change.” [Washington Examiner, [9/21/16](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rob-bishop-asks-lawmakers-to-mellow-out-on-climate-change)]

**Bishop Wanted Investigation into NRDC Over Climate Work in China.** “The chairman and a senior member of the House Natural Resources Committee have written a letter to the Natural Resources Defense Council suggesting that the environmental organization register as a foreign agent because of its climate and environment activities in China and public statements the lawmakers alleged served China’s interests. In the letter, committee Chairman Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), chairman of the subcommittee on oversight and investigations, demand that NRDC President Rhea Suh produce documents about the nonprofit group’s relationship with the Chinese government, its transactions in China and any effort to register as foreign agents of China. The NRDC has worked for years in China urging the government to slow the growth of coal use, improve building efficiency, track and limit mercury emissions, clean up diesel leaks in Chinese ports and help develop environmental laws.” [Washington Post, [6/5/18](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/06/05/house-republicans-attack-environmental-group-for-its-climate-work-in-china/?utm_term=.2f2fe8359baf)]

### Clean Power Plan

**June 2013: Bishop: “Once Again We See the President Capitulating to the Whims of Special Interest Group Allies…”** Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah (1st CD), issued the following news release: “Congressman Rob Bishop (UT-01), Chairman of the House Natural Resources Public Lands and Environmental Regulation subcommittee, announced his opposition to President Obama’s sweeping climate change proposal…the new proposal would seek to place new regulations on energy production and would pick winners and losers among the types of energy produced in this country. Alternatively, Bishop supports an ‘all of the above’ approach to energy production. ‘Once again we see the President capitulating to the whims of special interest group allies who are frustrated with both Republican and Democratically controlled Congresses refusal to give them the carte blanche treatment they think they deserve. Disfavor with the speed or manner in which Congress takes up issues is not suitable justification for the President to unilaterally impose sweeping new policies, especially ones that will change the course of energy production in this country,’ said Bishop.” [US Fed News, 6/25/13]

# WILDLIFE

## Endangered Species

**Rob Bishop: “The Problem With The Endangered Species Act Is It Has Once Again Been Morphed And Abused By Some People, And The Very Premise Is Illogical.”** “The Endangered Species Act is a harder one to deal with because it involves litigation and the courts. The problem with the Endangered Species Act is it has once again been morphed and abused by some people, and the very premise is illogical. The premise of the Endangered Species Act is to list a species until it can improve, but the listing itself does not improve it. What the Endangered Species Act has to do if it’s going to be effective is set benchmarks for what it means when you know the species is being recovered, and how you get there. And having states being involved in that process is the best way of accomplishing that. That is something that Trump and Zinke have said and recognized. That is the change that needs to take place.” [Washington Examiner, [12/26/17](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rob-bishop-congress-must-cement-trumps-public-lands-agenda-into-law)]

**Rob Bishop: “We’re All Aware That The Endangered Species Act Hasn’t Undergone Any Significant Updates In Over 40 Years. Neither Endangered Species, Nor The American People, Are Benefited By This Lack Of Modernization.”** “Recently, the Western Caucus unveiled a bipartisan package aimed at modernizing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) at a legislative forum and press conference. This impressive slate of nine bills has received endorsements from more than 115 organizations. For bill text, descriptions of individual bills and provisions, videos, pictures, full endorsements list and much more, click at: https://gosar.house.gov/components/redirect/r.aspx’ID=9585-442098 to see the dedicated Western Caucus ESA Modernization page. House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) stated, ‘We’re all aware that the Endangered Species Act hasn’t undergone any significant updates in over 40 years. Neither endangered species, nor the American people, are benefited by this lack of modernization. It’s past time for reform. The law needs to be updated to ensure it maintains its original intent and focus of species recovery and not simply serve as a tool for endless litigation. The Committee has worked for many years to put the ESA back on the right track. Now is the time to modernize this antiquated law to simultaneously benefit both endangered species and the American people.’” [Congressional Western Caucus Press Release, 8/2/18]

**Rob Bishop: “The Habitual Washington D.C. Knee-Jerk Defense Of The Status Quo Is Harming Endangered Species Instead Of Protecting Them.”** “Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed S. 3119, the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act. This bipartisan bill provides states and tribes with the necessary tools to humanely manage sea lions that have migrated outside their historic range and pose an imminent threat to fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act. ‘The habitual Washington D.C. knee-jerk defense of the status quo is harming endangered species instead of protecting them. Existing regulations are leading to the decline in endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest, a key source of ecological vibrancy in the region. This bipartisan bill corrects the problem by giving states and tribes the tools to humanely manage sea lions and prevent further destruction of endangered fish and the region’s economy.’ -- Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah)” [House Natural Resources Press Release, 12/11/18]

## Sage Grouse

**Bishop Opposed Obama Administration Efforts to Promote Sage Grouse Conservation.** “Those who sell Bishop short might do so at their peril, however. Bishop scored a victory on June 8, when Zinke announced that he will review a massive collaborative deal, years in the making, that is designed to keep the imperiled greater-sage grouse off the endangered-species list. Sage-grouse once blotted out the skies of the inland West’s ‘sagebrush sea.’ Now only a few hundred thousand remain, across 11 states, squeezed by energy development and wildfire. Zinke’s review is a nod to folks like Bishop, who says the federal government’s collaboration trampled on states’ rights. In January, Bishop had re-introduced a bill that would hand many decisions about permitting of activities related to the birds’ recovery, such as oil and gas drilling and recreation, to states—even on federal lands there.” [Outside Online, [6/16/17](https://www.outsideonline.com/2188486/public-lands-enemy-number-one)]

**Rob Bishop Wanted to Cede Sage Grouse Management to the States.** “Yeah, because some of the areas that are put aside with the sage grouse and Endangered Species Act was specifically to prevent economic development. Not necessarily to recover the species. The states that have sage grouse all had plans on their own. If we let those states actually do those programs as opposed to the federal government, you can solve that problem.” [Washington Examiner, [12/26/17](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rob-bishop-congress-must-cement-trumps-public-lands-agenda-into-law)]

**Rob Bishop Cheered New Sage Grouse Management Plan.** “Today, members of the Congressional Western Caucus released statements after the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released an Environmental Impact Statement and related plan amendments that incorporate greater state and local input related to sage grouse conservation efforts: Chairman Paul Gosar (AZ-04): ‘Environmental stewardship is not stewardship without the input of state and local communities. The BLM’s Environmental Impact Statement and related plan amendments recently released are another step towards unwinding one of the largest land grabs in our nation’s history. President Reagan once said that, ‘The federal government did not create the states; the states created the federal government.’ Sadly, this fundamental principle was ignored by the previous Administration in relation to the Greater Sage Grouse - to the detriment of landowners, states, local communities, species and even the federal government. As a result of the strong leadership of President Trump and Secretary Zinke, we are more closely aligning with the vision of our Founding Fathers and preventing further encroachment on private lands by the federal government. Hopefully, the Forest Service will catch up and follow DOI and BLM’s efforts.’ Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01): ‘The Environmental Impact Statement signals a positive step promoting locally developed state recovery plans for the Sage Grouse. This is a stark transition from the heavy-handed ‘one size fits all’ federal approach of the Obama administration. While much remains to be done, state and local authorities recognize their voices are being heard by the Trump administration. We are one step closer to making federal micromanagement and fears of frivolous litigation by the environmental activist industry a thing of the past.’” [Western Caucus Press Release, 12/10/18]

# CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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| **U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop Top Industry Donations (2003-2018)** | |
| **Industry** | **Total Received** |
| Oil & Gas | $489,416 |
| Lobbyists | $227,447 |
| Casinos/Gambling | $224,300 |
| Lawyers/Law Firms | $214,250 |
| Real Estate | $213,500 |
| Leadership PACs | $188,970 |
| Defense Aerospace | $166,500 |
| Electronics Mfg & Equip | $141,565 |
| Mining | $130,400 |
| Electric Utilities | $120,794 |
| Credit Unions | $111,237 |
| Health Professionals | $93,983 |
| Retired | $92,420 |
| Automotive | $91,600 |
| Misc Defense | $88,000 |
| Defense Electronics | $83,000 |
| Securities & Investment | $79,450 |
| Beer, Wine & Liquor | $77,928 |
| Livestock | $71,799 |
| Insurance | $68,550 |

[OpenSecrets, accessed [12/17/18](https://www.opensecrets.org/members-of-congress/industries?cid=N00025292&cycle=CAREER)]

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| **U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop Top Sector Donations (2003-2018)** | | | |
| **Sector** | **Individuals** | **PACs** | **Total** |
| Agribusiness | $166,691 | $72,500 | $239,191 |
| Communications/Electronics | $103,540 | $121,875 | $225,415 |
| Construction | $123,500 | $56,300 | $179,800 |
| Defense | $335,500 | $2,000 | $337,500 |
| Energy & Natural Resources | $725,094 | $134,915 | $860,009 |
| Finance, Insurance & Real Estate | $278,797 | $295,640 | $574,437 |
| Health | $133,600 | $56,233 | $189,833 |
| Ideological/Single-Issue | $325,070 | $43,050 | $368,120 |
| Labor | $52,700 | $0 | $52,700 |
| Lawyers & Lobbyists | $108,750 | $332,947 | $441,697 |
| Misc Business | $231,385 | $368,005 | $599,390 |
| Other | $3,000 | $115,720 | $118,720 |
| Transportation | $203,999 | $22,350 | $226,349 |

[OpenSecrets, accessed [12/17/18](https://www.opensecrets.org/members-of-congress/industries?cid=N00025292&cycle=CAREER)]

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| **U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop Top Contributors (2003-2018)** | | | |
| **Contributor** | **Individuals** | **PACs** | **Total** |
| Es3 Inc | $0 | $95,900 | $95,900 |
| National Association of Realtors | $88,000 | $1,250 | $89,250 |
| National Auto Dealers Association | $75,500 | $0 | $75,500 |
| Credit Union National Association | $62,997 | $4,650 | $67,647 |
| Northrop Grumman | $64,500 | $0 | $64,500 |
| EnergySolutions Inc | $35,500 | $23,900 | $59,400 |
| National Rural Electric Cooperative Association | $57,794 | $0 | $57,794 |
| Lockheed Martin | $51,000 | $0 | $51,000 |
| Alliant Techsystems | $43,000 | $0 | $43,000 |
| National Association of Home Builders | $43,000 | $0 | $43,000 |
| Honeywell International | $42,500 | $0 | $42,500 |
| National Beer Wholesalers Association | $42,000 | $0 | $42,000 |
| National Cattlemen's Beef Association | $36,500 | $0 | $36,500 |
| National Mining Association | $34,000 | $1,000 | $35,000 |
| United Parcel Service | $32,999 | $0 | $32,999 |
| Nucor Corp | $27,000 | $4,400 | $31,400 |
| Silver Eagle Distributors | $0 | $29,128 | $29,128 |
| Chevron Corp | $28,600 | $0 | $28,600 |
| L3 Technologies | $28,000 | $0 | $28,000 |
| Merit Medical Systems | $23,000 | $5,000 | $28,000 |

[OpenSecrets, accessed [12/17/18](https://www.opensecrets.org/members-of-congress/contributors?cid=N00025292&cycle=CAREER&type=I)]