**Cynthia Lummis**

**Leading the anti-parks movement to seize and sell national public lands**

Former Rep. Lummis was the at-large U.S. Representative of the state of Wyoming and a member of the Tea Party. She is reported to be one of President-elect Donald Trump’s leading candidates for nomination to serve as Interior Secretary, where she would be responsible for safeguarding America’s national parks, protecting endangered wildlife, regulating the oil, gas, and mining industries, and upholding the U.S.’s responsibilities to tribal nations. While Lummis has called Wyoming’s public lands an unparalleled “[point of pride](http://lummis.house.gov/issues/issue/?IssueID=9883),” her record in Congress to facilitate the wholesale disposal of public lands suggests that, with her nomination, acres of national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges could be on the auction block.

Here are three things to know about Cynthia Lummis:

**1. Lummis is a leader of the extreme movement to seize and sell America’s public lands.**

Lummis is one of the founding members of a [secretive group](https://stewart.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/reps-stewart-and-bishop-launch-new-federal-land-action-group), the Federal Land Action Committee, dedicated to the wholesale disposal of our national forests and public lands. As a member of the so-called congressional [anti-parks caucus](file:///C:\Users\jrowland\Downloads\2AntiParks-brief%20(2).pdf), she has thrown her support behind a suite of controversial and damaging public lands bills, including [a proposal](http://blog.trcp.org/2016/06/15/opening-shots-fired-as-house-considers-public-land-transfer-legislation/) to allow states to take over up to two million acres of National Forest System land for logging. Lummis has also backed [legislation](https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1459/cosponsors) to limit the President’s ability to create new national monuments – an authority that has been used by both Republican and Democratic presidents since 1906 to protect places like the Statue of Liberty, the Grand Canyon, and the Stonewall Inn.

Lummis has also used her congressional seat to lend support and legitimacy to the Bundy family, who led two dangerous and illegal armed takeovers of publicly owned lands. During the takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in 2016, Lummis [sympathized](https://westerncaucus-lummis.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/private-individuals-prosecuted-federal-agencies-go-scott-free) with the anti-government extremists holding national lands hostage, saying she “understand[s] their frustration with increasingly heavy handed federal agencies” Rather than urging the armed militants to stand down, she cast blame on public servants and law enforcement officers: “federal officials should follow the law,” she said.

**2. Lummis is in the pocket of the coal industry that finances her campaigns**

Mining, oil, and gas industries were Lummis’ top congressional financers, giving [well over](https://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/summary.php?cycle=Career&type=I&cid=N00029788&newMem=N) $600,000 to her campaigns. These donors [include](http://dirtyenergymoney.org/view.php?searchvalue=Lummis&com=&can=&zip=&search=1&type=search#view=connections) well-known coal companies Peabody Alpha Natural Resources and Arch Coal, who have both filed for bankruptcy.

Ignoring the fact that market forces are largely responsible for coal’s downturn, Lummis blames Washington for a decline in coal production in her state. In her YouTube [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxd_uIyUv6Q) series, Lummis argues that: “There are so many forces in Washington trying to keep Wyoming coal in the ground and keep our energy sources away from the American people.”

**3. Lummis dismisses and denies science.**

Lummis is a climate denier. Even though her home state of Wyoming consistently has the [highest](https://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/state-energy-co2-emissions) carbon emissions per capita, she has [stated](https://thinkprogress.org/the-anti-science-climate-denier-caucus-732ec3a2a4d4#.3be0qtskc), “We’re just beginning to explore what mankind’s role is in climate change, so I’d argue that the jury’s still out.”

Lummis has also made some [dramatic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RT2ketulrVs) and false statements on the EPA’s work to address climate change, including that their plans were based on “secret models, hidden from the public’s view,” and that the agency wanted to control the entire electric system “right down to the amount of electricity Americans use in their homes”.